



February 2026

## From the East

### February: A Month of Light, Learning, and Legacy



Brethren, February promises to be a truly inspiring and educational month in our Lodge—one that reminds us why Freemasonry is both timeless in its principles and vibrant in its practice.

## Officers

### Worshipful Master

Todd Lamb  
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### Senior Warden

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### Junior Warden

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### Treasurer

Don Schoellig  
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### Senior Deacon

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### Junior Deacon

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Lodge Education Officer  
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### Sr. Steward

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### Sr. Steward

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### Jr. Steward

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### Jr. Steward

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### Tiler

Larry Whitman  
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**Brothers take note that we have a School of Instruction this month that we have been summoned to attend on February 11th - Please See the calendar on the next page**

Monthly Stated Communications every 1st Tuesday, 7:00PM

Monthly Special Lodge Education Communication every 3rd Tuesday, 7:00PM

7839 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473

**If you need a ride to lodge, let us know!**

**All Visitors Welcome!**

**"The most important part of any masonic gathering is not the business, but the fellowship. We have meals before each Stated/Special Communication beginning at 6:00 PM. to foster fellowship! Please come and Join us!**

## From the South



### February Meal

#### Aperitif

Tossed Salad

#### Main Course

Spaghetti & Meatballs  
Texas Toast

#### Dessert

Fruit tray  
Tira masu

This lodge is your lodge, and your friends are welcome—bring them to dinner. Please come out and enjoy the fellowship.

Speaking of education, at our both our Feb 3rd Regular and Tuesday, February 17th Special Communication our Lodge Education Officers will continue their dedicated work by diving deeper into the **Entered Apprentice Degree Obligation**, carefully examining its meaning, intent, and application in our daily lives. In addition, they will be exploring many of the words found in the **Ritual Book Dictionary and Glossary**, helping us better understand the language of our Craft and the symbolism embedded within it. See assignments on Page 2 for further information.

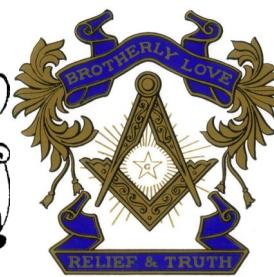
I would also like to take a moment to commend **Senior Deacon Tyler Hart** for his outstanding commitment to learning ritual. Brother Hart has been regularly attending **Morning Star Lodge No. 556**, demonstrating the kind of initiative and dedication that strengthens not only his own proficiency, but the Craft as a whole.

To that end, I strongly encourage any Brother who desires to practice and learn ritual in a fun, supportive manner to attend these sessions. They are held on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesdays of each month—with coffee at 8:00 AM and Lodge at 9:00 AM. It is a relaxed, engaging environment and an excellent opportunity to grow in confidence and skill.

February reminds us that Freemasonry is alive—rooted in history, strengthened through education, and sustained by the active participation of dedicated Brothers. I look forward to seeing many of you as we learn, celebrate, and labor together in the month ahead.

Fraternally and sincerely,

Todd Lamb - WM



## February 2026 Birthdays

James Avery - 02/03  
 Carl Davis - 02/07  
 Andrew Champine - 02/12  
 Bobbie Havener - 02/13  
 Byrl Burris - 02/16  
 Gary Childs - 02/24  
 Randall Cochrane - 02/24

## March Birthdays

Edward White 03/02  
 Billy Trarop - 03/03  
 Carl Ross - 03/04  
 Nathan Bellville - 03/11  
 Colonel Lake - 03/13  
 Rady Walker - 03/15  
 James Beal - 3/16  
 Scott Wogen - 03/17  
 Robert Garceau - 03/20  
 Robert Conley - 03/21  
 Eugene Cummings - 03/21  
 Marcello Johnson - 03/26  
 William Pailthorpe - 03/26  
 Thomas Wickam - 03/30

## Membership Statistics

**127 Members**  
**124 Master Masons**  
**3 Entered Apprentices**

If it has been sometime since you have attended lodge, We would be honored to see you again! Will you please join us at our next lodge regular?



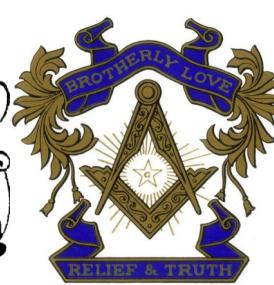
## Upcoming Meetings & Events

Who	Date	Time	What
Grand Lodge of MI—Alma Michigan	Saturday, January 31st, 2026	10:00 AM	Grandview Training—Bring a laptop and/ or iPhone/Android
Fellowship 236 Swartz Creek MT	Tuesday, February 3	6:00 PM-Dinner 7:00 PM-Lodge	Stated Regular Communication
Vassar Lodge #153 MT	Saturday, February 7th	7:00 PM-Lodge	MM Degree
<b>Travel Opportunity!</b>			
Genesee Lodge #174 - Flushing MT	Wednesday, February 11	7:00 PM-Lodge	Summons - School of Instruction Districts 15, 16 & 17
<b>Travel Opportunity!</b>			
Fellowship 236-Swartz Creek MT	Tuesday, February 17	6:00 PM-Dinner 7:00 PM-Lodge	Lodge Education Special Communication
Swartz Creek Lodge #458 ,Swartz creek MT	Wednesday, February 18	6:00 PM-Dinner 7:00 PM-Lodge	Round Robin - Worshipful Master Night MM Degree
<b>Travel Opportunity!</b>			
George Washington Masonic National Memorial	Friday, February 19th - Sunday, February 21st	8:00 AM-12: 00 PM 5:00 PM-9:00 PM	GW Symposium Gala reception & Banquet
<b>Travel Opportunity!</b>			
Fellowship Lodge 236, Swartz Creek MT WM's, Wardens and PM's of Fellowship 236	Wednesday, March 25th	7:00 PM	District 16 BGP & DDI Elections

