



**May
2025**

*Please send correspondence to PO Box 127
Stratford NJ 08084
Address of Laurel Lodge
629 Stone Road Laurel Springs, NJ 08021
Constituted May 25th 1922*

Communications for May 2025

**You are cordially and fraternally requested to attend the
following communications of Laurel Lodge
No. 237, F&AM**

Friday May 2nd 7:45PM Meeting

First meeting will be a presentation by RW Kenneth F Carpenter Jr DDGM of the 18th masonic district on the Grand Lodge Trustees. RW Carpenter has been a Grand Lodge Trustee for the last 2 years and has a great deal of knowledge on the board. There will be no dinner, as we have the service for DB Read.

A ballot for restoration will be held for Brother Adrian M. Graciano.

Friday May 16th 7:45PM Meeting

Second Meeting we will be having a presentation by MW Michael Wiggins Past Grand Master of PHA for NJ. Dinner will be at 6:30pm and Lodge will open at 7:45pm. There will also be a special dessert that evening as it is MW Wiggins birthday.

See details in this Trestleboard regarding

RW Michael Mattes Trip

August 14th to 17th 2025

Masonic Family Day Canoe Trip in Pine Barrens

Saturday June 28th See details in this Trestle Board.

By Order of
RW Michael I. Mattes
Worshipful Master

Attest
WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM
Secretary

Worshipful Masters Message

My brothers let me ask you a question. What is the definition of a craftsman? Each and every one of us has been called a craftsman. But to be a true craftsman it is necessary to hone, and work diligently on your craft. But what does that mean in the world of speculative masonry? Honing your craft is not merely reciting rituals or helping with a work detail or organizing an event. While those are certainly extremely important, honing your craft is building and strengthening the bond of brotherly love that we all share. Reach out to your brethren, and not only the ones that you have an established relationship with, but those are also a layup. Have a challenging conversation and reach out to a brother that you may not have ever met, or even better yet, maybe a brother whom you think you may not have had a stellar relationship with. This is honing your craft. This is building the ties of brotherly love and affection that are necessary to perpetuate this lodge into the next age. Rekindle the vibrant desire to hone that craft brethren, and I hope to see you all in lodge soon.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Michael Isadore Mattes

Past Master 2020/2021/2022

Worshipful Master 2025

Mozart Lodge #121 F&AM

Past President 18th District

Masters and Wardens Association

The View from the West R.W. Scott P Vicari ATTGM

If you have been traveling around the district lately attending official visits, you will have witnessed multiple exemplifications of the Entered Apprentice (EA) Degree. In our own lodge we recently conferred the EA Degree on brother Minch and are expecting to hold a few more before the year is up.

With all this EA activity I started thinking about the circumambulation scripture that we use for the degree; Psalm 133. The 133rd psalm is one of fifteen “Psalms of Ascent.”

The Psalms of Ascent were traditionally sung by Jewish pilgrims as they traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem for the three annual pilgrimage festivals: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.

The word “ascent” comes from the Hebrew title "Shir Hama'alot," which translates to "songs of going up" or "songs of the ascent.”

Imagine, throngs of people moving together, all singing this psalm, in joyful anticipation of coming into the presence of God, at King Solomon’s temple. I wonder how it would sound if the Chaplain sang this psalm during the degree? Our District Ritual Instructor might frown on that, as it is not an accepted practice, but I don’t see anywhere in the ritual that forbids it, either. On second thought, unless the chaplain has a voice like Worshipful Brother Rosario, or can sing it in Hebrew like Right Worshipful Brother Kanowitz, it probably would not be a good idea.

The Psalms of Ascent recalled, for the Hebrew people, their nomadic faith roots in Abraham, and the forty-year Exodus journey with Moses. They served as a reminder that God’s people were a pilgrim people, journeying with God. As Masons, we too are on a pilgrimage, walking with God, to build our spiritual temple and to become better men, husbands, fathers and citizens. Something else to consider, besides the reference to brotherhood, the next time you are witnessing, or participating in, the circumambulation portion of the Entered Apprentice degree.

