**The One Hundred Seventy-Ninth Annual Communication**

**of the**

**Grand Lodge F.& A.M. of Wisconsin**

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**JUNE 1, 2023 - A.L 6023**

**WISCONSIN MASONIC CENTER**

**Madison, Wisconsin**

**M∴W∴Paul T. Tourville – Grand Master**

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**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER’S REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin*;

Being elected and installed as your Deputy Grand Master has been an honor. Serving the brothers of our “Gentle Craft” is truly a joy. Meeting so many good men, sharing stories, and seeing the work being done by our brothers has been very uplifting.

This year I have had the opportunity to visit many lodges and take part in lodge sponsored activities. I had the honor of representing the Wisconsin Craft at the Annual Communications of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. I was able to speak on your behalf at the Midwest Conference of Grand Masters and helped represent Wisconsin at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. It was a privilege to attend the Cornerstone Ceremony and parade for the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virgina.

During this year I sat on the Board of Directors for the Masonic Home, Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board (WMBAB), the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, and the Wisconsin Masonic Journal Board. I Served as chair of the Nominations Committee and took part on the Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Jurisprudence, Fraternal Relations Committee, and Expenditures Committee. Through the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, I represented Wisconsin on the Masonic Renewal sub committee and am a charter member of the Masonic Civility Committee.

I have continued my work with the Wisconsin Masonic Journal and wish to thank the brothers for all the kind words. I continue to study under the tutelage of Worshipful Brother Rich Rygh and his dedication to that fine journal.

Serving in this office has given me a wonderful view of the renewed interest and vigor in almost all things Masonic. It is an exciting and electric time to be part of Wisconsin Freemasonry with all the degree work going on. It is also exciting to see breakfast and lunch groups starting up and sharing in public brotherly love and good will. Many areas around the state have started book clubs or in person masonic conversation groups.

I am proud to be a Mason and prouder still to represent the finest men the state of Wisconsin has to offer.

Respectfully Submitted

R.W. David R. Ritchie

Deputy Grand Master

**SENIOR GRAND WARDEN REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

I'm proud to be a Mason and proud to present my 2023 Sr. Grand Warden Report. It has been an honor to serve the Craft in this capacity, and I am proud to be a part of this leadership team. Seeing the growth and excitement across the state has been wonderful!

Administratively, we provided a streamlined process for District Reps to submit lodge visit reports. The new web-based form saw over 200 submissions for DR visits across the state! Many thanks to all the DRs traveling throughout the state to degrees, events, & fundraisers. These reports offer direct insight into all the fantastic activities going on in your lodges. Active lodges are thriving lodges - keep up the great work!

I had the privilege of representing WI at Annual Communication in Michigan and attending the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Washington DC. Participating in the parade with thousands of Masons from across the country and attending the cornerstone rededication at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial are memories I'll never forget. These events are a great chance to learn best practices and seek cooperation with other jurisdictions. I can happily say that Wisconsin remains at the cutting-edge of membership initiatives and educational offerings.

In addition to the many boards and committees served in this role, I've remained active in our Membership committee helping with technical projects and website support. This team has been terrific - special thanks to W. Br. Mike Burnham for his leadership on this committee.

It has also been my honor to help with many installations, lots of degree work, & participate in numerous charity events this year. In conclusion, I am proud of the progress we have made as a Fraternity over the past year. Our commitment to our Masonic values of brotherhood, charity, and education remains strong, and we continue to work towards a bright future for Wisconsin Freemasonry. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Craft!

Fraternally submitted,   
  
Thomas W. Stevens

Sr. Grand Warden

**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN’S REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

The role of the Junior Grand Warden includes the honor of serving as the liaison to our state’s Masonic youth groups. Although living in Peshtigo made me geographically distant from many Masonic youth group activities, the Wisconsin Freemasonry Leadership Team worked together to provide support to our youth organizations throughout the state.

Wisconsin DeMolay and Wisconsin Priory started off the year with a beautiful flag presentation and were an important part of the opening for the Annual Communication in June. DeMolay saw some positive growth late in 2022 in their Godfrey de Bouillon and Green Bay Chapters, to name a few. The Chippewa Valley Chapter held a pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Eau Claire Masonic Center on February 4th in tandem with a Masonic Day of Light held that day. The Lincoln-Ozaukee Chapter hosted a “Movie Night and Lock-In” last December, while the Doric Chapter set up a fun and interactive “Kid’s Zone” for Daylight Lodge’s Movie in the Park Night at Whitnall Park in Franklin.

2022 DeMolay Conclave, held last July, included a trip to Six Flags Great America, a sit down session with ex-Green Bay Packer Ahman Green, and other guest speakers. The installation of their new State Master Counselor John Stewart was very nicely done – and the hard work of his predecessor, Sam Theile, was recognized and appreciated.  Following another successful year, 2023 Conclave will be held at the UW-Parkside campus July 20-23. The future is bright for these young men!

Wisconsin Job’s Daughters have had a very busy and successful year, as well. They have recently held some fun and fundraising events, including: Brookfield’s Bethel 53 held a spaghetti dinner to raise money for The Hearing Improvement Kids Endowment (HIKE), Janesville’s Bethel 21’s craft fair, Bethel 2 from Milwaukee helped with a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt for area kids, and Bristol’s Bethel 79 held a “Pancakes and Puppies” event which coupled a fundraising event with a canine adoption opportunity through a local animal shelter. There was also an event at the Mackenzie Center in Poynette to learn how to make maple syrup and an “All Masonic Family Chili Cook Off” at Lake Masonic Center.

We have also seen an increased online presence of Wisconsin Job’s Daughters, with Bethels joining Facebook and other online platforms to help get the word out. The “Wisconsin Job’s Daughters” Facebook page is an excellent resource for activities happening around the state. Furthermore, Wisconsin is honored to serve as the host of 2023 JDI Supreme Session, which will be held in Middleton from July 25-29.

On behalf of the entire Wisconsin Freemasonry Leadership Team, I want to personally thank all of the Moms and Dads who devote so much of their time, talent, and energy towards helping to support their local Bethels and Chapters. Their hard work and mentoring continue to create positive environments for these young ladies and gentlemen.

Finally, I want to thank all the Lodges that submitted Junior Warden reports this year – but further, I challenge all Lodges to find new ways to support our youth in the coming year. If your community doesn't have a Masonic youth group, many Lodges also sponsor non-Masonic organizations, including:  Damascus Freemasons Lodge sponsored a little league team in South Milwaukee. Wautoma Freemasons Lodge worked with their high school and the Wisconsin DNR to build fish cribs for area lakes. Winneconne Masons provided numerous opportunities for young men and women of the Winneconne Community School District to earn community service hours by helping with fundraising activities and helping maintain their “adopt-a-highway” segment. Opportunities such as these are outstanding examples of mentoring and community involvement!

Thank you for the incredible opportunity to serve this wonderful fraternity. Proud to be a Freemason!

Fraternally,

Jeffrey S. Schoenfeldt

Junior Grand Warden 2022-2023

**GRAND TREASURER’S REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

Complying with Section 24.02 and 34.02 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code, Laws of the Grand Lodge, I hereby submit the Grand Treasurer’s Annual Report:

At the time of writing this report, 15 lodges are delinquent in filing their Annual Financial Statements. The data requested is necessary for the Grand Lodge to file the required IRS tax forms on your behalf. If they are not filed with Grand Lodge, the lodge will have the responsibility of filing their IRS Form 990. Additionally, 7 lodges have not yet paid their per capita contributions. Section 31.03 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code provides for both items to be completed on or before March 1 of each year. Within the same section, penalties are outlined. Currently, 44 lodges have had their tax-exempt status revoked due to failure to complete the required Grand Lodge annual financial filing in the past. We ask for your cooperation in completing these requirements, it is a high priority of the Grand Lodge. Should you have a specific hardship or issue in meeting these obligations we ask that you contact the Grand Secretary or Grand Treasurer.

Our Independent Auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen will audit the financial condition of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin, which comprise the statements of financial position as of April 30, 2023, the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the notes to the financial statements. Once presented and accepted by the Executive and Expenditures Committees, the audit report, in full detail, will be on file in the Grand Lodge office for review by any member of the craft. Also, the audit report will be printed in the official proceedings of this 179th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin.

This year, the budget presentation includes the Fiscal 2017 through Fiscal 2022 actual results, the Fiscal 2023 budget, together with the proposed Fiscal 2024 budget. Over the past several years, we have built an expanded and dynamic budget model. This enhances our ability to provide a much more comprehensive report incorporating all Grand Lodge activities with functional subsets which better track our sources and uses of funds. This also allows consistent year-to-year comparisons. Following the close of our Fiscal Year, our annual audit will begin providing all the closing current fiscal year financial details.

Working with the Deputy Grand Master, the proposed Fiscal 2024 budget has been developed and will be presented at the Annual Communication for adoption. The Fiscal 2024 budget increases the per capita $3.00 to $50.00. After a pause during the pandemic, current inflationary pressures have taken hold leading us to increase the per capita by 0.82 cents per day. Your ongoing support in allowing the previous increases has been making a positive impact on our ability to maintain and improve our programs, as well as support to the lodges. As a result, the reliance on our investment portfolios has been reduced, which extends our financial viability into the future. I have stated before, at a minimum, annual per capita increases should be indexed to CPI-U to avoid the adverse consequences of delaying necessary increases to maintain our standard of business. With the current year-over-year inflation data has increasing to over 6%, we believe our proposed 6.38% increase is appropriate.

Building efficiencies, evaluating costs, designing effective programs and having better reporting systems have all contributed to our ability to better align our income and expenses. We have made significant progress in our fiscal management and remain committed to continue to make additional gains so that we can deliver quality programs, organizational support and necessary services to the craft.

In compliance with Section 24.01 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code, mileage and per diem payments for the representatives attending the 179th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin will be computed by the Grand Secretary. In conformity to Section 30.06 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code, these payments will be made via ACH following the Annual Communication to all Lodges with an attendance record that has been properly scanned both days.

This being my final year as Grand Treasurer, I want to thank each of you for supporting me in redesigning this critically important position. Historically, Grand Treasurer’s annual appeal to increase per capita was met with disdain. With your support, we now have better transparency and have put the Grand Lodge in a much stronger financial position. I couldn’t have asked for anything more.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Jeffrey L. Bryden, Grand Treasurer

GRAND SECRETARY’S REPORT

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin:*

This report is submitted in compliance with Chapter 25 of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin.

**Tabular Statement**

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**Grand Master’s Jewel and Apron**

By the provisions of Section 25.05 of the Masonic Code, a Grand Master’s Collar and Jewel for our 2023-2024 Grand Master David Ritchie and a Past Grand Master’s Jewel for our 2022-2023 Grand Master Paul T. Tourville has been obtained

**Grand Lodge Proceedings**

By the provisions of Section 25.06 of the Masonic Code, the Journal of Proceedings of the 177th Annual Communication was prepared by me with the assistance of the Grand Lodge office and printed by Ripon Community Printers. The proceedings were distributed at this Communication.

One copy to each Constituent Lodge Secretary

One copy to each Grand Lodge officer

One copy to each Past Grand Master

One copy to the Cedar Rapids Masonic Library in Iowa

One copy to the NEW Library in Green Bay

One copy to the State Historical Society

A copy of our proceedings was placed on the Grand Lodge of WI website. In addition, I contacted all Sister Jurisdictions in the U.S. and Canada by email to let them know that should they desire a copy of our proceeding; it was available via download from our website.

# Fifty Year Certificates

As of May 1, 2023, seventy-three (73) 25-year certificates, sixty-one (61) 50-year certificates, and forty (40) 60-year certificates were prepared by the Grand Secretary’s staff for presentation to deserving Brethren. Grand Master Paul T. Tourville and the Grand Secretary signed these certificates. The names of the 50-year recipients will be printed in the Proceedings.

# Unfinished Business and Proposed Legislation

On April 16, 2022, a complete account of all unfinished business and a copy of all proposed legislation, including the Grand Lodge budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, was emailed to each constituent lodge Secretary for the Master and Wardens, complying with the terms of Section 25.07 and 29.05(c) of the Masonic Code; additionally this year all material was published in the Wisconsin Masonic Journal as well as the Grand Lodge Website.

# Financial Reports

The accounting firm of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP. will conduct the annual audit of the financial affairs of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Masonic Journal, and the Wisconsin Masonic Foundations, for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2022. These reports will be printed in the Proceedings.

# Lodge Consolidations, Charter Surrenders & New Dispensations

During this year, there has been one (1) Consolidation. Lafayette #265 merged into Lake #189 and will remain Lakr #189.

# Grand Lodge Master Insurance Policy

The Grand Lodge has recently completed reviewing its insurance contracts for the 2023-24 contract period. With the assistance of our insurance broker, Spectrum Insurance Group, renewal terms were reached with our insurance partner West Bend Mutual.

Once again, West Bend offers all lodges the option to insure property insurance coverage at “Actual Cash Value” compared to the current “Replacement Cost Valuation.” For example, suppose you have a lodge building presently insured for replacement cost. Your lodge would NOT rebuild to similar specifications but would settle for insurance payments calculated at the depreciated or “Actual Cash Value” of your lodge property. In that case, you are encouraged to contact our insurance broker, Jesse Furrer, from Spectrum Insurance Group. Note that this decision is not to be taken lightly and should have the full support of lodge members before proceeding.

West Bend continues demonstrating its commitment to our fraternity and has been fair with its pricing. All lodges need to retain a positive working relationship with all parties to maintain the integrity of our insurance program. Further, it is critical to keep our lodge buildings in good repair. We are all tasked to diligently maintain unfrozen pipes, sidewalks free of ice and snow, roofs and gutters free of debris, and heating/cooling systems in proper working order. Please keep in close contact with our insurance broker, Spectrum Insurance Group, should your lodge need assistance with any risk management or insurance-related issues.

The Grand Lodge property and casualty insurance program is designed to meet the unique needs of our fraternal activities. A complete copy of the insurance contract can be reviewed by contacting The Grand Lodge offices for an appointment. Important coverage includes:

* Extensive liability insurance limits.
* Hired and non-owned auto liability coverage for those operating autos for lodge purposes. This protects the lodge secondary to any personal auto coverage.
* Special events coverage for various lodge activities.
* Crime coverage, including forgery/alteration and theft of monies from lodge buildings.
* Extensive property coverage for lodge buildings, contents, and degree paraphernalia.
* Directors and Officers liability insurance for all lodges and members.

Building values for those participating in the property portion of the insurance program have been increased by 4% to account for inflation which will affect property premiums. If your lodge wants Spectrum to offer a building valuation estimate, please get in touch with our agent Jesse Furrer at (715) 803-6662.

**Square Store**

We are now in the sixth year of our Masonic Square Store. Our site handles all supply sales and items of general membership interest, from personalized lodge shirts to padfolios. Please take a minute and stop at our display in the parlor. You can look at some samples and even place orders at the Annual Meeting.

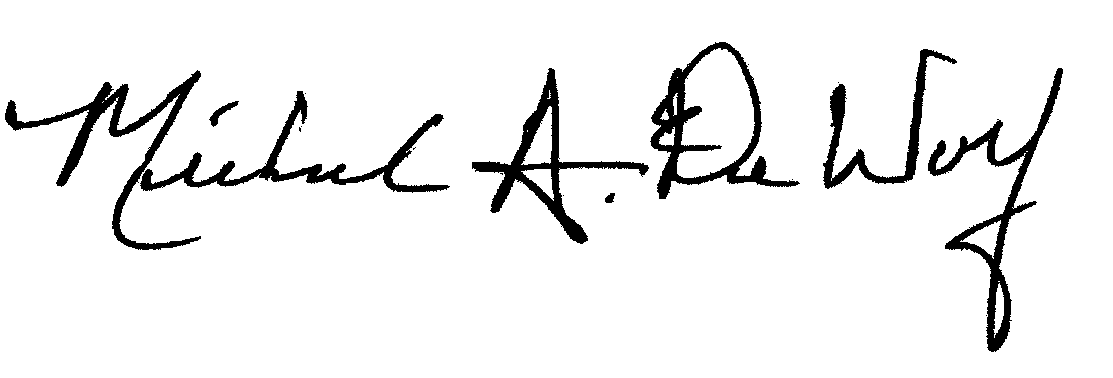
**Conclusion:**

Brethren, Freemasonry in Wisconsin has had an incredible year. We continue to make an indelible imprint in our communities and society, whether through our Acts of Kindness or general interaction with society. All who know us have been influenced and benefited from our gentle craft's teachings. As our numbers continue to grow, our influence on society grows proportionally. Bigger is not necessarily better, but it will allow us to do many more things. Continue to keep up the excellent work.

I express my gratitude for the confidence reposed, all courtesies extended, cooperation accorded, and friendships cemented. I offer you my continued support and offer assistance whenever needed.

I remain,

Sincerely and fraternally



Michael A. DeWolf, P.G.M.

Grand Secretary

**GRAND LODGE TRUSTEE’S REPORT**

*Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin, Brother Paul T. Tourville, Grand Lodge*

*Officers, Past Grand Masters, and delegates to the 179th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin****:***

During the 2022-2023 Masonic year, the Grand Trustees met in session 10 times by video conference, as well as numerous other correspondence. In addition to determining policies, goals, and objectives by reaching a consensus, we also manage several leases held by us for property of the Wisconsin Grand Lodge.

**Investments**

Our fiscal year is from May 1 to April 30. Associated Bank and Trust Company N.A. is our depository for the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin investment accounts. The Grand Trustees have retained Associated Bank and Trust to provide advice on investments and be the investment managers for the various Grand Lodge accounts. Details can be found in the audited financials by CLA.

As required by the Masonic Code, we are to report annually on the financial activity in the PMP Account. On April 30, 2022, the balance in this account was $1,603,649. The balance as of April 30, 2023 was $1,489,713. This account continues to be marginally funded and will decline as the annual payments outpace the annual investment return. **The Grand Trustees support any action which would prevent the cost of the PMP program to be borne by brethren who are not participants in the fund.**

**Real Estate**

**Title Search & Verification:** With assistance of counsel, a title search was conducted to ensure that all constituent Lodges have a valid title and to determine the extent to which any associations may exist. No abnormalities resulted from the search.

