



The Detroit Masonic Temple

Library, Archive, and Research Center

February 2, 2026

To: Detroit Masonic Temple Association Members

Dear Brothers,

The Detroit Masonic Temple Library, Archive and Research Center has recently undergone a reorganization and made some significant changes and we wanted to make you aware of the improvements and progress that have been made and continue to be made in our efforts to provide a safe, secure repository for historical documents, memorabilia and published works that are of particular importance to Michigan Masonry, and The Detroit Masonic Temple in particular.

Reorganization: In the fall of 2025, a couple of the members of the Board of Directors, recognized that leadership of the Board was, essentially, non-functioning from about 2019-2025. Regular and Annual meetings were not occurring, and the organization seemed adrift with no clear direction. They identified those members who had moved away and/or were not participating and reached out to request their resignation from the Board, which they received. At the same time, they identified several well-respected Brothers with ties to The Masonic Temple who possessed the skills, passion for history and Masonry in general, and a true love of this magnificent edifice and brought them on to the Board of Directors to provide the needed direction. The new Board of Directors consists of the following members:

President	WB Brandon Langford, a Past Master of Zion Lodge No.1
Vice President	WB Scott Kuzma, the current WM of Zion Lodge No. 1
Secretary	WB Stefan Dallakian, a Past Master of Ashlar Lodge No. 91
Director	WB Brian Jankowski, a Past Master of Zion Lodge No. 1
Treasurer	WB Matthew Shelton, a Past Master of Pontiac Lodge No. 21
Director	Bro. Ryan Conn, member of Zion Lodge No. 1

Personally and professionally, our expertise spans, Engineering, Information Technology, Sales and Marketing, Library and Archive Management, Historic preservation, Historic Masonic Research, Security and Non-Profit management and accounting.

The new Board began meeting in October 2025 on a monthly basis to assess the current situation and plan for the future. To that end, we paused/cancelled all tours in November and December in order to ensure that we were offering the best possible experience to Temple Guests and address concerns that had been brought to our attention regarding the Library in general and the

volunteer docent corps who assist us. Our Board members met on several occasions with General Manager Ryan Groat to discuss concerns, general direction of the building and how we can, as volunteers, provide added value to The Masonic, not only by carefully preserving the history of this important Masonic building, but as a marketing arm providing high quality experiences to the public while informing them about Masonry in general and about opportunities for public use of the building through event rental options. We discussed collaborative efforts in merchandise marketing and sales and our current efforts underway to renovate and create not only a real library space (which our predecessors unfortunately did not accomplish), but a carefully curated museum/showcase that will enhance visits to the building for our Masonic Brothers as well as the general public.

The public and private tours we provide are the primary means of revenue for The Detroit Masonic Temple Library organization which will allow us to bring the vision our Brothers over 120 years ago believed belonged in such a Masonic treasure, as well as to digitize important historic records, books and artifacts so they can be enjoyed by Masons throughout the world. They allow us to showcase the building, its art, architecture, history, and symbolism. They further permit us to dispel myths and conspiracy theories about Freemasonry and provide for the public, that which our Masonic charges tell us we should be accomplishing in our daily lives. Ensuring that we put our best possible foot forward before our Brethren and the public and the honor and good reputation of the Fraternity are preserved and the public at large convinced of its good effects.

In our discussions with GM Ryan, improved communication, consistent professionalism, and consistent messaging were discussed. The Board of Directors agreed and we are in the process of acquiring uniform docent "gear" including collared shirts and improved required training for volunteers. We recognize that we must remember that how we present ourselves is a direct reflection upon the building and Masonry in general. Other concerns addressed by the Board of Directors include, solicitation of gratuities, on-time arrival and improving communication with the staff. We have forbidden our docents from soliciting gratuities and require them to arrive 30 minutes prior to a scheduled tour and ensure we are politely communicating with any MTA staff, so the image we project is consistent with the best interests of the building and Masonry. The Board also decided to eliminate the Executive Director position, as it was unnecessary with an actively participating Board of Directors. The position of Chief Docent was also eliminated as the Board determined that the duties could be fulfilled in the short term by the Board members themselves.

Since restarting the tours in January of 2026, we have sold out all public architectural tours in January and February and have sold nearly 40% of the tickets for the scheduled March tours. In addition, we have many requests for private tours of the building from Masonic, civic and non-profit groups in the coming months. We view each of these as an opportunity to showcase the building, its history, community value and potential event use to as many folks as we can reasonably reach. A recent private tour provided to a local small business owner, for example, is likely to result in one or more future corporate holiday event rentals. We receive inquiries on nearly every tour about possible wedding rentals, other building uses, etc.

Our sincere hope is that we can work together to address and correct any remaining issues that are perceived with the services provided by the Detroit Masonic Temple Library, Archive and Research Center on behalf of the MTA and that we can move forward in a collaborative harmony that provides both organizations with added value and continually improved public perception. We hope that we can continue to provide high quality public tours of the building and that we can be given the opportunity to address and correct any concerns, whether perceived or genuine.

We would love an opportunity to provide a brief in person update to the entire MTA regarding the restructuring, planned improvements, etc. so that we can answer any and all questions and concerns and lay to rest any negative perceptions based on the past.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

The Board of Directors of the Detroit Masonic Temple Library, Archive and Research Center