Laurel Lodge Minutes Friday April 4th, 2025

Lodge was opened by W. B. Keppen Jr. acting Master.

Bills were read for a total \$1211.11, Postage \$40.40, 1st Defense Fire

\$1045.99, Dinner \$79.52, Harland Clarke (check printing) \$45.20

Motion to pay by acting S.W. Hartshorn, Seconded by Jr. Waden Colavita.

Motion approved by the brethren.

District Lodge of instruction is April 14th at Laurel Lodge. Committee report by building committee. W.B. B. McGovern stated the work that was done on Saturday April 12th to comply with the request by the insurance company. W.B. Taylor announced the date of the annual canoe trip at Micks Canoe rental for Saturday June 28th, 2025.

Petition to restore Bro. Adrian Graciano from suspension of nonpayment of dues were delayed by the acting Master. The lodge was placed on a tiled refreshment for a talk by R.W Read of nuclear weaponry and what is known as Broken Arrow. This is a title for all nuclear accidents involving nuclear bombs in the last 70 years up to and including accidental detonation. Historically there have been no recorded detonations. There were high explosive accidents. No further business lodge was closed at 8:33 p.m.

Attest: W.B. Jerry Barnish Secretary

Cc: G/V, file

Laurel Lodge Minutes Friday 7:45 PM April 22nd, 2025

Meeting was called to order by W.M Mattes at 7:45 p.m. A dispensation was requested and granted to move Laurel Lodge meeting from the third Friday in April due to the religious observance of Good Friday on the 18th of April. Officers and visitors attending per the register on the Tiler's desk.

Sickness: R.W. Frazier Alburger is in Virtua Hospital Marlton. He is in distress and needs our consideration and prayers. Tiler W. Anderson is in hospital with an undisclosed condition. Keep Sr. Deacon Tom Santangelo's mother in our thoughts.

Reading of the bills: Comcast \$155.63, A Cut Above \$600, USPS \$29.90, NJ American Water \$136.53, AC Electric \$233.00, CCMUA \$93.00, Dinner \$137.51, Basket Bingo \$106.90, Total \$1,492.47

Monies received \$133.00. Motion to pay bills by R.W. S Vicari. Seconded by Jr. Warden J. Colavita. Motion carried.

Treasurers report was given and filed. Correspondence was read.

Motion to sponsor a hole for Grand Master golf outing in June for \$125.00. Motion to accept by S.W. Vicari and seconded by Jr. Warden Colavita. Motion carried.

Motion to sponsor a hole for the Children's Dyslexia foundation for \$125.00 by Sr. Warden Vicari and seconded by Jr. Warden Colavita. Motion carried with one dissent.

Brother William Hughes III was escorted to the east as he celebrates 20 years of membership and presented with a 20-year service pin.

W.M. Mattes announced that D.D.G.M. K. Carpenter will attend the first meeting in May to discuss Grand Lodge Trustees elections and objectives.

No further business lodge was closed by R.W. S. Vicari.

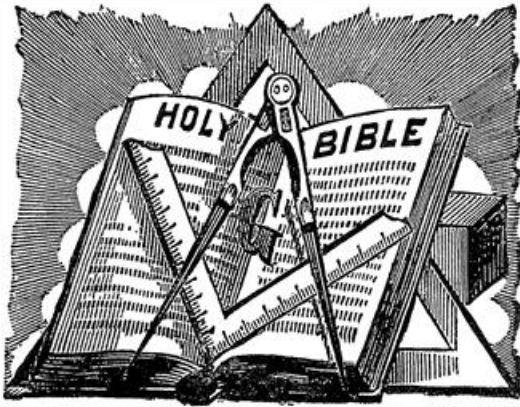
Charge was given by R.W. M. Mattes, W.M.

Attest: W.B. Jerry Barnish, P.M. secretary.

Cc: G/V, file, BB

Sincerely & fraternally,
Jerry R Barnish, PM Secretary
Cell 609-458-5122

In Memorial



**Distinguished Brother John C. Read Jr.
Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason
April 10th, 2010
Called from Labor April 22nd, 2025**



Masonic Family Day in the Pine Barrens

Pine Barrens Canoe Trip

Saturday June 28th arrival is 10:00am

**This is a 3 Hour (Tour) Canoe Trip down the
Wading River in the Pine Barrens.**

**RSVP cutoff is Sunday June 9th to WB Robert Taylor
856-834-3917.**

Individual Payments will happen June 28th on arrival.

