

HAPPY THANKSGIVING And a JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

Your staff at the Grand Lodge Office would like to take this opportunity to extend to each and every one of you our wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving and a Joyous Holiday Season in 2010. It is so hard to believe that another year is coming to a close and with it all the happenings good and bad with it. If you have moved, changed Lodges, changed phone numbers, (gone from land line to cell) or added a cell phone and have not notified this office or your Lodge secretary I urge you to do so right away. The Grand Lodge office has a 1-800-462-7661 number you can call to notify us. It won't cost you a thing and we will be able to keep your record current. This is the time of year when your Lodges is required to review and match the records with the Grand Lodge record and if there are changes to make they will be made. These annual reports are due no later than February 15, 2011 so if you have information on changes you need to have made please contact your Lodge Secretary. There is a couple of ways for the Grand Lodge to cut expenses in the future and one of those is to make more use of the Web-site for information, such as Could we place the Masonic Messenger on the Web and not mail out the 7,000 copies we now mail? How would you feel about a step like this? We would sincerely like to know.

This is the time of year when we should all stop and take a look at where we are where we are going. Many of us are being or have been blessed by the Grand Architect of the Universe and just maybe now would be a good time to acknowledge that and give the proper thanks. Is your Lodge active and keeping busy? Have you talked Masonry to any of your Brothers or prospective new members this year? Maybe you should give that some thought. This is a time of year for family, friends and special family occasions but please do not forget the Fraternity and what it has done for you and can do for you in the future. Our future is in our young people and children and our efforts are to do all we can to support and assist their growing up and preparing for a future. Think of the programs the Blue Lodge has going at this time, SDCHIP, MMSATP and Education Scholarships given each year. The York Rite has the Eye Foundation, The Scottish Rite has the Children's speech and hearing clinics and of course the Shrine has the Children's Hospitals. Yes we do want to help and we cannot do this without the support of all of our Brothers. Indeed this is a time for reflection and thanks so please take the time and to quote someone more learned than I, "Stop to Smell The Roses" and give thanks.

Our Grand Master Most Worshipful Brother Dean Behrens has started his year with wheels turning and wants to keep going ahead lets all stay behind him and make this

a banner year in the Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of South Dakota. If there is anything that the Grand Lodge Office can help you with please give us a call and we will lend an ear and see what we can do for you. Support Your Grand Lodge and your SD Masonic Foundation Think about what you and your Lodge can do in and for your community and whether or not your Lodge Brothers could be active and accomplish what is needed in your Community.

From Executive Director Larry Carlson a reminder to you Lodge Secretaries; have you filed your 990-N forms to the IRS by October 15, 2010? If not please get your EIN Number from the Bank that you do business with and contact the Grand Lodge Office immediately. Perhaps we can help you get it in. We may still have some time but we need to move on this IMMEDIATELY. This is very, very important that it gets done. If you should lose your tax exempt status it is very hard to get it back so lets get this done and get it done now.

OUTSTANDING LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER 2009-2010

The 2009-2010 C.O.M.E. Award was presented by W Brother Douglas McFarland to Brother David Siemon the Education Officer of Moberg Lodge No. 164 in Moberg, South Dakota. The presentation of the traveling plaques was done at the One Day Festival held in Aberdeen, South Dakota on October 3, 2010. The picture Below this article is W Brother McFarland making the presentation. The Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers and all in the Grand Lodge line congratulate Brother Siemon on a job well done.



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GRAND MASTER

What in the world is *vitriolic demagoguery*?

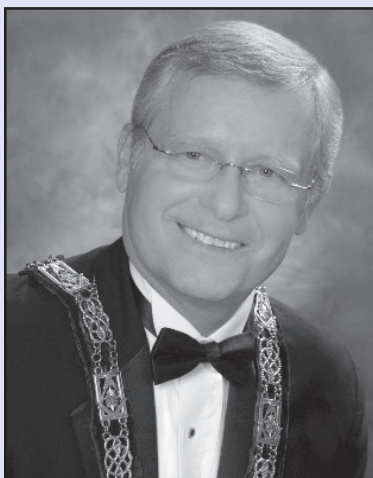
I saw those words in print recently and felt compelled to look up the meaning to make sure that I understood what they meant. Here is what I found:

Vitriolic: (adjective) bitterly scathing, caustic.