**Grand Masonic Center:** We continue to maintain the Grand Masonic Center office building on our Dousman campus. The Grand Lodge offices are in this building, which include the Grand Master’s and Grand Secretary’s offices, and your Grand Lodge office staff. Space is also leased to the Order of the Eastern Star, the York Rite, and the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation. DeMolay also uses storage space. The current Grand Lodge office space is oversized. The size and age are both contributing factors to the elevated operating costs. **The trustees recommend finding a suitable alternative for office space going forward.**

**Masonic Temple Association of Racine:** The association was dissolved, and Grand Lodge is now the owner of the property. Due to significant deferred maintenance costs, the Grand Trustees made a recommendation to the executive committee to list the building for sale with a commercial broker and the property is currently listed with Founders3. Other personal property is also being dispositioned via auction or private sale.

**Wisconsin Masonic Cemetery:** The Grand Trustees, with the assistance of our brethern of Olive Branch Lodge #6, continue to maintain and improve the final resting place of some of this Country’s and this State’s Masonic pioneers. Many of these brethren were civil war veterans or died during that war. The continued care of this property, including the onsite Lodge building, is a matter for the preservation of our history.

**General Operations:** General operations continue to run smoothly. We certainly want to recognize with gratitude the cooperation and assistance provided by Most Worshipful Michael A. DeWolf, PGM and Grand Secretary, and Right Worshipful Jeffrey L. Bryden, Grand Treasurer, and our wonderful Grand Lodge Office Staff, consisting of Christina Jester, Cheryl Martin, and Erika Miller, for their outstanding support and timely contributions.

Sincerely and Fraternally Submitted,

Kyle A. Grahn, Chairman

Jesse A. Furrer

Scott E. Pedley, PGM

Francis X. McKenna

Robert W. Roth

**MASONIC BOARD OF SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE REPORT**

*To The Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

Brethren, as of today 5/03/2023 we have had 41 requests. We have approved disbursements of $67,966.86. We anticipate more requests to come in before the Annual Communication. The Masonic Service and Assistance is not a hand-out; It is a hand-up. Funds are available to assist a Brother Freemason, his Widow, or Orphans in time of need to manage a situation that is causing a hardship in their life.  The assistance may be in the form of moral support or short-term financial assistance.

The Board determines if it can assist within the framework of its Charter and By-Laws. Also, I would like to thank Lauri Eckmann at the Three Pillar’s Outreach Program, at 888-546-8885 for her service, and the collaboration. Our programs are synergistic in helping but have different goals and direction.

If a Brother, his Widow, or Orphan is in need. One needs to go to <https://wimasoniccharities.com/wisconsin-masonic-service-and-assistance/> and fill out a request. The forms could be filled out by another individual if needed.

This request will be sent to the Committee for action.

The Wisconsin Masonic Service and Assistance Fund exists only because of the generosity of Freemasons and their families who contribute freely and to the best of their ability. The Service and Assistance board takes the stewardship of these funds as a huge responsibility. It is an honor to serve this wonderful Fraternity.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Curt Angelo Campagna, Chairman Service and Assistance

**WISCONSIN MASONIC BENEVOLENT ACTIVITIES BOARD REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

Masonic charitable activities in Wisconsin are significant and include assets exceeding one hundred million dollars. The Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board (WMBAB) oversees and coordinates the Masonic charitable activities in Wisconsin which includes the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Masonic Service and Assistance, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Youth Fund, and three significant nonstock/nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporations: the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, Inc., Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc. (and its divisions), and the Wisconsin Masonic Center, Inc.

The overarching goal of the Members of WMBAB is to act as a unified body facilitating transparent communications and cooperation between the Grand Lodge Officers, Trustees, the leaders, and board of directors of the constituent charities of WMBAB while representing best interests of the brethren that constitute the Free and Accepted Masons in Wisconsin.

The functions, duties, and legal responsibilities of the Members of the Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board (WMBAB) are not only delineated in Article 39 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code but also in the legal filings of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of each constituent Wisconsin Masonic non-stock/non-profit corporation.

This past year, WMBAB met on five occasions via Zoom web conferencing. We elected board members for the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance, Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, and the Wisconsin Masonic Center, Inc. Our policies and procedures were reviewed and updated. The WMBAB Members reviewed and approved operational and capital budgets as required. In addition, we coordinated fundraising, reviewed long range plans, audits results and ongoing programs for our charitable activities and non-profit corporations.

In the past year there were no substantial deficiency citations reported to us from any of our constituent nonstock corporations resulting from the financial audits, compliance inspections, complaints, lawsuits, or citations.

At each of quarterly meeting the investment performance of each organization was shared and discussed. Investment needs of the organizations falling under our masonic umbrella vary and are reflected in their individual investment plans. The past few years have been challenging for any investor and our investment performance reflects the current market.

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There have been no WMBAB associate expenses for the past two years. We present for budgetary approval with the adoption of this report, any, and all administrative or legal expenses which occur for WMBAB activities in the coming year to be prorated among the constituent benevolences as appropriate.

We are pleased to report that each of the charitable activities that fall under the umbrella of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons are doing very well as reported separately in these proceedings. The Members of the Wisconsin Masonic Activities Board is thankful for the opportunity to serve our brethren and grateful for the hard work and dedication of the various charity boards, the employees of our corporations, volunteers, and contributors. In addition, we are appreciative of the ongoing support and dedication of our administrative assistant, Erika Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Arby Humphrey, PGM

President,

Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board

Paul T. Tourville

David R. Ritchie

Thomas W. Stevens

Michael A. DeWolf, PGM

Jeffrey S. Schoenfeldt

Jeffrey L. Bryden  
Kyle A. Grahn

Monte B. Steiber

David D. Larson

Gary L. Stang

Patrick D. Cholka

Christopher J. Young

George T. Eisenmann, III

**WISCONSIN MASONIC CENTER**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

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***ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 3, 2023***

***Our Mission:***

***To provide a relevant central Masonic Center for the members of the***

***fraternity in Wisconsin for the next 100 years.***

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Masonic Center we wish to thank the Grand Lodge and the Lodge constituents for giving us the opportunity to make this report. Your Board consists of the following members:

* Thomas Ewald – Board President
* Robert Gorsuch- Board Vice President
* Matt Hughey – Secretary Treasurer
* Tom Kelly – Director
* David Larson – Director
* Eric Pangburn – Director
* Joe Thompson – Director
* Lee Burlison – Ad Hoc Director
* Don Komplin – Ad hoc Director
* Mike Heitke – Ad Hoc Director
* John Prindle – Executive Director

The 2022/23 year in summary has been very productive. The Board is aligned on the necessary priorities and objectives. A 5-year plan has been implemented outlining the core focus areas. They are: Overall Business Operations, Financial Tracking and Budgeting, Revenue Generation, Fraternal Relations, and Facility Needs.

2023 also marks our 100th Anniversary. Ground was Broken to build the building on May 14, 1923, the Cornerstone was laid October 30, 1923, and the Facility was Dedicated September 30, 1925. Our building has been registered on the National Register of Historical buildings and represents a significant presence in the downtown Madison historical district. A Capital Campaign was announced statewide in March of 2023 with a goal of raising $250,000. Part of the funding is coming from the sale of limited edition 3-inch gold medals commemorating our anniversary. On May 4th we hosted an Open House to kick off the Centennial season with other events planned that include a building rededication at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. Later this year there will be other events planned to create awareness and support to reach our goal.

Since the inception of the new Board as assigned in 2019, nearly $800,000 has been invested back into our facility. Major projects that include rebuilding the front stairway, tuckpointing and replacing over 70,000 bricks, repairing roof flashing, replacing 10 electrical service panels throughout the building, replacing the entire Air conditioning system, repairing structural areas in the basement, completely remodeling the Ballroom and Caitlin Rooms, completely remodeling the front landscaping, Installing a new modern LED message board and front sign, Installing a new Flagpole, installing a security system, plus hundreds of other small repairs and touchups. These investments were absolutely necessary to prepare our facility for the next 100 years we hope to be here.

This investment would not have been possible if not for the contribution of nearly every member of the fraternity in Wisconsin from the member assessments. Thank you from the WMC Board your contributions will not be forgotten, and they are earnestly appreciated.

Our investment of time and resources is paying off as the WMC is a bustle of activity today. In April of this year 11 events took place and things continue to improve now that we are all past the Covid era restrictions that shut us down. Business operations from internet lead retrieval, phone handling, appointment and sales tracking and bookings with renewed service agreements have improved efficiencies in operations. 3 new caterers have been added to expand options in this area for the variety of events we host. Many thanks to Lisa Zimmerman, our Events Coordinator.

Beyond the day-to-day cashflow needs there are a number of other areas we have expanded. In late 2022, The Monteith Library was completely overhauled with the merger of the Grand Lodge Library. Now all branches of the Fraternity are more completely and properly represented. Informational as well as historical references are catalogued and can be easily referenced. A special thanks to Mike Heitke for his tireless volunteer hours. This effort is something we can all be proud to see and know that the important items we endear are archived for future generations in the fraternity.

Another major accomplishment was the merger of all accounting functions with the Grand Lodge office. The entire chart of accounts was redefined and there is a process to account for payables, payroll, monthly financial reporting and for filing our all-important IRS 990’s as a public foundation that protects our 501c3 status. This took many months to smooth out and puts our operation in a better way by having redundancy in this area and this protects the integrity of our books. Thank you to John Prindle, our Executive Director and to Grand Treasurer Jeff Bryden together with Kristina Jester in the Grand Lodge office for making this come together.

Another major project recently completed was the re-appraisal of the Wisconsin Masonic Center that included the building and real estate. The last appraisal was conducted in 2016 and the building value at that time was $3,400,000. The most recent value is just over $6,000,000 using a blend of a cost and comparable market approach. This is significant because the value certainly demonstrates strength for the fraternity, but it also reflects the investment made and the value of the location in downtown Madison just blocks from the State Capitol.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors is very appreciative of the trust that the members of the fraternity have placed in us and for allowing us to operate the Wisconsin Masonic Center in accordance with our bylaws and business plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Ewald

WMCF Board President

**WISCONSIN MASONIC FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

The Wisconsin Masonic Foundation Mission is to provide the grants, support, and organizational assistance necessary to help Masons make our communities better in the state of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Masonic Foundation Vision is quite simple and succinct: Raise Awareness; Raise Support and Raise Masons. In other words, before we do anything we ask ourselves: Will this raise awareness of the mission? Raise money for our mission of helping Masons make our communities better in Wisconsin? If so, then it is our opinion that it will help raise new Masons and grow the organization. Everything we do must pass this test.

We have made great strides in 2022-23 with the Foundation adding over 150 new donors and raising over $440,000 to support our Masons donating over $340,000 through our Acts of Kindness. The Acts of Kindness program provides support to police, fire, first responders, veterans, and other local charities to help those in need and to help individuals to realize their own potential through scholarships for those interested in serving our communities. That is why we are working to rewrite our Scholarship Application to support Vocational Education. The hope is to provide financial support for vocational careers within our communities. This includes, a University, Technical and Community Colleges as well as Trades Schools and Accredited Courses of Study. Vocational work is the backbone of our communities with a shortage in most fields of study and the individuals who work in these careers tend to stay in the communities near where they grew up or currently live or bluntly, they stay in Wisconsin.

Further, in 2022 we made a push to reignite our relevance locally and to help make our communities better with the purchase of 188 Fire Suppression Tools to give to Lodges throughout the state for local donation. 82% of the Lodges participated in this initial rollout putting 167 FST’s in the hands of local fire and police. Additionally, since this initial push Masons in Wisconsin donated over 325 Fire Suppression Tools to Police, Fire, and other community organizations. 12 of these FST’s have been deployed throughout the state, all were successful leading to a safe evacuation or preservation of the structure. These FST gifts and their successful deployments have led to several articles and press coverage throughout the state on how masons make our communities safer. This press is good press and as a result we are seeing increased traffic to the website wimasons.org as well as an increase in the number of petitions.

Scholarships and FST donations, while valuable, are just a couple of ideas and the Acts of Kindness cannot be limited to just a couple of ideas pushed by our Foundation. We need your help to continue to expand the program to truly support and unite our communities around the good that we offer. Our support of the youth, community, and veteran programs as well as Food Banks and blood drives is immeasurable in terms of a local community’s good will. Therefore, we need capitalize on the momentum and take the Acts of Kindness story to the public and garner the rewards for all this good work both in terms of membership and donations. Last year we saw a notable increase in new donors to the Foundation, but we need to continue to expand that beyond these walls. It is only by increasing our donor base that we will be able to one day increase our $3000 matching grant to increase our support of local communities.

Our value proposition to a potential donor is whether you give to Wisconsin Masonic Foundation Acts of Kindness or start a donor-advised fund, your gift is overseen by our Foundation board made up of Masons as well as people of like mind and moral compass. Our Foundation will ensure that your funds are diligently managed, and your disbursements are scrutinized to your intent. This will ensure that your gift is invested and disbursed according to your wishes as the world evolves for years to come.

Nearly 250 years ago Masons were an integral part of forming this “more perfect” union called the UNITED States of America. Now it’s time to continue the work of those before us, to reclaim our legacy of helping to unite and rebuild our communities as well as our fraternity.

We have been around for quite a while; in fact, the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation will mark 100 years in 2025. To celebrate we are looking to plan events to raise awareness and funds to support the Foundation as we enter our second century. With this in mind and in anticipation of the centennial celebration, we are announcing our Second Century appeal. This is not only an appeal to you but also to your community to support The Wisconsin Masonic Foundation Acts of Kindness program. So, to kick off our plea it is an honor to announce the donation of 57 AED and FST units to the Wisconsin State Patrol. This is not a one-time donation, it is a commitment to the Patrol to ensure that each Trooper vehicle is equipped with this life-saving equipment, making Wisconsin roads safer and furthering our impact on careers in public service. We will develop the relationship with the Patrol to expand its reach into our communities. As a Foundation we are asking to work with district representatives at the Grand Lodge level to design and run public awareness and fund-raising events intended to raise funds to support general Acts of Kindness on a District Level. This will ensure that local lodges are given acknowledgment and to make possible the fund raising on the local level needed to complete our long-term commitment to the State Patrol.

In addition to a plea for one-time donations we are asking individuals both within and outside the fraternity to consider a monthly donation to support our work. This portion of the Second Century plea broken into three monthly amounts designed around the stations of Masonry.

They are:

The South: $25. Day to day support such as food banks, youth, and veteran’s programs.

The West: $50. Lifesaving support such as AED’s, FST’s and other lifesaving tools.

The East: $100. Support of new beginnings such vocational scholarships and trade school tools.

These monthly donations are critical to our mission of supporting Masons throughout the sate and necessary to a successful plea. We look forward to working together with Grand Lodge, local lodges, Masons and citizens to support masonry in the state of Wisconsin. As we prepare for our second century know that at our core, we exist to Raise Awareness, Raise Support; and Raise Masons.

Thank you.

A picture containing pattern, square, pixel, crossword puzzle

Description automatically generated

Peter T Tourville, President

Wisconsin Masonic Foundation

# WISCONSIN MASONIC HOME BOARD REPORT

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin:*

Three Pillars Senior Living Communities continues to represent the best of Masonry. Home to over 300 residents, your Wisconsin retirement community is flourishing despite the difficulties of the pandemic over the past few years.

For the second consecutive year, Three Pillars Senior Living Communities is proud to be named as a national US News and World Report - Best Continuing Care Retirement Community. Even more distinctive is a third consecutive year with “no deficiencies” cited in our annual government Health Inspections.

Last year, we updated you on the on-going renovation and expansion work with our Health Care Center and Assisted Living. We are excited to share that both projects were completed this past year – on time and under budget. Skilled nursing residents and families are loving their new environment and our Riverside Lodge Assisted Living expansion is filling quickly with positive feedback.

In 2022, we were awarded a significant grant through the Department of Health Services towards our efforts to establish a pioneering program around dementia care and services. We have hired an extremely experienced Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) and are busy developing what could be groundbreaking efforts in dementia care.

Construction is underway for our 8 new Village on the Square homes and our new residents are excited to move in later this year.

The next stage of our strategic planning, initiated in 2017, is the development of the re-acquired Masonic Home farm property north of our existing campus. This is a significant investment in the future of Three Pillars and has captured national attention for its focus on Active Adult Living and serving the new generation of retirees. Please visit our website at <https://www.threepillars.org/campus-expansion/> to learn all the great things being planned.

Three Pillars is also proud to be hosting the 2023 national Masonic Communities and Services Association this June. Staff, Board and Grand Lodge Officers from around the country will gather in Wisconsin and will have an opportunity to tour our Three Pillars campus.

Lastly, the Three Pillars Board and Management would like to thank MWGM Paul Tourville, the Grand Lodge Officers and all the lodges and members that provide extremely valuable and necessary leadership, service and support. We have much to be proud of and it is truly a team effort to succeed.

Fraternally submitted,

Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc.

Management & Board of Directors

# WISCONSIN MASONIC JOURNAL BOARD REPORT

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

Your Wisconsin Masonic Journal is continuing to provide you with a quality and informative publication relative to the proceedings of Wisconsin Masonic Lodges and members. This publication has and is receiving positive comments and praises from this jurisdiction and other jurisdictions.

The Wisconsin Masonic Journal Board of Directors thanks Brother and Editor Richard Rygh for his continuing efforts in putting the Journal together each and every month and continuing to keep it on the cutting edge. A thank you goes to R W Dave Ritchie, Deputy Grand Master for assisting Brother Rygh. The Board also thanks the Grand Lodge Officers for their understanding of the importance of this publication and their input. Last but not least, we thank each and every member of the craft for the ongoing support and input provided to this publication. Your input, lodge news and information, is what drives the Wisconsin Masonic Journal. Thank you and continue to submit articles and constructive comments.

The Wisconsin Masonic Journal welcomes Christina Jester as our Advertising Manager due to the demise of Diane Igl. The Journal Board of Directors also lost Brothers Milt Helmer and George Tincher. These three individuals will be sorely missed and we thank them for their continued service. The Masonic Journal Board of Directors will continue to assist in making this publication the best there is.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the

Wisconsin Masonic Journal Board of Directors,

Richard Rygh

Dave Ritchie

John Donaldson

Keith Wohlfert

Lowell Scott

**APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

***MM David L. Forsythe, Manawa Lodge #82 F. & A.M.***

The Appeals and Grievances Committee has a responsibility to review all suspensions and expulsions, Masonic trials and restorations. This past year there were no Masonic trials.

