



Annual **COMMUNICATION**

MAY 18th - 19th, 2026

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort • Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

It is my honor to invite you to the 200th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan, a celebration of 200 years of leadership, service, and dedication by the Michigan Masons.

During this landmark session, you will hear a report of the year's activities and review future programs, initiatives, and budgets for your consideration. Proposed changes to our Blue Book regulations will be presented, and you will elect the Grand Lodge Officers who will help lead us into our third century in 2026–2027.

You will also experience the dignity and ceremony that define our fraternity while reconnecting with brothers from all 238 lodges in Michigan and with brethren from other jurisdictions.

This is truly a remarkable time to be a Freemason in Michigan, and I look forward to welcoming you to this historic 200th Annual Communication.

Fraternally Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'William J. Sauget'.

William J. Sauget, Grand Master of Michigan





Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Grand Lodge Officers List	4
Nominees for Offices	4
Event Agenda	5
Tickets & Registration Instructions	6
Registration Information.....	7
Meal Package Information	8
Hotel Reservations.....	8
Grand View Information	9
Amendments.....	11-26
Proposed Budgets	27-34
Golf Outing	35
Future Annual Communications Site.....	Back Cover

From the
Grand Lodge Office
Alma, Michigan

Dear Worshipful Master and Secretary,

This booklet will serve as your information for the upcoming Grand Lodge Annual Communication to be held on May 18th and 19th, 2026. It contains the information on hotel and meal reservations and other important information. **All registration and confirmation will occur electronically. Instructions are found throughout this booklet.**

If you plan to attend Annual Communication, please bring a copy (either digital or you can print) of these Advanced Notices and budgets with you. **Copies will not be available at registration and can be found in Grand View.**

Please inform all members of your lodge who will attend the Annual Communication of the programs and meetings that are available on Monday, May 18th, 2026.

It is advisable to make your hotel reservation early. **The deadline for hotel reservations at the Grand Lodge rate is April 18th, 2026.** However, this deadline does not guarantee room availability.

Also, please make your reservations for the Monday banquet and the various breakfasts and luncheons early. The deadline for these reservations is May 10th, 2026.

Instructions are found in this publication. The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge may be attended by any Master Mason in good standing. The meetings are open to any interested Master Mason from Michigan or any other recognized jurisdiction.



Grand Lodge Officers

2025-2026

William J. Sauget {Thea} #542

Grand Master

Michael S. Roberts {Rebecca} #27

Deputy Grand Master

Craig E. Lehrke {Lori} #365

Senior Grand Warden

Gary L. Paquet #498

Junior Grand Warden

Larry A. Inscho #312

Grand Treasurer

William R. Finkel {Karin} #580

Grand Secretary

Thomas Braun {Cheryl} #60

Grand Lecturer

Dean A. Barr #542

Grand Chaplain

Ryan E. Binkley #205

Senior Grand Deacon

Todd M. Schmitz {Lori} #191

Junior Grand Deacon

Charles A. Plater {Dana} #152

Grand Marshal

Roger D. Moore {Debbie} #112

Grand Tiler

Gerald E. Millar {Janie} #22

Grand Organist

Nominee for
GRAND TILER

CHRISTOPHER D. OWENS

Owosso #81

Nominees for
GRAND MARSHAL

CHARLES L. GARROW

Luther Lakes #370

THOMAS D. SIVER

Grand Haven #139

DAKOTAH M. HOSKINS

Paw Paw-Lawton Lodge #25



Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, May 17, 2026

8:30 AM Shot Gun	Masonic Golf Outing - PohlCat Golf Course	Collared Shirt NO DENIM
3:00 PM	Native American Degree Team (Entertainment Hall)	Master Masons Only Business Attire
7:00 PM	Distinguished Guest - Reception (Saginaw Room)	Invitation Only - Formal Attire
7:30 PM	Distinguished Guest - GLO March In / Introductions	Invitation Only - Formal Attire
7:45 PM	Distinguished Guest - Banquet (Saginaw Room)	Invitation Only - Formal Attire

Those attending the Distinguished Guest Banquet - please look for a packet upon your arrival that includes all your tickets for the conference.

MONDAY, May 18, 2026

7:30 AM	Registration (Grand Foyer)	
7:30 AM	Breakfast (Swan Creek) - Ticket Required	Business Attire
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Viewing of <i>A Light On the Lakes</i> , Bicentennial Documentary - (Saginaw Room)	Business Attire
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Presentation of Stone, Stitch & Symbol, Bicentennial Book - (Saginaw Room)	Business Attire
9:00 AM	BGP Meeting (Entertainment Hall)	Business Attire
9:00 AM	DDI Meeting (Ojibway)	Business Attire
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Exhibitor Area Open (Black River Room)	
11:30 AM	Ladies Lunch (Three Fires Room) - Ticket Required	Neat Casual
11:30 AM	Lunch (Swan Creek) - Ticket Required	Business Attire
1:00 PM	Delegate Meeting (Entertainment Hall) <i>Detailed discussion on Budget and Legislation</i> <i>Candidates for election will speak and answer questions</i>	Business Attire
3:00 PM	Viewing of <i>A Light On the Lakes</i> , Bicentennial Documentary (Entertainment Hall)	Business Attire
6:00 PM	Representative Reception (Swan Creek/Saginaw) - Ticket Required	Dark Suit
7:00 PM	Dinner with Award Presentations	
8:30 PM	Entertainment - Band - "Rat Pack Theme" 1950s & 60s if you wish to dress up	

