



Braden Lodge

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NEWS

November 2021

Degrees Resume at Braden With Two New Entered Apprentices

For the first time in over two years, Braden Lodge resumed the conferring of the **Degrees of Masonry** with the initiation of two new Entered Apprentices on **Thurs Oct 7th, 2021**.

Dustin Korbel and **Elias Rocha** were initiated as the newest members of Braden in a ritual whose theme may likely have been “it takes a village” — since every Brother present was recruited to fulfill a role in the Degree! Health issues caused some last-minute substitutions, including a superb job turned in by our Tyler, **WB Steve O’Day**, who stepped in as Acting Master after our Senior Warden, **WB David Potter**, suffered a back injury. (At Braden, our tradition is to have the SW confer the EA degree, the JW the FC degree, and the WM the MM degree.)

Br Dustin Korbel had the longest wait: he petitioned with Braden in Feb 2020, just one month before Covid shut down Lodge degree work in Minnesota. But he remained a frequent attendee at our virtual Zoom Fellowships throughout the shut-down, and even rushed to the aid of the Lodge when it was threatened by a fire in March 2020, helping relocate irreplaceable records and relics to individual car trunks until the danger passed. Dustin is employed in transportation services at Mystic Lake Casino and lives in Shakopee.

Br Elias Rocha came to Braden by way of a Grand Lodge website inquiry in Mar 2021. He began attending our virtual Zoom fellowships, eventually getting to meet “in real life” when Covid restrictions were eased and we were allowed to resume in-person Fellowship nights in June. He and his wife, Fabiola, live in Minneapolis, where he is employed as an Addiction Counselor Intern with MN Adult & Teen Challenge.

Br Christopher Larson has agreed to serve as Mentor for the candidates.

It was so good to see ritual being performed in Braden Lodge again after such a long hiatus! Our thanks to MetroWest Custodian **WB Chris Wendover** who worked with us to hone the degree work.



Front row: **WB David Allison**, Treasurer; **Br Elias Rocha**, Initiate; **Br Dustin Korb**el, Initiate; **Br Jay Koelsch**, Jr Warden; **WB Erik Fairchild**, Sr Warden; Middle Row: **Br Arik Oversmith**, Sr Deacon; **Br Christopher Larson**, Sr Steward; **WB Andy Harvego**, Jr Steward; Back Row: **Br Michael Bearfoot**, Jr Deacon; **WB Tim Grube**, Chaplain / Prompter; **WB Steve O’Day**, Master; **Br Harvie Holmes**, Tyler. (titles listed per Degree positions) Photo by **WB Erick Crail**, Secretary.

COVID No Match For Zoom

COVID precautions may have forced the suspension of Lodge meetings and our Fellowship activities, but it was no match for the power of Zoom to keep the Brothers of Braden connected! During the Covid shut-down, we pivoted to using virtual Zoom online meetings on Thursday nights to hold fellowship and basic Lodge business, like paying bills and election of officers (with no ritual opening or closing, of course!) We had Brothers joining from as far away as Washington, Texas, and Florida. Now that we are back in-person, we are hoping to have a Zoom option for Fellowship Nights after the first of the year; watch our calendar on the website and Slack for more information.



During 2021, we learned of the passing of several Brothers who have laid down their working tools:

- **JAMES L BOND** died Mar 26, 2019 in Plymouth MA at the age of 85. He was raised in Braden Lodge in 1962, and was a Mason for 57 years.
- **FRANK C GOODLAKE** died Jan 15, 2020 in Kissimmee FL at the age of 84. He was raised in 1966 at Braden Lodge, and was a Mason for 54 years.
- **GERALD H JOHNSON SR** died Feb 1 2020 in New Pt Richey FL at the age of 100. He was raised in Braden in 1946, and was a Mason for 74 years.
- **THOMAS J NASE SR** died Dec 30, 2020 in Laporte MN at age 80. A Mason for 43 years, he was raised at Como Park Lodge #324 in 1977, which merged into Braden Lodge in 2012.
- **C PAUL FARACI** died May 13, 2021 in Green Valley AZ at age 85. He was raised in Braden Lodge in 1952, and was a Mason for 69 years.

Alas, Brothers!

Unfortunately, we did not learn of any of the deaths shown above until some time after their funerals... If you want to receive Masonic honors at your funeral, **please be sure to tell your next-of-kin**, and leave our contact information so they can find it with your funeral plans, will, and other important papers. If you have moved out-of-state, we can request a Masonic Lodge in your area to give you this final honor. So **PLEASE** designate someone to contact us when you die at **(612) 567-1886** or email **Sec@BradenLodge.Org** so we can make the appropriate arrangements — *thanks!*

TWO Hiram Honorees Highlight Annual Awards Night

When COVID prevented Braden Lodge from holding its 2020 Awards Night, it created an opportunity for TWICE the fun at a *Combined 2020 & 2021 Awards Night* scheduled for **Thursday, Nov 11th, 2021**.