Demagogue: (Noun) a leader who obtains power by means of impassioned appeals to the emotions and prejudices of the people.

Demagoguery: (Noun) the practice or rhetoric of a demagogue.

Wow, those were indeed powerful words. It seems to me that perhaps there is far too much of this type of rhetoric in our world today.



Dean Behrens

The use of these words makes me think of some things we as Freemasons should strive to overcome; our passions. We are taught to subdue our passions and keep our actions within due bounds with all mankind; and never to suffer our passions or prejudices to betray us. Please do not get me wrong here. There is nothing inherently wrong with having and pursuing our beliefs and opinions with passion. The challenge is to do just that while showing respect for and tolerance of other people and their opposing beliefs and opinions. What may seem obviously right to us may seem obviously wrong to others; and on that point we would both be right. That is because our opposing views are both based

on a lifetime of very unique individual experiences and therefore, by our individual definitions, right. We must all resist the urge to think that what we believe is in fact the absolute truth. Only one entity knows the absolute truth; and that is not mankind. I choose to accept that perhaps I do not know beyond a shadow of a doubt just what the absolute truth is.

In all your actions toward mankind I urge each of you to constantly strive to display the Tenets of Brotherly Love (**Tolerance**), Relief (Charity) and Truth (Sincerity). We as Freemasons have sworn to live by these tenets. We as Freemasons should guard against the use of vitriolic demagoguery.

Dean Behrens
 Grand Master
 Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of South Dakota

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From the DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Greetings Brethren,

As we move along in the Masonic year we have major projects at the Grand Lodge level that will affect the way we do business as Masons in South Dakota.

The first advancement is the installation of a new software management system that will automate and manage the information and membership data that is critical to our organization. Your Trustees, under the new leadership of Most Worshipful Gary Griffith, have contracted with a well respected software provider that is versed in Masonic organizations to bring us into the electronic age. We are all anxious to benefit from this new technology. There will be a lot more information coming out about this project in the near future.

The next critical project on the Grand Lodge level is lead by Worshipful Brother Mikal Lewis, chairman of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has the task of preparing and recommending to the membership at the Annual Grand Lodge Session the annual Grand Lodge Budget. Over the last few years the revenues, created primarily by per capita assessment, have not kept up with the on going expenses of the Grand Lodge. The textbook answer is to increase revenues while decreasing expenses. It sounds simple, but the impact of this statement is not always palatable. I would ask all the brothers to keep an open mind during this process. The combination of some short-term actions coupled with long-term changes will prepare us well to continue into the future as a viable organization. Masonry will survive and grow.

The Organizational Committee brings the next report of on going planning. The District Master revitalization project has completed the restructuring phase and is now planning an intense training session for next September for all district masters. The District Master position is seen as critical part of the Grand Lodge Management Team. They can be very effective in helping local lodges improve and expand.

In the discussion of district masters the selection and appointment of candidates for the position was brought up and a lack of a solid pool of folks for that process was noted. Many times the Grand Master has to scramble for men to fill appointed positions. It is the committee's opinion that a formal pool be established that allows an application process for the brethren to voice their willingness to accept appointments. Many times there are good, capable men waiting to be involved and no apparent way to let folks know they are available. The process would also identify the candidates by their strengths and make it easier for the appointing officer to select his choices. If you have any thoughts about this process please let them be known.

The final item that has had a lot of play is the issue of how the Grand Lodge communicates with its members. Obviously the previously mentioned project of updating the electronic systems in the Office is a major step in the right direction, but we must also look at other ways we can more efficiently communicate directly with the members. There is discussion going on that proposes that the quarterly newsletter be available electronically and not mailed out. The end result could possibly be a combination of both, electronic and mailed.

I have tried to outline some of the issues that are being dealt with at the Grand Lodge level and encourage all of you to look at the proposals and voice your opinions to your Masters, District Masters and elected officials. I also want to remind everyone that the Grand Lodge Communication in June is the forum for the general membership to learn about these projects and any future projects that are being considered on the state level.