On October 16, 2019, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Robert C. Strader, entered a Decree of Expulsion that KEW be expelled from membership in Ozaukee Lodge #17 F. & A.M.. This decision was based upon information contained in a criminal matter where KEW was charged with a felony. A review of the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access records confirmed the disposition of the case which was resolved through a deferred prosecution agreement. KEW complied with the agreement that he had entered into with the State of Wisconsin and the matter was dismissed. A further investigation revealed that over the course of several years, KEW had repeatedly been involved with the Court system for one reason or another including a matter which resulted in a temporary restraining order being issued against him. On September 14, 2020, KEW filed a Petition for Reinstatement into the Masonic fraternity. It appeared to the committee, at that time, that the basis for KEW’s Petition for Reinstatement was premised on the fact that he complied with all of the terms and requirements of the deferred prosecution agreement. He represented that he had taken certain actions to improve his life. After careful deliberation, the decision of the committee, at that time, was that KEW did not provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that he had achieved a level of improvement to his conduct to support a grant of his Petition for Reinstatement. At that time, it was recommended to the Grand Master to allow KEW to resubmit a Petition for Reinstatement into the Masonic fraternity the following year so as to allow him the opportunity to take such action that would demonstrate his moral fitness and worthiness for a grant of his Petition for Reinstatement.

On March 13, 2023, Most Worshipful Grand Secretary Michael A. DeWolf forwarded to the Appeals and Grievances Committee KEW’s Petition for Reinstatement which was erroneously dated by KEW, December 15, 2023.

On April 14, 2023, the Appeals and Grievances Committee met to consider KEW’s Petition for Reinstatement together with other evidence. The committee unanimously agreed that from the date of his subsequent Petition for Reinstatement that KEW has made significant and positive improvement in his personal and professional life. Further, he has, in addition to the positive and productive improvement in his personal and professional life, demonstrated to the committee that his conduct supports a finding that his character sufficiently qualified KEW to be recommended to be reinstated into the Masonic fraternity.

The Masonic Code requires that the Appeals and Grievances recommendation be presented to the Grand Master in advance of the Annual Communication. If the Grand Master concurs with the committee’s recommendation, the matter must be brought to the floor at the Annual Communication for a vote on the motion for reinstatement. A majority vote of the membership to approve reinstatement will be required to grant the Petition for Reinstatement.

**ESOTERIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

The Esoteric committee is comprised of the Grand Lecturer and the twelve District Lecturers.

Grand lecturer Davey L. White Jr.

District #1 Ron Pete District #2 Les Paulson

District #3 Tony Budaj District #4 Moses Adams

District #5 Jason Risberg District #6 James Giese

District #7 Eric Pantano District #8 Ken Walter

District #9 Richard Moen District #10 Erwin Wuehr

District #11 David Hinners District #12 Jason Schroeder

The Esoteric committee met with the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge team after the Annual Communication. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Paul T. Tourville gave us his directives and his wish that we function as one team this year.

The MWGM informed us that he wished to have several Masonic Days of Light in the upcoming year. The first group of classes were Shriners Day of Light. They, overall, went quite well. They were followed by several Scottish Rite Days of Light. They also went quite well. This was followed by a York Rite Day of Light, which also went quite well. I believe we brought in over 150 new Brothers through the several classes.

Your Esoteric committee members were instrumental in preparing the degree teams for these events, as well as providing the educational portions between the degrees. I commend them all for their diligent work ethic, and for making these events a great success.

The Esoteric committee members communicated with me by text and email, along with a lot of phone calls (my favorite )throughout the year.

They tried different ideas in certain Districts to try to re-energize the Masons of Wisconsin, not only in the Ritual, but becoming better leaders. I believe Brother Eric Pantano’s Boot Camps were a great success, along with Brother Erwin Wuehr’s Past Masters club. Keep up the good work !

We continue to work on the “ Batching “ program. I have recently taken part in one and have some ideas that I will bring to the committee in the upcoming year.

I have had the pleasure of signing several Ritualist Cards this year. I commend the Brothers for learning and the District Lecturers for working with these Brothers ! I have noticed a resurgence in learning the Ritual, which is always a good thing.

Fraternally,

Love Ya Brothers,

Davey L. White Jr. PGM

**FACILITIES, CHARTERS AND CONSOLIDATIONS**

Committee Members:

MWPGM Michael Dewolf - Grand Lodge Secretary

WB. Jeff Bryden- Grand Lodge Treasurer

WB. Curt Sorenson – Committee Member

WB. Jim Becker – Committee Member

WB. Sid Arthur – Committee Member

WB. Jim Giese – Committee Chairman

General Overview;

The general condition of our lodges state wide varies due largely to the declining membership throughout the past years. The great news is that with our Grand Lodge Membership initiative, membership state wide has been improving at an incredible rate. As those numbers increase in our lodges it is now incumbent on us to help lodges focus on their building needs as they construct their lodge budgets.

Our Masonic Center in Madison is the flag ship of our great fraternity. Since the ownership change the board has made incredible progress to the building in structural repairs, building code compliance and beautification without losing any of our Masonic history. Every Brother should burst with pride just to walk into our building. The board needs to be congratulated on all of the great work that has been accomplished. We are excited for the future of our facility as further improvements are executed.

Brother Curt Sorenson of our committee has constructed a lodge facility long range planning program that will be rolled out to all of the lodges in the state. It provides a structure to plan and budget for building needs before those costs become insurmountable. It is incumbent on all of us to keep our facilities in an excellent state of repair.

Extensive repair / rebuild to our Manawa Masonic Center are on schedule to be completed in mid-July. Placing that facility into first class condition. The repairs made were structural, drainage, infrastructure and landscaping. When completed this will be one of the most beautiful buildings in the state. This lodge interacts actively with the community needs and is a great example of how our fraternity improves the lives of our communities where ever the footprint of Masonry exists.

The committee continues to work on the environmental issue surrounding the former Montello lodge building. The lodge had a dry-cleaning business operating in the lower level of the building many years ago and while the consistency within the lodge is below the legal VOC limit, allowing the building to be sold, quarterly measurements need to be recorded per DNR directive to determine if any abatement in necessary.

The committee is here to serve and assist all our lodges state wide in either long range facility plans, advice on designated repairs and business plans on the viability of continuing to keep existing facilities. Do not hesitate to take advantage of this Grand Lodge resource.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Giese

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin:*

The Grande Loga do Estado do Espirito Santo of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (one of the state Grand Lodges in Brazil) requested recognition from the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

The AF&AM Grand Lodge (of the country) of Georgia, founded in 2015, has also requested recognition from the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

The Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America has determined that it is appropriate to recognize these grand lodges.

The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin recommends that recognition should be granted to both the Grande Loga do Estado do Espirito Santo of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the AF&AM Grand Lodge (of the country) of Georgia.

The Committee on Foreign Relations moves the adoption of this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Allan E. Iding, P.G.M – Chairman*

*Michael A. DeWolf, P.G.M. – Foreign Correspondent*

*Scott E. Pedley, P.G.M. – Committee Member*

**FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

This report is submitted by the Fraternal Relations Committee Chairman Joseph Thompson, Senior Grand Deacon, for the 2022-2023 Masonic Year.

The annual November Fraternal Relations Dinner was held on November 11, 2022 at the Westmoor Country Club in Brookfield, Wisconsin. The annual Combined Table Lodge was not held during this Masonic Year.

There were no other events planned or scheduled with Prince Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph E. Thompson

Senior Grand Deacon

Fraternal Relations Committee Chairman

**GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

Your membership committee continues to successfully build upon the foundation that encourages the men of Wisconsin to consider Freemasonry in their lives. This year, we are happy to report hundreds of men knocking on our “digital door. We have answered their knock and continue to lead worthy and well qualified men to our lodges.

We wish to extend our deep gratitude to the Lodges and appendant bodies that have donated to the membership development fund. Your dollars are used to help extend our reach to qualified men in your community.

The membership committee follows the steps of the path that we established three years ago. These are:

**Step 1: Increase public awareness of Freemasonry.**

We continue to leverage our [www.wimasons.org](http://www.wimasons.org) website as the authoritative resource for men in Wisconsin to understand and explore Freemasonry. By curating and posting public-friendly articles from the Wisconsin Masonic Journal and relevant news sources, we demonstrate the positive influence we have on the men and communities in our state. These articles are designed for easy sharing via social media. Tasteful advertising and boosted posts draw visitors into the site and encourage an exploration which generates lasting interest in our fraternity. This then leads a subset of men to find the courage to complete our “Initiate Your Journey” web form.

This year, we have published over 100 articles on our website relating to our fraternal events and our positive community impact. These articles are then promoted via Facebook or other means to encourage traffic to our website. Over 70,000 visitors have come to our site in the last year to learn more about us and our behavior. Our team continues to engage the public via social media and respond to their comments. We gently correct misinformation as we aim to “inform, not inflame”.

We keep receiving positive comments about the several semi-trucks traveling the Wisconsin roads with *“Not just a man. A Mason.”* messaging on their sides. Each “moving billboard” truck encourages the public to learn more about us on our website. Costing far less than traditional billboards, and likely to reach a far wider audience, these trucks reinforce our treasured Masonic branding.

It is important to remember that *increasing awareness* does not mean that we are *recruiting* men to join our fraternity. We simply strive to present an accurate representation of Freemasonry as we pull the weeds of misinformation that have grown in our garden. Generating this awareness of the *real Freemasonry* is critical to increasing our membership.

**Step 2: Extend an invitation to “knock on our digital door”.**

Our www.wimasons.org website is designed to encourage self-discovery of Freemasonry. The path is simple: visit the website, learn more, and be invited to “Initiate Your Journey” by filling out our web form. The form asks the man to attest to the requirements needed to become a Mason: be a male of legal age in Wisconsin, state a belief in a Supreme Being, and possess a good moral character. This self-attestation reinforces the qualities we seek in our members and sets the tone for our follow-up. We currently disqualify more than half of the men that knock on this digital door through an initial conversation conducted by the district membership representative.

Our interest form has also proven that most men contacting us have no friend or family connection to Masonry. These are men that we would never have reached via traditional “in real life” encounters. We have shown that *2B1Ask1* only works if men know what “*1*” is, and where they can find “*1*” to *Ask*. We now show prospects what a Mason really is and where to find one to ask.

Now that we have established a solid baseline representing the metrics of interest through completion of over 2500 “initiate your journey” forms, we plan to evolve this “digital door” process by presenting these online prospects with the questions posed by our first in-person discussion. Our intention is to raise the bar for completing the form such that the likelihood of finding a qualified man is higher. In short, our next step is to drive “quality over quantity”. This action should also reduce some of the load placed upon our district membership representatives by presenting them with candidates that have already cleared the common hurdles required to join our fraternity.

**Step 3: Follow up effectively.**

There is no doubt about it: the ultimate success of developing membership relies on the dedicated efforts of the district representatives that follow up with those that have reached out to us. This important role performs

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the initial contact with an interested man and confirms his suitability to our high standards. Throughout the state, our brothers have helped more than 750 men find their way to a local lodge. Hundreds more are currently in discussion with a district resource.

The membership committee hopes that you appreciate the underlying efforts that lead a candidate to your lodge. Please follow up on their interest and keep your membership committee informed of the progress so that we can continue to improve our process. Contact prospective members early, communicate often, and keep your district representative informed of your progress.

You can help us achieve even more success. Please help make this program even more successful:

* When you see a Facebook post that you find “like-worthy”, please also consider hitting SHARE and bring it to the attention of your network of friends. This significantly increases awareness to those not following our social feed or seeing our boosted posts. Consider adding a personal note with your proud endorsement for even more impact.
* Display your Masonic pride by wearing a ring or pin or other Masonic branding. Be prepared with your own version of an “elevator speech” to share why this fraternity is important in your life.
* Help your new brothers find friendships and purpose in their new Lodge. Help them connect with other brothers through thoughtful introductions to other brothers. Give them a small role in an upcoming degree or other lodge activity.

Please remember, brothers, that our actions are always on display and to preserve the reputation of our fraternity unsullied must be our constant care.

*Your Membership Committee,*

*Michael Burnham, Chairman*

*Thomas Stevens*

*Jeff Schoenfeldt*

*Ryan Mayrand*

*Matt Ivens*

*Jacob Schultz*

*Steve Livernash*

**MASONIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To The Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

Freemasonry in Wisconsin is experiencing an influx of new members. These men are expecting fellowship, the opportunity to serve their communities and a guided journey of self-betterment. Masonic Education will help Lodge leaders aid members in that journey. The Masonic Education Committee encourages all Wisconsin Lodges to use the provided education material and make it a regular part of their programming.

During the last year the Committee again partnered with Silas Shephard Lodge of Research #1843 to hold a second *Masonic Education Speakers Contest*. The contest was used to promote education in Lodges and identify Masons with a penchant for educating others. Winners were announced in March at the Lodge’s meeting in Brookfield.

Every issue of the *Wisconsin Masonic Journal* published in the last two years has had something under the Masonic Education banner. Many of the articles were half page pieces that could be read in Lodge and included discussion questions. This exposure in the *WMJ* has continued to be invaluable at keeping education in front of the Masons of our jurisdiction.

Since the announcement at the 2022 Annual Communication of the *Further Light Podcast,* a podcast produced by the Education Committee, forty-five episodes have been recorded. The podcast currently gets downloaded one hundred fifty to two hundred times each episode, reaching about seven thousand so far.

On behalf of the members of the Education Committee, I would like to sincerely thank those Brethren that are using the available material and making education a priority.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason E. Laramee

Chairman, Masonic Education Committee

**MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin:*

In conformity with the duty placed upon the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence by Section 29.03 of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin to report to the Grand Lodge on the proposed resolutions to be brought before the Annual Communication, as well as all decisions, edicts, opinions, and dispensations of the Grand Master and By-Laws changes of the constituent Lodges, the Committee reports as follows.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Twelve Resolutions were received prior to the deadline for submission to this session of Grand Lodge.

**Resolution Number 1-2023**

**Submitted By**: Expenditures Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Majority

**Purpose**: To adopt a budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

**Resolved, that** the attached budget, which has been mailed to all constituent Lodges in accordance with Section 29.05 ( c ), calling for expenditures of $1,557,670 be adopted.

**Resolution Number 2-2023**

**Submitted By**: Expenditures Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Majority

**Purpose**: To provide for a Per Capita Tax

**Resolved**, that the annual per capita tax upon each member of record of a Chartered Lodge on December 31, 2023, be and here is established at the sum of Fifty dollars and no cents ($50.00) for the year 2024.

**Resolution Number 3-2023**

**Submitted By**: Executive Committee

**Section(s) Affected:**

**Vote required for Adoption:** Majority

**Purpose**: Designate the place of holding Annual Communication in June 2025

**RESOLVED**, that the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin for the year 2025 shall be held in the City of Madison, Wisconsin.

**Resolution Number 4-2023**

**Submitted By**:  Executive Committee

**Sections Affected:**Chapter 39.06 Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board

**Vote required for Adoption:**  Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose**:  To amend and update the scope of duties of Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board

**RESOLVED**, Section 39.06 Functions of Board shall be amended to read:

**39.06 Functions of Board.**The Board shall:

1.  Establish Wisconsin Masonic benevolent goals for approval at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

2.  Provide a report of its activities and future plans at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

3.  Elect Directors of the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance, Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, the Wisconsin Masonic Center and any future constituent Masonic benevolence, in accordance with the respective Articles of Incorporation, by-laws or other governing documents of such organizations.

4.  Establish and present for approval by Grand Lodge an annual budget for Board activities.

5.  Review capitalbudgets and master plans of each constituent benevolence and review operating budgets.

6.  Establish and update, as necessary, bylaws*,* policies and procedures for operation of the Board.

7.  Review investment performance of each benevolence, at least annually, and share performance results with all constituent benevolences.

8.  Establish policy guidelines for all benevolent fund development activities.

9.  Coordinate fund raising for all benevolent activities.

10. Oversee activities of each benevolence by performing an annual review of the programs of each benevolence, including compliance with its charter/mission, review of financial statements and consideration of appropriateness of responses or corrective action taken as a result of audit comments, complaints, lawsuits or deficiency citations which may substantially adversely affect the operations of the charity or substantially and publicly reflect adversely on the Fraternity.

11.  Approve land acquisition, building construction, new lease, mortgage, or sale and any ~~other~~ capital unplannedexpenditures in excess of $50,000 by any benevolence.

12. Prevent redundancies of benevolent programs unless regional in character.

13. Approve establishment of any new Wisconsin Masonic benevolent activity.

**Resolution Number 5-2023**

**Submitted By:** Jerry A Reick, PM George Washington Lodge #337

**Section(s) Affected:** 64.06

**Vote Required for Adoption**: Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To modify 64.06 Liquor of the Wi Masonic

As currently stated in The Masonic Code of Wisconsin, September 2021 Revised Edition

**64.06 Liquor**. Every lodge is charged to strictly exclude from its Temple and grounds all intoxicating liquors and fermented malt beverages with the following exceptions:

1. Wine and beer may be allowed at Table Lodges, Festival Communications, Holidays and other special occasions and only upon dispensation from the Grand Master and, provided further, that no degree work is conferred and that a non-alcoholic beverage be provided for those who wish it.
2. Serving of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages shall be allowed when the Temple and grounds have been leased to a tenant for the purpose of holding a non-Masonic activity, provided no alcoholic beverages may be served in the lodge room.

**Proposed:**

**64.06 Liquor**. Every lodge shall, at its discretion, be allowed to serve intoxicating liquors and fermented malt beverages at its temple and grounds under the following conditions:

1. No beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages shall be served in the Lodge room during a stated or special communication, during degree work, District meetings or other tiled events.
2. Serving of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages shall be allowed during tiled table lodges and when the Temple and grounds have been leased to a tenant for the purpose of holding a non-Masonic activity.
3. Non-alcoholic beverages shall be provided for those who wish them.
4. At events where alcoholic beverages are served, Lodges should monitor the consumption of attendees, stop serving attendees that appear intoxicated, consider planning alternate transportation options, and encourage the use of designated drivers.