TUESDAY, May 19, 2026

7:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast (Swan Creek/Saginaw Rooms) - Ticket Required	Business Attire
7:00 AM	Delegate Registration (Entertainment Hall)	
7:30 AM	GLO Line-up	Full Regalia/Morning Suit
	Spouses will be seated in the Entertainment Hall prior to Grand Lodge Officer entrance	
8:00 AM	General Session with Formal Introductions (Entertainment Hall) <i>This meeting opens at 8:00 AM</i> <i>Coat, tie with appropriate regalia is required</i>	Business Attire
8:00 AM - Noon	Ladies Social Room (Three Fires Room)	Business Attire
12:00 PM	Lunch (Swan Creek/Saginaw Rooms) - Ticket Required	Business Attire
1:30 PM (Estimate)	Installation (Entertainment Hall)	Business Attire
3:00 PM (Estimate)	Adjournment	
3:15 PM (Estimate)	GLO Photo Shoot (Entertainment Hall Stage)	Invitation Only - Full Regalia/Morning Suit
7:00 PM	New GLO Dinner (Three Fires Room)	Invitation Only - Business Casual

Tickets & REGISTRATION

Tickets for all events can be obtained by logging in and visiting the **"Events" tab in Grand View**, or by going directly to <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com>.

REGISTRATION AND MEAL TICKET PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Go to <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com>.
2. Begin by clicking the **"GET TICKETS"** button. Enter **ACCESS CODE** and hit **APPLY**. The access code if you DIDN'T receive a separate sheet of instructions is **MASON26**. ***If you are a BGP, DDI, RGL, or Voting Delegate, a special code was emailed to you from the Grand Lodge via Grand View with separate instructions.*** If you have misplaced that code, please contact the Grand Lodge office.
3. Select the quantity of tickets for each event, including choosing the **"VISITOR"** option. If you are registering as a visitor, be sure and click the first option. Select your meals and quantities, then click on **"CHECKOUT."** You will be taken to the personal information and payment page.
4. Provide your name, address and contact information, lodge name and number, and your office if required. Also provide us with your guest (spouse) name, if applicable. Fill out all required fields (marked *).
5. Once you have entered all information, click **"REGISTER."** You're finished when you see, "Thank You for Your Order!" You will receive an email confirmation with your ticket. **No tickets need to be printed.**

Please plan to attend Monday, May 18th, 2026 and view the premiere of ***A Light On the Lakes***, the 200th anniversary documentary celebrating the enduring influence of Freemasonry across the state.



Lodge Voting DELEGATES

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

If you are the Worshipful Master, you were emailed your registration code from the Grand Lodge via Grand View. This code is necessary when you register as the voting delegate for your lodge. The instructions for registration are included with the code to register. During the registration process, you will also be able to make your meal reservations. **PLEASE NOTE:** You need to go online and register as the delegate for your lodge. Your credentials will be on your name badge presented to you at the registration in the lobby area.

If you can't locate your unique registration code or have any other issues with the registration process, please call the Grand Lodge office and we'll be happy to assist you. See phone numbers on the back cover of this booklet.

REGISTRATION FOR BGPs, DDIs, AND RGLs:

If you are a BGP, DDI, or RGL, you must register online by going to <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com> and click on the "Get Tickets" button. **You were emailed your unique registration code from the Grand Lodge via Grand View;** enter that code to register. Instructions are included with the code. You can purchase any meals you want during the registration process.

You will receive a name badge at registration that will allow you to gain admittance and will be your proof of registration so that mileage and per diem can be calculated for you. Be sure to check in at the registration desk; no check-in will be done during the meeting.

ALL OTHERS: All others (defined as anyone who is NOT a BGP, DDI, RGL, PGM, GLO, or Voting Delegate) attending Annual Communication are requested to register through the process outlined. However, your registration code is simply **MASON26**. Instructions can be found on page 6.

When you have entered this code in the appropriate location, you will be able to register and purchase your meal tickets. When you arrive at Grand Lodge Session, find the visitor registration area. You will be provided with your unique name badge as a visitor, along with any tickets purchased, and allowed to enter the session.

If you do not register in advance in this manner, you will need to bring your dues card with you and register on site. The delay could be substantial, so please utilize the on-line system. The credential required to receive an official visitor's badge is your 2026 lodge dues card, showing dues paid to the date of the visitation.



Stone, Stitch & Symbol stands as a lasting visual record of the Grand Lodge of Michigan's bicentennial. Copies of this book may be purchased by contacting Kelly Thompson at the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation at kthompson@mmcfonline.org or by calling 800-994-7400.

Meals & MEAL PACKAGES

ALL MEAL EVENTS ARE BY PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

MONDAY BREAKFAST: A men's and ladies' breakfast will be held on Monday, May 18th, 2026 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tickets are available at a cost of \$26. Visit <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com> to reserve your meal tickets. Please make reservations by May 10th, 2026.

MONDAY LADIES' LUNCHEON: A special ladies' luncheon will be held on Monday, May 18th, 2026. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. Tickets for the luncheon are \$30 and can be purchased during the registration process.

MONDAY LUNCH: Lunch will be held Monday, May 18th, 2026. Tickets are available at a cost of \$30. Visit <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com> to reserve your meal tickets. Please make your reservations by May 10th, 2026.

MONDAY BANQUET: On Monday, May 18th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., join the representatives, visitors, committeemen, past and present Grand Lodge Officers, and their ladies at our annual Representatives Banquet Dinner. Tickets for the dinner are \$50.

Visit <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com> to reserve your meal tickets. Please make reservations by May 10th, 2026. This year's Representatives Banquet Dinner will be 50s and 60s Rat Pack themed if you wish to dress up.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST: A men's and ladies' breakfast will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Tickets are available at a cost of \$26. Visit <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com> to reserve your meal tickets. Please make reservations by May 10th, 2026.

TUESDAY LUNCH: A men's and ladies' lunch will be held Tuesday, May 19th, 2026 following the Grand Lodge session. Tickets are available at a cost of \$30. Visit <http://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com> to reserve your meal tickets. Please make reservations by May 10th, 2026.

