A well-respected author and scientist who is a leading expert in the field of forensic geology, has written a book claiming that Masons visited Minnesota in 1362.

The Rune Stone was found in 1898 by a farmer, Olof Ohman, near Kensington, Minnesota. Inscribed on it were ancient symbols called runes. It tells the story of a party of thirty Norse explorers who, as the stone narrates: “We were out fishing one day. After we came home we found ten men red with blood and dead.”

The date inscribed is 1362—130 years before Columbus left for America.

It has been said that “one of the secrets to living a happy and fulfilling life is to get involved with something that is bigger than yourself,” and as Brother Lynn F. Perkins said in his book New Age Youth and Freemasonry, “People are never so happy as when they are doing something unselfishly for the benefit of others.”

I heard about this program of the Masonic Service Association when I petitioned my Lodge for the degrees nearly thirty years ago. Over the years I only heard about it each year when we who were attending Lodge would listen to the Master tell us a little about it and then remind us that the Blue Envelope drive was here again, and to donate to the MSA for this worthwhile program. So we could do our part.

I have had a valuable Masonic outreach program in a most favorable way, which is a real source of pride for Freemasonry. If we are concerned about maintaining our Masonic identity in our communities, this program, supported by Masons and their Lodges, is one way to show the kind of men we are and part of what we are about.

In Minnesota we have three Brothers who coordinate the volunteer efforts of the Masons of Minnesota who would like to help with the Masonic Hospital Visitation Program. There is also an opening for the Silver Bay Veterans Home.

If you are interested in helping, call Dick Wolter at 651-454-2312 (cybercom@comcast.net) or Art Seaberg at 651-681-1381 (amsberg22@comcast.net). Reservations are not required for the lecture but may be subject to seating availability.

The presentation is sponsored by Macalester Lodge No. 290, in cooperation with the Grand Lodge. More information can be found on the Macalester Lodge web site located at www.macalester290.org.

Local author claims Masons visited Minnesota in 1362

Lecture at Saint Paul Masonic Center on April 25th

by Ed Halpna, Grand CEO

A One-Day-to-Masonry Class

Saturday, May 6, 2006

at the Hibbing Masonic Center

1939 East 4th Street, Hibbing

Check-in 8:00 a.m.

1st Degree starts at 9:00 a.m.

Advanced registration required and due in the Grand Lodge office by April 28

Cost will be $250 per candidate.

The experience will be priceless...
Greetings, my Brothers,

This will be my final opportunity to address you in the format of the Grand Master’s message in the Minnesota Mason. This has been a wonderful year for the craft of Masonry in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people, which supports the cancer research efforts at the Masonic Cancer Center Fund, which is the only official publication of the Minnesota Masonic Historical Society and Museum is another legacy charity of Masonic charities. Perhaps, reading this article, you know of a service: it would highlight the wishes that are mounted that a service could be created under the auspices of MMC to look after our brothers. If you have any ideas or suggestions for such a report card could impart motivation to those who still not yet met and still allow plenty of room for further growth in this area. Perhaps one such report read line for Minnesota Masonic Charities?

A year to remember

M.W.B. Andrew J. Rice
Grand Master

Undoubtedly we have all had wish lists at some time, written down or in our thoughts. It is also true that many of us, having gone through the public school system, know the experience of receiving a report card. But what if your wish list was graded? Hopefully, such a report card would provide a service: it would highlight the wishes that successfully became a reality, and undermine those that still remain to be fulfilled. Perhaps such a report card could impart motivation to those on whom for many years, MMC has launched a campaign to reach the potential seller. MMC has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Masonic Charities has been challenging and it is the year to come under the umbrella of MMC. Those two needs will continue to be created and brought to Minnesota Masons everywhere within the state. The Minnesota Masonic Charities will be one of MMC’s four branches and promote through education the legacy charities not only remain intact; enhanced programs overseen by MMC. With MMC the reach in outreach programs supporting those victimized by domestic abuse are just examples of the services that are being given a high priority for support in the near future. Some of these initiatives and projects are begun in the community by Lodge Treasurers, MMC through matching funds grants, can extend the reach in outreach and help Minnesota Masons help others.

