



ROCK RIVER LODGE #108

Mission Statement and History

To know who we are as Masons and what we stand for is a noncommon denominator between each and every Mason.

Randy Thorman
Who Are We!

Rock River Lodge #108

128 E. Anthony Street
Hustisford, WI 53034

Someone comes to you and inquires,

“What is Masonry?”

“What is a Masonic lodge?”

“What do you do for the community or can do for me (Family)?”

I bet you have no direct answer or can only give a general non-conforming answer. To help you with this and more, we set out as a lodge to first set up a Lodge Mission Statement and to help you to better understand what you are in, where our lodge came from, what the Grand lodge of Wisconsin defines us as and the objective of being a Wisconsin Mason.

First our Lodge History!

Some of this information came from our By-Law booklet

Chartered on 06/15/1859 by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Rock River Lodge #108 F. & A.M., is a Masonic Lodge in Hustisford, Wisconsin. Rock River #108 is part of District #010.

The original charter of Neosho lodge 108 F. & A.M. was chartered on June 14, 1859, by MWGM Luther M. Tracy, with David W. Davis Sr., as WM, Nathan S. Conklin as SW, Samuel Hays as JW.

The building was first used as a store, then Modern Woodsman, it was bought and moved to 315 S, Schuyler St., Neosho Wi. 53059 in 1898. A fire destroyed the building in 1900, the brothers re-built it and then remodeled in 1959 to its present structure. Bro. & PM David B. Green was Grand Master of Masons for the state of Wisconsin in 1912 and later became Grand Lecturer for the Grand lodge of Wisconsin.

Two lodges Vesper #62 (Mayville) and Horicon #40 joined forces and became Horicon-Mayville Lodge #40. As time went on Horicon-Mayville lost members and joined Neosho Lodge 108 - on 5/27/1997 the three lodges became Neosho Lodge 108, On 9/7/1997 we changed the name to Neosho-Mayville-Horicon Lodge 108. We got a new charter recognizing us as Neosho-Mayville-Horicon Lodge 108 at this time.

Then in 2011 we got an offer from the church in Hustisford WI., that they wanted to Sell/ give to a nonprofit organization. Brothers Scott and Robert Scharnell brought the offer to the brethren of Lodge 108 in late 2011.

By early spring of 2012 we had acquired the building, Remodeled the church to its present condition to make it a Lodge Room and changed the entryway on the first floor. Almost immediately we started to do degree work in the new building. We have been busy with degrees and lodge events since the acquisition of this building.

We again petition Grand Lodge for a name change in 2018 to be Rock River Lodge 108, we were rechartered as Rock River Lodge 108 On June 7th, 2019, the Grand Lodge officers and the sitting MWGM brought us the new charter to our lodge for a visit in Sept 2019 and presented it to our WM Scott Scharnell at that time.

Personally, to some brothers, It was sad to leave Neosho and the old lodge building as it had its own character with many, many memories of great times. The Brothers really enjoyed the coziness of the old lodge and its uniqueness, but it was time to move on to a building that could support us and let us grow.

It has been a good move; we are doing degrees each year and we are getting involved in our community and the community recognizes us. When you do business in Hustisford and mention I'm from The Masonic Lodge they know about us. We never got that in Neosho businesses even though we donated to the School, Fire Department, Historical Building, and the Park. We never got any recognition in Neosho. That's sad to say, only the bank knew us because we banked there.

Moving on for us was a positive representation for Masons in a whole and the community which we now reside as Masons and members of the community.

*The next insert is from the Grand lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin, taken off the About Page in OLP.
This will help you define Masonry in Wisconsin and give more explanation of Masons Direction.*

What is Masonry?

Masonry (also known as Freemasonry) is the world's first and largest fraternal organization. It is a brotherhood of like-minded men who genuinely care about each other. We develop lifelong friendships with fellow Masons and their families and are welcomed at Masonic lodges throughout the United States and the world.

Masonry is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to help make the world a better place. Through our culture of philanthropy, we make a profound difference for our brothers, our families, our communities, and our future. Masons find satisfaction in being part of a centuries-old fraternity whose traditions and core values are relevant today and will endure for centuries to come.

Wisconsin - Our mission

The mission of Freemasonry in Wisconsin is to teach and demonstrate a fraternal way of life that promotes brotherhood and self-improvement through education, moral standards, charity, and community involvement. To foster personal growth and improve the lives of others.

Our mission is guided by the enduring and relevant principles of our fraternity:

- **Brotherly love.** We value *respect, freedom, kindness, tolerance, and our differences – religious, ethnic, cultural, social, generational, and educational* – and strive for harmony in our individual lives, in our lodges, and in the global community.
- **Relief.** We take responsibility for the *well-being of our brothers, our families, and the community as a whole*. We provide relief through philanthropy, community involvement, and delivery of excellent care.
- **Truth.** We stay *true to our personal code of conduct and ethics – honor, integrity, personal responsibility, and the continuous pursuit of knowledge*.

About Wisconsin members

With more than 11,000 members statewide, our fraternity represents the entire spectrum of Wisconsinites. Admission to our lodges is open to men of good character and faith, *regardless of their race, color, religious beliefs, political views, sexual orientation, physical ability, citizenship, or national origin*.

Our lodges currently work in English and German.

Through this universal brotherhood, *Masons learn to be better husbands, better fathers, better brothers, and better citizens.* By appreciating our differences, we learn to focus on what unites mankind.

Thus, the discussion of religion, politics, and business is not permitted in our lodges. In this way we live up to the centuries-old aim of our fraternity – to unite men of every country, sect, and opinion and cause true friendship among those who otherwise would have remained at a distance.

Membership in Wisconsin Masonry is growing and getting younger. The fastest growing segment of our membership is 18–35-year-olds.

Rock River Lodge Mission Statement

*What is your View of Masons, or more so, what does masonry means to you?
You and only you can answer that question.*

Several of our lodge brothers met at lodge and had lengthy discussion on what exactly our mission statements should be and how it should define us and (Our Lodge)

Without having a paragraph of mixed words and definitions or multiple lineage statements to describe us, *“it was decided to use a statement which was published in the Executive Training Program Manual, which was created by GM-DD, Chris Cochran a PM of Oshkosh Lodge, and his lodge members during their lodge meetings to define themselves”.*

Our Mission Statement

“To be the choice for men seeking self-improvement, purpose and significance”

This Mission sets the direction for everything that we do as a lodge.

Our Lodge Charities

- *Our lodge currently helps High School Seniors further their education into college by a Masonic fund with our High School Scholarship Program Grants*
- *We donate to the High School Post Prom program to help the kids have a safe fun night*
- *We have donated to the Hustisford City Fireworks Program to celebrate the 4th of July*
- *We offer our building free of charge to the Hustisford Historical Society so they can meet in a friendly atmosphere for their monthly discussions*
 - *We donate to the Hustisford Friends of the Library Spelling Bee competition*
 - *Donated to a Masonic family who had a fire and lost everything*
 - *Donated to the Three Pillars construction*

- *Donated to Grand Masters appeals*