

**GRAND LODGE F. & A.M. OF MICHIGAN
1204 WRIGHT AVENUE
ALMA, MICHIGAN 48801**

**LODGE SECRETARIES: THIS MUST BE READ AT YOUR NEXT REGULAR
COMMUNICATION**

June 11, 2008

The Grand Lodge met in Annual Communication on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31, 2008 at the Detroit Masonic Temple in Detroit, Michigan.

Our guests included three Grand Masters, two Deputy Grand Masters, one Senior Grand Warden, two Grand Secretaries, and four Past Grand Masters from Sister Jurisdictions. A representative was received from the National Masonic Foundation for Children. Fifteen heads of appendant or affiliated Michigan Masonic Organizations also honored us.

Honor Awards were presented to the following:

***Lou B. Winsor Award:**

Carl Canterbury, Mt. Morris #535
Donald B. Ferguson, Traverse City #222
Wayne H. Francisco, Atlanta #516
William R. Green, Lola Valley #583
LeRoy Helms, Goodrich #548
Robert Niedson, Composite #499
Howard Visser, Grand Rapids #34
Robbie A. Williams, Vienna #205

State Secretary of the Year: Seymour D. Greenstone, Ann Arbor-Fraternity #262

*** State Mason of the Year: Ronald Hill, Marquette #101**

*** Lodge of the Year, Category #1: Clam Lake #331**

*** Lodge of the Year, Category #2: Central Lake #426**

*** Lodge of the Year, Category #3: Wabon #305**

*** Lodge of the Year, Category#4: Wayne #112**

Distinguished Service Award:

Roger L. Myers, PM, Alma Lodge No. 244

*** Nominations for the Lou B. Winsor Award for 2009 are due in the Grand Lodge office no later than January 31, 2009. State Mason of the Year nominations are due to the Committee no later than March 31, 2009. The Lodge of the Year applications will be sent to the Lodges in the near future are due to the Committee no later than January 15, 2009.**

Twenty Eight Amendments to Michigan Masonic Law were presented for consideration at this Annual Communication. Three Resolutions were presented for consideration. Their disposition was as follows:

2006 Amendment

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 16. | Mileage Allowance | Passed
As Amended
To .35 |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------|

2008 Amendments

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Recognition of Masonic Scouters | Passed |
| 2. | Recall of a Grand Master | Out of Order |
| 3. | Scheduling of Annual Communication | Passed |
| 4. | Rank of Past Grand Master (Constitutional) | Failed |
| 5. | Number of Trustees on Home Board | Failed |
| 6. | Non Payment of Dues | Passed |
| 7. | Service of Charges and Summons | Failed |
| 8. | Vacancies How Filled | Withdrawn |
| 9. | Expense Allowance for Grand Master | Passed |
| 10. | Per Capita and Assessments on Remission of Dues | Failed |
| 11. | Balloting on Constitutional Amendments (Constitutional) | Passed |
| 12. | Consolidation of Lodges | Failed |
| 13. | Removal of a Grand Lodge Officer | Out of Order |
| 14. | Opening a Lodge of Sorrow | Out of Order |
| 15. | Increasing Number on Board of Directors | Out of Order |
| 16. | Calling of Special Communication of Grand Lodge | Failed |
| 17. | Filling Vacancies in Grand Lodge Line | Out of Order |
| 18. | Release of Membership Information | Failed |
| 19. | Balloting on Advancement | Failed |
| 20. | Order of Business for Special Communication | Failed |
| 21. | General Communications (Constitutional) | Withdrawn |
| 22. | Convening Special Communication (Constitutional) | Withdrawn |
| 23. | Property of Newly Consolidated Lodge | Failed |
| 24. | Liquor License | Failed |
| 25. | Assessment for Child ID Program | Failed |
| 26. | Life Memberships | Failed |
| 27. | Partial Year Dues | Failed |

RESOLUTIONS

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Change in Ritual | Failed |
| 2. | Grand Treasurer Emeritus Status – Honoring Thomas F. Hamiln | Passed |
| 3. | Financing Plan for Masonic Pathways | Passed |

OTHER ACTION

The Delegate Body approved the operating budget of the Masonic Pathways for the fiscal year 2008-09, of \$27,714,567, the Grand Lodge General Fund Budget of \$1,955,811 and the Masonic Home Charitable Foundation Budget of \$7,622,496.