Meal packages can be purchased in lieu of individual purchase at a discount.

NO MEAL TICKET SALES AT EVENT.

Hotel RESERVATIONS

Rooms have been blocked at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. Your hotel reservations must be received by the hotel by **April 18th, 2026** in order to receive the Grand Lodge rate. After that date, the hotel will release the reserved rooms and you may not be able to reserve a room at the Soaring Eagle. To book a room, call **(877) 232-4532** and request a room under the Grand Lodge block. You may also book online by visiting <https://www.soaringeaglecasino.com>, clicking "BOOK NOW" and selecting your dates. Click the arrow next to "Promo Code" and select "Group Code" and enter code **GL051626** to receive our group rate. Please note: The hotel is sold out on Saturday, May 16, 2026.



May 18 -19, 2026 • Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

GET READY FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL ANNUAL COMMUNICATION WITH GRAND VIEW

Access all of your Annual Communication 2026 documents, right on Grand View.

Advance Notices • Advance Reports • Agenda

Annual MAY 18th - 19th, 2026 COMMUNICATION

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort • Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

For more information:  (800) 321-9357  www.mi.grandview.systems/users/sign_in



A MUST-SEE DEGREE *by the* OKLAHOMA MASONIC INDIAN DEGREE TEAM

As part of the celebration marking the 200th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, Michigan Masons are invited to take part in a truly special and memorable event. For the first time, the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team will bring its renowned work to Michigan, offering brethren a rare opportunity to experience one of the most compelling ritual presentations in Freemasonry.

Arranged through the Grand Lodge of Michigan, the team will confer the Master Mason Degree on one of our own Fellowcrafts! Known as the "Oldest Degree Team" and composed entirely of Native American Master Masons from across Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team is celebrated for blending precise Masonic ritual with culturally significant regalia and symbolism. Their presentation honors both the timeless teachings of the craft and the rich heritage of the brethren who confer it, creating a degree experience that is both powerful and deeply meaningful.

This historic presentation will take place on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Entertainment Hall at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort as part of the 200th Annual Communication. Appearances by the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team are rare, making this event a standout moment in Michigan Masonry's bicentennial year.

Attendance is free, but is restricted to Master Masons. All attendees are asked to arrive early and bring a current dues card for admission. We invite you to gather in fellowship, reflect on shared traditions, and celebrate two centuries of Freemasonry in Michigan!





Proposed
AMENDMENTS

Amendment No. 1-2025



The following change to Masonic Law is hereby submitted:

3.12.2: Amendments to the Regulations, Bylaws and Penal Code of this Grand Lodge shall be made in the following manner:

- (a) Each proposed amendment, together with a concise statement of the reasons for its adoption, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary at least one hundred and twenty (120) days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to which it is submitted. The amendment will be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who will with the proposer(s) put the amendment in proper form and order, if needed. A notice and copy of the same shall be mailed by the Grand Secretary to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge, and to the Worshipful Master of each constituent Lodge, at least sixty (60) days before the beginning of the Annual Communication. The provision for this notice is mandatory, and if not given, the proposed amendments lapse and have no effect, and in order to be considered, must be re submitted at least one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the next Annual Communication in the manner set forth in this section. (1996, 2016)

Change to:

3.12.2: Amendments to the Regulations, Bylaws and Penal Code of this Grand Lodge shall be made in the following manner:

- (b) Each proposed amendment, together with a concise statement of the reasons for its adoption, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary **no later than midnight on December 31st** before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to which it is submitted. The amendment will be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who will with the proposer(s) put the amendment in proper form and order, if needed. A notice and copy of the same shall be mailed by the Grand Secretary to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge, and to the Worshipful Master of each constituent Lodge, at least sixty (60) days before the beginning of the Annual Communication. The provision for this notice is mandatory, and if not given, the proposed amendments lapse and have no effect, and in order to be considered, must be re submitted **no later than midnight on December 31st** prior to the next Annual Communication in the manner set forth in this section. (1996, 2016)

REASON: This amendment would allow the Committee on Jurisprudence time to complete its process and aid in the ability to place all proposed legislation into the hands of the BGP's Legislation Committee prior to their January quarterly. Thus, enabling the BGP to initiate discussion related to the proposed legislation at their January meeting, preparing all members for the Debate to be had at their March quarterly which is designed to deliver concise, clear and non bias information to be presented during their District Legislative meetings.

Amendment No. 1-2025 Cont.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Braun', written in a cursive style.

Thomas A. Braun PM

Cedar 60

Amendment No. 1-2026

#1



Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan

The following change to the MI Masonic Law is hereby respectfully submitted to:

Amend Section 5.5.1.1 which currently reads:

The Grand Officers and members of Grand Lodge entitled to vote, shall receive thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) a day for each day's attendance at Annual and Special Communications. Except for the Grand Master, they shall also receive thirty-five cents (\$.35) per mile for each mile necessarily traveled, the route and distance to be determined by the Grand Secretary, in going to and returning from all Annual and Special Communications; the Grand Master shall receive the standard mileage rate allowable by the Internal Revenue Service for business.

Amend Section 5.5.1.1 to read as follows:

The Grand Officers and Legal Representatives of each chartered Lodge shall receive thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) a day for each day's attendance at Annual and Special Communications. Except for the Grand Master, they shall also receive thirty-five cents (\$.35) per mile for each mile necessarily traveled, the route and distance to be determined by the Grand Secretary, in going to and returning from all Annual and Special Communications; the Grand Master shall receive the standard mileage rate allowable by the Internal Revenue Service for business.

Reason:

Provide better clarification on who is entitled to receive compensation for attendance at the Grand Lodge Annual and Special Communications.

Also, its passage is needed for following Legislation to be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Braun".

