



July – Sept 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*

Brethren,



As we enter the warmth and activity of the summer season, we are reminded that while our labors may temporarily shift from the Lodge room to time spent with family, friends, and community, the principles of our Craft remain ever with us. Let us continue to practice Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth in all our undertakings.

Our Lodge will be dark during the months of July and August, allowing our members time for rest, travel, and the enjoyment of the season with loved ones. During this period, we will be holding an informal step-up practice every other week to maintain proficiency and fellowship among the Brethren who wish to advance through the officer line. We will resume our labors in September refreshed and ready to continue the work of the Craft.

As we celebrate the freedoms and blessings of summer—travel, gatherings, and time outdoors—let us also keep safety at the forefront of our minds. Whether on the road, at home, or abroad, may each of us exercise prudence and care. Look after one another, extend a helping hand where needed, and return safely to our Lodge refreshed and renewed.

Let us also remember those Brothers who may be unable to join us due to illness or circumstance. A call, a visit, or a kind word reflects the true spirit of Masonry and keeps our chain of union strong.

May the Great Architect of the Universe watch over you and your families throughout this season, granting you health, happiness, and a safe and enjoyable summer.

Fraternally yours, Lucas Roberts - Worshipful Master

### *FROM THE WEST*

Brethren Around the Lodge!



Rejoice! Summer is almost here, and even though our Lodge will be dark I am looking forward to continuing our brotherly bonding through some planned social events during those months! Hoping we all enjoy the "down time" with our families during the Michigan summer months but am joyful in thinking

we'll all be able to get together several times over these warm months too. I am also hoping see you all at our our upcoming summer social events which many have worked very diligently to plan until we reconvene in the fall after Labor Day

On the Level,  
Bro. Mark Gerhard Senior Warden

### *551 MASON RECEIVES DISTRICT MASON OF THE YEAR*



Each year Lodges have an opportunity to recognize a member of their Lodge for his contributions. Not all Lodges have a candidate they feel is worthy of such recognition. The winners at the Lodge level are subsequently entered into competition for "District" Mason of the Year. The District winners are submitted to the Grand Lodge to compete for the State ... Grand Lodge Mason of the Year.

This year our Lodge was honored to recognize Bill Berklich as our Lodge's Mason of the Year for the great work he did in so many areas; Editor of our Trestle Board, our representative to the OCC academy for Police and Fire, ... Subsequently, Bill was singled-out as our District's Mason of the Year. In addition to being the honored guest at a Lodge dinner he also received a very fine plaque to display. Our Lodge feels very fortunate to have the likes of this talented and energetic Brother as one of us!

-Worshipful Brother Treasurer Jim McPherson

## 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

July – September 2026

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

1 JULY	<b>Lodge is Dark July &amp; August</b>
4 JULY	CLAWSON INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE WITH TRELUM
8 JULY	STEP UP PRACTICE WITH MARK STILES
11 JULY	ADOPT-A-ROAD TRASH PICK-UP 8-11 AM 27010 HOOVER
22 JUL	STEP UP PRACTICE WITH MARK STILES
5 AUG	STEP UP PRACTICE WITH MARK STILES
9 AUG	CORN ROAST AT THE TEMPLE 12PM TO 5PM
22 AUG	<i>Steak on the Barbie 4pm at Bro Mark G's</i>
2 SEPT	REGULAR COMMUNICATION MEETING
9 SEPT	DEGREE OR EA PRACTICE
16 SEPT	SOCIAL NIGHT
23 SEPT	DEGREE OR FC PRACTICE
27 SEPT	ADOPT-A-ROAD TRASH PICK-UP 8-11 AM 27010 HOOVER
30 SEPT	SOCIAL NIGHT
7 OCT	REGULAR COMMUNICATION MEETING

## UP COMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Step-Up Practice with Worshipful Brother Mark Stiles

Yes, Summer School is here. WB Mark has offered to work with us to practice upcoming roles. Dates are 8 July, 22 July, and 5 August. Thank you WB Mark.



**Steak Night** Join us on **Saturday 22 August 4PM** for Steak on the barbie at Brother Mark Gerhard's Sunday, August 9, 2026 a12PM to 5PM

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED NO LATER THAN 19 August** Contact Brother Mark Gerhard for reservations. Bring a dish if you want. See page 8



**ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN UP** Come out on **11 JULY and 27 SEPTEMBER** 8AM **Bring Gloves and Dress for the Weather.** Contact Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts See page 8 for details

**CORN ROAST** Sunday 9 August Noon to 5PM at the Temple  
**When:** Sunday, August 9, 2026 a12PM to 5PM **Where:** The Temple  
850 Horace Brown Drive Madison Heights MI



**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 our **final collection** of 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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**LODGE  
PROJECTS**

**ADOPT-A HIGHWAY**



Our annual Lodge 551 highway cleanup is coming up 11 JULY and 27 SEPTEMBER! Come help us make our community better. We'll meet at 8AM at 27010 Hoover Rd. Safety Vests and bags are provided. Bring Gloves and dress for the weather. It is Michigan after all!

Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts

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**NEW POLO SHIRTS**



Brothers, I am working with a company to have lodge polos made with our new logo. If you are interested,

please contact me with your shirt size. Sizes small-XL are \$21.95, 2X is \$24.95, and 3X is \$26.95, These are a great way to show our lodge affiliation at community events or at non-degree Masonic events.

Phone: 586-907-7274

Email: mstiles18@hotmail.com.

-WB Mark Stiles

*[WB Mark, I'm in for an XL – Bro. Bill]*

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**NEWEST LODGE PROJECT**



Yes, it is official, we are now the Chartered Organization (Sponsor) for a new Cub Scout Pack at Pearl Lean Elementary School in

Warren – about 2 miles from the Temple. Pearl Lean Elementary School is where our Worshipful Master began his educational journey.

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**LODGE  
EVENTS**

**BOWLING NIGHT**



Bowling is such a great way to enjoy our brothers' company. Worshipful Master Lucas got us organized with lanes, pizza, and beer and we all had a great time. AND, discovered that we aren't winning any trophies for bowling. See you all at the next event.

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**ADOPT A ROAD**

Wahoo!!! The Road is Clean... mostly. There is always a lot of trash to pick up along our section of the roadway but thanks to our Worshipful Master



Lucas Roberts we get organized, get out and get our bit of heaven a smidge cleaner.

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This year, though cool and wet, saw our Worshipful collecting money from the side of the road. (see pictures at the end)



Our bags of collected trash and bigger pieces were left for the City to pick up later.

For those not aware, Worshipful Master Lucas spearheads this project three times a year Spring, Summer, and Fall. Be sure you check the calendar and come join us in making our community a better place to live.

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**A SHARED EVENING**

Brother Jim McPherson hosted an



evening on his new deck where food, drink and conversation flowed. Brother Basmel brought a host of traditional Iraqi foods for us to sample along with an Iraqi liquor. It was a great evening to be a Mason in Ancient Craft Lodge!

Brother Bill Berklich

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**BLUEGRASS NIGHT**

The sweet sounds of banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass, and more filled the Temple with Bluegrass Music. The Powder Mill Boys were exceptional, playing many of the old songs everyone knew (OK, I knew them...) Our thanks to Worshipful Brother Don House for organizing and bringing in the band and organizing our music. The crowd was

clappin' and stompin' to their banjo and



fiddle and everyone had a great time. It was a great night of music in the Lodge! Watch for our next **Music event coming soon!**

## TABLE LODGE 2026



Table Lodge 2026 went off without a hitch. Opened by our Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts and MC'd by our District Mason of the Year Brother Bill Berklich the discourses focused on our Brotherhood during the Civil War.



Brother Philip Zott, Worshipful Brother Ed Stodgil and Worshipful Master



Lucas Roberts gave all of us pause as they related stories of our Brotherhood on the battlefield remaining undivided regardless of uniform and flag.

Dinner was a treat with an outstanding meal catered by Julian Brothers. And beyond the battlefield the evening included our recognition of those Brothers that recently passed with the rolls read by Brother Jim McPherson. Additionally, we recognized the 250<sup>th</sup>



anniversary of the United States of America with a cake cutting by Brother Colonel Mark Gerhard USMC Ret.



Songs were sung, toasts were made and the spirit of our Brotherhood through war remembered.

Hope to see you at Table Lodge 2027 "Freemasons on the Last Frontier"

## ANCIENT CRAFT HOLDS EA COMPETITION



WM Lucas presents Brother Philip with Book

A couple months ago the Brothers of the Lodge who have not been to the East were invited to compete for the best presentation of the Entered Apprentice Obligation ... from memory. This is a great little contest that will help

the Brother prepare to become Master of the Lodge and better prepare him to conduct an Entered Apprentice Degree. Brother Philip recited the obligation flawlessly and demonstrated he had worked hard to prepare and memorize the lines. As a reward, Philip was presented a new hardcover Dan Brown novel "The Secret of the Secrets". Langdon plunges into the dual worlds of futuristic science and historical lore—navigating a labyrinth of codes and symbols . . . and finally uncovering a shocking truth about a secret project that will forever change the way we think about the human mind.

-Worshipful Brother Secretary Jim

## CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Hello brothers, while the turnout for the Corned Beef Dinner was disappointing,



there were a number of compliments on how good the food was. That was thanks to our two chefs, WB Don House and WB John Harper, who also bought the food and supplies.



