

Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin



Paul T. Tourville
Grand Master 2022 - 2023
paul.tourville@wimasons.org
36275 Sunset Drive
Dousman, WI 53118
414-659-5205 Mobile
262-965-2200 Office

GRAND MASTER'S EDICT

To Be read at the next Stated Communication of your Lodge

WHEREAS: Upon review of our Masonic Code and after consultation with my officers and Advisors, and upon further review of Wisconsin State Statutory provisions which provide Immunity from civil suit for those persons and enterprises that allow Concealed Carry by legally Licensed individuals in the State of Wisconsin, and after much further review of the those best Steps to take to ensure the safety and welfare of our Brothers and families and friends when using our Grand Lodge and Lodge properties throughout our Grand Jurisdiction.

That, effective on the execution of this Edict, and pursuant to Article 2.05 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code (2019),

IT IS THEREFORE MY EDICT THAT:

1. All Freemasons who are in Good Standing, and,
2. Who are duly licensed to carry their self-defense weapons on their persons, concealed, Pursuant to the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, may do so at any time at any Lodge whether Or not there is a function, stated meeting, or appendant body function utilizing the Lodge property going on, within or without the building and on the grounds of the Grand Lodge Session or Lodge property,
3. No Masonic Officer or Trustee, within the Grand Lodge, or a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall infringe or restrict the right of a Masonic Brother to carry a concealed Weapon legally in any Lodge Building, or Lodge property, or at public or Masonic events at any Lodge, and, will not, without Dispensation from the Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons in Wisconsin, place a sign, notice or other information advising the public which prohibits concealed carry in those building or on those grounds described in this Edict, and,
4. Current Brothers of this Grand Jurisdiction who are members of Law Enforcement as defined under the Wisconsin State Statues, whether they be State or Federal Officers, or serving members of the Uniformed Services of the United States, or former members of the Uniformed Services, honorably discharged, who have their Concealed Carry license, are exempt from the requirements of Chapter 175 Wisconsin Statutes, except as may be determined from time to time by the Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons in Wisconsin, and

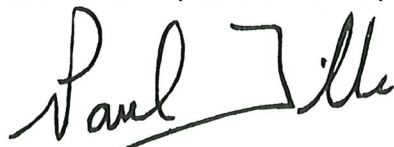
5. Other than revolvers and semi-automatic pistols and derringers, appropriately concealed, all long guns, of whatever design and purpose, shotgun or rifle, are banned from use under any circumstance, other than by Dispensation from the Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in Wisconsin, at any Masonic function and at any Grand Lodge Session or Lodge Event, as further set out at subsection 2, above and
6. There shall be no open carry by anyone at a Grand Lodge Session Lodge Meeting, or within or without a lodge building during any Masonic or Public Event, with the exception of Law Enforcement while in uniform or in plain clothes.
7. Individuals exercising their right to carry a concealed weapon upon the property of a Wisconsin Lodge must have a valid Concealed Carry permit from the State of Wisconsin, or from a state which has reciprocity with the State of Wisconsin, or permitted under subsection 4 and shall comply with all the rules and regulations of the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, to include but not be limited to the carrying upon one's person of said permit and a valid identification card, and any other documentation as set forth by state and Federal law, and,
8. Concealed carry is just that. No handling or exposure of weapons in public is allowed under any Circumstances, unless deadly force is warranted, other than a training activity under appropriate supervision. Violations of this subsection may be treated as Un-Masonic conduct and may expose the offender to Masonic Trial Code discipline, and,
9. As additional information and guidance, Active Shooter Training for Masonic Lodges is highly recommended. Lodges should contact their local police department or sheriff's offices as a possible source of training. Every effort to have the local law enforcement conduct the training is strongly recommended.
10. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), Reciprocity maps and other documentation can be found in the Wisconsin Masonic Code Appendix, or at the following links:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov;>

[https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/dles/ccw/ccw-faq%201-2018.pdf;](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/dles/ccw/ccw-faq%201-2018.pdf)

[https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib.conceal-carry/reciprocity.](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib.conceal-carry/reciprocity)

Given under my hand this 9th day of June 2022 at Dousman, Wisconsin.



M.: W.: Paul T. Tourville
Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin

Attest:




M.: W.: Michael A. DeWolf, PGM
Grand Secretary

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9 June 2022

Grand Master's Edict To be read at the next Stated Communication of your Lodge

In June of 1998 the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin while in Annual Session adopted the following Decision.

