



April – June 2026

# TRESTLE BOARD

## Ancient Craft Lodge No. 551

850 Horace Brown Drive Madison Heights MI 48071

Lucas Roberts Worshipful Master

**Hey Brothers – If you are not getting our emails, contact me at [Berklich@AOL.com](mailto:Berklich@AOL.com)**

### *FROM THE EAST*

Dear Brothers,

As we enter the second quarter of the year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the work of our Lodge and look ahead to the opportunities before us. I would also like to take a moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Officer Line. These Brothers are putting in significant time and effort to ensure our degrees and events are meaningful and successful, and their commitment to the future of our Lodge is truly commendable.

This quarter, we will focus on strengthening our ritual work, increasing attendance, and fostering deeper connections among the Brethren. Degree work remains a priority, and I would like to have at least one practice a month to keep us prepared. We encourage all members to attend and support our candidates as they progress in their Masonic journey. Your presence on the sidelines is just as important as those actively participating in the degrees.

We also have several important events and activities planned. Please make every effort to attend stated meetings, practices, and any special gatherings. Between Boling Night, 2025 District Mason Of the Year, Highway Clean up, Bocce Ball, Whisky and Cigar Night & Our 2026 Table Lodge. Our next few months we will be very active.

Let us also remember our obligations beyond the Lodge room. Check in on your Brothers, offer assistance where needed, and continue to exemplify the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth in your daily lives.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or wish to become more involved, I encourage you to reach out. Your voice matters, and your participation helps shape the future of our Lodge.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. I look forward to laboring alongside each of you in the coming months.

Fraternally yours,  
Lucas Roberts - Worshipful Master



### *FROM THE WEST*

Brothers of Ancient Craft Lodge, we begin a new year with the anticipation of it being even more enjoyable and productive as the past year, which it certainly has been for our Lodge. And I believe it will be! I'm really looking forward to serving in the West. Our year will be a busy but happy one, with so much more than the usual Stated Communication & Business meetings with the occasional degree sprinkled in. Of course we will have those, but also we are well on our way to establishing a firm social and benevolent outreach schedule, bringing our Lodge brothers closer together than ever before. To paraphrase, "happiness is, after all, the strength and harmony of our Lodge!"

On the Level,

Bro. Mark Gerhard Senior Warden, Ancient Craft #551

### *MASON OF THE YEAR*

Brother Bill Berklich was selected as Ancient Craft 551's 2025 Mason of the Year. Having served our country in the Marine Corps, in various adult leadership roles in Scouting America (formerly BSA) and as a Vigil Member of Michigami Lodge #29 of the Order of the Arrow, Bill is no stranger to a life of service. Bill joined our Lodge 2 years ago and immediately dove into his degrees and participated in our lodge's



service projects. On being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason Brother Bill stepped into the role of Steward and then WB Ray Doyscher passed the reins of Trestle Board Editor and Chief to Mr. Berklich. Brother Bill stepped up and became an integral part of our 2025 Table Lodge Team and has since taken the lead for the 2026 Table Lodge. You can find Brother Bill in his 2026 position as Junior Deacon at Lodge most Wednesdays and at our service projects and social events. If you don't know him yet, be sure you walk up and say "Hi".

# Table Lodge Dinner 13 June 2026

## LODGE OFFICERS 2026

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

LUCAS ROBERTS  
586-563-7944

### SENIOR WARDEN

MARK GERHARD  
248-379-0003

### JUNIOR WARDEN

PHILIP ZOTT  
619-559-9074

### SECRETARY

LARRY BULLOCK PM  
248-797-4518

### TREASURER

JAMES MCPHERSON PM  
248-878-0657

### SENIOR DEACON

DAN NANCE  
248-672-8451

### JUNIOR DEACON

BILL BERKLICH  
248-404-5816

### SENIOR STEWARD

JIM MCPHERSON  
248-854-2339

### JUNIOR STEWARDS

SHAUN MCCAW  
313-505-2308

### CHAPLIN

JOHN HARPER PM  
734-915-2143

### MARSHALL

ROY PRINCE P.M.  
248-280-4515

### TILER

MARK EVANS P.M.  
734-635-6090

### TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

Larry S Bullock PM 248-797-4518  
Ray Doyscher PM 248-545-7443  
John Harper PM 734-915-2143  
Roy Prince PM 248-280-4515

### LODGE SECRETARY

Larry Bullock PM 248-797-4518  
8450 Northfield Blvd Oak Park MI  
48237

### LODGE WEB PAGE

<http://www.nac551.com>  
Roy Prince PM 248-280-4515  
[roy.prince@computer.org](mailto:roy.prince@computer.org)