I also want to 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. Although the lodge lost money, we had

an enjoyable time and shared our brotherly love with our community.

-WB Mark Stiles

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## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

First, thank you to all the brothers that help both in both the kitchen and in the dining room to make this a successful event even though the turn out was not as robust as we would have liked.



Everyone did a wonderful job helping around lodge in getting the work done.

The food was great and lots of good company around the tables. And of course there were a lot comments on the delicious food and how everyone was full when they left. (Now we just need a couple good YELP reviews). Hope everyone had a good time and enjoyed the event as much as the breakfast.

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## NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS

### JULY

**Gerald Ford, Henry Ford,** Bill Berklich, Robert McAlpin, Ronnie Vaughn, George Carver, Steven Brock, Vincent Ashley, Kenneth Chaffin, David Justus, George Kypros, Chaim Freedman, Raymond Modad, Joseph Horn, Kelly Tyrrell, Billy Johnson, David Odgers, Arthur Gustafson, Kim King, Charles Miller, Kirk Sevener, Malcolm McLetchie, Larry Bullock, David Thompson, Ernie Mayes, Gregory Mendell, George Wale, Courtney Halmi

### AUGUST

**Sir Alexander Flemming, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong,** William Davis, Victor Koponen, Dallas Meeks, Gerald Brown Jr., Gregory Fast, Larry Gibson, Edward Stogdill, William Becker, Dan Headapohl, James Barnhart, Loren Wolfe, Arthur Bethell, Harold Maeder, Richard Sanders, Donald Burton, John Sedlak, Frank Brafford, James Cumby,

Thomas Huckelberry, Paul Richte, Larry Toussaint, Ronald Wright

### SEPTEMBER

**John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, Richard**

**Gatling,** Paul Burton, Gary Delk, Donald McCoy, Robert Zacharias, Robert Greenwood, Stephen Mirch, Raymond Doysche, Thomas Fifield, Basmel Makadsi, Kevin Johnson, Jack McBride, Robert Bishop, Ioan Ursu, Bennett Burton, Robert Price. Zygmunt Saluk, James McPherson, Spencer Noble, Keith Taylor, Robert Kittle, Kenneth Robins, Gary Dombrow, Lowell Moore, Richard Wandoff, Gary Karolski, Willie Thompson, Larry Cagle, Dean Barr

England when the first Grand Lodge was formed.

# McPherson

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In a time when travel was by horseback and sailing ship, Masonry spread with amazing speed. By 1731, when Benjamin Franklin joined the fraternity, there were already several Lodges in the Colonies, and Freemasonry spread rapidly as America expanded west. In addition to Franklin, many of the Founding Fathers –

men such as George Washington, Paul Revere, Joseph Warren, and John Hancock – were Masons. Freemasonry played an important part in the Revolutionary War and an even more important part in the Constitutional Convention and the

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*"Be strong in body, clean in mind, lofty in ideals."* – Bro. & Dr. James Naismith, Inventor of Basketball, Roswell Lee Lodge A.F.& A.M., Springfield, MA, USA

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## MICHIGAN MASONS - A BRIEF HISTORY

Masonry traces its ancestry back to the operative craftsmen, primarily cathedral builders, of the Middle Ages. Because of their special knowledge and skills, these builders were permitted special travel privileges from country to



country. As cathedral building came to an end during the 17th and 18th centuries, some Masonic Lodges began to accept men into membership who were not craftsmen.

In 1717, Freemasonry members created a formal organization in



debates surrounding the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Many of those debates were held in Masonic Lodges.

The French first brought Freemasonry to the Great Lakes at a time when it was Indian Territory. The earliest documented Lodge was in Detroit in 1764, by George Harison, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of New York, with Lt. John Christie of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Royal American Foot Regiment (British) as Worshipful Master. This lodge was the first lodge established west of the Allegheny mountains. By 1772 there were at least three Lodges meeting in the Detroit area; Lodge No. 1 and two Irish Military Lodges, warranted to Masons of the 10th Regiment, then stationed at Detroit. Zion Lodge #1 was

formed in 1794 and continues to work to this day. Zion also has an important part in the history of another Michigan institution; the University of Michigan

**Masonic Mirth**  
WB Greg O'Neal



which was assisted in its formation by Zion Lodge and its members.

Today there are hundreds of Lodges across Michigan which hold a membership of tens of thousands of Masons. The history of Michigan is the history of the Masonic Fraternity. As the state was settled and established from the East to the West, so to the craft moved from East to West. However, lodges along the St. Joseph River in southwestern Michigan are also among the oldest in the state. This river was an important trading route during the formative years of the state and was settled earlier than the interior portion.

