



# Grand Secretary's Quill

By RW Grand Secretary  
William Finkel



## Report of 2026 Annual Communication

### Sunday, May 17

The day started with the Annual Fun Golf Outing held at the Pohl Cat golf course. There was only 32 golfers this year but we all had a good time.

At 3:00 pm about 500 Michigan Masons assembled in the Soaring Eagle auditorium to witness the Master Mason Degree performed by the Oklahoma Indian Masonic Degree team in full traditional Indian dress. It was tremendous.

That evening, we gathered for the Distinguished Guest Banquet, attended by all Grand Lodge Officers, several Past Grand Masters, out-of-town guests, and representatives of the appendant and concordant bodies.

### Monday, May 18

At 9:00 am President Derek Sale opened the BGP Meeting. All the upcoming amendments were discussed and assignments were made. The new officers, President Peter Orlando and Vice-President Mark Gonyea were installed by MW William Finkel

At the same time RWGL Tom Braun held a meeting of all the Regional Grand Lecturers and the District Deputy Instructors. After lunch a delegate meeting was held to informally discuss the budgets for the coming year and all of the proposed amendments. This proved to be a very valuable session.

The Representatives Banquet Dinner was held that evening and it was a lot of fun.

The following Awards were presented that evening;

**State Mason of Year** – Jonathan Premo Lincoln Park ionic #539

**Lou B. Winsor** – Robert Goodfellow of Ortonville #339 William Menge of L'Anse #547, Thomas Radford of Olive Branch #542, Charles Whitman of Hesperia Arcana #346 and Gregory Glumm of Wayne #112

### **Ritualist of the Year**

Master Mason division – Blane Schadler, Coloma #262

WM/PM division – WB Darren Thompson, Alma #244

**Meritorious Service Award** – Douglas Toska, Tawas #274

### Tuesday, May 19

At 8:00 am the Grand Lodge officers and then PGMs entered the lodge room at the Soaring Eagle Resort and took their places. This was followed by the entrance of the out of state visitors. All were introduced and given Grand Honors. Representatives of the appendant and concordant bodies entered and were

given a hearty welcome. Remarks were given by Claudia Goulet, Grand Worthy Advisor for Rainbow, Zach Zervos, State Master Councilor of Michigan DeMolay, Nancy Marrow Grand Worthy Matron, Order of Eastern Star, MW Dorian Smith, Grand Master of Prince Hall Affiliation on behalf of the visiting distinguished guests, Tim Marshbanks 33<sup>rd</sup> degree, Deputy for Michigan AASR for the Appendant Bodies and Walt Wheeler, Sovereign Grand Commander AASR Northern Masonic Jurisdiction on behalf of the Past Grand Masters.

Grand Master William Sauget asked that all non-masons vacate the lodge room and he opened the 2026 Annual Communication.

The flags of USA and Canada were presented by 2 members of the Oklahoma Indian Tribe

Grand Secretary William Finkel declared that a quorum of lodges was present and he read the list of lodges that had not checked in. He then moved that the Proceedings for 2025 be accepted and that the Annual Reports be approved as written. Both were seconded and accepted by electronic vote.

The Grand Master passed the gavel of authority to Deputy Grand Master Roberts and gave his address. He stated that Michigan Masonry had become “meaner and leaner.” In his travels he said he observed visiting brothers filling vacant officer chairs and even taking out plural memberships to assist floundering Lodges.

Danny Myers gave a presentation on “Generation characteristics and differences”

The budgets of all three corporations were individually presented By Grand Treasurer Larry Inscho and all were approved

**Election of Officers:** It was proposed and seconded and approved that the following officers ascend one station

Deputy Grand Master to Grand Master  
Senior Grand Warden to Deputy Grand Master  
Junior Grand Warden to Senior Grand Warden  
Senior Grand Deacon to Junior Grand Warden  
Junior Grand Deacon to Senior Grand Deacon.

2 candidates were presented for the office of Junior Grand Deacon. WB Charles Plater and WB Dakotah Hoskins. Dakotah Hoskins won.

2 candidates were announced for Grand Marshal: WB Charles Plater and WB Charles Garrow. Charles Plater won. WB Chris Owens was the only candidate for Grand Tiler and the Grand Master declared him elected by acclamation.

A motion was made and seconded to re-elect:

Grand Secretary PGM William Finkel  
Grand Treasurer PGM Larry Inscho  
Grand Lecturer RW Thomas Braun

Grand Chaplain PGM Dean Barr

WB Blair Schadler opened the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation. He proposed Shirley Gaspari and Gerald Hildenbrand as nominees for the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation Board of Trustees. No other nominees were given, both candidates were approved.

He announced that there were 5 outstanding loans held by the Michigan Masonic Home. He wanted this Grand Lodge assembly to decide what action should be taken with these loans: Refinance or Pay them off as they come due. The assembled body voted to pay them off 155 – 71

A resolution was read to change the word “Should” to “Shall” in three spots of the ritual referring to the wearing of the apron. Approved 199-25

A resolution was read and approved to award Grand Tiler Emeritus status to Roger Moore

### **Amendments**

#1- 2025 passed 661 - 15 (deadline to submit amendments is now December 31 annually)

#1- 2026 – Tabled to 2027

#2- 2026 - withdrawn on the floor

# 3-2026 Withdrawn prior to the session

#4- 2026 failed yes 166 no 509

#5- 2026 Passed yes 203 no 30 (language prohibiting Master Masons from participating in a Shrine trial will be stricken)

#6 was ruled out of order prior to the session

#7 2026 Failed yes 56 no 183

Grand Chaplain Barr conducted a Memorial Service.

No further business appearing, Grand Master Sauget called the lodge at ease until 1:30 pm for the Installation of GL Officers.