Thomas A. Braun

Secretary Cedar 60

Amendment No. 2-2026

#2

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan



The following change to the MI Masonic Law is hereby respectfully submitted to: _____

Amend Section 3.2.2 which currently reads:

Past Masters of Lodges in this Jurisdiction who are in good standing, and members of Standing Committees who are not the Legal Representatives of lodges, are members of this Grand Lodge, but without the right to vote.

Amend Section 3.2.2 to read as follows:

Members of Standing Committees who are not the Legal Representative of a chartered Lodge, are members of this Grand Lodge, but without the right to vote. Past Masters of Lodges in this Jurisdiction who are in good standing are members of this Grand Lodge, and those having registered for attendance 30 days prior to Annual Communication shall have the right to vote.

Amend Section 3.6.2 which currently reads:

In all elections, and on all questions before the Grand Lodge on which the call of Lodges has been ordered, the representative of each chartered Lodge shall be entitled to three votes; each Past Grand Master and each Grand Officer to one vote.

Amend Section 3.6.2 to read as follows:

In all elections, and on all questions before the Grand Lodge on which the call of Lodges has been ordered, The Legal Representative of each chartered Lodge shall be entitled to three votes; each Past Master fulfilling the requirements of 3.2.2, each Past Grand Master and each Grand Officer to one vote.

Reason:

To include the wisdom of all Past Masters within our Jurisdiction in deciding what is the right path for our beloved craft. The more voices the better our chances of getting it right.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Braun". The signature is fluid and somewhat abstract, with long horizontal strokes.

Thomas A. Braun

Secretary Cedar 60

Amendment No. 3-2026

The following Amendment to Michigan Masonic law is herewith

Respectfully submitted

Key 4.30.1 currently reads:

4.30.1: The following organizations are authorized as Affiliated Masonic

Organizations and, as such, may be permitted to meet in a Masonic

Lodge room: (2000,2002, 2008)

- (a) Order of Amaranth
- (b) Order of DeMolay
- (c) Order of the Eastern Star
- (d)
- (e) Order of the Rainbow for Girls
- (f) White Shrine of Jerusalem

Amend Key 4.30.1: to read as follows:

4.30.1: The following organizations are authorized as Affiliated Masonic

Organizations and, as such, may be permitted to meet in a Masonic

Lodge room: (2000), (2002),(2008)

- (a) Order of Amaranth
- (b) Order of DeMolay
- (c) Order of the Eastern Star
- (d) Job's Daughters International
- (e) Order of the Rainbow for Girls
- (f) White Shrine of Jerusalem

Reason:

Job's Daughters was created in Omaha, Nebraska in 1921. It came to Michigan as Bethel #1 in Charlotte, Michigan in 1922. It became a Grand Guardian Council in 1940. For decades it has been recognized as an Affiliated Masonic Organization. In early 2022 an incident involving the

Amendment No. 3-2026 Cont.

Certified Adult Volunteer program of the Supreme Guardian Council occurred, which caused a conflict between the Supreme Guardian Council Leadership and the Grand Guardian Council of Michigan. The Grand Master was drawn into the dispute which resulted in withdrawal of recognition of Job's Daughters as an Affiliated Masonic Organization. The original principles and goals of Job's Daughters have not changed. The young ladies should not be punished for the actions of the adults. Job's Daughters should be recognized as an Affiliated Masonic Organization.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Robert G. Helmic

Past Grand Master

Amendment No. 4-2026

The following Amendment to Michigan Masonic Law is herewith

Respectfully Submitted.

Key 4.31.2.1 currently reads:

4.31.2.1: No Mason within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall promote or organize any order or society, nor become a member of any order or society hereafter promoted, organized or established in this jurisdiction, whose qualifications for membership shall be Masonic affiliation, unless such order or society shall have received the formal approval of the Grand Lodge.

(Footnote 5 Pg 95) No Master Mason within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan can or will be allowed any office, station or place within any Guardian Council, Grand Guardian Council, or Supreme Guardian Council, nor will any Michigan Mason be allowed to sponsor, advise, or associate with in any way Jobs Daughters International. Further, no Jobs Daughters International Bethels are allowed to meet in any Michigan Masoni Centers, Buildings, Halls, or Temples. Further, the Grand Lodge of Michigan nor any of its subsidiary corporations or lodges are allowed to financially support Jobs Daughters International. This directive applies to all Masons who are members of a constituent lodge with the Masonic jurisdiction of Michigan. (G.M. Edict 2022)

Amend Key 4.31.2.1 to read as follows:

4.31.2.1: No Mason within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall promote or organize any order or society, nor become a member of any order or society hereafter promoted, organized or established in this jurisdiction, whose qualifications for membership shall be Masonic affiliation, unless such order or society shall have received the formal approval of the Grand Lodge,

Removal of Grand Masters Edict 2022 will permit Master Masons to again be associated with Jobs' Daughters as an Affiliated Masonic Organization.

Reason:

For Decades, thousands of Michigan Masons have supported their Mothers, Sisters, Wives, Daughters, Grand Daughters, and Nieces in their efforts to promote the teachings

Amendment No. 4-2026 Cont.

of Job's Daughters. Many of them also became members of Bethel Guardian Councils to further that support. Adult leadership decisions at the Supreme Guardian Council level and the resulting action by the Grand Master in his Edict did not alter the basic principles upon which the Order was founded in 1920. The young ladies of Job's Daughters in Michigan still follow and embrace those principles. They should not be made to suffer for the actions of their Supreme Leaders.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted,

Robert G. Helmic

Past Grand Master

Amendment No. 5-2026

Amendment 5



Amend Masonic Law re: Shrine Trials

December 29, 2025

Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan

The following amendment to Masonic Law is respectfully submitted:

Amend §8.2.10: Which currently reads: No Master Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan shall participate in a "Shrine Trial" as promulgated by Article 23, Section 323.8 of the Shrine Bylaws. (1988)

Amend as follows:

Strike §8.2.10 in its entirety.