The following Grand Lodge Officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year:

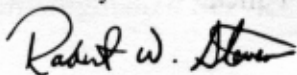
M.W. Grand Master	Michael J. Jungel (#340)
R.W. Deputy Grand Master	Donald L. Carman (#550)
R.W. Senior Grand Warden	Frank T. "Ted" Praria (#34)
R.W. Junior Grand Warden	Frederick E. Kaiser, Jr. (#536)
R.W. Grand Treasurer	Walter F. Wheeler, PGM (#34)
R.W. Grand Secretary	Robert W. Stevens, PGM (#79)
R.W. Grand Lecturer	Eddie R. Steffne (#428)
R.W. Grand Chaplain	Paul R. Thomas (#335)
W. Senior Grand Deacon	Dean A. Barr (#542)
W. Junior Grand Deacon	Raymond C. Lemons (#8)
W. Grand Marshal	William E. LeVeque (#422)
W. Grand Tiler	David M. Hill (#5)
Grand Piper (Appointed)	Paul N. Cross, PGM (#536)
Grand Musician (Appointed)	Gerald J. Millar (#22)

Grand Master Jungel gave to each member of the Board of General Purposes, the District Deputy Instructors, Regional Grand Lecturers, and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers his dispensation to close, by proclamation, at any meeting where they are in official capacity.

The Grand Secretary's report showed 332 Chartered Lodges. Our total membership as of 12/31/07 is 42,737. Life members now total 16,606.

Thirty Five Lodges were not represented at this Annual Communication.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Robert W. Stevens, PGM
Grand Secretary

Please see back page for clarification on Amendment 24

At the conclusion of the 182nd Annual Communication there appeared to be some confusion with regard to alcohol use during social functions sponsored by the fraternity. The source of this confusion could very well relate to proposed Amendment No. 24, which was not enacted into Masonic law by the assembled delegates. Although the amendment was found in proper form (for purposes of Masonic law), neither Grand Lodge civil counsel nor the Grand Lodge insurance carrier supported its passage. In fact they adamantly opposed any change to current Masonic law in this regard. As a result of its failure, **there is no change in the status quo.**

The body of Masonic law relating to alcoholic beverages found its way into the Bluebook through an edict issued by Past Grand Master Carl Worfel and is found in Key 4-5, Section 5 (a through e). Paragraph (a) permits "the temperate use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages during exclusively social functions..." The social functions contemplated by then Grand Master Worfel were "afterglows" festive boards and table lodges.

Paragraph (b) of Key 4-5, Section 5 prohibits the introduction of alcoholic beverages "into a lodge room while it is in use..." This section also prohibits dispensing of alcoholic beverages "before or during a Regular or Special Communication." Additionally, this section prohibits members' admission to lodge meetings while under the influence of alcohol. Finally, this section prohibits the designation, construction or allotting of a "permanent alcoholic beverage servicing facility... unless such area is for business purposes of a non-Masonic entity."

Paragraph (c) prescribes the appropriate language for lodge events involving alcohol.

Paragraph (d) mandates that "all applicable laws and regulations of the State of Michigan... shall be observed and complied with at all times." This paragraph further prohibits lodges and appendant bodies from holding liquor licenses.

Paragraph (e) states that "[this body of law] is not to be construed as a mandate that the use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages must be allowed." Whether such use is allowed is a matter for the local Masonic body to determine.

The key words in all of this are the temperate use and dispensing of alcoholic beverages during exclusively social functions. In this regard and consistent with the opinion letter provided by civil counsel, lodges should refrain from assessing any monetary charge relating to an event in which alcohol will be served.