### TRESTLE BOARD EDITOR

Bill Berklich 248-404-4816  
[berklich@aol.com](mailto:berklich@aol.com)

# LODGE CALENDAR

January – March 2026

## Lodge Regular Communication Meetings on the First Wednesday 7PM

1 APR	REGULAR COMMUNICATION
8 APR	BOWLING NIGHT LOCATION TBD
12 APR	ADOPT-A-ROAD TRASH PICK UP 8-11AM 27010 HOOVER
15 APR	MASTER MASON DEGREE TUX FOR OFFICERS
25 APR	<i>Bocce Ball 4PM @ Palazzo di Bocce</i>
29 APR	MASTER MASON DEGREE – TUX FOR OFFICERS
2 MAY	BLUEGRASS NIGHT AT THE LODGE 7PM \$10
6 MAY	REGULAR COMMUNICATION
9 MAY	<i>Whiskey n' Cigar Night 7PM at Churchill's B'ham</i>
13 MAY	SOCIAL NIGHT OR DEGREE PRACTICE
20 MAY	SOCIAL NIGHT OR DEGREE PRACTICE
27 MAY	TABLE LODGE PRACTICE
30 MAY	TABLE LODGE REHEARSAL
3 JUN	REGULAR COMMUNICATION
13 JUN	2026 TABLE LODGE 5PM SOCIAL 6PM GAVEL (SEE PG 8)
14 JUN	HAPPY 251ST BIRTHDAY TO THE US ARMY
17 JUN	<i>Fireside Social &amp; Marshmallow Roast</i>
24 JUN	SOCIAL NIGHT
1 JULY	<b>Lodge is Dark for July (though we do have social events)</b>

## UP COMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



**BOCCE BALL** Join us on **25 April** – Contact Brother Bill Berklich for reservations See page 8 for details

**WHISKEY & CIGAR NIGHT at Churchills 9 May** – Contact Brother Bill Berklich for reservations See page 8 for details



**ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN UP** Come out on **12 Apr** 8-11AM Meet at 27010 Hoover (Burger King)

**TABLE LODGE** is coming **13 June** – Get your tickets from WB Jim McPherson or Brother Mark Gerhard See page 8 for details



**FIRESIDE SOCIAL 24 June** Bring your roasting sticks and marshmallows. And bring a friend too – we'd love to meet him.

**Be sure you check for Calendar updates at [NAC551.COM](http://NAC551.COM)**

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*FROM THE  
DESK OF THE  
SECRETARY*



***YOUR 2026 DUES ARE DUE!!***

Brethren, we are in the process of collecting 2026 annual dues, if for some reason you cannot pay contact me to discuss your needs. Contact me at eMail **Lbull46@yahoo.com** or call/txt at **(248) 797-4518 WB Larry Bullock**

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**TABLE LODGE IS COMING**



The Table Lodge Team is working hard to get our premier dinner



event organized and ready for June 13<sup>th</sup>. The venue and menu are set and you will enjoy good food and fellowship with Brothers from our Lodge and throughout Michigan.

The program this years is focused on Masons in the Civil War and includes vignettes on Masonic actions across the divide, Songs and the 7 Toasts. We will also be providing several commemorative items as well to help you keep the Masonic light burning brightly.

This is your "can't miss" event!! See below for ticket information.

Table Lodge Team



**LODGE  
PROJECTS**

**ADOPT-A HIGHWAY**



Our annual Lodge 551 highway cleanup is coming up APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>! Come help us make our community better. We'll meet at 8AM at 27010 Hoover Rd. Safety Vests and bags provided. Bring Gloves and dress for the weather. It is Michigan after all!

Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts

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**BIKES FOR  
BOOKS  
WERE BUILT**



As they say, many hands make light work. Led by Brother Dan Nance, our annual Bikes-for-Books



project kicked off with the purchase and building of 8 new bicycles. With many of our brothers lending a hand the bikes were quickly assembled, adjusted, and prepared for delivery.

**AND THEN DELIVERED!**

Yes, our Junior Steward Philip Zott and WB Jim McPherson stepped off on a



rainy Thursday afternoon to deliver all

eight bikes to the various elementary schools! At each school, our brothers were received with excitement, smiles and appreciation for the effort our lodge has put into this program.

If you would care to make a personal donation, please contact our Bikes for



Books team led by Brother Dan Nance at:

[masondannance@gmail.com](mailto:masondannance@gmail.com).