The wish that such a relationship could be developed between the Lodges of Minnesota and a central supporting charity of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota has already been expressed by many over the years and successfully came to fruition when the change to establish and shape the guidelines of Masonic Charities was ratified at the 2005 Grand Lodge Communication. Wish granted: A MMC Board of Directors also developed their own wish list shortly after their appointments to the Board. At an all-day meeting in 2005, when the Board was scheduled to begin designing the programs and policies of MMC, the Directors were asked to offer their thoughts on what services they need to see and what programs or services they wish for to answer those needs.

There was definitely a group wish to provide ongoing support for the legacy charities of Minnesota Masonry—those which were already established over the years, and which continued to grow and services and programs that were born from the commitment of Masons to look after one another and those beyond our Masonic family. Minnesota Masonic Homes was the first to come under the umbrella of MMC. While the needs of our elders have changed dramatically over time, the legacy of providing quality care and appropriate senior living options remains constant. Even now, new projects are being evaluated and developed at the homes in the security of the support from Minnesota Masonic Charities.

Minnesota Masonic Homes is the Masonic Cancer Center Fund, another cornerstone legacy charity of Minnesota Masons, now looks to receive the support and commitment of Minnesota Masonic Charities as MCCF continues its support of cancer research and has launched a “Partners for Life” Campaign for that purpose. Minnesota Masonic Charities recognizes the long-term relationship between MCCF and the University of Minnesota and will continue to support this collaboration which seeks a cure that could benefit millions of people.

The Minnesota Masonic Historical Society and Museum is another legacy charity whose very existence is to preserve and promote through education the legacy of Freemasonry. In becoming an official part of MMC, that historical connection will continue to be upheld.

The Minnesota Masonic Foundation was created to provide assistance to fellow Masons in times of crisis and to sponsor the scholarship program through matching funds with Lodges. Those two needs will continue to be met through strong and enhanced programs overseen by MMC.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.

Minnesota Masonic Charities has been learning how to be a Grand Master. It has been challenging in many ways and I think I can safely say that one doesn’t fully realize—until in the office—what it means to be Grand Master of this great jurisdiction. The only life experience I can equate this experience to was that of being a first time parent. My world turned upside down by the realization I had as the new Master of the most important Lodge in Minnesota. Throughout this year I have met and gotten to know many wonderful people.
The Lodge Education Officer (LEO) has other duties in addition to making certain there is some Masonic education at each stated communication of his Lodge. In the Minnesota Masonic Code, section 3.9.2, it states that “There shall be a standing Committee on Programs in each Constituent Lodge, and it shall be known as the Lodge Educational Officer Committee (LEO) or some approved name. He shall, after his installation, to appoint a Committee on Programs, consisting of four (4) members—the Junior Warden, a Past Master, the Lodge Education Officer, and an appointed member. They shall prepare, submit to the Lodge for approval and promote a suitable program of social and educational events in harmony with the teachings and principles of the Fraternity.”

The LEO should be aware of everything he can be involved in to assist in the betterment of Freemasonry and his Lodge. The possibilities for social and educational programs are numerous, and I won’t try to make a list here, but you’ll get the idea.

At the installation of the Master of a Lodge, he is told by the Installing Officer to search the Book of Constitutions at all times, and it is his responsibility to see that the Brethren can hear what it contains. With everything that goes on in many, if not most, Lodges, it is difficult for the duties of the Master will sometimes be neglected. (Using an agenda at stated communications is a good idea; it helps to get everything that the Master wants to do.)

You can look in the Code of 1995, Part I, Chapter 7, which is on page 81. It is titled “To Add to the Constitution the Duty of the LEO.”

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.