For rates click:

<https://www.mickscanoerental.com>

**Beware of the Jersey Devil.
If you hear Banjo's paddle faster.**



WM Mattes Trip to Kingston TN



Join Worshipful Master Mattes on a Visit to Union Lodge F&AM for their
annual Cave Degree

August 14th-August 17th 2025

Transportation to and from will be provided

Contact WM Michael Mattes with any questions

(856) 516-2061

Reserve your room by calling

Holiday Inn Express Harriman

(865) 295-0001

Use block code: LML (only 18 rooms available)

May Masonic Birthdays

Bro J Bruce Mumie	1962	63
Bro James D. Sannipoli	1970	55
Bro John A. Stahl, Jr.	1981	44
Bro William A. Lambert	1986	39
Bro Michael A. Lisowski	1989	36
Bro Christopher T. Mascioli	1989	36
Bro Jackie R. Longmire, Jr.	1992	33
Bro Timothy P. Roedig	1992	33
WB Eugene J. Applegate	1995	30
Bro Christopher A. Milner	1997	28
Bro Anthony A Lafferty	2006	19
WB Robert Taylor	2008	17
Bro Walter S. Keebler	2010	15
Bro Andrew J. Read	2010	15
Bro Fred H Hurlburt	2012	13
WB William E. Roche	2012	13

2025 Building Fund Benefactors

Bro Richard A Greiner	Bro William R Terwilliger
WB Eugene Applegate, PM	Bro Jay Colavita
WB Bill Roche, PM	Bro Ricardo Pena
Bro William Campbell	WB Robert A Taylor, PM
Bro Wilfredo S Halina	WB Eugene O Bathurst, PM
Bro Kenneth J Cheeseman	Bro Joseph A Cruz
RW Leonard M March, PDDGM	Bro James Griggs
Bro Richard L Wooster	Bro Richard A Faunce
Bro Wallace Carey	Bro Joseph J Novello
Bro Kenneth W Cashin	RW Frazier R Alburger, PGC
WB Ronald Rocco, PM	Bro Charles D. McMaster
WB Craig J Woodruff, PM	Bro Joseph Armstrong
Bro Bill Hughes	Bro Robert F Brittain
RW Scott P Vicari, ATTGM	Bro Alvin Fitting
Brethren, Thank you!	



GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY EDUCATION COMMITTEE



**R.W. PAUL DIGAETANO,
DDGM 4TH DISTRICT**

**ZOOM REGISTRATION
REQUIRED AT:**

<https://tinyurl.com/5fechdfy>
Open to all Master Masons

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION STRATEGIES

Moving Your Lodge Forward

LODGE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A ZOOM lecture series dedicated to building your leadership and lodge managerial skills and improving the overall membership experience

DATE:

JUNE 16, 2025

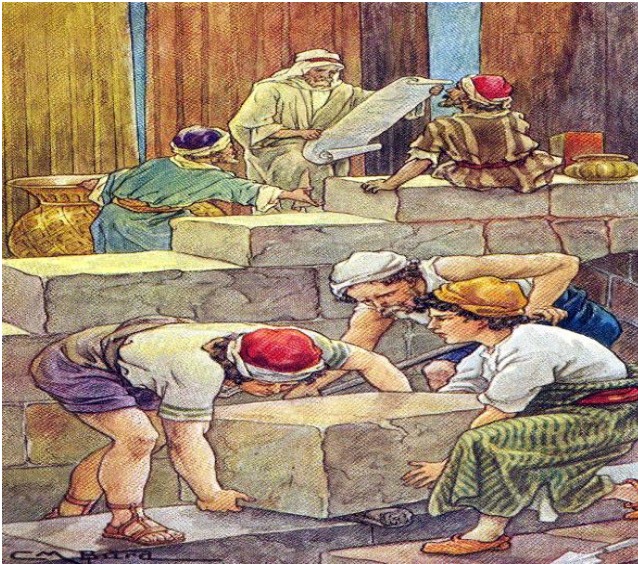
8:00 PM

Questions: R.W. Mohamad A. Yatim, GE
mayatim@hotmail.com

Candidate Status

NAME	STATUS	LAST DATE	NEXT STATUS	NEXT DATE
	EA	1/20/23	FC	TBD
	EA	4/21/23	FC	TBD
	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD
	Mr.	2/2/24	EA	TBD
	EA	3/1/25	FC	TBD
	Mr.	1/17/25	EA	TBD

Brethren, many sets of hands make lighter work. Let us continue to work towards building a stronger Masonic Temple. If you have a question or concern, please contact Lodge Leadership promptly.



Brethren helping Brethren:

Call or contact WB Olson for the following service:

GENE OLSON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LLC

1 WINDSOR ROAD GIBBSBORO, NJ 08026

License# 13794 Office (856) 782-0077 and Cell (609) 868-2218

Residential Electric Work | Commercial Electrical

Services www.olsonelectricnj.com

Gene Olson Electrical Contractors, LLC has provided dependable residential & commercial electrical services in Camden, Gloucester and Burlington counties since 1996.

Call or contact Brother Halina for the following service:

Trophies, Plaques, Medals and other Awards

FAMILY IMPORTS, LLC 630 N Black Horse Pike Blackwood, NJ 08012

Tel 856 228 6400 or famimports@yahoo.com

Call or contact WB Abiuso for the following services:

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J&J GUNWORKS

310 White Horse Pike Clementon, NJ 08021 856-784-1910

www.jjgunworks.com

YOUR 2nd Amendment Store.

Call or contact RW Brian Read for the following Service:

Alcoy's Spa Service Parts and Service for Whirlpool Baths and Hot Tubs

800-322-7727

Call or contact Brother Drexel for the following Service:

DREXEL HVAC, LLC

27 Canyon Drive, Berlin, NJ 08009 - NJ Master HVACR Contractor

#19HC00586400

Office – 856-809-9342 or e-mail drexelhvac@hotmail.com

Sales/Service/Installation/Oil to gas conversions

Brethren helping Brethren Continued:

Call or contact WB Moser for the following service:

Financial Planning: WB Moser is a second-generation financial planner with over 30 years' experience. I was the last Past Master of Florence Lodge in Woodbury.

Donald S Moser - DSM Capital Wealth Management

Managing Director/ CCO www.dsmwealthmanagement.com

609/221-9276

Call or contact Brother Kingett for the following service:

Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Elder Law

Donald L. Kingett, Esq. Offices in Gloucester County & Camden County

856-374-5800 or DKingett@KingettWarren.com


Call or contact Brother Jay Colavita for the following service:

Trident Protection Group Contact Brother Jay Colavita (609) 481-8091 We're a full-service security agency providing armed or unarmed guards and K9 units. We specialize in event security (no size too big or small), executive protection, property and asset protection (facilities, fine arts, gems, and resources), and transportation.

Website: <https://tridentprotection.org/>

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16 East Main Street • Moorestown, NJ 08057

Contact WB Paul Burkhardt or Mark Burkhardt for the following Service:

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Burkhardtscountertops@yahoo.com

Quality you can trust since 1983.

Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237

*** Deceased # Served another Lodge**

1922	Albert C. Stack *	1961	John P. Steffan*
1923	Harry A. Beck *	1962	Harold H. Croom*
1923	William S. Martin # *	1963	Charles F. Yost *
1924	Arthur Scrimshaw *	1963	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *
1925	Benjamin Forrest *	1964	Charles W. Engler, Jr.*
1926	Elmer F. Giffin *	1965	Daniel A. Mullen, III *
1927	Charles B. Giffin *	1965	Carl H. Gamp # *
1928	John T. Reif *	1966	Edgar N. Peppler PGM #
1929	Charles V. Osborne, Sr. *	1966	Albert L. Hann, PJGD *
1930	Samuel G. Garrison, Jr.*	1967	Henry Baumert *
1931	Charles P. Mills # *	1968	Robert E. Walsh, Jr.*
1932	William R. Cannon *	1969	George E. Carpenter *
1933	Noah C. Bender *	1970	Henry Sannipolli, PDDGM *
1934	F. Maurice Goodwin *	1971	Leonard O. Beebe *
1935	Michael Balent, Jr. *	1972	Robert D. Rowand *
1936	Enos J. Jarvis *	1973	Louis W. Bradley, PGT*
1937	Robert F. Ranken *	1974	Robert W. Bates, PSGD
1938	John H. Fisher, Sr. *	1975	Frederick W. Knox
1939	Oscar M. Hansen *	1976	Leroy See *
1940	Albert F Neidinger PGP*	1976	John J. Eitel # *
1941	Lawrence E. Gardiner *	1977	Roy F. Gutshall, Jr.*
1942	B. Franklin Cope *	1978	John R. Beetle
1943	Fred Humphrey *	1978	James J. Golley #
1944	Charles. S. Schenick *	1979	Charles W. Bell
1945	Ora L. Wooster, Sr. *	1980	Benjamin H. Read, Jr.*
1946	Carl C. Caldwell *	1981	Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM
1947	Benjamin A. Glatz *	1982	Warren E. Rival, PGC *
1948	Joseph H. Matthews *	1982	Ronald A. Rocco #
1949	Ralph E. Husted *	1983	Hugh C. Williams *
1950	Thomas Milne *	1984	Walter C. Knett *
1951	Ferdinand Herbst *	1984	Charles E. Oppido, Jr. # *
1952	Charles Mannice *	1984	Larry S Plasket, PGM, #
1953	Robert C. Osborne, PGC*	1985	Frank A. Applegate, Sr.*
1954	Earl B. Hallowell *	1985	Henry Bubacz # *
1955	Harry M. Ireland *	1986	Wilfred E. Wilson *
1956	John M. Fisher, Jr.*	1986	Donald L. Keppen Sr. #
1957	Albert C. Stack, Jr.*	1987	Robert F. Butler *
1958	Whitney H. Myers *	1988	William E. Hand *
1959	George F. McCann *	1989	Edwin W. Griffiths, Jr. # *
1960	Harold T. Wolf*	1989	James E. Miller, PGC #

Past Masters of Laurel Lodge #237 Continued

* Deceased # Served another Lodge

1990	Benjamin Foster, PGC # *	2016	Gene G. Olson
1990	Donald C. Lever, PSGS *	2016	Eric Erickson #
1991	Stewart D. Walsh *	2017	John P. Gomen
1991	Ralph S. Hill, Jr. # *	2017	Scott Vicari #
1991	William H. Berman, PGM	2018	Joseph Abiuso PGC
1992	George W. Stott, Jr. *	2019	Edward S. Bohi
1992	Harry H. Wible # *	2020	William E. Roche
1993	Dale A. Lynch, Jr., PDDGM	2020	Michael Mattes PGP #
1994	Henry J. Rahn, Jr. PSGS *	2021	Craig J Woodruff
1994	Charles A Castley PDDGM *	2021	Michael Mattes #
1995	Russell B. Hoyle, Sr.	2021	Casey Huston GC #
1996	Frazier R. Alburger, PGT	2022	Donald L. Keppen Jr.
1996	James E. Miller, PGC #	2022	Michael Mattes #
1997	Raymond B. Kingett	2022	Casey Huston GC #
1997	Jerry R. Barnish #	2023	Jerry R. Barnish
1998	Kirk D. Nevius, Jr., PGC *	2024	Keith Verrico
1999	Scott D. Cianci		
1999	Frank M. Blizard, III #		
2000	Paul E. Burkhardt		
2001	Robert F. DiOrio		
2001	Donald. C. Sharp Sr. #		
2002	Leonard M. March, PDDGM		
2002	Craig J. Woodruff #		
2003	Eugene J. Applegate		
2004	Eugene O. Bathurst		
2005	Juan A. Caraballo, Jr		
2006	Moses R. Hayes, Jr., PGC		
2007	Richard J. McCunney, II		
2008	Michael E. Owsiak		
2009	Robert E. Kunze		
2010	Craig R. Thorpe		
2011	Brian J. Read, PSGS		
2011	George W. Niessner, PSGS #		
2012	Bernard J. Madgey, V JGW		
2013	Kevin D. Kloss		
2014	James A. Weisensee		
2014	Brian McGovern #		
2015	Robert A. Taylor		