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**LODGE  
EVENTS**

**2026 INSTALLTION**

January saw the Installation of our 2026 officers in an open installation starting with our Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts. Brother Mark Gerhard



sits in the West and Brother Philp Zott in the South. WB Larry Bullock PM as Secretary and WB Jim McPherson PM, Treasurer. At the right hand of the Worshipful Master sits Senior Deacon Brother Dan Nance and at the right of the Senior Warden is Junior Deacon Brother Bill Berklich. Senior Steward Brother Jim McPherson, Junior Steward

Brother Shaun McCaw Tiler, WB Mark Evans PM, Chaplain WB John Harper PM, and Marshall WB Roy Prince PM complete our 2026 slate of officers The



open installation allowed us to invite our families to join us in celebration and feasting. Our Worshipful Master organized a banquet of great food



catered by Olive Garden. And no one departed hungry.

### LADIES NIGHT DINNER

Brother Jim McPherson and his wife



Karen organized a sublime evening of great food and fellowship. With almost 40 people in attendance including wives and some of our widows, we filled the room at the Clawson Steak House. And, of course, the food was excellent. The steaks were thick and done to perfection, marsala creamy and salmon pink and flakey. And all of the ladies

received a beautiful crystal bowl with chocolates to fill it Some of the ladies



even took home wonderful flower



arrangements. It really was a superb evening – Thanks to both Brother Jim and his wife Karen.

### POOL NIGHT

Pool Night at Hall of Fame Billiards was blast! Beers were drunk, balls were racked and some pretty slick shots were made. And a lot of good conversations



happened along the way. Brother Jerry brought along a friend that's interested in learning more and we didn't seem to scare him away. So maybe a new EA is coming our way! By the way – Great shot Jerry!

### BLUEGRASS NIGHT

What a great night for Bluegrass! Thanks go to Worshipful Brother Don House for organizing and bringing in the Powder Ridge Boys. The crowd was clappin' and stompin' to the old tunes including Katie Daily and they even closed with The Orange Blossom Special. It really was a great night of music in the Lodge! Watch for our next



Music event coming on May 2<sup>nd</sup> !

### 2026 AWARDS BANQUET

Once again, thanks go to Brother Jim McPherson (junior) in organizing, decorating, and acting as Master of



Ceremonies for our 2026 Awards Banquet. This years banquet honored our Mason of the Year, Bill Berklich, as well as our 50 year Mason, Kim King.



Last year, brother Bill took on several substantail lodge duties including Trestleboard editor, playing an integral role in our Table Lodge, and holding a Steward position. Bill will be attending the District Mason of the Year Dinner on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Brother Kim earned his 50 year award on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Brother Kim was initiated with Lodge



488 on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1975, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1976, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on February

17<sup>th</sup>, 1976. As pictured above, recognitions for these awards were given by our Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts. Additional acknowledgement



was also given to the many leaders of our 2025 programs.



Special thanks to the brothers helping in the setup of this event, including: brothers Bill Berklich, Mark Gerhard, Jim McPherson (senior), Basmel Makadsi, Philip Zott and the almighty Don House. We are all looking forward to another great year in 2026!



## CORNERD BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Well thanks to WB Don House and John



Harper we had a stellar Corned Beef Dinner. Quite a few compliments were

made on how good the food was. Our



two chefs, WB Don House and WB John Harper, bought the food and supplies and cooked everything up. Then a phlanx of Brothers served and cleaned. Brother Don was heard to say that the clean up was outstanding



We would thank all the brothers who helped in decorating, serving, and cleaning up, along with the brothers who came and ate with their families. We could not have done it without you. We had an enjoyable time and shared our brotherly love with our families and community.

## HE CONTINUES TO GIVE!

Our Lodge would express and extend our profound appreciation to Worshipful Brother Raymond Doyscher for all the ways he has contributed generously, not just his time but also hundreds of dollars. For years, Ray and his wife Donna opened their property to our Yard Sales to raise money. He has



since grown a bit older and moved his home to another part of Royal Oak. No longer does he have the space nor the energy to create a project like his fantastic Yard Sales But none-the-less he makes his neighborhood walks to collect returnable containers that can

be converted to cash ... cash to be



donated to our Lodge in many ways, often in subtle unseen ways. In February, WB Ray contributed \$200 in cash to our Bikes for Books program.

Thank you Ray.

## NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS

### APRIL

**"Duke" Ellington, and Lewis Wallace,** John Allan, David Bauldry, James Weir, William Hurst, Dean Merrill, Bafti Baftiu, Raymond Backers, Ray Buchanan, Shaun McCaw, Lucas Roberts, Franz Sajas-Sanchez, Phillip Baumgras, David Rent, Larry Galloway, Johnnie Harper, Keith Seefeldt, Gregory Niemi, Danny Milunovich, John Boone, James Anderson

### MAY

John Brown, Harry S. Truman, Tony Rice, Ronald Idyle, Harvey Hill, Fred Mitschke, Thomas Chesney, Dean Weston, Michael Melnyzenko, Raymond Doyscher, Stephen Couchman, Carl Mosley, Ernest Osterlund, Hubert Jacob, Carl Vinz, Alphonse Grzelka, Kevin Wieneke

### JUNE

Daniel Beard, Audie Murphy, Paul Karadimas, James Hecker, Kenneth Madacki, Charles Gunn, David McRae, Daniel Parsons, Daniel Cressman, Carmelino Guiao, Robert Gibson, Manuel Rey, Patrick Sidge, John Shank, William Snapp, Phillip Appledorn, Rickey Harmon, Jerry Klaput, Charles Oviatt, David Chivas, Per Halvorsen, Keith Rissman, Anel Hujdurovic, Darrick Stone, Peter Visotsky

## MASON HISTORY QUIZ

What historic Mason wrote the following ?

*"Detroit shall have a road and travel layout consisting of an equilateral triangle,...divided into 6 sections...with squares, circuses, and other open*

spaces where 6 avenues and 12 avenues intersect. These avenues would radiate like spokes of a wheel." (Date:1806)

Answer-- Judge Augustus Woodward, Zion Lodge #1 Detroit, Michigan

## MASONIC HISTORY IN DETROIT



Detroit's Masonic Temple – the largest in the world at roughly 12 million cubic feet – was designed by renowned local architect George D. Mason.

The temple is an imposing Gothic structure at the corner of Bagg Street (later Temple Street) and Second Avenue, across from Cass Park. Within its walls are a large cathedral, several chapels, two stylish ballrooms, hotel facilities, a library, a massive drill hall, and a 4,000-seat auditorium featuring the largest professional stage in the city. It was designed to accommodate over 40 individual masonic lodges. The architect and mastermind behind the building was George D. Mason,



Main Entrance to Masonic Temple, Detroit.

George D. Mason was born in Syracuse, New York in 1856 and in 1870 his family relocate to Detroit.

In 1875 he began working for Hugh Smith, a local architect. He quickly switched to the firm of Henry T. Bush, where he took on the work of the Detroit Public Library, George O. Robinson House, and the Ransom Gills House.

Mason broke from the firm, establishing Mason & Rice in 1878 with Zachariah Rice. From 1884 to 1896, Albert Khan — who would become another famed Detroit architect, worked with the firm. Mason & Rice dissolved in 1898 and Mason continued to work on his own, establishing Mason & Company.

### Building the Masonic

After Mason struck out on his own, he designed significant buildings in Detroit like the Pontchartrain Hotel, Detroit Yacht Club and Herman Keifer Hospital.

During this time, interest in Masonic fraternities was growing in Detroit and the current spaces used by the various clubs in the city weren't large enough to support expanding membership.

The fraternity purchased a block of land on Temple Street (formerly Bagg Street) and contracted Mason to design the building. Mason broke ground on the temple on Thanksgiving Day in 1920, and in 1922 the first brick was laid using a trowel – a symbol often associated with freemasons – used by George Washington to lay the first bricks at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

In 1926, the building was officially dedicated and opened to the public.

Debunking the Rumors

The Freemasons, the masonic fraternity the temple was built for, are often regarded as a mysterious group, with rumors swirling about their activities. But one rumor about the architect of the largest Masonic Temple in the world, is loud enough for us historians to hear about.

Rumors are widely reported, even in news outlets, that George Mason overdid the spending on the construction of the temple causing bankruptcy. The rumor even goes on to say that his wife left him because of it.

And as the story goes, Mason – distraught over the loss of his finances and his wife, died by suicide by jumping off the top of the 210-foot building. The story is sensationalized by guards, docents and even

event attendees claiming to see Mason's ghost climbing the stairs to his death, closing windows, and stealing and hiding items.

While the story makes for great Halloween horror tale, it is not true. George Mason died in 1948 at 91 years old in his home in the Wilshire Apartment building on Grand Boulevard.

Maybe it's because the building was constructed for a secretive organization or because its imposing size dominates the neighborhood, but stories about the Masonic Temple and its haunted history reappear every year around Halloween. And while there might be

ghosts hiding in the 1,037 rooms – we won't be the ones to prove it and we'll stick with the historic facts.