Another important point of the LEO’s duties is to make certain there is a program for Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge. The Code states that “The duty of the LEO is to make certain that there is some program of Masonic education at every stated communication of the Lodge.”

There is not one single person who can be the one and only person who is good at everything. In fact, it is important for each person to be good at only one thing. It is good to involve other members in presenting Masonic education programs. It is possible that the person you are looking for could be a member who is good at helping with the other duties, or it could be a person who is good at other duties.
Resolution Number 1, 2006
General Regulations Amendment
Creating Certification Program for Lecturers

WHEREAS, the Board of Custodians of the Work has, for many years, performed an essential and valuable service in maintaining the quality of the ritual in Minnesota.
WHEREAS, in 2005-2006, the Board of Custodians of the Work and the Grand Lodge elected to ensure the ongoing quality of the ritual through the certification of Masonic lecturers.
WHEREAS, there are many Masons who have expended the effort to memorize one or more of the sections of the lectures of each degree, and are frequently called upon to deliver these in their home lodges, lodges of other Grand Jurisdictions, and at other Masonic occasions.
WHEREAS, there is no recognition program that identifies these members for their accomplishments in learning the work and lectures of the Grand Lodge.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Section G18.22 be added to the General Regulations: that the Board of Custodians has established a program to recognize and reward Masons who have memorized the lodge度工作或讲座3的语境以及对这些语境的修改，以适应不同的听众或情况进行修改。然而，除了这些修改，这些语境必须保持一致，以确保其内容的连贯性和可理解性。

Resolution Number 2, 2006
General Regulations Amendment
Proficiency Lectures To Be Used at the Option of the Lodge Master

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 53.01(a) of the General Regulations adopted the work and lectures as taught and exemplified in this Grand Jurisdiction as: The Grand Lodge has adopted the work and lectures of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, said work and lectures are confirmed and re-adopted; and all Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction are required to conform thereto, save as to modifications which were then orally communicated and allowed and as then amended, as the work and lectures of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, said work and lectures are confirmed and re-adopted: and all Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction are required to conform thereto.

WHEREAS, the 1st section lectures reinforce for candidates, the full experience of initiation in Masonic practice and tradition, and
WHEREAS, the 1st section lectures reinforce for candidates, the full experience of initiation to each degree, and
WHEREAS, the 1st section lectures exemplify numerous allusions to types, usages and customs of Masonic practice; and
WHEREAS, the 1st section lectures provide an abundance of opportunities to discuss Masonic principles with candidates, and
WHEREAS, some lectures lead the potential of candidates learning the necessary Masonic values embedded in the 1st section lectures.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that it be permissible for a lodge to require either the proficiency exam or the 1st section lecture as the proficiency standard at the Master’s discretion.

Fraternally submitted,
Gregory Dregan, W. Master, Montgomery Lodge No. 258

Minnesota-Texas Reunion

For the twenty-sixth time Minnesota Masons gathered in South Texas to welcome and honor the sitting Grand Master of Minnesota, Master Apprentice Andy Rice, who extended the hand of brotherly love and friendship to Masons of Minnesota and many other jurisdictions, the evening of February 4, 2006, as a dinner held at the Rio Grande Shrine Club in LaFeria, Texas. The Grand Master’s wife Chris attended with him and was welcomed along with many other wives.

The group was welcomed by Past Grand Master of Texas, Mike Gower, who invited the Winter Texans to visit the Lone Star State and experience its Masonic community. Masons from at least seven other jurisdictions were present along with Minnesota Masons. During dinner, forty ten-pound bags of grapefruit were given by Past Grand Patron Tom Morgan of the Arizona Minnesota Lodge, all donated by Engert Farms of Alamo.

Chris Rice was presented a large Texas grapefruit by Past Grand Patron Tom Morgan of the Order of Eastern Star, Louisiana.

