



Michigan Triple Tau *Official Publication of the* *Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons* **AUGUST 2025**

Dear Companions and Everyone:

Remember when we were wishing for hot weather? Sure, back then it was (something) below zero but we wanted to see green grass and leaves on the trees. I think we can stop now and prepare for the Fall season. It is my favorite season because of the trees changing colors.

This issue has three candidates for the open chair. The Grand Officers have written good articles and left reminders too! In our Education Section Companion Kevin Brown, PHP, is talking about "Working Tools". A flyer for the Outdoor Degrees is in here again! Just to remind everyone of the Outdoor Degrees Day. Take care and see you all next month! No, the Triple Tau does not stop publishing for things keep happening all year round! Check out the calendar at the website.

Fraternally,

Jane Todd, Editor of the Triple Tau



Donald Galway, PGHP, Grand Secretary
500 Temple Street
Detroit, Michigan 48201-2695
Cell Phone No. (517) 231-7109
E Mail: dgalway12000@yahoo.com



Jane Todd, Editor of the Triple Tau
1200 Wright Ave., RM 281
Alma, Michigan 48801-1133
Phone No. (989) 423-7642
E Mail: creakyjane281@gmail.com

Website: www.grandchapter-mi.org



MEC Thomas Black

Grand High Priest

xsealtom@yahoo.com

Companions All,

This will be my last communication to all of y'all in the Triple Tau. When the next Triple Tau comes out, I will have been replaced by my successor. There has been a lot going on this year that I have witnessed. I have seen Chapters merge (Traverse City and Cadillac), I have seen some previously strong Chapters begin to falter because of lack of leadership (Grand Rapids), and I have seen some previously weaker Chapters thrive because of strong leadership (Oakland). I have listened when Companions thought I wasn't, and I have seen when Companions thought I could not see.

I have listened to all advice offered. I have accepted some, and ignored others, but I listened to all of you. I have seen and heard your concerns regarding my edicts, and I have witnessed frustration of Companions. Whatever happened, it is because I thought it was best for the Craft; at any rate, it is over now, and new leadership will replace me. As we say in the Navy, I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

With Fervency & Zeal,
Tom Black, MEGHP





REC Dave Montgomery
Grand King
dmontgomeryd48@gmail.com



REC Harold R. Staley
Grand Scribe
Lady Deborah
haroldstaley@yahoo.com

Greetings Companions;

My big day is coming up soon and I am looking forward to my year as Grand High Priest. The golf outing and picnic were well attended and everyone that participated like our new venue. Thank you to the Pinckney Lodge for the use of their facilities. Nothing else going on in August that I am aware of but the Grand Session and I hope for a great turn out for it too.

Fraternally yours,
Dave Montgomery, Grand King



Greetings Companions:

The weather in northern Michigan is hot and humid but what can one expect after all this is mid-summer. I cannot believe how quickly the year has gone by.

The first thing I would like to say is what a great year it has been for the Grand Chapter under the leadership and guidance of M.E. Tom Black our MEGHP. I personally have had the pleasure to travel with M.E. Tom many thousands of miles together. M.E. Tom thank you for your devotion to our royal craft and for all the support you have given me, there are not enough words that I can express. Thank You.

Companions a few dates to remember the Grand York Rite Session August 14 thru 16, 2025 at Bay City Michigan. If you plan on attending, please register early also fill out your meal registration form. To all the Chapters be sure to get your proxy card filled out.

On Sept.6th 2025, the Outdoor Degrees All Degree Day will be held so if your Chapter has any candidates, please bring them for a memorable experience they will always remember. The Grand Chapter would like to congratulate excellent companions Brent Raterink our newly installed Grand Master of the 3rd veil and John Blanchard our newly installed DDI for district no 12. both Companions are running for the open chairs at our Grand Session. Thank you Companions for stepping up.

In closing the Grand Session will be here soon and then the new year will start. I hope everyone will have a great and safe summer. SEE YOU ALL AT GRAND SESSION!

Fraternally,
Harold Staley, Grand Scribe



Companions,

It has been a busy season. I have had the pleasure to visit Grand Rapids, Lafayette, Union, St. Joseph Valley, Washtenaw, Monroe, Paw Paw, Muskegon, and Hooker in the past months. I also had the honor to attend the Grand Chapter of Indiana session in Nashville, IN. In May I was also present at the Grand Lodge of Michigan, proudly representing the Grand Chapter of Michigan.

It was my honor to be present at the installation of Brent Raterink as Grand Master of the Third Veil and John Blanchard as District Deputy Instructor of District 12. Both Excellent Companions have put a lot into the Grand Chapter this year by taking on work in all degree festivals and traveling to the Tri-State festival in Angola. I was encouraged to see the collection of young Royal Arch Masons gathered in fellowship following the installation. This is the future of our Craft.

At the Grand Lodge of Michigan, I was reminded of the Second Master of the Veil's banner and what it denotes. Both open chairs were filled by Royal Arch Masons. As I look at the Grand Line as a whole, I see several links to the York Rite and am hopeful this can lead to continued and possibly further assistance as we explore options to promote the York Rite within our Michigan Craft Lodges.