Article by the Detroit Historical Society

**THE FIRM**  
EST. 1990

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# ACROSS OUR LODGE IN PHOTOS



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## MASONS AROUND THE LODGE



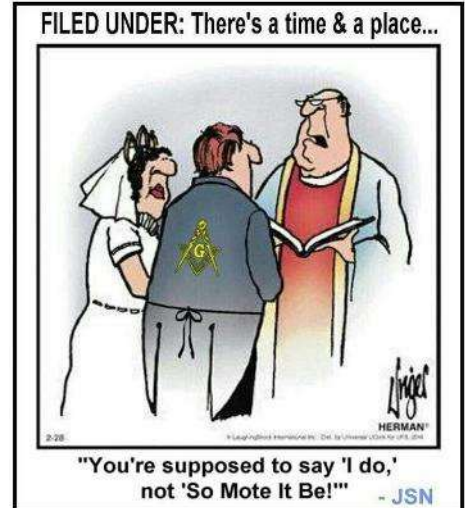
**Glenn Dickerson**  
**PM**  
Raised: 1977  
HS Grad: St.  
Benedict, Highland  
Park

First Car: '53 Plymouth  
Fav Band: Chicago  
Fav Food: Biscuits and Gravy / S O  
Favorite Vacation: Anywhere the  
Grandchildren are  
Fav Music Old country/ Hank Williams:  
Hobbies: Golf  
Family: Married (2nd) 3 Boys, 1 Girl  
Masonic Influence: Bob Trussell, Don  
Carman, Bob Greenwood  
Military Service: US Army '62-'82



**Ray Doyscher PM**  
Raised: 1998  
HS Grad: Denby High  
'59  
First Car: '51 Chevy  
Fav Food: Chicken

Wings  
Fav Movie: Sound of Music  
Favorite Vacation: Las Vegas  
Fav Music: Sound of Music  
Fav TV Show: The Stock Report  
Hobbies: Woodworking  
Family: Married 1967, 1 Son  
Masonic Influence: : Author 2 Masonic  
Books  
Favorite Masonic role: Chaplin  
Current Masonic Role: Education Officer



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### Bocce Ball 25 April - 4PM @ Palazzo di Bocce

Bring your wife, Bring your friends Saturday afternoon for Bocce Ball and light snacks.

**When:** Saturday, April 25, 2026, 4PM

**Where:** Palazzo di Bocce 4291 Lapeer Road, Lake Orion - Exit 83 off I-75 then North

**How Much:** \$15 per person court cost. 6 people minimum **RSVP by APRIL 20 to Bill Berklich at [Berklich@aol.com](mailto:Berklich@aol.com) or call/txt 248-404-5816** so we can get a head count for the tables. This is a public space and you're on your own for all purchases.



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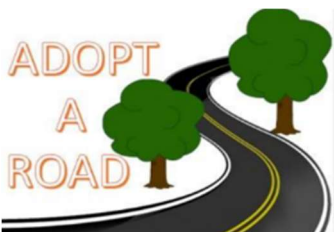
### Table Lodge 2026 - Masons in the Civil War

*Friend to Friend - A Brotherhood Undivided*

**When:** Saturday, June 13, 2026, 5PM

**Where:** Royal Oak Temple 850 Horace Brown Drive Madison Height MI

**How Much:** \$60 The Lodge will be Tiled in the EA Degree and Closed to Non-Masons. Doors will open at 5:00 PM for socializing - Lodge will be opened at 6PM See WB Jim McPherson for Tickets



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### Adopt a Road Clean Up 12 April at 8:00 am

We're meeting on Sunday morning to Walk and clean the 11 Mile Service Drive. Bring Gloves. Safety Vests and bags provided.

**When:** Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2026, 8AM

**Where:** 27010 Hoover Rd.

**Bring Gloves and Dress for the Weather.** Contact Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts



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### Whiskey n' Cigar Night

Join us for a night of Whiskey and Cigars on **9 May** at Churchill's in Birmingham at 7PM. You will have the opportunity to choose from an array of exceptional cigars and whiskies from around the world! Come on down and bring a friend.

**RSVP by 4 May to Bill Berklich at [Berklich@aol.com](mailto:Berklich@aol.com) or call/txt 248-404-5816** so we can get a head count for the tables. This is a public space so seating is limited.

**When:** 9 May at 7PM **Where:** Churchill's in Birmingham Must be 21 or older and you're on your own for all purchases.

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