

SPEAKERS BUREAU
Updated February 2024

This is a list of people who are willing to come to chapters to speak or present a program. We have included as many details as we have. Please contact them directly if you would like them to come to your chapter and ask for additional information. If you bring in one of these speakers, please encourage members from surrounding chapters and even the public to attend.

This will be updated as we get additional people.

Topic: Merci Train (75th anniversary in 2023) (Power Point)

The Merci Train was a train of 49 French railroad box cars filled with tens of thousands of gifts of gratitude from at least that many individual French citizens. They were showing their appreciation for the more than 700 American box cars of relief goods sent to them by (*primarily*) individual Americans in 1948. The Merci Train arrived in New York harbor on February 2nd, 1949 and each of the 48 American states at that time received one of the gift laden box cars. The 49th box car was shared by Washington D.C. and the Territory of Hawaii. Parades and ceremonies of welcome were conducted in the state capitols and major cities of almost all the states. The largest and most attended was in New York City where more than 200,000 people turned out to welcome that state's assigned box car.

Length of presentation: 45 minutes

Presentation requirements: Screen & projector

Presenter: Daphne Davis

Chapter: Acacia #272, St. Louis Park

Contact info:

dldavisinteriors@gmail.com

507-829-5526

Availability: Twin Cities area preferred; late spring through early fall only

Topic: DeMolay

Length of presentation:

Presentation requirements:

Presenter: Adam Pierce

Chapter: Sunshine #98, St. Charles and Royal #42, Chatfield

Contact info:

mnsmc0001@gmail.com

507-990-9159

Availability:

Topic: Internet Safety

Some or all of these topics:

Passwords

Data Handling

Computer Theft

Phishing and Ransomware

Removable Media

Vishing

Internet Downloads

Wi-Fi

Length of presentation: 20 – 30 minutes

Presentation requirements: Screen, internet access

Presenter: Jackie Benn

Chapter: Granite #5, St. Cloud

Contact info:

jackiebenn@frontiernet.net

320-333-5310

Availability:

Topic: Service Dog Demonstration

Length of presentation: 30 minutes

Presentation requirements:

Presenter: Jane Ward

Chapter: Renaissance #313, Savage (Jane lives in Red Wing)

Contact info:

Janeward.redwing@gmail.com

612-760-1481

Availability:

Presenter: Jordy Stradtman

Chapter: Martha #132, Anoka

Contact info:

Jordy.stradtman@gmail.com

763-300-0884

Availability: Twin Cities only

Topic: Farming-corn, soybeans and hogs

Length of presentation: 20-30 minutes

Presentation requirements:

Presenter: Vicky and Scott Singlestad

Chapter: Hope #34, Waseca

Contact info:

Vicky: vksinglestad@gmail.com (prefer contact by email)

Scott (cell): 952-807-8732

Availability: January, February and March are the best months and possibly the summer, as well; would travel 50 miles (they live north of Waseca)

Topic: Fire safety in your house

Length of presentation:

Presentation requirements:

Presenter: Dennis Niles

Chapter: Whittemore #283, Osseo

Contact info:
dtniles@comcast.net
763-227-7685
Availability:

Topic: Advanced Directives

Length of presentation:
Presentation requirements:
Presenter: Carla Nelson
Chapter: Rochester #193
Contact info:
revcsn@gmail.com
507-254-1254
Availability:

Topic: Split Rock Lighthouse

Length of presentation:
Presentation requirements:
Presenter: Greg Vokovan
Chapter: Martha #132, Anoka
Contact info:
gvokovan@gmail.com
(H) 763-755-6094
(C) 612-965-7891
Availability: Will travel as schedule permits

Topic: Minnesota Masonic Charities

Topics can include:
General Masonic Charities overview
Masonic Cancer Center
Masonic Home
Masonic Children's Hospital
Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain
Masonic Scholarship Program
Selfless Scholar
Matching Grant Program
NEW-Civility School

Length of presentation: Variable

Presentation requirements:

Presenter: John Schwietz, CEO, MMC

Chapter: St. Anthony Park #212, Roseville

Contact info:

John.Schwietz@mnmasonic.org

(O) 952-948-6209

(M) 651-210-5240

Availability: Will travel anywhere in Minnesota based on his availability

Topic: Marketing & Communications

From Lauren-I would be happy to talk about information sharing for example sharing stories, utilizing social media etc. I can speak to connecting with community members at local events and helping them understand who OES is and the impact you've had on the community. Honestly, as the Marketing and Communications Director, if there is a topic that you think falls into that category that would be helpful for an issue that the Chapters are having, I'd be happy to entertain any requests as well!

Length of presentation:

Presentation requirements:

Presenter: Lauren Hauter, Marketing & Communications Director, MM Masonic Charities

Chapter: not a member

Contact info:

Lauren.hauter@mnmasonic.org

(O) 952-948-6202

(M) 763-244-4934

Availability: Twin Cities; possibly St. Cloud and Duluth; discuss with Lauren