Fraternally:

Richard Decker,
Deputy Grand Master-Grand Master Elect



Richard Decker

FROM THE WEST:

My Brothers,

The Movie "THE LOST SYMBOL" is being filmed at the 'House of the Temple' in D.C. as we speak. It is set to be released in 2012.

Our Grand Master Dean and the elected officers are looking to establish a committee to direct our efforts in capitalizing on this event. We are sure that Freemasonry will be the benefit of all the publicity and interest that will arise and we are looking for some strategies that will get materials into the hands of all our lodges, and universal response for media presentation.

At this point in time we are putting a team together to not only talk about what needs to be done, but come up with an action plan that can be developed and implemented over the next two and one half years. We can use this event/tool to advance the education and involvement of masonry in South Dakota. Let's not let this opportunity get away from



John "Jack" Hantz

GRAND LODGE FINANCES

It's time we had a little chat about Grand Lodge Finances. You know all the budget problems the federal, state, and local governments are having? Well, your Grand Lodge is in the same boat as we have declining membership and rising costs. So how do we fix this problem! Simple – Either bring in more money or cut our spending. Easier said than done! Who wants to pay more dues or have their favorite program cut? The truth of the matter is that your Grand Lodge has been running in the red for some time and the fix isn't going to be easy. But fix it we must as "payday" is coming. Many uncomfortable choices, which include an increase in the dues and trimming expenses, will have to be made in the near future as we scale down to a more manageable level. The Finance Committee is looking for any thoughts on this matter from our members. Everything is "on the table" as we work on balancing the Grand Lodge's budget.

Mikal Lewis, Chairman, Finance Committee
Grand Lodge of South Dakota

us.

Many leaders and innovators will be needed to be involved: this will give all our lodges the opportunity to be part of the team. Educating the brethren to be prepared to provide well thought out information will go a long way on capitalizing on this opportunity. This will also give the lodge education officer material that will benefit all members of the Lodge. Just recently, using 'My Grand Lodge' website I discovered many inquiries about our Fraternity and questions about how they may become members.

My Brothers, we all should be prepared to respond to the inquiries that will arise from this film. Now is the time to get started building our team.

Jack Hantz
Senior Grand Warden
GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Greetings from the South



Charles H. Gilson

Summer has come and gone and the Masonic year is moving just as quick. I have enjoyed participating in the many activities that have taken place thus far throughout our jurisdiction. As I reflect, I cannot help but to marvel at the amount of work and planning that has gone into each event and I want to thank you for what you do to support Freemasonry in South Dakota.

It has been a busy summer yet there is much more to do. There are many issues facing Freemasonry, not only in South Dakota, but in other jurisdictions as well. Of all the issues out there, I am of the opinion that Membership is of greatest concern. As with any organization, people are our greatest asset, and most of our problems can be related, either directly or indirectly, to membership.

In 1890, we began with 3385 Freemasons and enjoyed a steady enrollment until 1956 when we peaked at a total of 20,533. That is an approximate 16% growth over 46 years. Since then, we have had a steady decline in membership each year to our present 6,262 members in 2009. That works out to a 30% decline in 53 years. We had a peak of 105 chartered lodges in 1995 and are currently at 90. There are some of these lodges (more than I would like to think about) that are contemplating surrendering their charters, consolidating with another lodge, or changing to an Occasional Lodge.

Don't shoot the messenger! I do not wish to be the bearer of doom and gloom. I present these facts only to bring to your attention the urgent need to address this issue. To get you to begin asking the hard questions within your lodges and finding answers for them. The first, and probably most important, is: *Is Freemasonry worth saving?* I believe the answer is a resounding – **YES!** If so: *How do we go about it?* You have to **start with commitment**. By commitment, you must be willing, ready, and able to **do whatever it takes**. You must be willing to invest the time, money and effort to recruit new members, retain the members you have, and enhance the Masonic experience for both new and old. It can be done. It will be hard work, but help is available through your District Master and Grand Lodge Office. All you need do is ask.

Fraternally,

Charles H. Gilson
Junior Grand Warden

50-, 60- and 70-Year Anniversaries Marked

Minnehaha Lodge #5:

WBr Jack E. Motter's 50 year awards were mailed to him at his home in Flippin, AR.