WHEREAS: The insurance program of the Grand Lodge F&AM of WI has given added protection to all covered Lodges at very competitive prices, and,

WHEREAS: It is possible to obtain more favorable insurance as a group,

IT IS THEREFORE MY DECISION, that each Constituent Lodge becomes covered under the Grand Lodge group policy, including real estate, personal property and liability coverage.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE DECISION,

- The Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin recognize the importance of ensuring that all Constituent Lodges protect their lodges and lodge functions with appropriate liability, P&C and D&O insurance coverage.
- The Grand Lodge has a fiduciary responsibility to secure a master liability insurance plan that will provide protection for the specific activities of the Grand Lodge and all Constituent Lodges.
- Since all Constituent lodges are members of the Grand Lodge by virtue of the Charter issued to them,

IT IS THEREFORE MY EIDCT that all Constituent Lodges will participate in and share in the cost of the Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin Insurance Plan. Cost sharing for the liability coverage will be based on the End-of-Year Primary Member Count listed on the Recapitulation Report for each lodge.

The Grand Lodge periodically reviews proposals from competing insurance carriers to evaluate appropriate levels of insurance coverage and to be certain we are offering the best level of coverage, service, and price for itself and all Constituent Lodges.

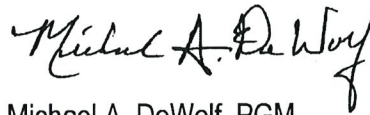
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Michael A. DeWolf, PGM
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Whereas, The Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Wisconsin adopted Chapter 94 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code to provide for Perpetual Memberships at the 1983 Annual Communication, and revised it at the 2019 Annual Communication, and

Whereas, due to changes in GAAP Generally Accepted Accounting Principals governing Revenue recognition: if the Grand Lodge continues to recognize the current PMP structure we will be required to adopt ASC 606, and

Whereas, adoption of ASC 606 will cause additional time and expense in audits and administration: continuation of the present program is no longer financially feasible.

Therefore, after careful consideration and thorough evaluation with our auditors and the Grand Treasurer it is my order that new applications to the Perpetual Membership Fund will be immediately suspended pending review by a special committee for further financial review and recommendation. There will be no change to those who currently participate in the PMP program.

Given under my hand this 9th day of June 2022 in Dousman, Wisconsin

M.:W.: Paul T. Tourville
Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin

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Michael A. DeWolf, PGM
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WHEREAS: The Grand Lodge F&AM of WI is designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(10) organization, and

WHEREAS: Section 54.04 of the WI Masonic Code designates the final disposition of a lodge's assets if it surrenders its Charter or has it revoked, and

WHEREAS: It is the Fiduciary responsibility of the Grand Master and the Grand Trustees to manage present and future assets in the best interests of our fraternity.

IT IS THEREFORE, my Edict that:

no lodge shall seek a tax status (including but not limited to 501(c)(3) status) that places limits (under tax law) on the ability of such lodge to exercise all of its Masonic purposes.

IT IS ALSO my Edict that:

no lodge shall seek a tax status (including but not limited to 501(c)(3) status) that places limits (under tax law) on the ability of such lodge to support and maintain the Grand Lodge. Similarly, no lodge may seek a tax status that places limits (under tax law) on the use of property transferred to the Grand Lodge upon the surrender or forfeiture of the charter of such lodge.

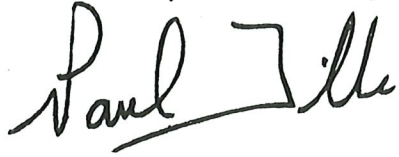
IT IS ALSO my Edict that:

no lodge shall organize a supporting organization with a tax status (including but not limited to 501(c)(3) status) that places limits (under tax law) on the use of funds raised by such organization.

IT IS ALSO my Edict that:

no lodge shall mortgage, pledge, lease, sublease, assign, encumber, transfer, distribute, donate, place a lien on, gift, contribute, sell, grant any easement or other contractual rights in or to or otherwise transfer and/or encumber in any manner real property leased or owned by such lodge, unless or until approved by the Grand Master pursuant to the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

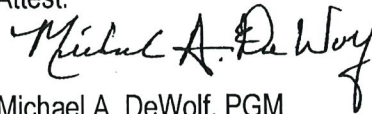
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