


MASONIC TEMPLE, Thursday Evening, July 3, 2025

At Regular Communication of Midland Centre Lodge No. #273, Free & Accepted Masons

HELD ON THE ABOVE DATE, PRESENT:

Bro. Todd McQuiston	W.M.		Bro. James Doan	S.D.
Bro. Peter Anders	S.W.		Bro. Jerry Chambers P.M.	J.D.
Bro. Ira Thumma P.M.	J.W.		Bro. Jack Berdasco	Steward
Bro. Chris Parfeniuk P.M.	Sec'y		Bro. Gordon Siu	Steward
Bro. John Kall	Treas.		Bro.	Steward
Bro.	Marshal		Bro.	Steward
Bro. Chuck Birch P.M.	Chaplain		Bro. Tom Sova P.M.	Tiler
			Bro.	Educational Officer

- Meeting was opened in the FC degree in due form at 7:39 p.m. by WM Todd McQuiston.
- The death of Brother William Curley was reported. He passed away Saturday, June 7, 2025. He was born May 4, 1932. He was raised a Master Mason on 11/7/1971. The altar was draped in black and the lodge had a minute of silence.
- The petition for Danilo Olivi was read in lodge. Peter Anders, James Doan and John Mapes volunteered to be on his investigation committee.
- The minutes from the months previous meetings with changes were approved.
- Reports of Standing Committees
 - Finance: Monthly financials were reported.
 - Committee on Delinquent Dues: Six brothers are still delinquent for 2025 dues.
- Unfinished Business
 - No unfinished business.
- New Business
 - Please be advised that Grand Master William Sauget has approved the consolidation of Hugh McCurdy Lodge #381 into Montrose Lodge #428, the resultant lodge to be known as Montrose Lodge #428. Montrose Lodge #428 will continue to hold its stated communication every first Thursday at 7 p.m. at 130 Parkway St. in Montrose.
 - Annual Quill 2025 Summary of the 199th Annual Communication was read in Lodge. See the attached notes starting on the next page.
 - Brother Jack Berdasco thanked John Kall and John Mapes for helping with the last blood drive.
- WB Chuck Birch passed the almoners box around for donations.
- Past Masters were recognized by WM Todd McQuiston.
- Lodge was closed in due form by WM Todd McQuiston 8:39pm
- Members retired to the dining room for fellowship and light refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chris Parfeniuk, P.M. Secretary

WM Todd McQuiston

Annual Quill 2025

The 199th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Michigan was held at The Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt Pleasant Michigan.

It started with the Distinguished Guest dinner on Sunday evening, May 18. All the Grand Lodge officers were in attendance along with 19 Past Grand Masters plus representatives of the appendant and concordant bodies and all the out of state guests.

On Monday morning, the BGPs and DDIs/RGLs held their separate meetings. WB Mark Rogers chaired the BGP meeting and RW Tom Braun led the DDI/RGL School of Instruction.

Breakout sessions were offered by the Michigan Masonic Home, the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation and the Grand Lodge.

The speaker at lunch was Mitch Albom who was very warmly received. He spoke of the benefits of charitable giving and answered all questions

A meeting of the delegates was held on Monday afternoon. Presentations were given by Robin Blackmore (MMH), Bruce Caswell (MMH Board of Trustees).

All three budgets were presented by Grand Treasurer Larry Inscho PGM.

The Grand Master asked that anyone that was planning on running for any Grand Lodge Officer position to come onto the stage. There were six candidates for the open chairs in the Grand Lodge line.

Each was given 2 minutes to speak. A question and answer period followed. There were no candidates for any other positions.

The Grand Lodge was officially opened by M.W. Eugene Abbaticchio at 8:00 am on Tuesday morning, May 20. The distinguished guests and Past Grand Masters were introduced and given Grand Honors. All representatives of youth groups, appendant and concordant bodies were introduced and given a hearty welcome.

