



Grand Secretary's Quill

By RW Grand Secretary William Finkel

July 2026



It is suddenly July and it is suddenly hot. Be careful. Use sunscreen, stay in the shade, if possible, drink plenty of fluids. It is the season for parades, picnics and golf outings, Be prepared.

At your June meeting the names of all members who have not paid dues for 2026 should have been read(4.22.3.1.(b). For some lodges this would mean a very long meeting.

The Delinquent Dues Committee shall have received the list of members who still owe dues along with a Form 52 for each no later than the June Regular and shall make every effort to contact each delinquent member about payment of dues (4.22.3.1 (d). How about we do everything possible to get the NPD numbers as low as possible? Don't wait, start now. Most lodges go dark for July and August which should give your committee every opportunity and ample time to contact everyone on the list. Once again I remind you, do not wait until September. According to Grandview there are 3,106 members who haven't paid. This computes to a little over 13 per lodge. I know that with a little effort and determination we can lower this number considerably

Remember, the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is just a little extra.

The Grand Master's reception was held on June 13 and it was very well attended. There were representatives from the Scottish Rite, all the York Rite bodies, Moslem Shrine. Michigan Rainbow and DeMolay, Michigan PHA. Several presentations were made to the Grand Master.

June 24 was the 200th year anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. The Grand Master was introduced on the floor of the Michigan House chambers and the balcony was packed with Masons. I counted 36 different lodges along with Grand Officers from Ohio, Indiana, Ontario, Wisconsin and Michigan PHA. The AASR, Northern Jurisdiction was represented by the Sovereign Grand Commander, our own Illustrious Walt Wheeler. The Gala was held that evening at the Lansing Center and it was grand. The speakers, Dirk Hughes, Raymone Gude, Matt Shelton and Walt Wheeler broke the 200 years into 50-year segments and they were extremely well done. Introductions were made by Walt Wheeler while myself, Ryan Groat, & MW Dorian Smith Michigan PHA made toasts to each era. The Grand Master concluded with a short but meaningful presentation and toast.

Be Safe, be careful, be cool.

Bill Finkel, Grand Secretary

Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire call conscience. - George Washington