**Resolution: 6-2023**

**Submitted by:** Brother Ronald W. Pasholk, Brookfield Lodge #370

**Sections Affected:** Chapter 88 & Chapter 29.17 WMC

**Vote Required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To remove the term “Worshipful” throughout the Constitution, Bylaws and Code of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin and to substitute the term “Worthy” throughout.

**Whereas**: There is only one person who is worthy enough to be called “Most Worshipful,” that being Almighty God, and

**Whereas**: Worthy does not directly connote religion or worship, while worshipful does, and

**Whereas**: A Master doesn’t want to be seen as the most religious person in the Lodge, it seems to me. None of our Masonically imagined leaders were the Chief Priests of the Temple, like Caiaphas or Annas, back when Jesus was tried by the Jewish Law Courts. And

**Whereas**: Changing the title to “Worthy Master” in no way demeans the position of a Master of the Lodge, or any Grand Lodge station, and

**Whereas**: If passed, the resolution would work the changes to include all places and stations within all of Grand Lodge: Example: Most Worthy Grand Master.

**Therefore be it Resolved:** The term “Worshipful” throughout the Constitution, Bylaws and Code of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin be removed and to substitute the term “Worthy” throughout.

**Resolution Number 7-2023**

**Submitted by:** Lake Country Freemasons #42

McKinley #307

Henry L Palmer #301

Wauwatosa #267

Waverly #51

George Washington 1776 #337

Jefferson County #9

Dousman #315

Glenn L Humphrey #364

Wautoma #148

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To allow a Lodge to open a Stated Communication in any Degree for the transaction of business at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

**Whereas:** At the Baltimore Masonic Convention in 1843, the delegates of the sixteen Grand Jurisdictions created a significant change in the body of United States Freemasonry by adopting the practice of conducting its business meetings only in the Master Mason degree. This was done in fear of and in reaction to the fallout from the Morgan Affair. This, in turn, limited the valuable input from Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts into lodge business.

**Whereas:** All Masons meet on the level and share equally, it is against Masonic teachings to initiate or pass a Mason and then show him that this equality stops when interacting in the business of the lodge.

**Whereas:** Wisconsin Masons during the 2020 COVID pandemic when restrictions were relaxed and Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who were able to observe and participate in discussions related to the business of the Lodge, not just special programs, became enthusiastic Brothers.

**Whereas:** It is essential to ensure Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts become Master Masons. Therefore, encouraging and being permitted to observe and participate in the discussions related to the business of the Lodge will help to assure they are involved in the Lodge and do not develop the feeling of being lost and forgotten along their journey.

**Whereas:** The Twenty-second Landmark of Mackey’s Twenty-five Ancient Landmarks assures the equality of all Masons. Therefore, all Masons, regardless of degree should be treated with the equality specified by this Landmark by allowing their input to be heard and considered when transacting Lodge business.

**Resolved:** That section 65.04 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**65.04 A Stated Communication ~~is on Master Mason Degree~~.** A~~t~~ a stated communication of a lodge, at the discretion of the Master, may be opened in any degree for the transaction of business. All the business of the Lodge may be transacted on that degree provided that only the members of the Lodge, as defined in Chapter 55.01 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code, may cast a vote or ballot. ~~must open and close on the Master Mason degree, on which degree all of the business of the lodge shall be transacted;~~ The Master, at his discretion, ~~it~~ may call down to a lower degree for examination or degree work, or, also at his discretion, ~~.~~ ~~“The Master, at his discretion, may~~ close the Lodge ~~of M.M.~~ and open a Lodge of a lower degree for the purpose of examination ~~and/~~or degree work. The Lodge shall then be closed in due form pursuant to the last degree.~~”~~

**Resolution Number 8-2023**

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Sections Affected**: 80.01 & Chapter 94 WMC

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** Modifications of the Perpetual Membership Plan (PMP)

**Whereas:** The Perpetual Membership Plan (PMP) was established over two decades ago as a means for Master Masons in the State of Wisconsin to purchase “lifetime memberships” to the Fraternity as an alternative to having to pay recurring membership dues each calendar year; and

**Whereas**, a Brother’s purchasing of membership through the Plan would also ensure an annual gift to their primary Individual Lodge (Lodge) in perpetuity, as the Plan would continue to pay yearly disbursements to their Lodge after their passing until the end of time; and

**Whereas**, membership dues into the PMP were calculated based on a forecasted projection of the U.S. Stock Market (Market), as the funds collected for the Plan were deposited into an account and the interest and/or gains on the account were to be drawn yearly and used to make the annual disbursements to the Individual Lodges; and

**Whereas**, over the years, the Market has fluctuated in ways not part of the original calculation, including but not limited to: the major losses incurred in the Market following the attacks of September 2001, the housing market crash and recession of 2008-11, and the effects of a global economic downturn caused by the COVID pandemic in 2020-21; and

**Whereas**, as a result, the PMP is now woefully underfunded and currently only contains enough to continue annual Plan disbursements for approximately eleven more years — after which, the account will be depleted of funds and monies paid to Individual Lodges from the Plan will have to be drawn from the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin’s main budget potentially in the form of an increased per capita or assessments; and

**Whereas**, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has, through edicts declared by several Grand Masters, paused further enrollment into the PMP in an effort to recalculate the formula to find a way to make the program both open to new enrollees and financially solvent for its intended long-term purpose — however, despite best attempts, accountants have come to the conclusion that the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin simply can no longer further adequately and responsibly facilitate the PMP.

**Resolved:** That section 80.01 and Chapter 94 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**80.01 Dues - How Fixed**. Each lodge shall fix in its by-laws and collect such annual dues from each of its members as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties, responsibilities and obligations; provided that the minimum annual dues shall be Ten Dollars, which dues shall be net to the lodge after payment of the per capita tax of Grand Lodge and all assessments.

Dues are payable in advance, on or before the first day of January in each year.

No life memberships nor paid-up memberships shall be granted hereafter~~, except as provided for perpetual membership under Chapter 94~~. Each lodge has the option to continue or terminate the life memberships or paid-up memberships in existence when this Code becomes effective~~, other than those for perpetual membership under Chapter 94,~~ provided that any such continuance shall not relieve such life member from the payment of the Grand Lodge per capita tax and all assessments of either his own or the Grand Lodge unless his dues shall be remitted, in whole or in part, by action of his lodge, for the reason that the payment thereof would be an undue hardship for the member. Each lodge shall pay the Grand Lodge per capita tax and Grand Lodge special assessments for each member in good standing not holding a Certificate of Resignation.

A lodge, at its discretion, may also remit the annual dues of the lodge and the annual per capita tax and all special assessments of the Grand Lodge, of members who have been raised to the degree of Master Mason prior to June 12,1979, provided that they were entitled to a 50-Year Certificate prior to June 12, 1979.

**Chapter 94 Perpetual Membership**

***(New Participants Applications Suspended By Edict August 10, 2021)***

**94.01 Name of Plan**. The name of this Plan shall be: “Perpetual Membership Plan” of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin.

**~~94.02 Lodge May Adopt Plan~~**~~. A lodge may adopt the Plan upon two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at a stated communication, but it shall not become effective until it shall have been approved by the Grand Master.~~

**~~94.03 Qualified Master Mason May Participate~~**~~. Any Master Mason in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year in a lodge which has effectively adopted the Plan may become a participant in the Plan. Such person is, hereinafter, sometimes referred to as a “qualified Master Mason.”~~

**94.04 Administration of Plan**. The Plan shall be administered by the Grand Trustees, in accordance with the provisions of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin, as a separate fund.

**~~94.05 Method of Lodge Adoption of Plan~~**~~. A resolution to adopt the Plan shall be presented at a stated communication of the lodge prior to the stated communication at which the vote thereon is taken. Written notice shall be given to all members of the lodge at least 10 days prior to the stated communication at which the vote to adopt the resolution is taken. The notice shall inform all members that a resolution to adopt the Perpetual Membership Plan of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin has been presented, and the notice shall state the date, time and place when such resolution will be considered and a vote taken thereon.~~

**~~94.06 Determination of Purchase Price~~**~~. At the same time of the adoption of the Plan, the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership may be determined by the lodge. Provided, however, prior to June 8, 2019, the purchase price established or subsequently revised shall not be less than the amount determined by multiplying the sum of the existing lodge dues and existing Grand Lodge per capita tax by a factor set forth in the following table:~~

~~Member’s Attainment of Age Factor~~

~~18-33 20~~

~~34-41 19~~

~~42-48 18~~

~~49-54 17~~

~~55-60 16~~

~~61 and older 15~~

~~Provided further, beginning June 8, 2019, the purchase price established or subsequently revised shall not be less than the amount determined by multiplying the sum of the existing lodge dues and existing Grand Lodge per capita tax by a factor of 31, irrespective of the age of the member.~~

**~~94.07 Definition of Terms.~~** ~~The words “existing lodge dues” shall mean the amount of the dues for the current year, unless the lodge has adopted a resolution or amended its by-laws to provide for an increase in dues for the next year in which event “existing lodge dues” shall mean the amount of such increased dues. The words “existing Grand Lodge per capita tax” shall mean the amount of the per capita tax for the current year, unless the Grand Lodge has adopted a resolution to provide for an increase in per capita tax for the next year in which event “existing Grand Lodge per capita tax” shall mean the amount of such increased per capita tax.~~

**~~94.08 Single Sum or Deferred Payment of Purchase Price~~**~~. The purchase price of a Perpetual Membership maybe paid in a single sum at the time of application or in deferred payments over a five-year period. If the applicant decides to pay over a five-year period, the purchase price is divided by a factor of 4.61, with the amount so determined being the amount of the initial required payment at the time of application and a similar amount being payable in five additional equal annual installments (for a total of six payments), such installments being due on the annual anniversary date of the application.~~

**94.09 Revision of Purchase Price or Discontinuance of Plan by Lodge**. A lodge which has adopted the Plan may ~~revise the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership, or it may~~ discontinue its adoption of the Plan. Provided, however, the Plan ~~purchase price~~ may not be ~~revised or the Plan~~ discontinued for an existing participant in the Plan~~; and any such revision or discontinuance shall be effective only with respect to potential future participants. Provided further, however, any such revision of purchase price or discontinuance of adoption of the Plan by a lodge shall only be effective after presentation of a resolution at a stated communication of the lodge, 10 days written notice thereof to its members, adoption at a subsequent stated communication by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present, and approval by the Grand Master.~~

**94.10 Revision or Discontinuance of Plan by Grand Lodge**. The Grand Lodge may revise the minimum purchase price or other provisions of a Perpetual Membership, or it may discontinue the Plan. Provided, however, the purchase price or other provisions may not be revised or the Plan discontinued for an existing participant in the Plan; and any such revision or discontinuance shall be effective only with respect to potential future participants. Provided further, however, any such revision of purchase price or discontinuance of adoption of the Plan by the Grand Lodge shall only be effective after filing of a resolution with the Grand Secretary 60 days prior to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, 45 days written notice thereof by the Grand Secretary to each Lodge Secretary, and adoption at the annual communication by three-fourths (two thirds, if laid over) affirmative vote of those present.

**94.11 Lodge Secretary to Inform Grand Secretary**. Upon passage of any resolution by a lodge ~~adopting the Plan, establishing or revising the purchase price, or~~ discontinuing the adoption of the Plan, the lodge Secretary shall promptly inform the Grand Secretary in writing of such action. The Grand Secretary shall thereupon promptly inform the Grand Master of such action.

**~~94.12 Application by or for Qualified Master Mason~~**~~. A qualified Master Mason may purchase a Perpetual Membership by submitting the following to the Lodge Secretary:~~

~~1) Completed application, in duplicate, on a form prescribed by the Grand Trustees;~~

~~2) Required payment of either the full purchase price or the initial required payment if the election is made to pay in installments. (All checks should be made payable to “Perpetual Membership Fund.”)~~

~~3) If authorized by the Grand Master, a lodge may purchase a Perpetual Membership for a qualified Master Mason. Any person or persons (other than a lodge) may purchase a Perpetual Membership for a qualified Master Mason by submitting the above to the lodge Secretary. Upon receipt of an application for Perpetual Membership together with the required fee, the lodge Secretary shall promptly transmit one copy of the application form and the required payment to the Grand Secretary.~~

**~~94.13 Effective Date of Perpetual Membership~~**~~. Upon receipt by the Grand Secretary of the copy of the application form and the required payment, the qualified Master Mason shall become a Participant in the Plan.~~

**~~94.14 Certificate of Perpetual Membership and Membership Card~~**~~. Upon receipt of the full purchase price by the Grand Secretary, he shall issue a Certificate of Perpetual Membership to the participant. Such Certificate shall be signed by the Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary under the seal of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall forward such certificate to the lodge Secretary for appropriate presentation. Together with the Certificate of Perpetual Membership, the Grand Secretary shall send a Perpetual Membership card encased in plastic, to the lodge Secretary for delivery to the perpetual member.~~

**~~94.15 Delivery of Payments by Grand Secretary~~**~~. Any payments into the Plan received by the Grand Secretary shall be promptly delivered to the Grand Trustees.~~

**94.16 Payments by Grand Trustees**. On or before March 1 of each year after the year in which the participant became a member of the Plan, the Grand Trustees shall pay from the Plan fund the following:

1) To the Grand Lodge general fund: the amount of the existing per capita tax (the amount at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07); unless there is an accumulated deficit in the Plan fund after such payment less the amount for deceased participants if the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

2) To the participant’s lodge; the amount of the existing lodge dues (the amount at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07) less the amount for deceased participants if the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

Payment (or non-payment as provided above) to the Grand Lodge general fund of the amount of the per capita tax as above set forth shall relieve the participant and his lodge of the liability for the per capita tax payment which would otherwise be required for such participant. Payment to the participant’s lodge of the amount of dues as above set forth shall relieve the participant of the liability for the dues payment which would otherwise be required for such participant.

**94.17 Per Capita Tax or Dues Increases or Decreases; Special Assessments.** Future increases or decreases in the Grand Lodge per capita tax or participant’s Lodge dues shall have no effect upon the payments made or to be made by a participant or the Grand Trustees, unless any deferred payments of the purchase price are not made as required. A participant shall not be relieved of any liability for special assessments.

**94.18 Default in Deferred Payments**. If the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership is being paid on a deferred basis, and if any installment payment is not made when due (whether attributable to death or for any other reason), the Grand Trustees shall pay to the Grand Lodge general fund and the participant’s lodge reduced amounts reflecting the proportion of the number of payments timely made to the total number of required payments. If the participant is living: he shall pay to his lodge any difference between the amount so paid by the Grand Trustees and the amount of the then per capita tax and the then dues, and the lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge any difference between the then per capita tax and the amount paid by the Grand Trustees to the Grand Lodge general fund. In default of such additional payments by the participant to his lodge, he may be suspended for non-payment of dues in accordance with the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. If deferred payments are interrupted, they may be recommenced in the future only with the consent of the participant’s lodge and the Grand Trustees. Such consent shall only be given by the participant’s lodge and the Grand Trustees after fair and equitable consideration of the participant’s age and the dues and per capita tax at the time that deferred payments are sought to be recommenced.

**94.19 Death of a Participant**. Upon the death of a participant the Grand Trustees shall continue to make the payments set forth in this Chapter to the Grand Lodge general fund and the participant’s lodge unless the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

**94.20 Refunds; Disciplinary Action.** No refund shall be made from the Plan to any participant, any other person or any Lodge for any reason. No participant shall be exempt from disciplinary action as provided in the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. In the event of the suspension or expulsion of a participant, the Grand Trustees shall continue to pay the Grand Lodge general fund and to the participant’s former lodge any amounts which would have been paid had the participant not been suspended or expelled.

**94.21 Dues Card**. On or before January 1 of each year, the Secretary of a participant’s lodge shall issue a regular dues card without any special designation to a participant in good standing.

**~~94.22 Plural Membership in Another Wisconsin Lodge~~**~~. A qualified Master Mason who currently holds may purchase a Perpetual Membership in any Wisconsin Lodge in which he holds membership if such lodge has adopted the Plan, or he may purchase a Perpetual Membership in one lodge and be a dues paying member in another lodge. Provided, however, the first Perpetual Membership must be in his Primary Lodge. The purchase price for a Perpetual Membership in a plural lodge shall not include any amount attributable to the Grand Lodge per capita tax, and the Grand Trustees shall not pay to the Grand Lodge general fund any per capita tax amount attributable to the participant’s membership in such plural lodge. All other provisions of the Masonic Code shall apply with respect to plural membership.~~

**94.23 Transfer of Perpetual Membership from One Lodge to Another Lodge.**

A Perpetual Membership in one Wisconsin lodge may be transferred to a Perpetual Membership in another Wisconsin lodge only if both lodges consent to such transfer. A Primary Perpetual Membership may not be transferred to a Plural lodge unless the members Primary Affiliation is also transferred. Upon written notification from both consenting lodges to the Grand Secretary, he shall so notify the Grand Trustees, and any future payments to the participant’s lodge shall be made by them to the transferee lodge. In the event that two or more lodges consolidate, the Perpetual Membership of the participant shall be transferred to the consolidated lodge.

**94.24 Surrender of Charter**. In the event of the surrender of the charter of a living participant’s lodge, any amounts which would have been payable by the Grand Trustees to the living participant’s lodge shall be paid to the Grand Lodge general fund until the living participant affiliates with another Wisconsin lodge, after which date all future payments by the Grand Trustees to the living participant’s lodge shall be made to the lodge with which the living participant has affiliated. All payments for deceased participants shall cease as the Lodge that holds the Perpetual Membership Plan contract has now ceased via surrender of the Lodge’s charter.

**94.25 Membership in a Non-Wisconsin Lodge**. If a participant holds or acquires a membership in a non-Wisconsin Lodge, no payments shall be made by the Grand Trustees from the fund to such non-Wisconsin lodge. If the participant resigns from his Wisconsin lodge or transfers his membership to a lodge in another jurisdiction, the Grand Trustees shall continue payments to the Grand Lodge general fund and the Wisconsin Lodge, as herein provided.