Concord Lodge #13:

Bro Prescott L. Carson's 50 year pin and pocket certificate were mailed to him at his home in McKinney, TX.

Brookings Lodge #24:



Above, left to right: Leo H. Spinar, Jeff Clapper, DM

WBr Jeffrey Clapper, District Master, District #4, presented Bro Leo H. Spinar with his 60 year pin on September 13, 2010.

Chamberlain Lodge #56:



Above, left to right: Marvin L. Hoffer, DM, Bro Eugene A. Dominiack, Darrell Dominiack

Bro Eugene Dominiack was presented with his 50 year pin and pocket certificate at his home. The presentation was made at Bro Dominiack's residence. Also present were Roland Peterson, Louis Bergner, and Darrell Dominiack, Bro Eugene's son.



Above, left to right: Lawrence Bergner, Marvin Hoffer, DM, Roland Peterson, Wilson Dent, Louis Bergner, John Wall; front, John Glaus and his wife, Florine

The 60 year pin was presented to WBr John B. Glaus at the Chamberlain Nursing Home. His wife, Florine, pinned it on his shirt. Coffee and cookies

were served by the Nursing Home staff. In attendance were WBR Marvin L. Hoffer, DM, District 11, Lawrence Bergner, Roland Peterson and Wilson Dent.

Woonsocket Lodge #79:

Bro Volney F. Warner's 60 year pin was mailed to him at his home in McLean, VA.

Bon Homme Lodge #101:

Bro Verne D. Ellston's 50 year pin and pocket certificate were mailed to him at his home in Gregory, SD.

Washington Lodge #111:

WBr Jeffrey Clapper, DM, District 4, presented WBr Fredrick N. Barnard with his 60 year pin on October 4, 2010.

Unity Lodge #130:

Bro Milton G. Mutch, Jr.'s 60 year pin was mailed to him at his home on instruction of the Lodge Secretary.

Mount View Lodge #161:

Bro Lester H. Moran's 50 year pin and pocket certificate were mailed to him at his home in Murrieta CA. Bro Moran has been in poor health.

Trinity Lodge #200:



Above, left to right: Grant Nehman, DM, Merle Driggs, Mrs. Driggs

On September 13, 2010, following a dinner, Bro Merle H. Driggs was presented with his 50 year pin and pocket certificate by WBr Grant Nehman, DM, District 3. Mrs. Driggs was given a corsage.



Above, left to right: Grant Nehman, DM, Gladys Henningsen, George Henningsen

Also on September 13, 2010, Bro George M. Henningsen received his 50 year pin and pocket certificate from WBr Grant Nehman, DM, District 3. Mrs. Henningsen also received a corsage.



South Dakota Masonic Foundation

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift.

That is why it is called the "Present"

Brothers,

I am writing today to ask for your continued and increasing support of the South Dakota Masonic Foundation. We as Masons of South Dakota have performed incredible feats, but there is still more work upon the trestle board that requires our attention.

To date, we as Masons of SD, have given over 10,000 kids the opportunity to participate in a SD-CHIP event – however there are over 130,000 kids under 15 years of age in the state; we have more work to do. To date, we as Masons of SD, have hosted 2 Masonic Model Student Assistance Training Programs each year to educate school staff how to identify, intervene with and create appropriate referrals for students that may be at risk for substance abuse, depression, suicide or violence – however there is a desire for more; we have more work to do. To date, we as Masons of SD, continue to support the accomplishments of outstanding achievement by awarding 2 scholarships for the continued educational pursuits of high school students – however many more apply each year; we have more work to do.

Yes, the above statistics are impressive, but that was yesterday – a historical footnote in the greatness of South Dakota Masonry. None of us know what tomorrow will hold – it remains cloaked mystery. Will the state wide membership continue to drop; will the need for our programs continue to grow; will the cost to host the programs continue to increase? We however can take charge of today and by our actions give it as a gift to the generations of Masons that will follow us.

I'm asking that today each of you reflect on what Masonry means to you personally. Think fondly on the friendships that you have nurtured, the new brothers that you have raised, the kids that you have helped and what

DESIGNATION OF THE FUNDS OF THE Grand Lodge of South Dakota.

The Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of South Dakota is classified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501 c 10 Fraternal organization. This enables us to receive funds from individuals, groups and organizations as tax free contributions. These include and are not necessarily limited to the funds we currently have. When a contribution is made to the Charity Fund, that money is invested into the Trust Fund and can be used only for the relief of worthy Brother Master Masons their Widows or Orphans. Each year the staff at the Grand Lodge Office documents the time spent on the administration of the Charity Fund. We are allowed to withdraw from the Charity Fund \$35,000.00 dollars annually for administration fees, which are placed in the general fund for the day to day operation of Grand Lodge. Any other monies taken from this Fund can and must be used only for financial assistance to recipients approved by the Board of Grand Trustees.

The Grand Lodge has additional Specifically designated funds such as, Education, Facility Endowment, McClure Fund, MMSATP, CHIPS and Life Membership in Perpetuity which are also designated 501 c 10 and fall under the same restrictions. However, because of the limited amount of time that is needed annually to administer these Funds, we do not receive administrative fees from them.

In summary: All of the above funds are designated for specific purposes and any appropriation of monies beyond each funds parameter would be a direct violation of the IRS code and could cause cancellation of the fund's tax-free status.

The South Dakota Masonic Foundation is designated by the IRS as a 501-c-3 organization and as such can and does receive donations from other Charitable Organizations and they can receive tax relief from those donations. All funds contributed to the South Dakota Masonic Foundation must be deposited into their fund and any requests for those funds must be made to the Governing Board of the Foundation. The Foundation is an important addition to the Grand Lodge of South Dakota but it is closely regulated as all our funds are so if you have any questions on the Foundation and it's functions or operation you can contact Brother Reid Jensen, President or Jeff Larson, Secretary of the Foundation. If you are not able to contact them you may contact the Grand Lodge Office and we will try to help.

If any Brother has a question about these funds please contact one of your Board of Grand Trustees, The Grand Treasurer- Secretary or Larry Carlson at the Grand Lodge Office and they will try to answer the question for you.

it would mean to you if that feeling was lost by our inactions today. If each of us gave a tax deductible donation of just \$25 (or 7 cents per day) to the Foundation each year, we would be able to expand the programs of the Grand Lodge in both quantity and quality.

I hope I can count on your support.

Reid P. Jensen
SD Masonic Foundation
Chairman of the Board

FOUNDATION CLUB LEVELS:

- Grand Master \$2,500.00
- Deputy Grand Master \$1,000.00
- District Master \$500.00
- Master \$200.00
- Fellow Craft \$100.00
- Entered Apprentice \$50.00
- Other \$_____

DONOR RECEIPT WILL BE MAILED TO:

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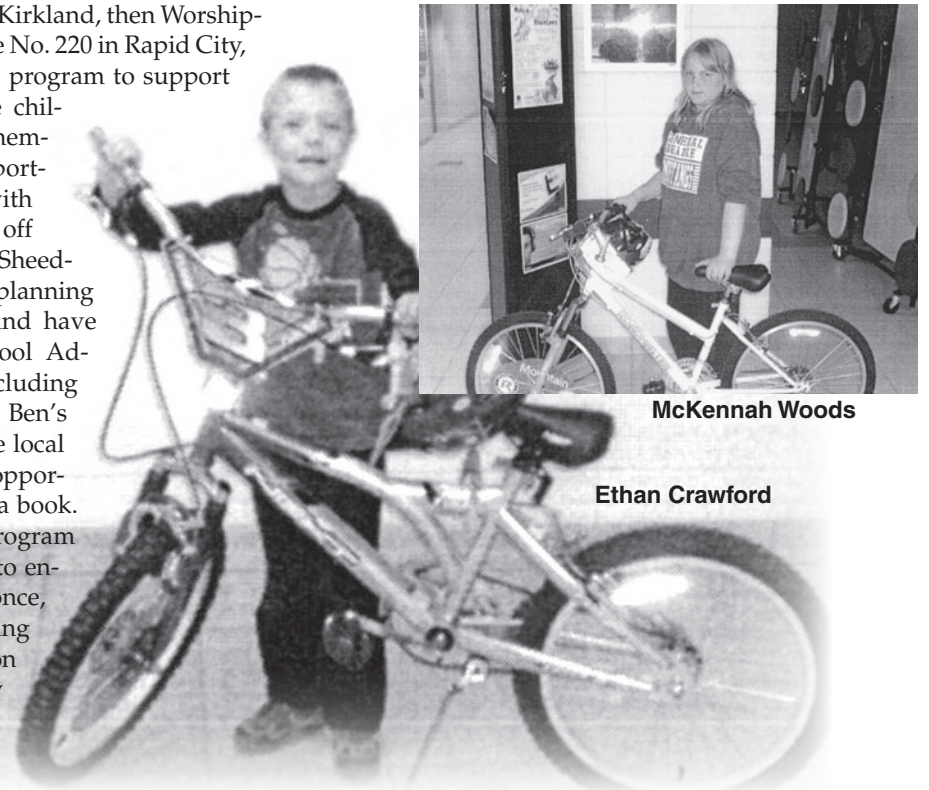
In honor/memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to South Dakota Masonic Foundation Inc and send your payment to: SD Masonic Foundation, 520 South 1st Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6902. Charitable tax exempt number 26-3303800. If you would like to make a gift of stock or other asset, please contact the South Dakota Masonic Foundation office.