In addition to the 44 Brothers, listed at right, who will be recognized for their years of service to the Fraternity, a unique highlight of the evening this year will be the awarding of **TWO Hiram Awards**.

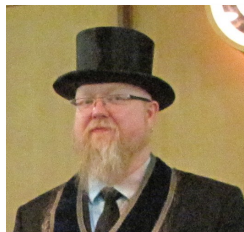
Braden's 2020 Worshipful Master, WB David W Potter, has announced the selection of **WB David B Allison** as the Hiram Award recipient for 2020. WB Allison was raised in Como Park Lodge #324 in St Paul in 1998, and served as their Worshipful Master in 2003 and 2008, before Como Park merged with Braden Lodge in 2012. WB Allison served as Master of Braden Lodge in 2017, and is currently serving his 6th term as Treasurer. His love of trivia and gaming led to his organizing a number of creative fundraising activities at Braden, from a basement escape room at Halloween, to weekly trivia and pizza nights. For several years, he has researched, written, and directed a series of popular Murder Mystery Dinner Theater nights, set at period-appropriate locations like the James J Hill



WB David Allison
Worshipful Master • 2017
2020 Hiram Award Honoree

Mansion and the Bakken Museum. He is also the creative force behind a well-received puzzle room held at CONvergence, a regional sci-fi / fantasy convention. He is employed as a computer database manager for the White Bear Lake School District.

Braden's 2021 Master, WB Erik Fairchild, has announced the selection of **WB Brian Silverain** as the Hiram Award recipient for 2021. WB Silverain was raised in Braden Lodge in 2005, and served as the key organizer of our Scholarship Program for many years. He was elected Worshipful Master of Braden for 2019, where he introduced many creative ideas for education and fellowship, most notably "Me Bags" and "Nerf Wars." A proficient ritualist, he assumed the role of Mentor to many classes of new candidates going through the Degrees, shepherding the candidates through their introduction to the Craft, and diligently and patiently working with them in studying for their Proficiency Exams. He recently moved to Toms River, New Jersey, so his wife could be closer to her ailing mother, but intends to move back to the Twin Cities in the future.



WB Brian Silverain
Worshipful Master • 2019
2021 Hiram Award Honoree

The Hiram Award is the highest honor that can be bestowed by a Lodge to a Brother, in recognition of leadership and service to his fellow Brothers.

Please Support Our Upcoming...

Murder Mystery Dinner Theaters

- Sat Nov 20th \$100 per person includes
 - Sat Dec 11th 5-course meal, entertainment,
 - Sat Dec 18th Murder Mystery, and tours of the historic
- All shows at 6:00pm **Bakken Museum**



Proof of Covid vaccination required

To order tickets or more info, visit www.BradenLodge.Org/Murder



BRADEN LODGE NEWS

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Masonic Service Anniversaries

Each year, we recognize those members who have reached a 5-year milestone in their membership in the Fraternity. This year, we honor the recipients for BOTH 2020 & 2021:

2020

70 YEARS:

Charles Cable
Russell Christofk^L

50 YEARS:

Robert Tackman

45 YEARS:

Randall Grilz
Laurel Hansen

35 YEARS:

Cecil Ferguson^P
Joseph Musha^P

25 YEARS:

Jay Whitcomb

20 YEARS:

Bernard Craig
Jason Craig
Alan Waller

15 YEARS:

Joseph Cathcart
Brian Silverain^P
Anthony VanWagner^P

10 YEARS:

Michael Edman
Timothy Grube^P
Daniel Horon^L
Jac Martins
Jermain Thomas

5 YEARS:

J P Armstrong
David Coleman
Charles Knutson
Matthew Rairie Kolten
Danny Mason
Arik Oversmith
Brandon Rossell
Damian Sheridan
Miguel Viana

2021

75 YEARS:

Gordon Bauer
George Larson

60 YEARS:

Lee Anderson
Roy Sellon

55 YEARS:

Eugene Purcell Sr

50 YEARS:

John Stitely^P

40 YEARS:

Otto Christenson^P

30 YEARS:

Peter Laudert^P

25 YEARS:

Alan Christofk^L
David Langer

15 YEARS:

Neal Dodge
Ivan Jovanovic
Steve O'Day^P
Jesse Williams^P

5 YEARS:

Chris Hassinger
Eric Moen



KEY

L = Life Member
P = Past Master