**~~94.26 Perpetual Memorial Membership~~**~~. A Perpetual Memorial Membership may be purchased for a deceased Master Mason by any person or persons (other than a lodge). The purchase price shall be the amount then in effect for the oldest classification of members of the participant’s lodge, excluding any amount attributable to the Grand Lodge per capita tax. Payments by the Grand Trustees shall be made to the deceased participant’s lodge as provided herein, excluding any payments to the Grand Lodge general fund for per capita tax.~~

**94.27 Grand Trustees to Account**. The Grand Trustees shall hold, administer and distribute assets of the Plan as one Perpetual Membership fund. They shall, however, maintain adequate records of the payments for each participant in the Plan. The Trustees shall pay the reasonable costs of the administration of the fund from the income thereof, and the Trustees shall observe standard accounting practices in the maintenance of the records of the Plan. At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Trustees shall submit a written report of their administration of the Plan. At the annual communication, the Grand Trustees shall also make any recommendations to the Grand Lodge as the Grand Trustees may consider necessary and proper for the continued proper administration of the Plan.

**~~94.28 Distribution of Excess Revenue~~**~~. In the event that the Grand Trustees determine that the Plan has produced income in excess of amounts reasonably necessary to meet its projected obligations, the Trustees shall recommend to the Grand Lodge that amounts be distributed from the fund to lodges who have adopted the Plan and have participants therein. Such distributions to lodges shall be based on the proportionate amount paid into the Plan attributable to participants who are living or deceased members of the lodge, but any such distributions shall only be made upon approval of the Grand Lodge at its annual communication, except that a distribution must be made from excess revenue as determined by the Grand Trustees at least every five years.~~

**94.29 Rules and Regulations; Grand Secretary.** The Grand Trustees, with the approval of the Grand Master, may prescribe such rules and regulations as shall be necessary or desirable for administration of the Plan; provided that no such rule or regulation shall be contrary to any express provision of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. The Grand Secretary shall have such authority and perform such duties with respect to the administration of the Plan as are provided in this Chapter and as may be delegated to him by the Grand Trustees, with the approval of the Grand Master.

**94.30 Granting Lodges the ability to sell their Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased PMP Fund participants through December 31, 2023**. The individual constituted Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin are allowed individually to enter into a contract buyout agreement with the PMP Fund for all their deceased Perpetual Membership Plan participants through December 31, 2023. The remaining funds within the PMP Fund will allow for buyouts of the annual income contracts for all deceased PMP members of that Lodge at the following factored value: The amount of the Lodge dues at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07 multiplied by NINE (9). This translates to a guaranteed, one-time payment to the Lodge for their deceased PMP participants in exchange for annual payments. For example, if a Lodge is currently receiving a $1,000 annual payment total in name of the deceased PMP participants of their Lodge, the one-time contract buyout paid by the PMP Fund will be nine times that amount or $9,000. This agreement must be completed with each individual Lodge, cover all deceased PMP participants of that Lodge, and be in place prior to the end of calendar year 2023 for monies to be paid out to Lodges by March 1, 2024. As a result of the individual Lodge choosing a one-time payment, all annual PMP payments related to these deceased members to their individual Lodges cease immediately. This buyout opportunity terminates at the end of calendar year 2023; as such, this section of Code shall sunset and be stricken two weeks following its deadline.

*FYI, this resolution has absolutely no impact on living participants in the PMP.*

**Resolution Number:** 9-2023

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Sections Affected**: 8.01 & Chapter 43 WMC

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** Elimination of “Areas” Within a District

**Whereas:** The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin (Grand Lodge) currently divides the State of Wisconsin into twelve (12) Districts led by District Deputies who are charged with serving as a liaison between the Grand Lodge and the Individual Lodges within their delineated Districts; and

**Whereas**, within these twelve Districts there are currently two, three, or four District Representatives (*formerly known as Area Administrator*), who serve as a further level of membership services the Grand Lodge provides to the Individual Lodges and are customarily appointed by their respective District Deputies to cover a predetermined number of Individual Lodges in an area or region of the District (known as an “Area”) in a manner that aids and assists the District Deputy and his duties; and

**Whereas**, while the important work District Representatives are tasked with remains, the delineated areas they represent, and the topics and responsibilities as defined in Wisconsin Masonic Code have become outdated and in need of revision; and

**Whereas,** currently the District Deputy leads his District Team but is hamstrung in how he assigns responsibilities and roles to the members of his Team due to both the traditional and codified definitions of what each member of his Team can do.

**Now, let it therefore be resolved that**:

1. In order to give more flexibility to the twelve District Deputies in the state, all references to the duties, responsibilities, and areas of a District Representative (or Area Administrator) shall be stricken from Code.
2. All references to and definitions of the term “Area” or the Lodge delineations of an Area within a District shall also be removed.
3. Henceforth, every District will be comprised of one (1) District Deputy, one (1) District Lecturer, and no more than three (3) District Representatives.
4. The District Deputy has the responsibility and flexibility of assigning the roles of District Representatives to help him and the Individual Lodges within his District, including but not limited to a focus on communications, fundraising, community involvement, or membership development -- and managing his Team to maximize the positive effect he and the Grand Lodge will have within his District.

These sections of the Wisconsin Masonic Code will be amended as follows:

**8.01 Votes of Members.** In all elections and on all questions before the Grand Lodge each chartered lodge shall be entitled to three votes and each Grand Officer, Grand Trustee, District Lecturer, District Chaplain, ~~Area Administrator,~~ District Representative and certain of its members, designated in Sec. 8.07 as Permanent Members, to one vote.

**Chapter 43** ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative System

**~~43.01 Areas.~~** ~~The jurisdiction shall be divided into Masonic areas, the boundaries~~

~~of which shall be determined by the Grand Master.~~

**43.02 Selection and Eligibility.**

a) The District Deputy and the other Grand Lodge Officers residing in each Masonic District of Wisconsin, may meet as early as possible in the month of January each year to select ~~one nominee and one or more alternates to be submitted forthwith to the Grand Master for final selection of one Area Administrator for each Masonic Area in the State of Wisconsin.~~ up to three District Representatives for their respective District.

b) To be eligible to serve as an ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative, a nominee must be a Past Master who has been duly installed into that office and a paid-up member in good standing of a lodge in the area for which he is nominated. He should be well skilled in the customs and usages of the Craft and have proved his administrative ability through service to his lodge.

c) No appointee shall hold the office of ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative for more than three successive terms, unless a successor to the office of ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative has not been appointed, the Grand Master may, at his option, reappoint the ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative whose third term of office has expired, to serve until such time as a successor may be appointed. An appointee who has served three successive terms may again be appointed after a lapse of one year. The tenure of office for ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representatives shall be concurrent with that of Grand Lodge Officers.

**43.03 Appointment and Jurisdiction.**

a) The Grand Master shall appoint at each Annual Communication, or as soon thereafter as possible, ~~an Area Administrator~~ District Representative/s for each ~~area~~ District based on a list of nominees and alternates. Each such ~~Administrator~~ Representative shall receive a warrant for his appointment signed by the Grand Master and attested to by the Grand Secretary under the seal of this Grand Lodge.

b) His title shall be that of ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative.

c) All appointees shall be duly and properly installed at the direction of the Grand Master during the Annual Communication at which they are appointed, or at some other time or place by order of the Grand Master.

d) All ~~Area Administrators~~ District Representatives shall serve without compensation.

**43.04 Removal, Vacancy and Appointment.**

a) The Grand Master without specification of charges or reasons may remove any ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative from office.

b) Any vacancy occurring by such action or by death, resignation or any other cause shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the unexpired term of office

**43.05 Duties.**

~~a) To visit every lodge in his area at a stated communication at least once each year and at such other times as requested by the Grand Master; also to organize and attend at least one area conference each year.~~

b) To promote an atmosphere of friendly cooperation between the local lodges and the Grand Lodge.

c) To be alert to problems in the lodges of his ~~area~~ District and to make himself available as a friend and advisor to assist local lodges and their officers in finding satisfactory solutions to problems, particularly of program or administration.

d) To conduct investigations, promote Grand Lodge activities, or perform other special assignments requested by the Grand Master. He shall assist his lodges to become informed on the business and resolutions that will be discussed at area conferences and the Annual Communication to the end that they will be better prepared to act on Grand Lodge business.

e) To report on the state and activities of the Craft in the local lodges he serves when requested by the Grand Master.

f) To coordinate his activities with the District Deputy for his district.

**43.06 Special Duties.** The Grand Master shall provide each ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative with an outline of any additional duties in order to assure uniformity in their procedures and conformity to the program of the Grand Lodge.

**43.07 Apron-Directory.**

a) An appropriate apron of reasonable cost shall be presented to each ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative by the Grand Lodge for use during his term of office. It is to be worn while making official lodge visitations ~~in his area~~. It may also be worn while attending Grand Lodge functions or on other appropriate occasions.

b) A directory of the ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representatives shall be included in the annual “Transactions of the Grand Lodge.”

**43.08 Reimbursement.** ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representatives shall receive the reimbursement for mileage expense and per diem for attendance at Grand Lodge at the same rate as set forth for Grand Lodge Officers, shall receive reimbursement for out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of their duties. Such reimbursement shall be made upon submission of the proper vouchers.

**46.04 Duties**. It shall be the duty of the District Deputy to coordinate the activities of the ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representatives in his district and to perform such other services and duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. The District Deputy shall endeavor to meet with each lodge at a stated communication in his district during the course of the year. He shall make an annual report to the Grand Master respecting the general conditions of Masonry in his district by the first of February each year.

**Resolution Number:** 10-2023

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To provide for timely initiation and advancement of candidates.

**Resolved:** That Sections 65.05 and 65.13 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**65.05 Subjects Acted On.** The following subjects shall be acted upon only at a stated communication subsequent to the one at which they are presented:

~~1)  Petition for affiliation~~.

2)  Change of place of meeting of a lodge.

3)  Petition for a new lodge.

4)  Resolution to surrender the charter of a lodge.

~~5)  Request for initiation or advancement of a candidate in default.~~

6)  Application of a candidate who has been refused advancement.

7)  Petition to restore a suspended Mason.

8)  Request for a dispensation to act upon the petition of a rejected petitioner

before the expiration of one year after rejection.

9) Request to another lodge to do its work.

10)Preferment of charges against a member of the lodge.

In all the foregoing matters except affiliation, the Master or the lodge shall designate the communication at which action is to be had. Postponement may be had to a designated communication.

**65.13 What Business Cannot be Transacted.** A lodge cannot transact the following business at a special communication:

1. Elect officers, except as authorized by 22.03 Ninth (d) and 58.02.

~~2. Receive petitions for the degrees or take action thereon.  
3. Receive petitions for affiliation or take action thereon.~~4. Amend the by-laws of the lodge.

**Resolution Number:** 11-2023

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To provide for timely initiation and advancement between degrees

**Resolved:** That section 73.02 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**Current: 73.02 Time Between Degrees.** At least thirteen days shall elapse between the time a lodge shall receive a petition for degrees and balloting thereon; at least six days between election and initiation. Advancement may occur upon proving proficiency in the preceding degree.

**RESOLVED:** That Section 73.02 be rescinded.

**Resolution Number:** 12-2023

**Submitted by:** Tom Stevens, SGW

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To allow the Grand Master to immediately suspend a member upon being charged with a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor.

**Whereas:** The Grand Master’s authority currently does not allow a mechanism for discipline against a Mason until after conviction or completed appeal.

**Whereas:** Masons are expected to adhere to a code of conduct.

**Whereas:** The lack of Grand Master’s authority to promptly discipline a member creates significant risk of negative exposure for the organization.

**Resolved:** That section 101.03 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows:

**101.03 Discipline by Grand Master.**

a) Prior to the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge, if a Mason has been convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor, or has pled guilty or no contest thereto, in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Grand Master may discipline him to such extent as is provided for in the Trial Code and the Grand Master feels appropriate, without the preferring of charges and Masonic trial.  
  
b) Effective upon the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge, if a Mason is convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor, or shall plead guilty or no contest thereto, in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Grand Master shall expel him without the preferring of charges and Masonic trial.

c) The Grand Master may immediately suspend a Mason charged with a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor.  
  
~~c)~~ d) If a Mason has been convicted of a felony prior to becoming a Mason the Grand Master may discipline him to such extent as provided for in the trial code and to the extent the Grand Master feels appropriate, without the preferring of charges and a Masonic trial.  
  
~~d)~~ e) Notwithstanding (a) ~~and~~ (b), and (c) above, no action shall be taken by the Grand Master while proceedings for reversal of the judgment of said court shall be pending and undecided.

~~e)~~ f) A copy of the information, judgment and any other court records as may be available shall be sufficient evidence to justify such discipline or expulsion. Other evidence, as determined by the Grand Master, will be sufficient evidence to justify such discipline or expulsion. Other evidence, as determined by the Grand Master, will be sufficient if such information, judgment or other court records are not available.  
  
~~f)~~ g) A Mason disciplined under (a),~~or~~ (b), or (c) above shall have a right of review as provided in Chapter 108.

**CHANGES IN BY-LAWS OF CONSTITUENT LODGES**

Ten (10) Lodges requested By-Laws Changes (changes in dues, meeting dates/places/ times). The Committee reviewed them in detail for legality and conformity with the Code.

**DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR THE GRAND MASTER**

DURING THE TERM OF HIS OFFICE, GRAND MASTER PAUL T. TOURVILLE ISSUED NINETY-EIGHT (98) DISPENSATIONS FROM JUNE 3RD 2022 – MAY 1ST 2023. THEY ARE LISTED AS FOLLOWS:

1. PERMISSION TO SERVE WINE OR BEER AT A TABLE LODGE OR EVENT 59
2. PERMISSION TO BATCH DEGREES TOGETHER WITH MULTIPLE CANDIDATES 10
3. PERMISSION TO TEMPORARLY CHANGE STATED COMMUNICATION DATE 4

4. PERMISSION TO HOLD A SPECIAL COMMUNICATION 5

5. PERMISSION TO HOLD AN OUTSIDE DEGREE MEETING. 2

6. PERMISSION TO HOLD A DEGREE WITH ANOTHER AREA LODGE 3

7. PERMISSION TO TEMPORARILY CHANGE MEETING LOCATION 5

8. PERMISSION TO APPROVE TENANT TO POST FIREARMS FORBIDDEN 1

DUE TO BEING A BANK

9. PERMISSION TO HOLD A MASONIC DAY OF LIGHT CLASS AT THE SHRINE 1

10. PERMISSION TO WAIVE DAYS REQUIRED BETWEEN DEGREES 5

11. PERMISSION TO CHANGE MEETING DATE TO DUE FALLING ON HOLIDAY 1

12. PERMISSION TO MEMBER TO BECOME PLURAL TO FILL VACANCY 1

13. PERMISSION TO CHANGE SCHEDULED MEETING TIME TEMPORARILY AS

A TEST 1

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL 98

**EDICTS**

The Grand Master issued four (4) edicts this year, all of which are available on the Grand Lodge website at: <https://wimasons.org/resource-library/> under section Edicts 2022.

**EXPULSIONS**

The Grand Master issued an Order of Expulsion against Jerome A. Slack pursuant to section 109.04 (a).

**OTHER MATTERS**

The Jurisprudence Committee has also given advice to the Grand Master during the year and may submit supplementary post-proceedings reports if deemed appropriate as a consequence of events that transpire during these proceedings.

Robert W. Roth, Chairman

Jurisprudence Committee

**NECROLOGY REPORT**

*Most Worshipful Grand Master, Honored Guests, Brothers all:*

I think many of us can remember back when we took that first walk into our Lodges and noticed there were a certain amount of older men in attendance.

These wise older men, in fact, taught us how to be Masons. They shared with us history. They shared stories about being good Brothers, good husbands, good fathers, and good men of faith. We experienced that the best way to learn about Masonry was to listen first and speak later. From these men we absorbed life lessons as they presented the concept of family. We were encouraged to attend and participate in our religious organizations. This wisdom has evolved through the years of Masonic life emphasizing the eternal tenants that forge our fraternal development. The core virtue that binds us is that of being men of faith.

As we became comfortable with the company of these great preceptors, eventually the sands of time fall for every man. The appearance of these men becomes more and more scarce. We would visit and offer assistance, but because our bodies were never meant to last, we find we must all end our earthly labors. We learn the lessons of the Clay, or our Mother Earth. Because of our faith in our Creator we learn our journey has not ended, but it has just begun. Just as our souls never end, so is the enlightenment found in the hidden mysteries of our organization.

It seems as the years move on we begin to look around the Lodge and see the new candidate looking at the old men, and it is us. Life is uncertain, and only the Creator is aware of our life's duration. Honor our forefathers by being examples

and teachers to our newest members. By doing this you perpetuate the legacy of this Fraternity and all it stands for. By doing this you also share your Creator's greatest gift; the gift of love.

We honor these men today by recalling their names, and remembering all they taught us. They live in our hearts, and their words and deeds carry on in our actions. So, we remember all who have passed this year, and those who have served this Fraternity like PGM Herman Albert Friess.

I now ask that each of you rise, as you are able, to honor our departed Brothers. Let us remember our Brothers by replicating the actions we were all taught at his service, followed by a moment of silence and remembrance, and then a prayer.

We commend their spirits unto God who gave it. And we will cherish their memories in our hearts.

\*Moment of silence\*

\*Prayer\*

Supreme Architect in the Universe:

We ask that you bless the souls of the departed. These good men and Brothers have journeyed well in the world, and now start a new journey with you. May their words and actions be an example to each one of us on our earthly journey. May your promise of eternal life give faith to all that face the prospect of mortality, and comfort those who still mourn. Your Holy writings teach, guide, and lead us in all we do. When we end our labors here on earth, may we have the doors to the Lodge Eternal be open unto us.

Amen

Curt Angelo Campagna

Grand Chaplain

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

Per Section 29.09 of the Masonic Code the Nominating Committee of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has the duty of recommending to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication suitable and eligible candidates for election as Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and to the

board of Grand Trustees, The Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board, and The Wisconsin Masonic Journal Board.