Resolution Number 3, 2006
General Regulations Amendment
Beneficence Fund Assessments and Per Capita Payments

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota has established that $2.50 shall be deducted from the per capita dues payment of every Minnesota Mason and that $12.50 shall be deducted from the per capita dues payment of every Minnesota Mason from outside the state of Minnesota and that such amounts shall be paid over to the Minnesota Masonic Foundation; and
WHEREAS, The Minnesota Masonic Foundation, through the unanimous vote of its Board of Directors as authorized by its members, has transferred all of its assets to Minnesota Masonic Charities and to cease operations due to the more favorable tax status of Minnesota Masonic Charities; and
WHEREAS, SECTION G30.07 currently reads: “A payment of Twelve Dollars and Fifty Centos ($12.50) is required from every new member of each Constituent Lodge for the benefit of the Minnesota Masonic Foundation, Inc. The Grand Secretary shall transmit all such payments monthly to the Minnesota Masonic Foundation, Inc. The Grand Lodge shall not require the payment of Twelve Dollars and Fifty Centos ($12.50) from members more than once from any member of this jurisdiction.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, Section G30.07 be amended to read: “A payment of Twelve Dollars and Fifty Centos ($12.50) is required from every new member of each Constituent Lodge for Benefit and Lodge Benevolence Fund. The Grand Lodge shall not require the payment of Twelve Dollars and Fifty Centos ($12.50) from members more than once from any member of this jurisdiction.”

A Mission for Masonry in Minnesota

by Tom McCarthy, SSD

One day Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire cat in a tree.

“Which road do I take?” she asked. The Cat only asked a question: “Where do you want to go?”

“I don’t know,” Alice answered.

“The cat said the cat, ‘Who cares what’s your master’?”

Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking Glass

Where is Minnesota Masonry heading? We each have an idea of the goal of Masonry, but few are asked to work hard because the road’s too fuzzy. How will we know when we’ve reached our goal? How will we know when we’ve taken the wrong fork in the road?
The only way to know is to set the direction—articulate a Mission Statement for the Craft in Minnesota.

Confucius has written: A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Richard Branton has added: A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step— in the wrong direction. Brandon adds a third possibility: A journey of 100,000 miles begins with one more step off in a different direction.

Is Minnesota Masonry on a journey of 1,000, 10,000 or 100,000 miles? Are we stepping off in the direction of our core values? Are we stepping off in the right direction? Have we even recognized the fork in the road?

Two officers of the Grand Lodge progressive line have begun a process to articulate a Mission Statement for Minnesota Masonry. A Mission Statement can be a simple and (profound) as “To make good men better.” Or, “To make our vocates wiser, better and consequently happier.”

A draft of a proposed Mission Statement was prepared at the Grand Lodge progressive line officers’ fall planning meeting meeting. The officers reviewed past efforts at Mission Statements in Minnesota, as well as Mission Statements from other Grand Lodges in jurisdictions. The draft presented in the box below is meant to start the discussion among the Craft at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in April, and continue throughout the year. This year’s plan is to have a final version of the Mission Statement ready to be adopted at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in 2007.

The draft Mission Statement retains our ancient tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The draft wants to make clear that we continue to value our fraternal and social relationships, our charitable endeavors, and our quest for freedom.

To these ancient tenets, three other more modern and yet familiar attributes are added: Freedom, Friendship and Fraternity.

Masons have long recognized the value of personal political freedom. Many scholars maintain that the seeds of modern political freedom were found in the Masonic lodges, where the officers were elected by the brethren and did not assume office by right of birth or social station.

Personal integrity is a hallmark of Masonry. No man is knowingly admitted into our Fraternity when he does not believe in a Supreme Being—no atheist may be admitted into our fraternity. Since we are required to believe in a Supreme Being, but are not required to be a member of any particular religion, religious toleration is an essential and valuable service in maintaining the quality of the ritual in Minnesota.

The Mission of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota is to engage and inspire charitable members, who believe in a Supreme Being, to conduct their lives according to Masonic tenets and values. Our Mission is guided by our understanding of relevant tenets of our fraternity—Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth—and our core values, which include:

**Freedom**

Promoting the liberties and values outlined in the founding documents of the United States Integrity

We strive to be honest, truthful and reliable, living life in an honorable and upright manner.