MT Rushmore No. 220 Initiates Bike Program

Three Years ago, WB Benjamin Kirkland, then Worshipful Master of Mt. Rushmore Lodge No. 220 in Rapid City, suggested an idea of beginning a program to support the promotion of reading to the children in the Rapid City area. The members of the Lodge were very supportive of this idea and WB Ben, with the support of the brethren took off with the program. Brother Trent Sheeder volunteered to assist with the planning and execution of the program and have found the local elementary school Administrators very receptive to including this program in their curriculum. Ben's idea was to work closely with the local teachers to give the children an opportunity to win a prize for reading a book. Ben's new "Bikes for Books" program offers each child an opportunity to enter their name into a drawing once, for each book they complete during the school year, with no limit on the amount of entries a child may enter. As the children continue to read and have their names entered into the drawing, Ben and Trent have contacted numerous

businesses and private donors in the local area to solicit donations for the purchase of bicycles and helmets to be awarded to the winners. Several businesses have stepped up to the plate over the several years, including Sands Drywall of Piedmont and Action Mechanical. Pictured below is Mr. Tom Hagemann, co-owner of Action Mechanical receiving a special plaque of appreciation from WB Ben Kirkland. Action Mechanical has been an active sponsor of our "Bikes for Books" program since it's beginning. The number of books completed by the children from several elementary schools in our area has exceeded 10,000 since the start of our program. Also pictures below are pictures of our most recent bicycle winners, Mekennah Woods and Ethan Crawford from General Beadle Elementary and Patrick Bossen and Kimi Flying By from South Park Elementary schools.



McKennah Woods

Ethan Crawford



Patrick, Bossen, Kimi, flying by



Tom Hageman

IN SEARCH OF THAT WHICH WAS LOST

Mobridge Lodge No. 164 is looking to establish the whereabouts of their **TRAVELING GAVEL**. This Gavel was obtained by W Brother Robert Klein from the **CEDARS OF LEBANON** and brought to the U.S.. If you or your Lodge has this Gavel in your possession please notify The Brothers in Mobridge Lodge No. 164 in Mobridge. If your Lodge was awarded the Traveling Gavel at a meeting perhaps it is time to return it. Thank you my Brother's, You can call the Lodge at 1-605-845-3926



October 15, 2010
Masonic Messenger Column

South Dakota Child Identification Program

Currently local Masonic Lodges have identified 10,323 Children in South Dakota through the SDCHIP program since it was adopted as a Grand Lodge Program at the Annual Communication in 2007. This phenomenal accomplishment is a tribute to all South Dakota Masons and every Masonic Lodge that has committed the time and resources to host a CHIP program in their community. These accomplishments would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of RWB Jack Hantz, who has served so effectively as the SDCHIP Chairman these past couple of years and PGM Denny Robinson who currently serves as the President of Masonichip International. The SDCHIP program would not be the success it is without the leadership of these two outstanding Masons.