Reason:

This section of Law was inserted through a Grand Master's edict. The reasons for the edict are unclear, but the section has the unintended consequence of denying a member of Shriners International the ability to have any Michigan Mason participate, even by simply testifying in a Shrine trial. Further, it has the unintended consequence of regulating the actions of another recognized appendant body through our laws, not theirs. This section has caused significant confusion and difficulties for those that have been involved in such matters, and it is the consensus of those of us submitting this legislation that no good comes from retaining such language in our code and it should be subsequently eliminated from Michigan Masonic Law.

Fraternally submitted:

Print Name

JOHN A. COOPER, JR.
Parramatta #58, BGP

MARK ROGERS M.I.R.
Pere Marquette #299 BGP

JIM GARDINI BGP 22

Jonathan Ferguson PM.
E. Lansing #480, Dist. #33 BGP

KEVIN PRIBBLE #292, BGP

BENJAMIN WRIGHT #342 BGP-11

Print Name

Russell Chapel - Parma #183 BGP-34
JAMES KRONTZ, MYSTIC 141 BGP-38
President, Branch County Shrine Club

GILL LEMONDE JR.
GRAND LODGE #179 BGP

Hanson Lee Trelum #552 BGP 24

Matthew Babbitt Itichon 345 BGP 37

Curtis McGuire LPE 39 Solons Hwy 580

William Vernier William 484 BGP

Mark Gavea BGP # 20

Vertical handwritten note: 6/12/25 PERE MARQUETTE 2025

Amendment No. 5-2026 Cont.

Amendment 5 Cont.

Amend Masonic Law re: Shrine Trials

December 29, 2025

Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan

The following amendment to Masonic Law is respectfully submitted:

Amend §8.2.10: Which currently reads: No Master Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Michigan shall participate in a "Shrine Trial" as promulgated by Article 23, Section 323.8 of the Shrine Bylaws. (1988)

Amend as follows:


Strike §8.2.10 in its entirety.

Reason:

This section of Law was inserted through a Grand Master's edict. The reasons for the edict are unclear, but the section has the unintended consequence of denying a member of Shriners International the ability to have any Michigan Mason participate, even by simply testifying in a Shrine trial. Further, it has the unintended consequence of regulating the actions of another recognized appendant body through our laws, not theirs. This section has caused significant confusion and difficulties for those that have been involved in such matters, and it is the consensus of those of us submitting this legislation that no good comes from retaining such language in our code and it should be subsequently eliminated from Michigan Masonic Law.

Fraternally submitted:

Print Name

Ryan Clay PM BGP #23


Print Name

MICHAEL R. HILL, PM, MARQUETTE #14
BGP DISTRICT #1

Amendment No. 6-2026

The following change to Masonic Law is hereby submitted:

§4.20.3.1: The ballot is final and the petitioner is rejected if two or more black cubes have been cast. If only one black cube appears, the Worshipful Master (before declaring the result) may order a second and final ballot to be taken immediately to rectify a possible mistake. The petitioner is rejected unless the second ballot is unanimously in his favor. The Worshipful Master shall declare the result of a final ballot immediately. (1964)

§4.20.4.5: An objection, properly made to the Worshipful Master, shall have the same force and effect as a black cube cast in the ballot box. (1964)

§4.25.4.2: Such petition shall lie over until the next Regular Communication at which time a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner. (1960, 2005)

(a) If, upon ballot, such petition is rejected it lapses and may not be voted on again at any subsequent Regular Communication. The petitioning Brother's membership remains in his former lodge. He may, however, file a new petition which shall, in all respects, be treated as such. (1977)

(b) If, upon unanimous vote in its favor, such petition shall be accepted, the Brother shall present to the lodge of which he is a member a written request that a Transfer Certificate be granted him for the purpose of consummating a change in membership, accompanied by a Certificate of Election to Membership in the lodge to which he has petitioned for membership. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries.) (2001)

§4.28.3.2: The application shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the receiving lodge, be referred to an investigating committee and lie over until the next Regular Communication following presentation and reference. After report of the committee, a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner. Election to membership shall be by unanimous vote. (1978)

§4.28.4.3: The Petition for Affiliation shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the receiving lodge, be referred to an investigating committee and lie over until the next Regular Communication following presentation and reference. After report of the committee, a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner. Election to membership shall be by unanimous vote. (1977, 1978)

Amendment No. 6-2026 Cont.

Change to:

§4.20.3.1: The ballot is final and the petitioner is rejected if **three** or more black cubes have been cast. If only **two** black cubes **appear**, the Worshipful Master (before declaring the result) may order a second and final ballot to be taken immediately to rectify a possible mistake. The petitioner is rejected unless the second ballot has **one black cube or fewer**. The Worshipful Master shall declare the result of a final ballot immediately. (1964)

§4.20.4.5: An objection, properly made to the Worshipful Master, shall have the same force and effect as **more than one** black cube cast in the ballot box. (1964)

§4.25.4.2: Such petition shall lie over until the next Regular Communication at which time a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner. (1960, 2005)

(a) If, upon ballot, such petition is rejected it lapses and may not be voted on again at any subsequent Regular Communication. The petitioning Brother's membership remains in his former lodge. He may, however, file a new petition which shall, in all respects, be treated as such. (1977)

(b) If, upon **a passing** vote in its favor, such petition shall be accepted, the Brother shall present to the lodge of which he is a member a written request that a Transfer Certificate be granted him for the purpose of consummating a change in membership, accompanied by a Certificate of Election to Membership in the lodge to which he has petitioned for membership. (See Handbook for Lodge Secretaries.) (2001)

§4.28.3.2: The application shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the receiving lodge, be referred to an investigating committee and lie over until the next Regular Communication following presentation and reference. After report of the committee, a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner, **subject to 4.20.3.1** (1978)

§4.28.4.3: The Petition for Affiliation shall be presented at a Regular Communication of the receiving lodge, be referred to an investigating committee and lie over until the next Regular Communication following presentation and reference. After report of the committee, a ballot shall be taken in the usual manner, **subject to 4.20.3.1** (1977, 1978)

Amendment No. 6-2026 Cont.