**Integrity**

The Craft respects diversity of opinion, and religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences.

The Mission of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota is to engage and inspire charitable members, who believe in a Supreme Being, to conduct their lives according to Masonic tenets and values. Our Mission is guided by our understanding of relevant tenets of our fraternity—Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth—and our core values, which include:

**Freedom**

Promoting the liberties and values outlined in the founding documents of the United States Integrity

We strive to be honest, truthful and reliable, living life in an honorable and upright manner.

**Integrity**

The Craft respects diversity of opinion, and religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences.
MINNESOTA MASONIC HOMES

Two Communities — One Mission

A Great Place to Call Home

MINNESOTA LIFE COLLEGE STUDENTS
Volunteer at MMH Bloomington

The mission of Minnesota Life College (MLC) is to help young adults achieve personal and financial self-sufficiency. The program serves high school graduates teaching them independent living, vocational readiness, social development, and wellness skills. After completing MLC, students move into the Graduate Living Program (GLP) which enables them to live independently in the Twin Cities. GLP provides life-long social activities, emergency support and career assistance as needed.

Currently, four students volunteer two days per week at MMH in housekeeping, dietary and in the General Store.

How Does Our Garden Grow?

Zuhrah Shrine Mobil Nobles’ September 2005 Spaghetti Dinner was the last in a long tradition of fundraising events for Masonic Home Bloomington. In celebration and in commemoration of their dedication to our Homes the Nobles purchased a Rose in our Garden of Giving Program from the proceeds of the dinner.

The Nobles’ gift has great significance since the Garden was created by two Zuhrah Shriners, PGM Joseph Seltzer and Past Potentate John Hendrickson. It was the strong friendship between these two men that gave birth to the Rose Program in 1991. John sent a personal note to the Nobles thanking them for recognizing the significance of the Garden and its benefit to the lives of MMH residents.

In addition to fundraising for MMH through spaghetti dinners, for years the Nobles volunteered hundreds of hours of time providing our residents with old-fashioned Sunday drives around town. Their time and wheels were a blessing to those who relinquish their cars for various reasons.

RECOGNITION OF MARK MAYOR
35-YEAR EMPLOYEE OF MMH BLOOMINGTON

Thirty-five years ago when Mark applied for a job at the Home, our farm was still in business and the water tower was a fixture on the Bloomington city skyline. Mark has seen many changes at the Home since 1970. But those who know him say that in those 35 years he has never changed. He reports to work every day on time and often walks six miles round-trip regardless of the weather.

He still has his gentle nature and his shy response when praised for work well done—for instance, at the Employee Recognition Dinner held March 9 when he received a standing ovation from his fellow employees and was named a “saint” by his supervisor.

GRAND FAMILY SOCIAL JANUARY 28

Our Landmark Assembly was filled with Eastern Star members, some of whom traveled great distances to host this special annual event.

For Star members this Social means investing an entire Saturday of their time to deliver one hour of joy to our residents. This is an investment they make several times each year—and have made since we opened our doors in 1920. They wouldn’t have it any other way! THANK YOU!

CONGRATULATIONS FRED AND ANNIE

Fred Wennie of Environmental Services and his wife Annie of Dietary Services were sworn in as United States Citizens on February 15, 2006 at the Minneapolis Convention Center along with 1500 others!

The enthusiasm and joy of Annie and Fred are inspirational. We are honored that they have become citizens of our country and members of our Bloomington Masonic Home family.

Donors often ask how they can show their appreciation to our staff for the exceptional care they give to residents. Special fund Family Ties has been established for this purpose. Among many things, donations to this fund help to offset the costs incurred by employees becoming U.S. citizens.