The 2022-2023 Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Nominating Committee is recommending the following Brothers for Election:

Grand Treasurer – M.W. Paul Tourville

Grand Secretary – M.W. Michael DeWolf

Trustees – Jeffrey Bryden

Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board

W. Don Iliff

W. Christian Hirthe

Further, the 2022-2023 Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Nominating Committee presented the following nominees of Boards of Constituent Charities to the Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board (WMBAB) and WMBAB, subsequently, has elected the following Brothers:

Wisconsin Masonic Home Inc. dba III Pillars Senior Living Communities

* W. Jim McLeer serving 3rd 3-year term
* W. Ron Montgomery- serving 1st 3-year term
* W. Tom Kapke- serving 3rd 3-year term

Wisconsin Masonic Board of Service and Assistance

* M.W. Gary S. Stang
* W. Ray Milke
* W. James Campbell

 Wisconsin Masonic Foundation

* Paul Wharton-serving 3rd 3-year term

Wisconsin Masonic Center

* Leland Burlson serving 1st 3-year term

Submitted by:

* RW David Ritchie, DGM Chair
* RW Thomas Stevens, SGW
* WB Jeffrey Schoenfeldt, JGW
* WB Joe Thompson, SGD
* WB Earl Gunderson JGD

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin, Paul T. Tourville, and to the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin.*

Twelve (12) resolutions were received by the Grand Lodge office prior to the submission deadline and forwarded to the Resolutions Committee as required by the Wisconsin Masonic Code (WMC).

The Code requires submissions of Resolutions 1, 2, and 3 to adopt a budget, provide a per capita tax and designate the place of holding Annual Communication. For general voting requirements, please refer to APPENDIX, Part 2, and the Table of Votes.

**Resolution 1-2023** requires that a budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024, in the amount of $1,557,670, be adopted and submitted by the Expenditures Committee.

**Resolution 2-2023** requests that the annual per capita tax per member of record be $50.00 for the fiscal year 2023-2024, submitted by the Expenditures Committee.

**Resolution 3-2023** provides for the Annual Communication in June of 2025 be held n the city of Madison, Wisconsin, and is submitted by the Executive Committee.

**Resolution 4-2023** provides for amending and updating the scope of duties of the Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board and is submitted by the Executive Committee.

**Resolution 5-2023** provides for the modification of Section 64.06 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code to allow a lodge at its discretion to serve intoxicating liquors and fermented malt beverages at its temple and grounds under specific conditions and submitted by Jerry A. Reick, PM of George Washington Lodge #337.

**Resolution 6-2023** provides for the removal of the word “Worshipful” throughout the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Code of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons in Wisconsin and to substitute the term ‘Worthy” throughout and submitted by Ronald W. Pasholk, Brookfield Lodge #370.

**Resolution 7-2023** provides for a Lodge to open a Stated Communication in any Degree for the transaction of business at the discretion of the Worshipful Master and submitted by Lake Country Freemasons #42, McKinley #307, Henry L. Palmer #301, Wauwatosa #267, Waverly #51, George Washington 1776 #337, Jefferson County #9, Dousman #315, Glenn L. Humphrey #364, and Wautoma #148.

**Resolution 8-2023** provides for the Perpetual Membership Plan (PMP) modifications and is submitted by the Executive Committee.

**Resolution 9-2023** provides for the elimination of “Area” within a district and is submitted by the Executive Committee.

**Resolution 10-2023** provides for candidates' timely initiation and advancement and is submitted by the Executive Committee.

**Resolution 11-2023** provides for the timely initiation and advancement between degrees and is submitted by the Executive Committee.

**Resolution 12-2023** provides for a Grand Master to immediately suspend a member upon being charged with a felony or sexual assault misdemeanor and is submitted by Thomas Stevens, PM, Senior Grand Warden

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. DeWolf, PGM, Chair

James H. Olson, PGM

Davey White, Jr., PGM

Richard A. Rygh, PM

Robert W. Roth, PM

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To The Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin;*

I'm proud to be a Freemason and proud to serve as part of the WI Leadership Team! The plan is working & you can feel the excitement in Masonry across the state! I'm also proud to see our WI Freemasonry strategic plan bearing fruit.

The Sr. Grand Warden is charged to serve as the strategic planning chair within the PLO. For me this journey started years ago, when MW Paul, RW Dave, & I were provided professional strategic planning training via the American Management Association. The training helped provide the skills to facilitate the training process the past few years. We were even able to assist some appendant bodies with their own plans. The leadership team has shown commitment to the process by providing professional AMA training to W. Br. Gunderson and W. Br. Ivens. You can expect continued efforts to operate under the plan from the leadership team.

The current version of the plan was built under the leadership of past Grand Lodge officers. As we keep moving strategic initiatives forward, we also need to ensure the plan keeps looking toward the future. This year the Strategic Planning Committee worked to update and extend the plan, building toward our vision:

"*We will be the preeminent fraternity of choice for men of quality and vision who seek personal knowledge, moral growth and leadership development; ultimately improving the individual Mason, his community and the world."*

The leadership team understands that important projects don't happen in one Masonic year, and the successes today are shared with past GL leadership, which helped lay the foundation for the initiatives today. The framework below shows the structure of our strategic trestle board.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Chart, funnel chart  Description automatically generated | PLAN HIGHLIGHTS   * Membership   + Building Awareness & Relevance   + Member Retention & Restoration * Education   + Increase Member Engagement   + Improved Communications * Brotherly Love   + Expand Charitable Impact in WI |

I firmly believe our strategic plan has been the key to our success. New programs are evaluated by the team through the lens of the strategic plan. Lodges, too, can find success by establishing & maintaining a lodge strategic plan. Set a vision of what you want your lodge to be and establish goals to get there. Continuity through your lodge leadership team can help ensure programs build toward our common vision. Our hope is future leadership will see the value of this process and the state will see programs consistent with our strategic imperatives and goals. As we complete the annual refresh of our plan, the latest version will be found on [www.wimasons.org](http://www.wimasons.org) under the member section.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Stevens

Sr. Grand Warden

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Wisconsin, Paul T. Tourville, and to the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin:*

At the close of business of the 178th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin; there was no unfinished business held over to be considered at the 179th Annual Communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Stang, PGM, Chairman

Michael A. DeWolf, PGM, Grand Secretary

Jeffrey Bryden, Grand Treasurer

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution Number 1-2023**

**Submitted By**: Expenditures Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Majority

**Purpose**: To adopt a budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

**Resolved, that** the attached budget, which has been mailed to all constituent Lodges in accordance with Section 29.05 ( c ), calling for expenditures of $1,557,670 be adopted.

**Resolution Number 2-2023**

**Submitted By**: Expenditures Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Majority

**Purpose**: To provide for a Per Capita Tax

**Resolved**, that the annual per capita tax upon each member of record of a Chartered Lodge on December 31, 2023, be and here is established at the sum of Fifty dollars and no cents ($50.00) for the year 2024.

**Resolution Number 3-2023**

**Submitted By**: Executive Committee

**Section(s) Affected:**

**Vote required for Adoption:** Majority

**Purpose**: Designate the place of holding Annual Communication in June 2025

**RESOLVED**, that the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin for the year 2025 shall be held in the City of Madison, Wisconsin.

**Resolution Number 4-2023**

**Submitted By**:  Executive Committee

**Sections Affected:**Chapter 39.06 Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board

**Vote required for Adoption:**  Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose**:  To amend and update the scope of duties of Wisconsin Masonic Benevolent Activities Board

**RESOLVED**, Section 39.06 Functions of Board shall be amended to read:

**39.06 Functions of Board.**The Board shall:

1.  Establish Wisconsin Masonic benevolent goals for approval at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

2.  Provide a report of its activities and future plans at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

3.  Elect Directors of the Wisconsin Masonic Home, Inc., Wisconsin Board of Masonic Service and Assistance, Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, the Wisconsin Masonic Center and any future constituent Masonic benevolence, in accordance with the respective Articles of Incorporation, by-laws or other governing documents of such organizations.

4.  Establish and present for approval by Grand Lodge an annual budget for Board activities.

5.  Review capitalbudgets and master plans of each constituent benevolence and review operating budgets.

6.  Establish and update, as necessary, bylaws*,* policies and procedures for operation of the Board.

7.  Review investment performance of each benevolence, at least annually, and share performance results with all constituent benevolences.

8.  Establish policy guidelines for all benevolent fund development activities.

9.  Coordinate fund raising for all benevolent activities.

10. Oversee activities of each benevolence by performing an annual review of the programs of each benevolence, including compliance with its charter/mission, review of financial statements and consideration of appropriateness of responses or corrective action taken as a result of audit comments, complaints, lawsuits or deficiency citations which may substantially adversely affect the operations of the charity or substantially and publicly reflect adversely on the Fraternity.

11.  Approve land acquisition, building construction, new lease, mortgage, or sale and any ~~other~~ capital unplannedexpenditures in excess of $50,000 by any benevolence.

12. Prevent redundancies of benevolent programs unless regional in character.

13. Approve establishment of any new Wisconsin Masonic benevolent activity.

**Resolution Number 5-2023**

**Submitted By:** Jerry A Reick, PM George Washington Lodge #337

**Section(s) Affected:** 64.06

**Vote Required for Adoption**: Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To modify 64.06 Liquor of the Wi Masonic

As currently stated in The Masonic Code of Wisconsin, September 2021 Revised Edition

**64.06 Liquor**. Every lodge is charged to strictly exclude from its Temple and grounds all intoxicating liquors and fermented malt beverages with the following exceptions:

1. Wine and beer may be allowed at Table Lodges, Festival Communications, Holidays and other special occasions and only upon dispensation from the Grand Master and, provided further, that no degree work is conferred and that a non-alcoholic beverage be provided for those who wish it.
2. Serving of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages shall be allowed when the Temple and grounds have been leased to a tenant for the purpose of holding a non-Masonic activity, provided no alcoholic beverages may be served in the lodge room.

**Proposed:**

**64.06 Liquor**. Every lodge shall, at its discretion, be allowed to serve intoxicating liquors and fermented malt beverages at its temple and grounds under the following conditions:

1. No beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages shall be served in the Lodge room during a stated or special communication, during degree work, District meetings or other tiled events.
2. Serving of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages shall be allowed during tiled table lodges and when the Temple and grounds have been leased to a tenant for the purpose of holding a non-Masonic activity.
3. Non-alcoholic beverages shall be provided for those who wish them.
4. At events where alcoholic beverages are served, Lodges should monitor the consumption of attendees, stop serving attendees that appear intoxicated, consider planning alternate transportation options, and encourage the use of designated drivers.

**Resolution: 6-2023**

**Submitted by:** Brother Ronald W. Pasholk, Brookfield Lodge #370

**Sections Affected:** Chapter 88 & Chapter 29.17 WMC

**Vote Required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To remove the term “Worshipful” throughout the Constitution, Bylaws and Code of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin and to substitute the term “Worthy” throughout.

**Whereas**: There is only one person who is worthy enough to be called “Most Worshipful,” that being Almighty God, and

**Whereas**: Worthy does not directly connote religion or worship, while worshipful does, and

**Whereas**: A Master doesn’t want to be seen as the most religious person in the Lodge, it seems to me. None of our Masonically imagined leaders were the Chief Priests of the Temple, like Caiaphas or Annas, back when Jesus was tried by the Jewish Law Courts. And

**Whereas**: Changing the title to “Worthy Master” in no way demeans the position of a Master of the Lodge, or any Grand Lodge station, and

**Whereas**: If passed, the resolution would work the changes to include all places and stations within all of Grand Lodge: Example: Most Worthy Grand Master.

**Therefore be it Resolved:** The term “Worshipful” throughout the Constitution, Bylaws and Code of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin be removed and to substitute the term “Worthy” throughout.

**Resolution Number 7-2023**

**Submitted by:** Lake Country Freemasons #42

McKinley #307

Henry L Palmer #301

Wauwatosa #267

Waverly #51

George Washington 1776 #337

Jefferson County #9

Dousman #315

Glenn L Humphrey #364

Wautoma #148

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To allow a Lodge to open a Stated Communication in any Degree for the transaction of business at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

**Whereas:** At the Baltimore Masonic Convention in 1843, the delegates of the sixteen Grand Jurisdictions created a significant change in the body of United States Freemasonry by adopting the practice of conducting its business meetings only in the Master Mason degree. This was done in fear of and in reaction to the fallout from the Morgan Affair. This, in turn, limited the valuable input from Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts into lodge business.

**Whereas:** All Masons meet on the level and share equally, it is against Masonic teachings to initiate or pass a Mason and then show him that this equality stops when interacting in the business of the lodge.

**Whereas:** Wisconsin Masons during the 2020 COVID pandemic when restrictions were relaxed and Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who were able to observe and participate in discussions related to the business of the Lodge, not just special programs, became enthusiastic Brothers.

**Whereas:** It is essential to ensure Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts become Master Masons. Therefore, encouraging and being permitted to observe and participate in the discussions related to the business of the Lodge will help to assure they are involved in the Lodge and do not develop the feeling of being lost and forgotten along their journey.

**Whereas:** The Twenty-second Landmark of Mackey’s Twenty-five Ancient Landmarks assures the equality of all Masons. Therefore, all Masons, regardless of degree should be treated with the equality specified by this Landmark by allowing their input to be heard and considered when transacting Lodge business.

**Resolved:** That section 65.04 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**65.04 A Stated Communication ~~is on Master Mason Degree~~.** A~~t~~ a stated communication of a lodge, at the discretion of the Master, may be opened in any degree for the transaction of business. All the business of the Lodge may be transacted on that degree provided that only the members of the Lodge, as defined in Chapter 55.01 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code, may cast a vote or ballot. ~~must open and close on the Master Mason degree, on which degree all of the business of the lodge shall be transacted;~~ The Master, at his discretion, ~~it~~ may call down to a lower degree for examination or degree work, or, also at his discretion, ~~.~~ ~~“The Master, at his discretion, may~~ close the Lodge ~~of M.M.~~ and open a Lodge of a lower degree for the purpose of examination ~~and/~~or degree work. The Lodge shall then be closed in due form pursuant to the last degree.~~”~~

**Resolution Number 8-2023**

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Sections Affected**: 80.01 & Chapter 94 WMC

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** Modifications of the Perpetual Membership Plan (PMP)

**Whereas:** The Perpetual Membership Plan (PMP) was established over two decades ago as a means for Master Masons in the State of Wisconsin to purchase “lifetime memberships” to the Fraternity as an alternative to having to pay recurring membership dues each calendar year; and

**Whereas**, a Brother’s purchasing of membership through the Plan would also ensure an annual gift to their primary Individual Lodge (Lodge) in perpetuity, as the Plan would continue to pay yearly disbursements to their Lodge after their passing until the end of time; and

**Whereas**, membership dues into the PMP were calculated based on a forecasted projection of the U.S. Stock Market (Market), as the funds collected for the Plan were deposited into an account and the interest and/or gains on the account were to be drawn yearly and used to make the annual disbursements to the Individual Lodges; and

**Whereas**, over the years, the Market has fluctuated in ways not part of the original calculation, including but not limited to: the major losses incurred in the Market following the attacks of September 2001, the housing market crash and recession of 2008-11, and the effects of a global economic downturn caused by the COVID pandemic in 2020-21; and

**Whereas**, as a result, the PMP is now woefully underfunded and currently only contains enough to continue annual Plan disbursements for approximately eleven more years — after which, the account will be depleted of funds and monies paid to Individual Lodges from the Plan will have to be drawn from the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin’s main budget potentially in the form of an increased per capita or assessments; and

**Whereas**, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has, through edicts declared by several Grand Masters, paused further enrollment into the PMP in an effort to recalculate the formula to find a way to make the program both open to new enrollees and financially solvent for its intended long-term purpose — however, despite best attempts, accountants have come to the conclusion that the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin simply can no longer further adequately and responsibly facilitate the PMP.

**Resolved:** That section 80.01 and Chapter 94 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**80.01 Dues - How Fixed**. Each lodge shall fix in its by-laws and collect such annual dues from each of its members as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties, responsibilities and obligations; provided that the minimum annual dues shall be Ten Dollars, which dues shall be net to the lodge after payment of the per capita tax of Grand Lodge and all assessments.

Dues are payable in advance, on or before the first day of January in each year.

No life memberships nor paid-up memberships shall be granted hereafter~~, except as provided for perpetual membership under Chapter 94~~. Each lodge has the option to continue or terminate the life memberships or paid-up memberships in existence when this Code becomes effective~~, other than those for perpetual membership under Chapter 94,~~ provided that any such continuance shall not relieve such life member from the payment of the Grand Lodge per capita tax and all assessments of either his own or the Grand Lodge unless his dues shall be remitted, in whole or in part, by action of his lodge, for the reason that the payment thereof would be an undue hardship for the member. Each lodge shall pay the Grand Lodge per capita tax and Grand Lodge special assessments for each member in good standing not holding a Certificate of Resignation.

A lodge, at its discretion, may also remit the annual dues of the lodge and the annual per capita tax and all special assessments of the Grand Lodge, of members who have been raised to the degree of Master Mason prior to June 12,1979, provided that they were entitled to a 50-Year Certificate prior to June 12, 1979.

**Chapter 94 Perpetual Membership**

***(New Participants Applications Suspended By Edict August 10, 2021)***

**94.01 Name of Plan**. The name of this Plan shall be: “Perpetual Membership Plan” of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin.

**~~94.02 Lodge May Adopt Plan~~**~~. A lodge may adopt the Plan upon two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at a stated communication, but it shall not become effective until it shall have been approved by the Grand Master.~~

**~~94.03 Qualified Master Mason May Participate~~**~~. Any Master Mason in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year in a lodge which has effectively adopted the Plan may become a participant in the Plan. Such person is, hereinafter, sometimes referred to as a “qualified Master Mason.”~~

**94.04 Administration of Plan**. The Plan shall be administered by the Grand Trustees, in accordance with the provisions of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin, as a separate fund.