## Lodge Education

Date	Curriculum
February 3rd	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Degree Oath</b>  <u>Discussion on Meaning</u>  <u>Discussion: Masonic Dictionary &amp; Glossary letters C &amp; D</u>  <u>Assignment: Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Oath</u>  <u>Page 46 &amp; 47 Ritual Book</u>  <u>Assignment: Masonic Dictionary &amp; Glossary</u>  <u>Words beginning with the letters E, F, G, H, I, J &amp; K</u>  <u>Page 134, 135, 136 &amp; 137 + 144 &amp; 145 Ritual Book</u></p>
February 17th	<p><b>2nd Degree Oath</b>  <u>Discussion on Meaning</u>  <u>Discussion: Masonic Dictionary &amp; Glossary letters E, F, G, H, I, J &amp; K</u>  <u>Discussion: Alter and VSL</u>  <u>Assignment: Start Memorizing 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Oath</u>  <u>Page 81, Lines 11 to 40</u>  <u>Assignment: Masonic Dictionary &amp; Glossary</u>  <u>Words beginning with the letters L, M, N, O, P, Q &amp; R</u></p>





## Living Past Masters

John Arnould	1986 - Fellowship 490, 2012 Fellowship 490
Andrew Borromey	1999 - Davison 236
Austin Conquest	2023,2024, 2025- Fellowship 236
Norman (Pete) Crane	2000- Fellowship 490
Jefrey Downing	2019-Fellowship 236
Andy Freeman	2018 - Fellowship 236
Philip Gean	1992, 2013– Fellowship 490, 2020,2021-Fellowship 236
Franklin Lamp	1983-Davison 236
Dave Martin	2002, 2008, 2009 - Davison 236
Don Millikan	2001, 2011—Davison 236
Ralph Murphy	1995, 1999—Fellowship 490
Dave Norris	1996, Fellowship 490
Jerry Preston	1995, Golden Rule 159
Lynn Ross	1984 Fellowship 490, 2017-Fellowship 236
Ronald Simmons	2003—Davison 236
Travis Schlosser	2022-Fellowship 236
Roger Wills	2003 Davison 236
Dustin Woodliff	2011,2015, 2016—Davison 236

## Standing Committee Chairman Roster

Committee	Chair	Phone #	Email
Masonic Home	Jared Whitman		<a href="mailto:jaredwhitman@gmail.com">jaredwhitman@gmail.com</a>
Delinquent Dues	Mario Zepeda	(810) 877-1331	<a href="mailto:OmegaZep@yahoo.com">OmegaZep@yahoo.com</a>
Property	Don Schoellig	(810) 955-4545	<a href="mailto:donschoe@coomcast.net">donschoe@coomcast.net</a>
Budget	Todd Lamb	(951) 473-7889	<a href="mailto:TLamb10@Comcast.net">TLamb10@Comcast.net</a>
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Trustee	Jerry Preston	(810) 348-4777	<a href="mailto:ilpreston11@gmail.com">ilpreston11@gmail.com</a>
Sick & Visitation	Austin Conquest	(248) 245-5603	<a href="mailto:alconque48@gmail.com">alconque48@gmail.com</a>
Save the Flags	David Norris	(810) 730-2902	<a href="mailto:norrispi@gmail.com">norrispi@gmail.com</a>
Widows & Orphans	Tyler Hart	(810) 493-4968	<a href="mailto:teachout1992@gmail.com">teachout1992@gmail.com</a>

### Would You Have Knocked?

From time to time, it is useful to pause and reflect on the value of our Craft - not only in symbolic terms, but in practical ones as well. Consider this simple question: *If it had cost you \$2,588.00 to join Freemasonry, would you have done so?*

That figure is not hypothetical, on November 4th, 1752, a young George Washington petitioned to become a Freemason. His initiation fee was recorded as **two pounds and three shillings<sup>(1)</sup>**, a significant sum for the era. When adjusted for inflation and economic context, that amount equates to **approximately \$2,588.00 in today's dollars**.

Washington believed the answer was yes. He saw enough value in the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth to invest materially in his Masonic future. He recognized that the Lodge was not merely a place to meet, but a school of character, discipline, fellowship, and service—one that would shape his life and leadership.

Today, our circumstances are far different. Once raised, a Master Mason remains in good standing in Fellowship Lodge with **annual dues of just \$125.00**. That modest sum supports the lights of the Lodge, our charitable efforts, our building, our ritual work, and the quiet but essential operations that allow Masonry to thrive in our community. When viewed honestly, it is a small price to sustain an institution that gives so much in return.

This is not said in reproach, but in candor and brotherly affection. Our Lodge depends on the faithful payment of dues to meet its obligations and continue its work. If you are a Brother who has not yet come current, I respectfully and fraternally ask that you please do so at your earliest opportunity. If circumstances make this difficult, reach out - we are, after all, Brothers.

Freemasonry has always required an investment. Compared to those who came before us, ours is modest indeed.

(1) Source: <https://gwmemorial.org/pages/george-washington-the-mason>

Brothers please take note in 2026, Fellowship Lodge 236 will not be going dark this year and will operate during the months of July and August!

