


MASONIC TEMPLE, Thursday Evening, August 7, 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. Chuck Birch P.M.	J.D.
Bro. Jeff McNeal	J.W.		Bro. Jack Berdasco	Steward
Bro. Chris Parfeniuk P.M.	Sec'y		Bro. Gordon Siu	Steward
Bro. John Kall	Treas.		Bro.	Steward
Bro. Ed Morris P.M.	Marshal		Bro.	Steward
Bro. Carl Puehl P.M.	Chaplain		Bro. John Mapes	Tiler
			Bro.	Educational Officer

- Meeting was opened in the FC degree in due form at 7:40 p.m. by WM Todd McQuiston.
- Visitor Tom Thaxter (Arcadis #278 – California) were announced and greeted by WM Todd McQuiston and the Wardens of Centre Lodge.
- The minutes from the months previous meetings with changes were approved.
- Reports of Standing Committees
 - Finance: Monthly financials were reported. It is expected that the interest for 2025 will be approximately \$600.
 - Committee on Delinquent Dues: Five brothers are still delinquent for 2025 dues.
- Warrant Orders #862 was presented with WB Dave Skiendziel motioning to adopt it and Ed Morris seconding it, followed by a vote in the affirmative.
- Unfinished Business
 - The motion from the June meeting to raise dues by \$25 per year was discussed.
 - None of the brothers present had any additional questions.
 - No brothers called WM McQuiston by phone with questions.
 - One brother with a prepaid membership contacted the secretary asking about how much money is generated by prepaid members (*How many are lifetime members? How many are still alive? I realize the number is small but, how much is bequeathed to the lodge every year?*). Answer and subsequent emails detailed the following
Prepaid 17
Lifetime 8
Regular (Dues Paying) 110

Other than prepaid members becoming lifetime members, we have not made a due paying brother a lifetime member for a long time due to our bylaws stating that we must have a positive growth in a year to make a due paying brother a lifetime member. The by-law does not apply to prepaid members who are 40 years a mason.
... last year the lodge got back about \$400 dollars from all the prepaid memberships ...
 - The vote was conducted with the motion passing 17 yes and 1 no vote. Dues will be increased by \$25/year after the new bylaws are approval by Grand Lodge. Two copies of the signed bylaws will be sent to Grand Lodge for approval with the minutes from meetings and mail sent out to members announcing the motion.

- New Business

- Secretary-Treasurer Day will be Friday, September 12 at Masonic Pathways in Alma. All secretaries, treasurers, assistants, and anyone who may aspire to hold one of those offices down the road are invited for a day of information and fellowship. Topics covered will include dues notices, certificates of election, 990s, budgeting, the lodge grant program, and much more!
- Child ID information was read in lodge.



Dear Lodge Brothers,

Though we're still in the heart of summer, now is the time to start thinking ahead to the many opportunities that fall and winter bring. Events like **Back-to-School nights**, **Halloween Trunk-or-Treats**, **Fall Festivals**, and **Holiday Celebrations** are great ways to serve your community—and perfect occasions to host a **Michigan Masonic Child ID event**.

For over a decade, Michigan Masons have proudly helped protect children by providing **free Child ID kits** to families at local events. These kits—along with **internet safety coloring books** and information about the **Child ID smartphone app**—equip parents with tools to keep their children safe and prepared in case of an emergency.

The **updated Michigan Child ID Program** is simpler than ever for lodges to manage. There's no longer a need for computers or printers at your event. Instead, lodges hand out the kits directly to parents, who complete them at home resulting in: families leaving with valuable resources in hand.

In addition to the kits, we provide materials that promote **online safety**, recognizing the growing connection between digital presence and child safety.

Interested in hosting an event this fall or winter?

Please complete the Child ID Event Request Form here:

Child ID Event Request Form:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a3ac249371984ab092a748820f479e8f>

Submitting the form early allows us to **reserve your supplies** and coordinate **pick-up or delivery** options with your lodge. Supplies are limited and we want to ensure every lodge that wants to host is fully equipped.

****Bonus for early sign-ups:** If your lodge submits the form soon, **supplies can be made available for pick-up at the Secretary and Treasurer Training Day in Alma on Thursday, September 12**. This is a convenient opportunity to get everything you need in one trip.

Questions or need help?

Contact Patti Nowak – Outreach & Member Care

☎ 989-466-3807

✉ pnowak@michiganmasons.org

- Please take notice that Grand Master William Sauget has approved the following lodge moves:
 - Ira A. Beck Lodge #503 has relocated to the Bedford Temple, 21945 Bedford Rd. N., Bedford, MI 49017. The lodge's stated communication is every 3rd Wednesday at 7 p.m.
 - Birmingham Lodge #44 has relocated to the Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Twp., MI 48302. The lodge's stated communication is every 1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m. This move also necessitates a district change: Birmingham #44 has moved from District 29 to District 23.
- Blood drive was announced for August 27th at 12 noon. The location will be at the Midland Curling rink.
- WB Ed Morris passed the almoners box around for donations. Current amount collected is at \$10,566.
- Past Masters were recognized by WM Todd McQuiston.
- Lodge was closed in due form by WM Todd McQuiston 8:33pm
- Members retired to the dining room for fellowship and light refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chris Parfeniuk, P.M. Secretary

WM Todd McQuiston