REASON: The balloting procedure is one that is sacred to Freemasonry, however no matter how pure our motives may be, this procedure can be sullied by those who have personal vendettas against the candidate's proposers or may vindictively be working against a Lodge's progress. By the time the petition has come up for a vote, the candidate has received the signatures of two Brothers of the Lodge on the petition, and the approval of at least three Brothers from the Investigation Committee. Thus, acquiring the support for their membership in Masonry from five different Brothers, all speaking to their worthiness. These changes would be in place to protect the sanctity of the vote from those who seek to bring chaos into the voting procedure, to protect the character of the Lodge and the Candidate's perception of the organization. In addition, 4.20.4 provides direction for a single Brother to stop the progress of a Candidate if necessary.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully submitted:

Carta M. G. L. P.M. BGP28

Amendment No. 7-2026

The following amendments to Michigan Masonic Law is hereby submitted:

4.20.5.2 Ballot on Advancement

Currently reads:

4.20.5.2: A Brother who has received the mandatory Educational Lectures and Masonic History of the Michigan Membership Program and who knows the signs, grips and words of the degree he is being examined upon, shall be declared proficient and eligible for advancement. (1905, 1952, 1964, 1992)

Amend to read:

4.20.5.2: A Brother who has received the mandatory Educational Lectures and Masonic History of the Michigan Membership Program and who knows the signs, grips and words of the degree he is being examined upon, shall be declared proficient and eligible for advancement, *unless a Lodge decides to include the memorization of the obligation as part of the requirement to be declared proficient, in which case that will also be required to be declared proficient.* (1905, 1952, 1964, 1992)

4.27 Master Mason Proficiency

Currently reads:

4.27.3 All candidates will be examined as prescribed in the Michigan Membership Program, as printed by the Grand Lodge, and there will be NO memorization of the obligations in the Entered Apprentice and/or Fellowcraft Degrees for a candidate to qualify for his proficiency and continued worthiness. In case of a Brother taking his Master Mason proficiency, the same rule applies, but if the Master Mason is taking his examination for the Master Mason Proficiency Card, he will then have to give the Master Mason Obligation from memory.

Amend to read:

4.27.3: All candidates will be examined as prescribed in the Michigan Membership Program, as printed by the Grand Lodge, and *a Lodge may require the* memorization of the obligations in the Entered Apprentice and/or Fellowcraft Degrees for a candidate to qualify for his proficiency and continued worthiness. In case of a Brother taking his Master Mason proficiency, the same rule applies, but if the Master Mason is taking his examination for the Master Mason Proficiency Card, he will then have to give the Master Mason Obligation from memory.

Reason: In 1992, the proficiency was changed from the “old catechism” to the new examination that

Amendment No. 7-2026 Cont.

we have in place today. The reason then was that it would improve membership by making it easier to become proficient and be advanced in Masonry. In the subsequent three decades membership has not improved and I would posit that we lost something by lessening standards. In 1905, the Grand Master at the time answered the question of whether an EA who has not memorized the obligation is proficient with, “No. Formerly some lodges did not require the brother to memorize the obligation, but this custom has been discarded in this grand jurisdiction, and a brother is not proficient who has not committed the obligation in the degree in which he is being examined.” I would like to emphasize that the intent is not to make it mandatory, but rather, the *option* to those Lodges who wish to use it. Thus, a WM could declare a Brother proficient who has difficulty with memorization, in the same manner as he can now. Furthermore, I believe committing the obligations to memory assists a Mason in better understanding those obligations that he has made and his commitments to his Fraternity and his brethren.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Binkley
Grand Ledge 179

Matt Shelton
Pontiac 21

Ron Marecle
Manchester 148



Proposed 2026-2027
OPERATING BUDGETS

Grand Lodge of Michigan

Full Account Number	Grand Lodge Budget Worksheet		
		2026 Actual	2027 Budget
	Operating Revenue		
	Membership Per Capita		
03-160-44620-00	Per Capita Income	\$34,934	\$454,200
	Total Membership Per Capita		\$454,200
	Investment Income		
03-160-44700-00	Interest Income	\$0	\$0
03-160-44710-00	Dividend Income	\$0	\$0
03-160-44760-00	Other Investment Income	\$129,163	\$150,000
03-160-44720-00	Custodial Fees	\$0	\$0
	Total Investment Income	\$129,163	\$150,000
	Realized & Unrealized Gains (Losses)		
03-160-44810-00	Realized Gain/(Loss)	\$0	
03-160-44820-00	Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	\$2,253,203	\$2,000,000
	Total Realized & Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	\$2,253,203	\$2,000,000
	Pre-Paid Membership Remittances		
03-160-44750-00	Pre-Paid Membership Receipts	\$0	\$0
	Total Pre-Paid Membership Remittances	\$0	\$0
	Other Income		
03-160-44730-00	Sales Income	\$0	\$0
03-160-44735-00	Cost of Goods Sold	\$0	\$0
03-160-44740-00	Annual Comm Meals Sold	\$0	\$0
03-160-44745-00	Events	\$0	\$0
03-160-45000-00	Other Income	\$92,819	\$150,000
	Total Other Income	\$92,819	\$150,000
	Total Operating Revenue	\$2,475,185	\$2,754,200
	Operating Expenses		
	Salaries & Wages		
03-160-70000-00	Salaries & Wages	\$231,430	\$284,203
03-160-79010-00	Grand Master Allowance	\$8,811	\$10,000
	Total Salaries & Wages	\$240,241	\$294,203
	Payroll Taxes and Benefits		
03-160-71000-00	Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$39,622	\$22,000
	Total Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$39,622	\$22,000
	Employee Benefits		
03-160-71005-00	D/C Pension Expense	\$5,141	\$11,000
03-160-71100-00	Medical Insurance	-\$610	\$59,000
03-160-71007-00	Dental Expense	\$1,184	\$1,880

Grand Lodge of Michigan Cont.