**~~94.05 Method of Lodge Adoption of Plan~~**~~. A resolution to adopt the Plan shall be presented at a stated communication of the lodge prior to the stated communication at which the vote thereon is taken. Written notice shall be given to all members of the lodge at least 10 days prior to the stated communication at which the vote to adopt the resolution is taken. The notice shall inform all members that a resolution to adopt the Perpetual Membership Plan of the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Wisconsin has been presented, and the notice shall state the date, time and place when such resolution will be considered and a vote taken thereon.~~

**~~94.06 Determination of Purchase Price~~**~~. At the same time of the adoption of the Plan, the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership may be determined by the lodge. Provided, however, prior to June 8, 2019, the purchase price established or subsequently revised shall not be less than the amount determined by multiplying the sum of the existing lodge dues and existing Grand Lodge per capita tax by a factor set forth in the following table:~~

~~Member’s Attainment of Age Factor~~

~~18-33 20~~

~~34-41 19~~

~~42-48 18~~

~~49-54 17~~

~~55-60 16~~

~~61 and older 15~~

~~Provided further, beginning June 8, 2019, the purchase price established or subsequently revised shall not be less than the amount determined by multiplying the sum of the existing lodge dues and existing Grand Lodge per capita tax by a factor of 31, irrespective of the age of the member.~~

**~~94.07 Definition of Terms.~~** ~~The words “existing lodge dues” shall mean the amount of the dues for the current year, unless the lodge has adopted a resolution or amended its by-laws to provide for an increase in dues for the next year in which event “existing lodge dues” shall mean the amount of such increased dues. The words “existing Grand Lodge per capita tax” shall mean the amount of the per capita tax for the current year, unless the Grand Lodge has adopted a resolution to provide for an increase in per capita tax for the next year in which event “existing Grand Lodge per capita tax” shall mean the amount of such increased per capita tax.~~

**~~94.08 Single Sum or Deferred Payment of Purchase Price~~**~~. The purchase price of a Perpetual Membership maybe paid in a single sum at the time of application or in deferred payments over a five-year period. If the applicant decides to pay over a five-year period, the purchase price is divided by a factor of 4.61, with the amount so determined being the amount of the initial required payment at the time of application and a similar amount being payable in five additional equal annual installments (for a total of six payments), such installments being due on the annual anniversary date of the application.~~

**94.09 Revision of Purchase Price or Discontinuance of Plan by Lodge**. A lodge which has adopted the Plan may ~~revise the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership, or it may~~ discontinue its adoption of the Plan. Provided, however, the Plan ~~purchase price~~ may not be ~~revised or the Plan~~ discontinued for an existing participant in the Plan~~; and any such revision or discontinuance shall be effective only with respect to potential future participants. Provided further, however, any such revision of purchase price or discontinuance of adoption of the Plan by a lodge shall only be effective after presentation of a resolution at a stated communication of the lodge, 10 days written notice thereof to its members, adoption at a subsequent stated communication by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present, and approval by the Grand Master.~~

**94.10 Revision or Discontinuance of Plan by Grand Lodge**. The Grand Lodge may revise the minimum purchase price or other provisions of a Perpetual Membership, or it may discontinue the Plan. Provided, however, the purchase price or other provisions may not be revised or the Plan discontinued for an existing participant in the Plan; and any such revision or discontinuance shall be effective only with respect to potential future participants. Provided further, however, any such revision of purchase price or discontinuance of adoption of the Plan by the Grand Lodge shall only be effective after filing of a resolution with the Grand Secretary 60 days prior to the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, 45 days written notice thereof by the Grand Secretary to each Lodge Secretary, and adoption at the annual communication by three-fourths (two thirds, if laid over) affirmative vote of those present.

**94.11 Lodge Secretary to Inform Grand Secretary**. Upon passage of any resolution by a lodge ~~adopting the Plan, establishing or revising the purchase price, or~~ discontinuing the adoption of the Plan, the lodge Secretary shall promptly inform the Grand Secretary in writing of such action. The Grand Secretary shall thereupon promptly inform the Grand Master of such action.

**~~94.12 Application by or for Qualified Master Mason~~**~~. A qualified Master Mason may purchase a Perpetual Membership by submitting the following to the Lodge Secretary:~~

~~1) Completed application, in duplicate, on a form prescribed by the Grand Trustees;~~

~~2) Required payment of either the full purchase price or the initial required payment if the election is made to pay in installments. (All checks should be made payable to “Perpetual Membership Fund.”)~~

~~3) If authorized by the Grand Master, a lodge may purchase a Perpetual Membership for a qualified Master Mason. Any person or persons (other than a lodge) may purchase a Perpetual Membership for a qualified Master Mason by submitting the above to the lodge Secretary. Upon receipt of an application for Perpetual Membership together with the required fee, the lodge Secretary shall promptly transmit one copy of the application form and the required payment to the Grand Secretary.~~

**~~94.13 Effective Date of Perpetual Membership~~**~~. Upon receipt by the Grand Secretary of the copy of the application form and the required payment, the qualified Master Mason shall become a Participant in the Plan.~~

**~~94.14 Certificate of Perpetual Membership and Membership Card~~**~~. Upon receipt of the full purchase price by the Grand Secretary, he shall issue a Certificate of Perpetual Membership to the participant. Such Certificate shall be signed by the Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary under the seal of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall forward such certificate to the lodge Secretary for appropriate presentation. Together with the Certificate of Perpetual Membership, the Grand Secretary shall send a Perpetual Membership card encased in plastic, to the lodge Secretary for delivery to the perpetual member.~~

**~~94.15 Delivery of Payments by Grand Secretary~~**~~. Any payments into the Plan received by the Grand Secretary shall be promptly delivered to the Grand Trustees.~~

**94.16 Payments by Grand Trustees**. On or before March 1 of each year after the year in which the participant became a member of the Plan, the Grand Trustees shall pay from the Plan fund the following:

1) To the Grand Lodge general fund: the amount of the existing per capita tax (the amount at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07); unless there is an accumulated deficit in the Plan fund after such payment less the amount for deceased participants if the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

2) To the participant’s lodge; the amount of the existing lodge dues (the amount at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07) less the amount for deceased participants if the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

Payment (or non-payment as provided above) to the Grand Lodge general fund of the amount of the per capita tax as above set forth shall relieve the participant and his lodge of the liability for the per capita tax payment which would otherwise be required for such participant. Payment to the participant’s lodge of the amount of dues as above set forth shall relieve the participant of the liability for the dues payment which would otherwise be required for such participant.

**94.17 Per Capita Tax or Dues Increases or Decreases; Special Assessments.** Future increases or decreases in the Grand Lodge per capita tax or participant’s Lodge dues shall have no effect upon the payments made or to be made by a participant or the Grand Trustees, unless any deferred payments of the purchase price are not made as required. A participant shall not be relieved of any liability for special assessments.

**94.18 Default in Deferred Payments**. If the purchase price of a Perpetual Membership is being paid on a deferred basis, and if any installment payment is not made when due (whether attributable to death or for any other reason), the Grand Trustees shall pay to the Grand Lodge general fund and the participant’s lodge reduced amounts reflecting the proportion of the number of payments timely made to the total number of required payments. If the participant is living: he shall pay to his lodge any difference between the amount so paid by the Grand Trustees and the amount of the then per capita tax and the then dues, and the lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge any difference between the then per capita tax and the amount paid by the Grand Trustees to the Grand Lodge general fund. In default of such additional payments by the participant to his lodge, he may be suspended for non-payment of dues in accordance with the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. If deferred payments are interrupted, they may be recommenced in the future only with the consent of the participant’s lodge and the Grand Trustees. Such consent shall only be given by the participant’s lodge and the Grand Trustees after fair and equitable consideration of the participant’s age and the dues and per capita tax at the time that deferred payments are sought to be recommenced.

**94.19 Death of a Participant**. Upon the death of a participant the Grand Trustees shall continue to make the payments set forth in this Chapter to the Grand Lodge general fund and the participant’s lodge unless the Lodge has elected to sell the Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased members to the PMP Fund per Section 94.30 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code.

**94.20 Refunds; Disciplinary Action.** No refund shall be made from the Plan to any participant, any other person or any Lodge for any reason. No participant shall be exempt from disciplinary action as provided in the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. In the event of the suspension or expulsion of a participant, the Grand Trustees shall continue to pay the Grand Lodge general fund and to the participant’s former lodge any amounts which would have been paid had the participant not been suspended or expelled.

**94.21 Dues Card**. On or before January 1 of each year, the Secretary of a participant’s lodge shall issue a regular dues card without any special designation to a participant in good standing.

**~~94.22 Plural Membership in Another Wisconsin Lodge~~**~~. A qualified Master Mason who currently holds may purchase a Perpetual Membership in any Wisconsin Lodge in which he holds membership if such lodge has adopted the Plan, or he may purchase a Perpetual Membership in one lodge and be a dues paying member in another lodge. Provided, however, the first Perpetual Membership must be in his Primary Lodge. The purchase price for a Perpetual Membership in a plural lodge shall not include any amount attributable to the Grand Lodge per capita tax, and the Grand Trustees shall not pay to the Grand Lodge general fund any per capita tax amount attributable to the participant’s membership in such plural lodge. All other provisions of the Masonic Code shall apply with respect to plural membership.~~

**94.23 Transfer of Perpetual Membership from One Lodge to Another Lodge.**

A Perpetual Membership in one Wisconsin lodge may be transferred to a Perpetual Membership in another Wisconsin lodge only if both lodges consent to such transfer. A Primary Perpetual Membership may not be transferred to a Plural lodge unless the members Primary Affiliation is also transferred. Upon written notification from both consenting lodges to the Grand Secretary, he shall so notify the Grand Trustees, and any future payments to the participant’s lodge shall be made by them to the transferee lodge. In the event that two or more lodges consolidate, the Perpetual Membership of the participant shall be transferred to the consolidated lodge.

**94.24 Surrender of Charter**. In the event of the surrender of the charter of a living participant’s lodge, any amounts which would have been payable by the Grand Trustees to the living participant’s lodge shall be paid to the Grand Lodge general fund until the living participant affiliates with another Wisconsin lodge, after which date all future payments by the Grand Trustees to the living participant’s lodge shall be made to the lodge with which the living participant has affiliated. All payments for deceased participants shall cease as the Lodge that holds the Perpetual Membership Plan contract has now ceased via surrender of the Lodge’s charter.

**94.25 Membership in a Non-Wisconsin Lodge**. If a participant holds or acquires a membership in a non-Wisconsin Lodge, no payments shall be made by the Grand Trustees from the fund to such non-Wisconsin lodge. If the participant resigns from his Wisconsin lodge or transfers his membership to a lodge in another jurisdiction, the Grand Trustees shall continue payments to the Grand Lodge general fund and the Wisconsin Lodge, as herein provided.

**~~94.26 Perpetual Memorial Membership~~**~~. A Perpetual Memorial Membership may be purchased for a deceased Master Mason by any person or persons (other than a lodge). The purchase price shall be the amount then in effect for the oldest classification of members of the participant’s lodge, excluding any amount attributable to the Grand Lodge per capita tax. Payments by the Grand Trustees shall be made to the deceased participant’s lodge as provided herein, excluding any payments to the Grand Lodge general fund for per capita tax.~~

**94.27 Grand Trustees to Account**. The Grand Trustees shall hold, administer and distribute assets of the Plan as one Perpetual Membership fund. They shall, however, maintain adequate records of the payments for each participant in the Plan. The Trustees shall pay the reasonable costs of the administration of the fund from the income thereof, and the Trustees shall observe standard accounting practices in the maintenance of the records of the Plan. At the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Trustees shall submit a written report of their administration of the Plan. At the annual communication, the Grand Trustees shall also make any recommendations to the Grand Lodge as the Grand Trustees may consider necessary and proper for the continued proper administration of the Plan.

**~~94.28 Distribution of Excess Revenue~~**~~. In the event that the Grand Trustees determine that the Plan has produced income in excess of amounts reasonably necessary to meet its projected obligations, the Trustees shall recommend to the Grand Lodge that amounts be distributed from the fund to lodges who have adopted the Plan and have participants therein. Such distributions to lodges shall be based on the proportionate amount paid into the Plan attributable to participants who are living or deceased members of the lodge, but any such distributions shall only be made upon approval of the Grand Lodge at its annual communication, except that a distribution must be made from excess revenue as determined by the Grand Trustees at least every five years.~~

**94.29 Rules and Regulations; Grand Secretary.** The Grand Trustees, with the approval of the Grand Master, may prescribe such rules and regulations as shall be necessary or desirable for administration of the Plan; provided that no such rule or regulation shall be contrary to any express provision of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin. The Grand Secretary shall have such authority and perform such duties with respect to the administration of the Plan as are provided in this Chapter and as may be delegated to him by the Grand Trustees, with the approval of the Grand Master.

**94.30 Granting Lodges the ability to sell their Perpetual Membership Plan contracts for deceased PMP Fund participants through December 31, 2023**. The individual constituted Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin are allowed individually to enter into a contract buyout agreement with the PMP Fund for all their deceased Perpetual Membership Plan participants through December 31, 2023. The remaining funds within the PMP Fund will allow for buyouts of the annual income contracts for all deceased PMP members of that Lodge at the following factored value: The amount of the Lodge dues at the time the participant became a member of the Plan as set forth in Section 94.07 multiplied by NINE (9). This translates to a guaranteed, one-time payment to the Lodge for their deceased PMP participants in exchange for annual payments. For example, if a Lodge is currently receiving a $1,000 annual payment total in name of the deceased PMP participants of their Lodge, the one-time contract buyout paid by the PMP Fund will be nine times that amount or $9,000. This agreement must be completed with each individual Lodge, cover all deceased PMP participants of that Lodge, and be in place prior to the end of calendar year 2023 for monies to be paid out to Lodges by March 1, 2024. As a result of the individual Lodge choosing a one-time payment, all annual PMP payments related to these deceased members to their individual Lodges cease immediately. This buyout opportunity terminates at the end of calendar year 2023; as such, this section of Code shall sunset and be stricken two weeks following its deadline.

*FYI, this resolution has absolutely no impact on living participants in the PMP.*

**Resolution Number:** 9-2023

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Sections Affected**: 8.01 & Chapter 43 WMC

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** Elimination of “Areas” Within a District

**Whereas:** The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin (Grand Lodge) currently divides the State of Wisconsin into twelve (12) Districts led by District Deputies who are charged with serving as a liaison between the Grand Lodge and the Individual Lodges within their delineated Districts; and

**Whereas**, within these twelve Districts there are currently two, three, or four District Representatives (*formerly known as Area Administrator*), who serve as a further level of membership services the Grand Lodge provides to the Individual Lodges and are customarily appointed by their respective District Deputies to cover a predetermined number of Individual Lodges in an area or region of the District (known as an “Area”) in a manner that aids and assists the District Deputy and his duties; and

**Whereas**, while the important work District Representatives are tasked with remains, the delineated areas they represent, and the topics and responsibilities as defined in Wisconsin Masonic Code have become outdated and in need of revision; and

**Whereas,** currently the District Deputy leads his District Team but is hamstrung in how he assigns responsibilities and roles to the members of his Team due to both the traditional and codified definitions of what each member of his Team can do.

**Now, let it therefore be resolved that**:

1. In order to give more flexibility to the twelve District Deputies in the state, all references to the duties, responsibilities, and areas of a District Representative (or Area Administrator) shall be stricken from Code.
2. All references to and definitions of the term “Area” or the Lodge delineations of an Area within a District shall also be removed.
3. Henceforth, every District will be comprised of one (1) District Deputy, one (1) District Lecturer, and no more than three (3) District Representatives.
4. The District Deputy has the responsibility and flexibility of assigning the roles of District Representatives to help him and the Individual Lodges within his District, including but not limited to a focus on communications, fundraising, community involvement, or membership development -- and managing his Team to maximize the positive effect he and the Grand Lodge will have within his District.

These sections of the Wisconsin Masonic Code will be amended as follows:

**8.01 Votes of Members.** In all elections and on all questions before the Grand Lodge each chartered lodge shall be entitled to three votes and each Grand Officer, Grand Trustee, District Lecturer, District Chaplain, ~~Area Administrator,~~ District Representative and certain of its members, designated in Sec. 8.07 as Permanent Members, to one vote.

**Chapter 43** ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative System

**~~43.01 Areas.~~** ~~The jurisdiction shall be divided into Masonic areas, the boundaries~~

~~of which shall be determined by the Grand Master.~~

**43.02 Selection and Eligibility.**

a) The District Deputy and the other Grand Lodge Officers residing in each Masonic District of Wisconsin, may meet as early as possible in the month of January each year to select ~~one nominee and one or more alternates to be submitted forthwith to the Grand Master for final selection of one Area Administrator for each Masonic Area in the State of Wisconsin.~~ up to three District Representatives for their respective District.

b) To be eligible to serve as an ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative, a nominee must be a Past Master who has been duly installed into that office and a paid-up member in good standing of a lodge in the area for which he is nominated. He should be well skilled in the customs and usages of the Craft and have proved his administrative ability through service to his lodge.

c) No appointee shall hold the office of ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative for more than three successive terms, unless a successor to the office of ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative has not been appointed, the Grand Master may, at his option, reappoint the ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative whose third term of office has expired, to serve until such time as a successor may be appointed. An appointee who has served three successive terms may again be appointed after a lapse of one year. The tenure of office for ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representatives shall be concurrent with that of Grand Lodge Officers.

**43.03 Appointment and Jurisdiction.**

a) The Grand Master shall appoint at each Annual Communication, or as soon thereafter as possible, ~~an Area Administrator~~ District Representative/s for each ~~area~~ District based on a list of nominees and alternates. Each such ~~Administrator~~ Representative shall receive a warrant for his appointment signed by the Grand Master and attested to by the Grand Secretary under the seal of this Grand Lodge.

b) His title shall be that of ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative.

c) All appointees shall be duly and properly installed at the direction of the Grand Master during the Annual Communication at which they are appointed, or at some other time or place by order of the Grand Master.

d) All ~~Area Administrators~~ District Representatives shall serve without compensation.

**43.04 Removal, Vacancy and Appointment.**

a) The Grand Master without specification of charges or reasons may remove any ~~Area Administrator~~ District Representative from office.

b) Any vacancy occurring by such action or by death, resignation or any other cause shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the unexpired term of office

**43.05 Duties.**

~~a) To visit every lodge in his area at a stated communication at least once each year and at such other times as requested by the Grand Master; also to organize and attend at least one area conference each year.~~

b) To promote an atmosphere of friendly cooperation between the local lodges and the Grand Lodge.

c) To be alert to problems in the lodges of his ~~area~~ District and to make himself available as a friend and advisor to assist local lodges and their officers in finding satisfactory solutions to problems, particularly of program or administration.

d) To conduct investigations, promote Grand Lodge activities, or perform other special assignments requested by the Grand Master. He shall assist his lodges to become informed on the business and resolutions that will be discussed at area conferences and the Annual Communication to the end that they will be better prepared to act on Grand Lodge business.

e) To report on the state and activities of the Craft in the local lodges he serves when requested by the Grand Master.

f) To coordinate his activities with the District Deputy for his district.