JEANIE BURTON, NEW CHAPLAIN

Chaplain Jeanie has developed a following among those who have attended her memorial services since her arrival last fall. Her sincerity, intuition and sensitive nature are talents she uses to develop warm and personal eulogies that touch the hearts and souls of her audiences.

Jeanie’s Pastoral Care Program includes Bible Studies, Sunday worship services, visitations, memorial services, and interaction with families and staff dealing with illness and loss. We are blessed that she answered the call to serve our Home.

Jeanie Burton

• A native of Arkansas
• A speech pathologist for six years before answering the call to the ministry.
• Education: B.S. – Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX), M.S. – Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN), M.Dv. (Saint Paul School of Theology (Kansas City, MO)
• United Methodist pastor in local churches in Arkansas for twenty years
• Married to Greg Burton, a medical science liaison for Abbott Laboratories

Jeanie Burton
Chaplain at MMH Bloomington

Our Mission: Caring for the Masonic family and others, guided by the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth.
Colonial Mason visits Compass Lodge

To celebrate Worshipful Master George Washington’s 274th birthday, Compass Lodge No. 265 and WM Keith Johnson, left, welcomed Brother John Pierce (portrayed by WB Mark Kipp) at their stated meeting on February 27th. Brother Pierce was introduced by correspondence dated Monday, January 30, 1799, from the Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 of Alexandria, Virginia.

Brother Pierce took the Compass brothers through WB Washington’s life from early childhood to his death. The brothers heard several bits of information that aren’t told in modern history books, such as he converted his farming cash crop from tobacco to wheat, was an early practitioner of soil conservation, was an early innovator of farming technology, and actively ran his Mount Vernon estate while away serving as commander-in-chief during the Revolutionary War, and later as our country’s first President. WB Washington also served as the Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 while President.

Brother Pierce also presented information about Freemasonry in the 1700’s including a video re-enactment of a St. John’s The Evangelist procession from the 1770’s and video-taped comments on Freemasonry by someone who portrayed a non-Mason, Thomas Jefferson.

Valley Lodge No. 174 installs officers

Shown at the recent installation of officers for Valley Lodge No. 174, Glenwood, are Installing Master, Past Grand Master Terry Tobin, far left, and Installing Marshal, District Representative Robert Darling, far right. Installed as the 100th Master of Valley Lodge No. 174 was Bob Vandenburgh, front and center, surrounded by the other new Valley Lodge Officers.

North Star No. 23 presents Hiram Award

On November 14, at North Star Lodge No. 23 in St. Cloud, 2005 Worshipful Master Bruce Christofferson awarded the 2005 Hiram Award to William G. (Bill) Ross. Over 80 people were in attendance. WB Dennis LacQuay, master of ceremonies, introduced WB Jerry Oliver, SGIG for Minnesota, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, SJ, who gave an excellent speech about Hiram, King of Tyre, and his role in building King Solomon’s temple. He discussed how the role of a recipient of the Hiram award in his Lodge is Masonically intended to be a modern mirror-image of that performed by King Hiram so many centuries ago. WB Ed Halpahs, Grand LEO; and WB Lane Hagemyer and WB Charles Limnell of North Star Lodge, also gave remarks, each recounting their Masonic experiences with WB Bill.

Albert Pike celebrates Washington’s birthday

Albert Pike Lodge No. 237 celebrated Brother George Washington’s 274th birthday with a wild-game dinner on February 22 at the Albert Pike Masonic Center in Hopkins. More than fifty Masons, spouses and friends enjoyed a dinner of pheasant, smoked pheasant, prime rib, and venison stew prepared by Senior Steward Bill Sherman, a professional chef. Each plate was artfully arranged by Brother Bill and his wife. A contingent from Ida McKinley Chapter of the Eastern Star delivered each plate to the guests.

During the Social Hour, the Zuhrah Shrine Dixie Katz provided Dixieland jazz to accompany the selection of appetizers. The program began with the presentation of the Colors by the colonial-uniformed Seigmurons Color Guard. Eocene Junior Steward, Bob Schemerhorn introduced Brother Ed Halpahs, Grand Lodge LEO, who highlighted Brother Washington’s Masonic career and noted that the wild game theme of the evening’s dinner was appropriate to Washington’s taste.