There were 3 West River Events the month of September. Rapid City Lodges #25 and #220 teamed up for a great event on September 11th, Cedar Branch Lodge #179 hosted an event on September 24th and Tin City Lodge #112 hosted an event on September 25th. For the month of November we have Custer City Lodge #66 hosting a two day event on the 29th and 30th. Thank you to each of these lodges for your commitment toward our goal of having every child in South Dakota identified.

I would encourage every lodge to organize a CHIP Team and start raising community support and funding for a CHIP event in your community. For every additional child we are able to identify, South Dakota children are just that much safer. We would like to have Lodge and Chip team Leader e-mail addresses so we can communicate through our SDCHIP website in a timely basis with every Lodge.

Please e-mail me at mrodman@rap.midco.net with your email for our database.

I could not close out this column without expressing my gratitude to the two unsung Heroes of the SDCHIP program. They are WB Herb Cook and DJ Hanson. These are the guys who coordinate the CHIP equipment and supplies and make sure it is where it needs to be when it needs to be. Herb serves western South Dakota and DJ serves eastern South Dakota. The SCHIP program would not function without the tireless contributions of these two hardworking Masons.

Thank you to MW Grand Master Dean Behrens for giving me this awesome opportunity to serve both the Masons of South Dakota and South Dakota's children. Together we can work with the SDCHIP program to bring Masonry to the light in South Dakota.

Mike Rodman,
SDCHIP Chairman

8th Annual Deadwood Lodge #7 "Biker" Lodge AUGUST 2010

The 8th Annual "Biker" Lodge was held on August 10th at 7:00PM hosted by Deadwood Lodge No. 7. The meeting was opened by MW Grand Master Dean Behrens with his grand Lodge Officers; RW Senior Grand Warden Jack Hantz and RW Junior Grand Warden Charles Gilson, Senior Deacon MW Brother Dennis Robinson, PGM, District Master Stan Bevier Junior Deacon, W brother Willie Steinlicht, PM Secretary, MW Brother Bill Coffield, PGM Tyler, Les Snyder Senior Steward, Chaplain Emeritus.

The lodge was opened in full form. Opening remarks by Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dean Behrens and introductions by each member was held. A Prime Rib dinner was held prior to the meeting.

Incense Lodge No. 2 in Vermillion to host 50 year Presentation

Incense Lodge No. 2 AF&AM in Vermillion, SD will host the 50 year award presentation of Most Worshipful Brother Charles N. Kaufman, PGM on November 13, 2010. The dinner and reception will be held at the Vermillion Winery. Details can be found at <http://mastermason.com/incenselodge/KaufmanReception.html> RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Sincerely:
Rich McBride

SD MASONIC MODEL STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Your Investment in the Youth of South Dakota

South Dakota Masons are the men in this state who have invested both their organizational image and their personal monetary resources in teachers, because you care enough to invest in youth, hundreds of educators in South Dakota have been empowered to effectively work with our girls and boys who are coping with depression, considering suicide, and exhibiting other behavioral problems, not the least of which is bullying.

Only because of your contributions to the SD Masonic Model Student Assistance Program, has it been possible to present professional workshops for the educators of this state. Only because of giants in Masonic leadership and commitment like our late Brother Del Ripley and Brother Gary Griffith (both Past Grand Masters) has the Grand Lodge established itself as a leader in the nation through consistent and regular school teacher/administrator programs.

During the week of October 5-7, the new MMSAP Task Force produced yet another workshop for educators, this time in Mitchell. The creator of the Masonic Model was one of two presenters for teachers and counselors from Pierre, Ft. Pierre, Tea, Redfield, Mitchell and Todd County school districts. Each of the educators learned how to identify children who are or may be at risk. The issues faced by the children of our state fall into one of the four categories: health, academics, attendance and behavior. Knowing the possible causes and then building a special set of options for each individual child was the thrust of the three day workshop.