**43.06 Special Duties.** The Grand Master shall provide each ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative with an outline of any additional duties in order to assure uniformity in their procedures and conformity to the program of the Grand Lodge.

**43.07 Apron-Directory.**

a) An appropriate apron of reasonable cost shall be presented to each ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representative by the Grand Lodge for use during his term of office. It is to be worn while making official lodge visitations ~~in his area~~. It may also be worn while attending Grand Lodge functions or on other appropriate occasions.

b) A directory of the ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representatives shall be included in the annual “Transactions of the Grand Lodge.”

**43.08 Reimbursement.** ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representatives shall receive the reimbursement for mileage expense and per diem for attendance at Grand Lodge at the same rate as set forth for Grand Lodge Officers, shall receive reimbursement for out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of their duties. Such reimbursement shall be made upon submission of the proper vouchers.

**46.04 Duties**. It shall be the duty of the District Deputy to coordinate the activities of the ~~Area Administrator~~, District Representatives in his district and to perform such other services and duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. The District Deputy shall endeavor to meet with each lodge at a stated communication in his district during the course of the year. He shall make an annual report to the Grand Master respecting the general conditions of Masonry in his district by the first of February each year.

**Resolution Number:** 10-2023

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To provide for timely initiation and advancement of candidates.

**Resolved:** That Sections 65.05 and 65.13 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**65.05 Subjects Acted On.** The following subjects shall be acted upon only at a stated communication subsequent to the one at which they are presented:

~~1)  Petition for affiliation~~.

2)  Change of place of meeting of a lodge.

3)  Petition for a new lodge.

4)  Resolution to surrender the charter of a lodge.

~~5)  Request for initiation or advancement of a candidate in default.~~

6)  Application of a candidate who has been refused advancement.

7)  Petition to restore a suspended Mason.

8)  Request for a dispensation to act upon the petition of a rejected petitioner

before the expiration of one year after rejection.

9) Request to another lodge to do its work.

10)Preferment of charges against a member of the lodge.

In all the foregoing matters except affiliation, the Master or the lodge shall designate the communication at which action is to be had. Postponement may be had to a designated communication.

**65.13 What Business Cannot be Transacted.** A lodge cannot transact the following business at a special communication:

1. Elect officers, except as authorized by 22.03 Ninth (d) and 58.02.

~~2. Receive petitions for the degrees or take action thereon.  
3. Receive petitions for affiliation or take action thereon.~~4. Amend the by-laws of the lodge.

**Resolution Number:** 11-2023

**Submitted by:** Executive Committee

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To provide for timely initiation and advancement between degrees

**Resolved:** That section 73.02 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows.

**Current: 73.02 Time Between Degrees.** At least thirteen days shall elapse between the time a lodge shall receive a petition for degrees and balloting thereon; at least six days between election and initiation. Advancement may occur upon proving proficiency in the preceding degree.

**RESOLVED:** That Section 73.02 be rescinded.

**Resolution Number:** 12-2023

**Submitted by:** Tom Stevens, SGW

**Vote required for Adoption:** Three-Fourths Vote

**Purpose:** To allow the Grand Master to immediately suspend a member upon being charged with a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor.

**Whereas:** The Grand Master’s authority currently does not allow a mechanism for discipline against a Mason until after conviction or completed appeal.

**Whereas:** Masons are expected to adhere to a code of conduct.

**Whereas:** The lack of Grand Master’s authority to promptly discipline a member creates significant risk of negative exposure for the organization.

**Resolved:** That section 101.03 of the Wisconsin Masonic Code be amended as follows:

**101.03 Discipline by Grand Master.**

a) Prior to the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge, if a Mason has been convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor, or has pled guilty or no contest thereto, in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Grand Master may discipline him to such extent as is provided for in the Trial Code and the Grand Master feels appropriate, without the preferring of charges and Masonic trial.  
  
b) Effective upon the close of the 1992 annual communication of the Grand Lodge, if a Mason is convicted of a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor, or shall plead guilty or no contest thereto, in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Grand Master shall expel him without the preferring of charges and Masonic trial.

c) The Grand Master may immediately suspend a Mason charged with a felony or a sexual assault misdemeanor.  
  
~~c)~~ d) If a Mason has been convicted of a felony prior to becoming a Mason the Grand Master may discipline him to such extent as provided for in the trial code and to the extent the Grand Master feels appropriate, without the preferring of charges and a Masonic trial.  
  
~~d)~~ e) Notwithstanding (a) ~~and~~ (b), and (c) above, no action shall be taken by the Grand Master while proceedings for reversal of the judgment of said court shall be pending and undecided.

~~e)~~ f) A copy of the information, judgment and any other court records as may be available shall be sufficient evidence to justify such discipline or expulsion. Other evidence, as determined by the Grand Master, will be sufficient evidence to justify such discipline or expulsion. Other evidence, as determined by the Grand Master, will be sufficient if such information, judgment or other court records are not available.  
  
~~f)~~ g) A Mason disciplined under (a),~~or~~ (b), or (c) above shall have a right of review as provided in Chapter 108.

**DIRECTORY**

**2022-2023 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

# Elected

Paul T Tourville Grand Master

David R Ritchie Deputy Grand Master

Thomas W Stevens Senior Grand Warden

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt Junior Grand Warden

Jeffrey L Bryden Grand Treasurer

Michael A DeWolf, PGM Grand Secretary

# Appointed

Curt A Campagna Grand Chaplain

Davey L. White, Jr Grand Lecturer

Joseph E Thompson Senior Grand Deacon

Earl F Gunderson Junior Grand Deacon

Jeffrey S Thiele Senior Grand Steward

Matthew H Ivens Junior Grand Steward

Jerry A Reick Grand Marshal

Kevin K Gruber............................................................Grand Orator

LeRoy R Huber Grand Tiler

Danny L Bourassa Deputy, District #1

Frank F During Deputy, District #2

Lars Framness Deputy, District #3

Christopher J Young. Deputy, District #4

Jacob R Schultz Deputy, District #5

Keith H Wohlfert Deputy, District #6

Ryan A Mayrand Deputy, District #7

Daniel C Brylla Deputy, District #8

Paul A Larson Deputy, District #9

Christopher R Cochrane Deputy, District #10

Gavin J DeGrave Deputy, District #11

Jeremy J Koss Deputy, District #12

##### 

##### PERMANENT MEMBERS OF GRAND LODGE

**Past Grand Masters**

Charles E White (1970)

Allan E Iding (1981)

Robert E Moore (1989)

Carl J Wussow (1993)

Stanley R Jagow (1994)

Beecher Daniels (1995)

Jack C Allord (1996)

Bruce S Sim (1997)

Lawrence L Myers (1998)

Stephen D Willet (2000)

John W Hein (2001)

James H Olson (2002)

Michael A DeWolf (2003)

Roger L Magoon (2005)

Rodney A Paulsen (2006)

JB Van Hollen (2007)

Dr John W Wilke (2008)

Craig S Campbell (2009)

Joseph B Harker (2010)

Davey L White, Jr (2011)

Dennis V Siewert (2012)

Daniel L Slavik (2013)

William Beetcher (2014)

Franklin J Struble (2015)

Donald W Hensiak (2016)

L Arby Humphrey (2017)

Scott E Pedley (2018)

Robert C Strader (2019)

Kenneth C Gorgen (2020)

Gary L. Stang (2021)

**Past Grand Lecturers**

Davey L White, Jr, PGM

John W Hein, PGM

Craig S Campbell, PGM

Kenneth C Gorgen, PGM

Patrick D. Cholka

**Past Grand Secretaries**

Bruce S Sim, PGM

**Past Grand Treasurers**

John W Hein, PGM

John A Benedict

**Past Grand Trustees**

John W Demetropoulos

Stephen D Willett, PGM

Carl J Wussow, PGM

Bruce S Sim, PGM

James H Olson, PGM

Allan E Iding, PGM

Robert C Gorsuch

Guy K Gooding

**DISTRICT LECTURERS**

Ronald D Pete District 1

Lester C Paulson District 2

Tony S Budaj District 3

Moses H Adams District 4

Jason Risberg District 5

Richard H Moen District 6

Eric P Pantano District 7

Davey L White, Jr, PGM District 8

Richard H Moen District 9

Erwin A Wuehr District 10

David A Hinners District 11

Jonathan W Schroeder District 12

**AREA ADMINISTRATORS**

**Dist Area Name Dist Area Name**

1 1 Danny L Bourassa 8 1 Brent C Clausius

1 3 James P Weaver 8 2 Darren M Jones

2 1 Kraig A Krueger 8 3 Daniel G Maughan

2 2 A Dean Monroe 8 4 H Sean Shilling

2 3 Darryl M Dahl 9 1 Brian F Miller

2 4 Steven A Klein 9 2 Paul D Larson

3 1 James (Al) Cummings 9 3 Robert E Barnett

3 2 David A Imlah

3 3 Corey J Nowak 10 1 Steven Labus

4 1 James W Herman 10 2 Scott RL Scharnell

4 2 Mitchell A Custer 10 3 Sean M Hurley

4 3 Douglas E Morrison

11 1 David E Renly

5 2 Steven K. Kopp

5 3 Guy O Leavitt 11 3 Daniel S Johnson

6 1 Michael R. Hille 12 1 Jon A Falk

6 2 Duane M Monville 12 2 Derick D Smith

6 3 John C White 12 3 Jonathan W Schroeder

7 1 Richard R Wegner

7 2 Robert P Dolan

7 3 Cruz Gracia

**GRAND LODGE F. & A.M. OF WISCONSIN TRUSTEES**

Jesse Furrer 2027 Francis X McKenna 2026

Robert W Roth 2023

Kyle A Grahn 2025

Scott E Pedley 2024

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Patrick D Cholka 2023

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Gary L Stang, GM 2025

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George T Eisenmann, III 2024

David D Larson 2023

David R Ritchie

Monte B Steiber 2023

Paul T Tourville

Christopher J Young 2024

Thomas W Stevens

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt

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James R Gajdosik 2025

Jeffrey S Thiele GL Liaison

Joseph B Harker, PGM 2025

Matthew H Ivens GL Liaison

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Vanderwourd B Pryor

Jesse J Long

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Bradley E Bingheim 2024

Michael A DeWolf, PGM Grand Secretary, Ad-Hoc

Albert W. Hulesman 2024

Lawrence R Nines 2024

Joseph E Thompson GL Liaison

Earl F Gunderson GL Liaison

David R Ritchie DGM

Michael A Reindl 2025

Don Miller, Jr 2023

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Richard A Rygh– Editor

Diane Igl -- Advertising Manager

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George W Tincher 2024

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Jean Freuck – CFO

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Gary R Beier 2023

Thomas E Ewald 2024

Paul T Tourville, GM

Robert C Gorsuch 2025

Don P Jensen 2024

Thomas O Kapke 2023

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt, GL Liaison

Robert M Koch 2024

James McLeer 2023 Robert W Roth 2025

Laura Slavik 2024

David R Ritchie, DGM

Sharon Tourville 2024

Thomas W Stevens, GL Liaison Jerry A Reick 2025

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Robert C Gorsuch 2024

Matthew M Hughey 2024

Eric Pangburn 2025

Thomas M Kelley 2023

David D Larson 2024

Joseph E Thompson, GL Liaison Mike T Heitke, Ad-Hoc Leland Burlison, Ad-Hoc

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Curt A Campagna

Jerry A Reick

Paul T Tourville, GM

Ryan A Mayrand

Patrick J Militzer

Gary L Stang, PGM

James R Stoebe

David R Ritchie, DGM

Thomas W Stevens

Scott E Pedley, PGM

**Appeals & Grievances**

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Robert D Canfield

Robert W Roth

Joseph S Schoner

Franklin J Struble, PGM

**Esoteric**

Davey L White, Jr, PGM, Chair

Moses H Adams

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Tony S Budaj

Jason Risberg

James R Giese

Jonathan W Schroeder

David A Hinners

Jason E Laramee

Eric P Pantano

Ronald D Pete

Erwin A Wuehr

Lester C Paulson

**Executive**

Jeffrey L Bryden

Michael A DeWolf

David R Ritchie

Paul T Tourville, GM

Thomas W Stevens

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt

Joseph E Thompson

**Expenditures**

Jeffrey L Bryden

Michael A DeWolf, PGM

David R Ritchie, Chair

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt

Thomas W Stevens

Joseph E Thompson

**Foreign Relations**

Allan E Iding, PGM-Chair

Michael A DeWolf, PGM-Foreign Corresp.

Scott E Pedly, PGM

**Fraternal Relations with**

**Prince Hall**

Jeffrey L Bryden

Michael A DeWolf, PGM

David R Ritchie

Gary L. Stang

Thomas W Stevens

Paul T Tourville, GM

Joseph E Thompson, Chair

Earl F Gunderson

Jeffrey S Thiele

Matthew H Ivens

Jeremy J Koss

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt

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Matthew H Ivens

Steven J Livernash

Ryan A Mayrand

Jacob R Schultz

Thomas W Stevens

**Lodge Facilities, Charters & Consolidations**

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James Becker

Curt Sorenson

Jeffrey L. Bryden, Gr. Treas.

Michael A. DeWolf, PGM, Gr. Sec.

**Lodge Safety Committee**

Robert W Roth

Robert D Canfield, Chair

Jeffrey S Thiele

Joseph E Thompson

**Masonic Education**

Jason E Laramee, Chair

Barry A Axelrood

Francis X McKenna

A Dean Monroe

Richard A Rygh

Christopher M Luedke

**Masonic Jurisprudence**

Robert Roth, Chair

Michael A DeWolf, PGM

David L Forsythe

David R Ritchie

Thomas W. Stevens

Daniel S Johnson

**Nominating**

David R Ritchie, Chair

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt

Thomas W Stevens

Joseph E Thompson

Earl F Gunderson

Jeffrey S Thiele

Matthew H Ivens

**Personnel**

Ron J Montgomery, Chair

Jeffrey L Bryden

Michael A DeWolf, PGM

**Resolutions & Masonic Code Committee**

Michael DeWolf, PGM, Chair

Robert Roth

**Strategic Planning**

David R Ritchie

Jeffrey L Bryden

Michael A DeWolf, PGM

Earl F Gunderson

Joseph E Thompson

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt

Gary L Stang, PGM

Thomas W Stevens, Chair

Paul T Tourville, GM

Jeffrey S Thiele

Matthew H Ivens

**UMB for DeMolay**

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt

Joseph E Thompson

**Unfinished Business**

Jeffrey L Bryden

Michael A DeWolf, PGM

Gary L Stang, PGM

**Youth Funding**

Jeffrey S Schoenfeldt, Chair

Joseph E Thompson

Earl F Gunderson

Gavin J DeGrave

**Voting-Proxies-Per Diem**

**Article 4**

**Membership**

**4.01 Members.** The members of the Grand Lodge shall be its Grand Officers, Grand Trustees and certain of its members, designated in Section 8.07 as Permanent Members, who are members of lodges under its jurisdiction, none of whom may be represented by proxy, and also the Masters and Wardens of all its chartered Lodges or their proxies.

**Article 5**

**Representatives and Delegates**

**5.01 Representatives**. Each chartered lodge shall be entitled to three representatives in the Grand Lodge, who shall be the three ranking officers of such chartered lodge. If any one of them cannot attend, he may give his proxy to a member of his lodge, the lodge to have priority in such selection. *No representative shall represent more than one lodge.*

**Article 8**

**Voting**

**8.01 Votes of Members**. In all elections and on all questions before the Grand Lodge each chartered lodge shall be entitled to three votes and each Grand Officer, Grand Trustee, District Lecturer, District Chaplain, Area Administrator, and certain of its members, designated in Sec. 8.07 as Permanent Members, to one vote.

**8.02 Dual Voting Prohibited.** If a Grand Officer, Grand Trustee or permanent member is a representative of a lodge, he may vote in either of his capacities, but not in both.

**8.03 Vote of Representatives.** The Master and Wardens present are each entitled to one vote.

**8.04 Vote of Proxy**. A proxy shall cast only one vote and may not represent more than one lodge.

**8.05 Vote by Lodges.** If demanded by fifty representatives before a question is submitted, the vote shall be by lodges upon the following questions:

1. To amend or revise the Constitution.
2. To provide for other than Annual Communications.
3. To change the place of meeting of the Grand Lodge

In a vote by lodges, the vote of each lodge shall count three, shall be a unit vote, and shall be determined by the majority of the representatives of each lodge.

**8.06 Majority Vote.** In all votes and elections, a majority of those present shall govern, unless otherwise provided by law.

**8.07 Permanent Members.** A Permanent Member of the Grand Lodge shall be defined as a Past Grand Master, Past Grand Warden, Past Grand Treasurer, Past Grand Secretary, Past Grand Lecturer who has served the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in such capacity for at least six years and any Past Grand Trustee who has served the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in such capacity for one full term and was then retired from office.

**COMPENSATION**

**30.05 Members of Grand Lodge.** Grand Lodge Officers and Permanent Members of the Grand Lodge, Grand Trustees, one representative or proxy from each constituent lodge, and from each lodge under dispensation, and members of committees not otherwise paid, shall be entitled to thirty dollars for each day they actually attend an Annual Communication, and thirty cents for each mile traveled to and from the place of meeting by direct route. Likewise, travel in vacation as authorized in 30.04 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge shall be paid at the rate of thirty cents per mile unless a lesser amount is the maximum permitted by the Internal Revenue Service in which event the rate shall be the maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. Mileage and/or per diem shall be forfeited if not called for in six months.

A permanent member of the Grand Lodge shall receive mileage from his place of residence in the state to the place of meeting and return, by direct route, if a resident of Wisconsin. If not, from the place where he crosses the state line to the place of meeting and return, by direct route, in attending Grand Lodge.

**30.06 Representatives.** Only one representative of a lodge shall be entitled to receive mileage and per diem and he shall be the officer of the lodge who is highest in rank among those attending, an actual officer outranking proxy. If all the representatives of a lodge leave before the close of the Annual Communication without consent of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, mileage and per diem shall not be paid to any of them.

**RECAPITULATION REPORT 2022**

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