Cherry pie and birthday cake topped off the meal. All agreed that it was one of the best Washington’s Birthday celebrations they had ever experienced.

Director of Fraternal Operations Calendar

# March 2006
- 16 Lodge meeting Nashwauk No. 331
- 20 Lodge meeting Canby No. 147
- 21 Lodge meeting Sibley No. 209, Winthrop
- 27 Lodge meeting North Star No. 23, Saint Cloud
- 28 Prepare DFO annual report
- 30 Compile articles for Plumbline

# April 2006
- 9 Grand Lodge Installation and informal meeting with ADGMs and DRs
- 12 Lynnhurst Turkey Dinner
- 14 Lodge meeting Star No. 62, Rockford
- 18 Lodge meeting Plymouth No. 160, Crystal
- 21 Lodge meeting Braden No. 168, St. Paul
- 24 Lodge meeting Crookston No. 141
- 26 Lodge meeting Red River No. 292, E. Grand Forks
- 27 Lodge meeting Stephen No. 279
- 28 Compile articles for Plumbline; meeting at the G.O.

# May 2006
- 2 Lodge meeting Fortitude No. 188, Two Harbors
- 3 Lodge meeting Taconite No. 342, Silver Bay
- 4 Meetings with local Lodge leaders
- 5 Lodge meeting Grand Marais No. 322
- 6 One-Day-to-Masonry, Hibbing
- 11 MetroWest DR meeting 7:00 p.m., Mound
- 13 Corporate Board Meeting
- 17 Lodge meeting Monticello No. 16
- 18 Breakfast meeting Fairhaven No. 182, Annandale
- 26 Lodge meeting Oriental No. 34, Cannon Falls
- 27 Membership meeting
- 29 Zuhrah Shrine Ceremonial, St. Paul SR one-day reunion
- 23 Lodge meeting Star in the East No. 33, Otsego
- 24 Meeting with local Lodge leaders, Tuscan No. 77, Waseca
- 25 Meeting with local Lodge leaders Mankato No. 12
- 26 Lodge meeting Western Star No. 26, Albert Lea
- 30 Memorial Day

# Articles for Plumbline
- 31 Articles for Plumbline

# MetroWest Masters & Wardens, Osseo
Mt. Tabor Santa Project recontected

It’s been about a decade since the members of the Mt. Tabor Masonic Lodge in Detroit Lakes first began playing Santa Claus to local families in need. This Tuesday night, ten families from DL, Frazee, Hawley, Lake Park, Rochert and White Earth received a surprise visit from St. Nick and his Masonic helpers. The gifts they received were the result of over $2,500 in net proceeds raised from the Masons’ “Santa Project.”

During the first three weekends in December, “Santa” and about 30 Mason volunteers gathered in Santa’s Village at Washington Square Mall to raise the funds by selling pictures with Santa to all those who would like one. All those receiving a picture of the 5x7-inch, 8x10-inch or floppy disk copies of their Santa photos were given free pop-corn, cider and a Dairy Queen gift certificates. Since the Santa Claus Fund was created nine years ago, Mt. Tabor Lodge No. 106 has raised about $15,000 for distribution to families in need.

Kim Möllberg, the Mt. Tabor Masons’ newly-elected worshipful master, said about 400 photos were taken in all. Some of the families receiving gifts through this project included those who had suffered unexpected changes in their lives such as the loss of loved ones, loss of a job to fire, unanticipated medical problems and the need to suddenly take on additional family members. One National Guard member on active duty, who had used all of his money to come home on leave for the holidays, was given a little help so he could buy Christmas gifts for his family. Möllberg added.

Jerry Bursaw, a longtime participant in the Santa Project, said the group tries to buy one present for each member of the family, and then gives each family a gift of Chamber Bucks that can be used throughout the year—which also ensures that the money is spent locally. “It gives them (the families) a little shot in the arm,” he added.