The strength of this program is rooted in three very critical areas. First, we use professional trainers who have produced a full and complete workshop based upon research, experience and their own professional growth. Second, every person who attends the workshop builds a plan for at least one troubled



child in her or his school. Third, the educators have multiple opportunities to learn how to practically implement the plan. They learn effective ways to help establish a working relationship with the at risk child, have conferences with the child's

Members attending were: Bill Coffield, PGM, Willie Steinlicht, Jim Friedland, Bill Sherwood, Jeff Shannon, Steve Shannon, Jerry Ditto, Chris Ottman, Jim Savalsja, Mikew Savaloja, Les Snyder, Willie Ross, Matt Brown, Dave Jeffries, Burrel Pettet, John White, Larry Sullivan, Bryan Sullivan, Mike Gill, Jim McDonald, Denny Robinson, PGM, Charles Gilson, Mike Rosenthaz, Greg quick, Dean Behrens GM, Top Masterson, Kicker Taylor, Shooter Olson, Jack Hantz, George Laun, Stan Bevier.

A Fun time was had by all
Fraternally
Willie Steinlicht, Secretary
Deadwood Lodge No. 7

MASONS WORK TO PROTECT CHILDREN

September 11 was not only a day of remembrance but also a day when 176 local families took action to protect some of the most valuable and vulnerable assets of our community—their children.

Rapid City Lodges No. 25 and No. 220 conducted a South Dakota Children's Identification Program (or SDCHIP) during Rushmore Mall's "Disaster Day" event.

The program develops identification packets that can be used by the children's parents in the event of an emergency. These packets were given to the children's parents or guardians, at no cost.



parent, involve other educators at their schools, conduct meetings regarding the plan for each child, establish student assistance plans and a school based program.

And just what kind of results have schools seen from this program? Statistical decreases in bullying and other behavioral problems, suicidal tendencies have been eliminated among children who have been identified as 'at risk'. Additionally, problems with attendance, class disruptions and student health problems have all shown improvement in every school where the program has been implemented in every state which enjoys a committed Grand Lodge such as in this state.

The MMSAP Task Force is structuring a calendar which it hopes will allow for three workshop sessions in 2011 with one of them to be held in the summer months. Please take the time to watch for the dates and locations of these sessions, both because you are welcome to visit while the sessions are in progress and because this entire program is your personal and fraternal gift to our children in South Dakota.

Yes, you and I as Masons in South Dakota can stand a little taller because of what the collective power of Masonry has and will continue to provide. What about the teachers' reactions? They are absolutely overwhelmed to learn that our fraternity cares so much about them and the children they serve. The educators are impressed to learn that we are willing to invest in education and educators. For an expenditure of money to be classed as an investment, there must be some sort of positive result. The return on our investment is found in decreased problems for our youth, enhanced quality of service for our children and educators armed, for the first time in their careers, with the skills and knowledge to effectively combat the problems facing our youth and our schools. Brothers, that's about a 200% return on your investment. Thank you for caring and continuing to care.

George Bauder, Chairman
MMSATP committee

Participating families received packets containing a current photograph, video and voice images, cheek swabs and dental impression for DNA samples of the child, in addition, the packets contained digital fingerprints, personal data information, a laminated id card, and a CD on which all of the information obtained was stored.

In the event of a child's disappearance, this CD can be taken to the Police Station. This packet contains all of the information required to put out an immediate AMBER ALERT which significantly increases the chances of an abducted or lost child's being returned to their family. The families were instructed to store the information in their home freezers, as a freezer will not burn in case of a fire.

None of the information collected is kept by any organization, nor is the information stored on the computers used by the volunteers. Once obtained and placed on the CD, the files are automatically erased.

In addition to the Masons and their family members, the Rapid City Police Cadets, members of the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, and Honor Society members from Rapid City Stevens High School volunteered their time, effort and talents.

Ken Kundle, CHIP Chairman from Mt Rushmore Lodge No. 220, Heb Cook, Chairman CHIP from Rapid City Lodge No. 25, and Bruce Crisman, Chairman of District 16 Freemasons, along with "Kat" Stark of Rushmore Mall were the organizers of the project.

Point of contact for further information is Mr. Jack H. Welker, PGM 605-388-3880

(The following poem is reprinted from the December, 2008 Huron Lodge #26 Trestleboard)

The Master Mason's Wife

The Master Mason's Wife must be
As fond of Masonry as he,
Although to her 'twill ever be
A thing of wondrous mystery.

But, still she always seems to know
That with him where he wants to go
Are honest men, and clean and strong,
And men too big to stoop to wrong;
Or never she'd consent to be
The wife of such an absentee.
Author Unknown