2025 A.D.

Officer Line

6025 A.L.

Worshipful Master

RW Michael I Mattes, PGP – Janice

Senior Warden

RW Scott P. Vicari, PGP - Jacquelyn

Junior Warden

Bro Jay Colavita - Marianne

Treasurer

WB Robert Taylor, PM – Susan

Secretary

WB Jerry R. Barnish, PM - Beth

Secretary Emeritus

RW Louis W. Bradley PGT*

Treasurer Emeritus

WB Charles W. Bell PM

WB John R. Beetle, PM

WB Whitney H. Myers, PM *

MW Joseph H. Rival, PGM

Officer Line Continued

<u>Senior Deacon</u>	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo
<u>Junior Deacon</u>	WB Brian McGovern, PM
<u>S.M. Ceremonies</u>	WB Bro Don Keppen, Jr. PM
<u>J.M. Ceremonies</u>	WB Craig Woodruff, PM
<u>Senior Steward</u>	WB Donald L. Keppen, PM
<u>Junior Steward</u>	WB Keith P. Verrico, PM
<u>Marshal</u>	DB Robert S. Outlaw
<u>Chaplain</u>	WB Craig Woodruff, PM
<u>Tyler</u>	Brother William F. Anderson
<u>Historian</u>	Brother Jacob Keppen
<u>Proxy to GL</u>	Brother Thomas J. Santangelo
<u>Director of Ritual</u>	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS
<u>Webmaster</u>	DB Raymond T. McManus, DB
<u>Dir. of Craftsmen</u>	By Appointment - Need Volunteer
<u>Entertainment</u>	By Appointment – Need Volunteer
<u>Sick and Visiting</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Auditing, Budget & Finance</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Blood Bank Chairman</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Photographer</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Masonic Education</u>	RW Brian J. Read, PJGS, RW Bernard J. Madgey, V GO / PDDGM
<u>Advisor to Officers</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Refreshments</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Funeral Coordinator</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.
<u>Scholarship Committee</u>	RW Frazier Alburger, PGT
<u>Building Trustees</u>	3 Year: DB Bob Outlaw 2 Year: Brother Thomas J. Santangelo 1 Year: By appointment – Volunteer Needed
<u>Financial Trustees</u>	3 Year: MW Joseph H. Rival Jr., PGM 2 Year: WB Craig Woodruff, PM 1 Year: WB Keith P. Verrico, PM
<u>Organist</u>	By Appointment – Volunteer needed.

New Jersey Grand Lodge Information

Grand Master: Most Worshipful: John Eugene Margroff

Deputy Grand Master: RW Omar S. Morris

Senior Grand Warden: Bruce C. Golway

Junior Grand Warden: RW Bernard J. Madgey V

Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer: MW Douglas R. Policastro

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary: MW Larry S. Plaskett

District Deputy Grand Master: RW Ken Carpenter

District Ritual Instructor: RW Vince Capone

18th Masonic District 2025 Grand Officers

Grand Chaplain: Right Worshipful Casey Huston GC

Aid to the Grand Master: Scott P. Vicari, ATTGM

Laurel Lodge Distinguished Brethren

DB Richard P. Alspach*, DB Raymond T. McManus,

DB John C. Read Jr., DB Robert S. Outlaw

Laurel Lodge Honorary Members

MW William H. Sackett, Grand Master 1986 *

MW Edgar N. Pepler, Grand Master 1979

MW Larry S. Plasket, Grand Master 2002

MW William H. Berman, Grand Master 2009

MW David A. Dorworth, Grand Master 2013

RW Chester H. Clark PGC

RW Keith A. Herman, PDDGM

RW Benjamin Foster PGC*

GRAND LODGE WEBPAGE

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