Rick Johnson, one of the Masons involved in the project, said being able to help so many families celebrate Christmas “gives you a warm, cozy feeling inside that’s indescribable! I just wish we could give more.”

“We try to help all the families the best we can,” said project volunteer Eric Abrahamson. “We can’t make all the wishes come true, but we do our best.”

“The Santa Project is a good deal,” said Roy Estes, Jr. “We’ve been able to help out a lot of families and children over the years.”

Masona Charities and the Community The Minnesota Masonic Lodge No. 106 in Detroit Lakes gather around Santa during their Santa Project that was held in December 2005.

Metroeast Area Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting, Masonic Motorcycle Club</td>
<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Winthrop Lewis 125, Osseo, 6:30 Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, 8 am, Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, 8 am, Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, 6 pm, Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, Forest Lake 344</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Accacia 51, Cottage Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, starts 8 am, Accacia 51, Cottage Grove</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Accacia 51, Cottage Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, 7–1, Garnet 166, White Bear Lake</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>7–1 pm</td>
<td>White Bear Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Night, 6 pm Dinner, 7 pm Program, Ancient Landmark 5, St. Paul</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Ancient Landmark 5, St. Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, starts 8 am, Accacia 51, Cottage Grove</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Accacia 51, Cottage Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, Forest Lake 344</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Forest Lake 344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, 8 am, Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Helios 273, Cambridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancake Breakfast, Forest Lake 344</td>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>8 am</td>
<td>Forest Lake 344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Olive Branch Lodge No. 47, Sturgis, South Dakota, welcomes all Masons to a Special Meeting of the Lodge during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and Races (first full week of August)

Wednesday, August 8, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Dress is casual, and motorcycle attire is acceptable.

For more information contact: Thoms Seerent, Board of Custodians, Grand Lodge of South Dakota AF & AM 605-717-1115 or Email: crest@rushmore.com

HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION OF THE GROTTOS OF NORTH AMERICA

The Humanitarian Foundation was started in 1949 and began accumulating money for its first project “Cerebral Palsy Research” that same year. In 1969 the Humanitarian Foundation, along with Illinois Masonic Medical Center, agreed to establish a Dental Clinic of which the Foundation would help fund dental care for special needs children under the age of 18, afflicted with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy or Mental Retardation. Children and their parents from all over the nation were transported to the clinic for inpatient and outpatient treatment. In 1973 an Extension Program for Dentistry began, when it was realized that many more children could be treated in their local area at a lesser cost without the burden of transportation and housing in the Chicago area.

Our program currently covers children under 18 afflicted with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, mentally-challenged (covers from profound to two years) as well as pediatric transplant patients. Funding for the general dental needs is provided for the treatment to the dentists, hospitals and anesthesiologists. Since inception of the dental program, we have provided care for over 9700 children and, in an average year, we assist approximately 952 families.

The Foundation is exempt under 501(c)(3), 509(a) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the IRS code.

The Foundation is proud to be a Masonic Charity and has been operated by member volunteers from its inception.
You may feel angry, confused, scared or forlorn. But one thing is certain – being told that you have prostate cancer is not an easy thing to hear. Absorbing the fact that you have prostate cancer and all that comes with the diagnosis is overwhelming, to say the least.

For more than 50 years, the Masonic Cancer Center Fund, through the generosity of the Masonic Fraternal Families, has provided the necessary funding to the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota. They fund cutting edge projects, clinical trials and research that has lead to tremendous breakthroughs.

One in every six American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer

Masonic Cancer Center Fund Campaign Office will be happy to work with you to develop a gift plan that fits your particular needs and interests.

For more information about the Partners for Life Campaign please contact:

We hope you will join the Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc. in our effort to create partnerships and funding that will support the cure.

To learn about the Partners for Life Campaign and how you may be a part of the next great advance in the fight against cancer call: 651.639.8433