Adapted from MichiganMasons.org

*"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."* – Bro. Will Rogers, Humorist, Claremore Lodge No. 53 A.F. & A.M., Oklahoma, USA, (renamed Will Rogers Lodge No. 53 in 1979)

## PROMINENT SYMBOLS IN FREEMASONRY

The intricate tapestry of Freemasonry is rich with symbols, each carrying profound meanings and deep historical roots. Central among these is the Square and Compasses, perhaps one of the

most recognizable symbols of Freemasonry. The Square represents morality and virtue, guiding Masons to square their actions with societal and ethical expectations. The Compasses, on the other hand, signify the importance of self-restraint and the need to keep desires within bounds. These tools are frequently depicted overlapping, underscoring the balance

between moral conduct and personal discipline in a Mason's life. Together, they form a compass for day-to-day ethical navigation.

Another significant symbol is the All-Seeing Eye, often referred to as the 'Eye of Providence.' This emblem illustrates the omnipresence and omniscience of a higher power,

reminding Freemasons of the moral and ethical surveillance to which they are subjected. It is a symbol that encourages members to act with integrity, even when no one is watching. The All-Seeing Eye also serves as a reminder that their deeds, both good and ill, are observed and recorded, urging a constant reflection on one's actions.

The Letter 'G' amongst the Square and Compasses is laden with manifold meanings. It often represents both God and Geometry. In homage to the Grand Architect of the Universe, the letter G underscores the divine aspect of Freemasonry, emphasizing a

connection to a higher spiritual plane. Concurrently, it signifies Geometry, the cornerstone of Masonic philosophy, which advocates an orderly, logical approach to understanding the natural world and the universe.

Symbolism in Freemasonry serves not only as a means of identification but also as a covert language, imparting moral and ethical lessons to its members. Each symbol acts as a mnemonic device, encapsulating complex philosophies into easily recognizable icons that guide behavior and thought. Rituals

and ceremonies within the fraternity employ these symbols to reinforce the teachings, thereby fostering a deeper comprehension and internalization of their principles. Through this symbolic lexicon, Freemasons are continually reminded of their commitments to virtue, integrity, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Adapted from Bismark Lodge #5, Bismark North Dakota



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[theFirmFinancialAdvisor.com](http://theFirmFinancialAdvisor.com)

**Financial Information  
Resource Management**

*"The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."*  
– Bro. Clark Gable, US movie actor (1901-1960) Beverly Hills Lodge No.528, Beverly Hills, CA

ACROSS OUR LODGE IN PHOTOS



## TABLE LODGE



## MASONS AROUND THE LODGE



### Mark Stiles

Raised: 1/15/87  
PM: 1991, 2015  
HS: Fairmont West,  
Kettering, OH 1972

First car: 1970 Maverick  
Fav Food: just about everything  
Fav Vacation: anywhere with family  
Fav Music: Oldies  
Fav Band: Beach Boys  
Fav Movie: Star Wars  
Favorite TV Show: NCIS  
Hobbies: reading, playing board games and video games  
Family: widowed, 2 great sons  
Masonic influence: Father-in-law Wayne Nixon, my wife Maria

## Steak on the Barbie



Yes, we are Grillin' – Come on down for Steak (or Chicken), Corn on the Cobb, Baked Beans and Potato Salad at Brother Mark Gerhard's back deck. Bring a dish to pass if you want.

4PM Social Hour Steaks go on at 5PM.

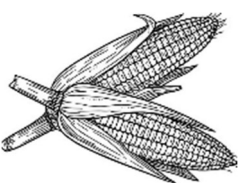
**Cost:** FREE

**Where:** Brother Mark's 4217 Kenirey Ln Oakland Twsp MI

**When:** Saturday, August 22, 2026 at 4PM **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED NO LATER THAN 19 August.**

**Contact** Brother Mark Phone, Txt, Email 248-379-0003 Mark.Gerhard8@gmail.com

## Corn Roast



**Sunday 9 August Noon to 5PM at the Temple**

**When:** Sunday, August 9, 2026 a12PM to 5PM

**Where:** On the Temple Green 850 Horace Brown Drive Madison Heights MI

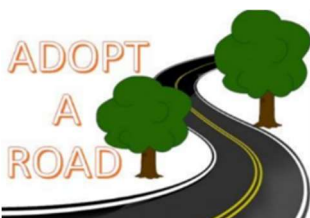
**Bring a Lawn Chair**

## Adopt a Road Clean Up 11 JULY and 27 SEPTEMBER at 8:00

am

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

**When:** Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and again on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, 8AM **Where:** 27010 Hoover Rd. **Bring Gloves and Dress for the Weather.** Contact Worshipful Master Lucas Roberts



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