Remarks were brought by the following:

Leyna Baumgartner - Grand Worthy Advisor, Michigan Rainbow

Aidan Zirkle - State Master Councilor, DeMolay

JoAnn Decker - Worthy Grand Matron, OES

WB Tom Black on behalf of all appendant and concordant bodies

Grand Master of Wisconsin, MW Thomas Stevens on behalf of the visiting dignitaries

MW Mark Manning on behalf of the Past Grand Masters

MW Dorian Smith - Grand Master Prince Hall Affiliation of Michigan

Bro. Jeff Bolstad - Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

MWGM Abbaticchio asked that all non-Masons retire from the Grand Lodge room

At 8:35 am Grand Master Abbaticchio declared the Annual Communication of Michigan open, tiled and in order.

Grand Secretary Finkel reported that there was a quorum present.
Grand Secretary Finkel presented the proceedings for 2024 which were adopted.

MWGM Abbaticchio gave his address. It was forwarded to the Committee on Division and Reference The report of this committee was adopted.

The report of the Jurisprudence Committee was given by MW Walt Wheeler PGM and was adopted.

The Grand Master proposed the expulsion of Brother AB. Of Menominee Lodge #269. It was supported and accepted.

MW Larry Inscho presented the budgets and they were approved.

A motion was made by Grand Secretary Finkel to advance all current Grand Officers one station and to re-elect the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Lecturer and Grand Tiler. This was accepted

The candidate for Grand Chaplain was MW Dean Barr PGM. There was no other nominations. A ballot was held and MWB Barr was elected.

There were six candidates for the 2 open chairs of Grand Lodge and 1 for Grand Chaplain
The Candidates were:

Charles Plater	Livonia United #152
Ryan Binkley	Grand Ledge Lodge #179
Charles Garrow	Cadillac Clam Lake #331
Mark Rogers	Pere Marquette Lodge #299
Tomas Braun	Cedar Lodge #60
Todd Schmitz	Unity Lodge #191

3.6.3 states: "In all elections and on all questions before the Grand Lodge, the majority votes shall govern, unless otherwise provided by law"

On the fourth vote, WB Ryan Binkley gained 56.1% and was elected Junior Grand Deacon

The other 5 were now balloted on for the Grand Marshal position. On the fourth ballot, with 51.9%, WB Todd Schmitz was elected Grand Marshal

Grand Master Abbaticchio declared Grand Lodge at ease to allow Jan Cross, president of the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Board, to enter and conduct the Annual Meeting of the MMCF.

Nominations for the two open Trustee positions were Tom Black and Jeff Downing and both were approved. MW Don Baugher asked for a vote on "Shall the decision of the MMCF board regarding the Legacy Society be overturned?" It was voted and accepted. The name reverts to Lewis Cass Legacy Society.

There were 2 Resolutions to be brought before the Grand Lodge

Resolution #1

To grant honorary Past Grand Master status to MWB Bernt C. Walker, Past Grand Master of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Michigan

Resolution #2

To grant Grand Chaplain Emeritus status to RW Brother G. Patrick Thompson
Both were approved

VOTING ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Amendment #1-2025**

Constitutional Amendment

This would change the required date for proposed amendments to be in the Grand Lodge office from 120 days before Annual Communication to December 31. By a vote of 89% this amendment will be forwarded to every Lodge for their vote.

Amendment 2-2025

This would make background checks of new petitioners mandatory.
Defeated 65.3% to 34.7%, 3 votes short. (a 2/3 majority is required)

Amendment 4-2025

This would allow for a DeMolay logo on aprons.
Defeated 44% to 56%

The Annual Memorial service was conducted BY MW Dean Barr

Grand Secretary Finkel stated that there was no further business

Grand Master Abbaticchio declared Grand Lodge was adjourned until 1:30 pm

The Annual Installation of Officers of the Grand Lodge was conducted. All officers were installed by Walt Wheeler, Dean Barr, Don Baugher. Pat Thompson, Fred Kaiser, Larry Judson, Bill LeVeque, Bill Finkel, Bob Conley, Leonard Davis. RW Terry Troutt was absent due to illness.

The Proclamation was given By MW Dean Barr.