03-160-71101-00	Vision Insurance	\$390	\$0
03-160-71102-00	Life Insurance	\$605	\$375
03-160-71103-00	LTD Insurance	\$313	\$500
03-160-71004-00	Workers Compensation	\$0	\$275
	Total Employee Benefits	\$7,023	\$73,030
	Supplies & Office Expenses		
03-160-74000-00	Supplies		\$5,000
03-160-74280-00	Bank/CC Fees	\$41,043	\$6,500
03-160-79000-00	Regalia & Equipment	\$7,219	\$12,000
03-160-79100-00	Membership & MWGM Awards	\$0	\$6,000
03-160-74180-00	Information Systems & Support	\$37,095	\$50,000
03-160-74210-00	Advertising	\$8,620	\$50,000
03-160-74400-00	Printing	\$5,248	\$4,000
03-160-73001-00	Postage	\$7,975	\$7,500
	Total Supplies & Office Expenses	\$107,200	\$141,000
	Purchased Services		
03-160-75000-00	Purchased Services	\$121,986	\$77,500
	Audit Fees	\$7,500	\$25,000
03-160-73010-00	Legal Fees	\$56,032	\$30,000
03-160-78070-00	Corporate Shared Services	\$105,210	\$252,000
	Total Purchased Services	\$290,728	\$384,500
	Other Expenses		
03-160-79030-00	Masonic Service Assoc. Dues	\$0	\$1,500
03-160-79110-00	Dedications & Ceremonies	\$0	\$2,500
03-160-79020-00	Grand Master Expense	\$5,612	\$7,000
03-160-74250-00	Mileage & Per Diem	\$75,219	\$87,000
03-160-74230-00	Conference Expense	\$2,266	\$9,500
03-160-79125-00	Committees (All)	\$10,215	\$69,500
03-160-79060-00	Masonic Renewal	\$485	\$25,000
03-160-79070-00	Visitation other Grand Jurisdictions	\$922	\$3,750
03-160-90000-00	Other Expenses	\$21,350	\$26,000
03-160-73110-00	Computer Equipment	\$0	\$1,000
03-160-79120-00	Training & Leadership	\$5,078	\$5,000
03-160-79130-00	Contingency	\$0	\$13,000
03-160-71105-00	Insurance & Bonds	\$14,935	\$56,000
03-160-79210-00	Grand Lodge Stipends		\$41,000
	Total Other Expenses	\$136,082	\$347,750
	Depreciation		
03-160-73130-00	Depreciation Expense		\$5,000
	Total Depreciation	\$0	\$5,000

Grand Lodge of Michigan Cont.

03-160-79080-00	Pre-Paid Membership Distributions		
	Lodge Distribution		
	Total Pre-Paid Membership Distributions		
	Total Operating Expenses		\$1,267,483
	Results from Operations	\$2,475,185	\$1,486,717
	Net Revenue over Expenditures.	\$2,475,185	\$1,486,717

Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation

Full Account Number	Foundation Budget 2026 - 2027	2027 Budget
	Operating Revenue	
	Contributions	
02-160-44910-00	Unrestricted Contributions	\$1,500,000
02-160-44920-00	Restricted Contributions	\$0
02-160-44935-00	Contributions - Specific Bequests	
02-160-44930-00	Contributions - Capital Campaign	\$0
02-160-44940-00	Estate Bequests	\$0
02-160-44950-00	LCA Donations	\$0
02-160-44960-00	Abiding Memorial	\$0
02-160-44955-00	CCA Donations	\$0
	Total Contributions	\$1,500,000
	Royalty Income	
02-160-44980-00	Royalties/Gas Leases	\$1,000
	Total Royalty Income	\$1,000
	Membership Assessment	
02-160-44770-00	MMCF Assessment Income	\$74,220
	Total Membership Assessment	\$74,220
	PACE CM Investment	
	Change in Value	\$0
	Total Cares Act Revenue	\$0
	Investment Income	
02-160-44700-00	Interest Income	\$0
02-160-44710-00	Dividend Income	\$0
02-160-44760-00	Other Investment Income	\$1,707,000
02-160-44720-00	Custodial Fees	\$0
	Total Investment Income	\$1,707,000
	Realized & Unrealized Gains (Losses)	
02-160-44810-00	Realized Gain/(Loss)	\$0
02-160-44820-00	Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	\$5,892,251
	Total Realized & Unrealized Gains/(Losses)	\$5,892,251
	Total Operating Revenue	\$9,173,471
	Operating Expenses	
	Salaries & Wages	
02-160-70000-00	Salaries & Wages	\$412,230
	Total Salaries & Wages	\$412,230
	Payroll Taxes	
02-160-71000-00	Payroll Taxes	\$25,000
	Total Payroll Taxes	\$25,000
	Employee Benefits	

Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation

02-160-71005-00	D/C Pension Expense	\$10,824
02-160-71100-00	Medical Insurance	\$71,028
02-160-71007-00	Dental Expense	\$3,762
02-160-71101-00	Vision Insurance	\$0
02-160-71102-00	Life Insurance	\$348
02-160-71103-00	LTD Insurance	\$500
02-160-71004-00	Workers Compensation	\$250
	Total Employee Benefits	\$86,712
	Supplies & Office Expenses	
02-160-74000-00	Supplies	\$13,500
02-160-74280-00	Bank/CC Fees	\$3,500
02-160-79100-00	Awards Donor Recognition	\$11,250
02-160-74185-00	Information Systems & Support	\$6,500
02-160-74210-00	Advertising	\$67,500
02-160-79140-00	Promotional Products/200th Anniversary	\$60,000
02-160-73001-00	Postage	\$30,000
	Total Supplies & Office Expenses	\$192,250
	Purchased Services	
02-160-75000-00	Purchased Services	\$0
02-160-73010-00	Legal Fees	\$20,000
02-160-78070-00	Corporate Shared Services	\$950,000
02-160-74150-00	Software Subscriptions	\$60,000
	Total Purchased Services	\$1,030,000
	Outreach Program Expenses	
02-160-78030-00	Property Management	\$0
02-160-79185-00	LCA Account Expense (included Scholarships)	\$880,000
02-160-79190-00	CCA Account Expense	\$90,000
02-160-74600-00	MI Child ID Program	\$78,600
02-160-79145-00	MSA	\$7,500
02-160-79150-00	NMFC	\$7,500
02-160-78045-00	MI Masonic Youth	\$35,000
02-160-78050-00	Orphans and Widows	\$25,000
02-160-78055-00	SAY Detroit	\$250,000
02-160-79160-00	M&L Operational Budget Costs	\$870,000
02-160-78065-00	Outside Relief Program	\$130,000
	Total Outreach Program Expenses	\$2,373,600
	Pathways Program Expenses	
02-160-78060-00	Affiliated Masonic Support	\$2,652,000
	Resident Life Enhancement	\$250,000
02-160-79170-00	Chapel/Conference Center	\$556,000
02-160-79180-00	Capital Expense	\$5,511,627

Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation

	Total Pathways Program Expense	\$8,969,627
	Other Expenses	
02-160-74240-00	Travel & Seminars	\$50,000
02-160-74250-00	Trustees Mileage and Per Diem	\$500
02-160-90000-00	Other Expenses (Telephone added to line)	\$16,500
02-160-71105-00	Insurance	\$48,500
02-160-74100-00	Events	\$60,000
	Total Other Expenses	\$175,500
	Capital Campaign	
02-160-79195-00	Capital Campaign Expenses	\$0
	Total Capital Campaign Expenses	\$0
	Depreciation	
02-160-73130-00	Depreciation Expense	\$4,386
	Total Depreciation	\$4,386
	Debt Support	
	Debt Support	\$7,845,000
	Total Debt Support	\$7,845,000
	Total Operating Expenses	\$21,114,305
	Net Revenue over Expenditures	-\$11,940,834

Michigan Masonic Home

FY 2027 Budget Summary

	2027 Budget	2026 Projected *	2025 Actual	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue over Expenditures					
Operating Revenue					
Room and care revenue	23,411,522	21,262,658	20,084,414	19,249,039	23,306,850
Ancillary Revenue (net)	502,000	558,018	1,129,885	1,107,030	1,242,509
QAS/QMI Medicaid revenue	1,575,108	1,657,018	1,476,201	1,536,818	1,400,953
Other operating revenue	2,980,828	3,352,106	3,149,063	5,253,304	2,954,130
Total Operating Revenue	28,469,458	26,829,799	25,839,563	27,146,191	28,904,442
Operating Expenses					
Salaries and wages	11,642,949	11,990,073	13,096,727	14,099,522	15,998,700
Payroll Taxes and benefits	3,840,184	2,983,940	3,551,247	3,482,721	3,780,285
Ancillary expense	1,279,923	1,202,078	1,028,074	1,029,018	1,107,809
Bad debt	240,000	440,000	1,752,866	2,432,505	147,890
Other expenses	1,801,680	2,558,751	1,204,801	697,195	1,984,887
Purchased services & Food	6,351,869	5,872,688	7,554,528	5,471,282	5,746,862
QAS/QMI Assessment	1,362,296	783,954	883,813	1,354,814	1,600,406
Supplies and office expense	654,480	862,298	1,266,527	2,105,314	1,464,586
Telephone and utilities	1,245,254	1,174,142	1,357,087	1,280,211	1,390,627
Total Operating Expenses	28,418,635	27,867,924	31,695,670	31,952,582	33,222,052
Total Revenue over Expenditures	50,823	(1,038,125)	(5,856,107)	(4,806,391)	(4,317,610)
Depreciation and bond amortization	(3,585,667)	(3,223,079)	(3,207,044)	(3,460,626)	(3,324,045)
Interest Expense	(872,000)	(781,867)	(775,382)	(796,032)	(837,837)
Masonic Operational Support	7,271,511	6,760,000	15,949,756	5,543,433	5,386,620
Change in value of PACE	1,000,000	1,053,866	147,154	967,227	
Contributions/Grant Income	-	-	67,318	110,211	28,374
Change in Net Assets	3,864,668	2,770,795	6,325,695	(2,442,178)	(3,064,498)

* Based on six months actuals through 9/30/2025



Annual Communication
Grand Lodge of Michigan
GOLF OUTING

Sunday, May 17th, 2026

8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

PohlCat Golf Course

**6595 E Airport Rd
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858**

\$100 Per Person

Includes 18 Holes, Cart, and Lunch

To sign up, visit <https://ac200michigan.eventbrite.com>.

Registration information is needed by May 10th, 2026.

Questions may be directed to:

Tammy Dankenbring at tdankenbring@grandlodgemi.org or (989) 466-3091.

Upcoming Grand Lodge
ANNUAL COMMUNICATION



2027

May 17th - 18th

**Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
Mt. Pleasant, MI**

GRAND LODGE OFFICE CONTACT NUMBERS

Darren Thompson	(989) 466-3087
Tammy Dankenbring	(989) 466-3091
Jamie Foglesong	(989) 466-3085