My message to the Companions remains consistent. Be active in your home Chapter and support your Companions to become engaged. Post your activities and show our Blue Lodge Brothers what they may be missing. You remain the best advertisement of Royal Arch Masonry. Continue to seek ways to be of service to the Craft Lodges near you. Beyond the Master's pins, there are other awards which may be presented. Watch for degree work in your area; offer to assist even with minor roles or just be a supporting presence on the sideline. Let the Lodges see the Chapters as a resource. Gone should be the days when the appendant and concordant bodies drained the Craft Lodges of talent.

As we approach Grand Session, I encourage all who can attend to do so. This is your Grand Session. It is a wonderful opportunity to network with other Chapters from Michigan and beyond. If you are a Past High Priest and have not been through the Order of High Priesthood, I would highly recommend it to you.

Over the last year, I have endeavored to represent you in a manner befitting a Grand Officer. It has been the highlight of my Masonic career to serve as your Grand Royal Arch Captain. This is a trust I have taken seriously and have done my level best to be equal to the task. Not previously being a York Rite ritualist, I have learned five different degree ritual roles and have served in those seats in both individual Chapters and degree festivals. Also, I have endeavored to bring resources when Chapters have brought up issues and have collaborated with Chapters on ideas for membership and engagement. To the voting delegates of the Grand Chapter, I humbly ask for your support. It is my ardent desire to continue to serve the Companions of the Grand Chapter of Michigan, and I request your support as I seek further promotion to Grand Scribe. Masonic Charity is not always a work of financial philanthropy, and I have been the recipient of such charity which I hope to return one day to others. I would like to thank the Grand Chapter line officers and others for the mentoring and support I have received since last August. I would also like to call out the mentoring and friendship gifted to me by Excellent Companion Ryan Groat.

The loss of Right Excellent David Patterson was a blow to us all, but I will be forever grateful for the discussions he had with me both in person and over the telephone. I miss him and that we didn't get the opportunity to become closer friends. Prior to my election, Dave asked if I had brought an apron extension. That was a detail I had not thought about and my brain went into a small panic when he mentioned it. Seeing my obvious distress, he put his arm on my shoulder and handed his backup to me. I will never forget that act of kindness to protect my dignity. As the officer immediately ahead of me, I'm sure it was his obligation to orient me, but he never made it seem like a burden he was not happy to bear. One day, I hope to pay his kindness forward.

I would be remiss if I did not pass along Lady Dawn's regards as well as her appreciation for the guidance and friendship she has experienced from the Ladies of the Grand Chapter.

Until we next meet,
Scott Blanchard, GRAC



R. E. C. DONALD L. GALWAY, P.G.H.P.
GRAND SECRETARY

Lady Sherry

500 Temple Street, Detroit, MI 48201-2695

Cell (517) 231-7109

dgalway12000@yahoo.com

Scribbles of The Secretary

This is August, I have been going nonstop since the middle of July, just to get ready for the “Grand Session”. I am going to be very short for this article.

DeMolay conclave will be held in Mt. Pleasant the weekend of 8th to the 10th. The venue will be the Comfort Inn and Suites, 2424 S, Mission St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

The York Rite Grand Conclave will start the 13th of August for Grand Officers, Past Grand High Priests, and DDI's. Grand Chapter is on the 14th, Grand Council will be held on the 15th and Grand Commandery on the 16th. I hope everyone can attend, as this session is for all Companions and Sir Knights. Time to get back to work to continue getting ready!

Fraternally,
Donald.



Hooker Chapter #38 is excited to announce the decision for Excellent Companion Brent Raterink as a candidate for the Grand Chapter line of Michigan. His heart is deeply invested in the York Rite, and he is eager to bring positive, impactful attitude. He pledges to work tirelessly to foster growth and serve the Companions of Michigan.

Brent Raterink



For the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

Past Master-Sparta #334, 2018

Alexandria Lodge of Research and Study #1002

DDJ-District #11, 2021-Present

High Priest-Hooker #38

Tyre Council #10 R & S.M.

DeMolai Commandery #5

Mt. Moriah Council #128 AMD

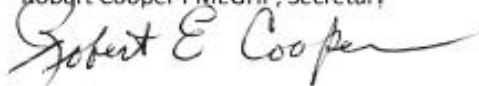
Western College #10 York Rite College

President-Beer City #807 High Twelve Club

Saladin Shriners

Scottish Rite

Robert Cooper PMEGHP, Secretary



Christopher Potts
For The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

Past Most Illustrious Grand Master
Order Of The Purple Cross
General Grand Chapter Bronze Award
Knight of the York Rite Grand Cross of Honor
Grand Superintendent of the Grand Allied Masonic Degrees



The officers and members of Grand Ledge Chapter #85 are proud to announce their full support of Companion Christopher Potts's candidacy to serve us as an officer in the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan.

At the local level, Chris has served in many different capacities and continues to support and serve his local Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery, College and Temple Board. Chris is also active in Grotto and the Scottish Rite. Chris has been instrumental in helping to revitalize Grand Ledge Chapter, Caruss Council and Lansing Commandery. Chris spearheaded the chartering of Pythagoras Lodge of Research & Information #3 & Ol-El-Ra Grotto. Chris is also a founding member of St. Gobban Saer Council #130 Knight Masons, USA.

Chris has held many positions at the local level, such as Worshipful Master, High Priest, Thrice Illustrious Master, Eminent Commander, Governor, Excellent Chief, Monarch, Board of General Purposes District #35 and Lansing Masonic Temple Board President. Chris is a Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal & Select Masons of Michigan. Chris currently is the Secretary and Treasurer for multiple organizations along with finding time to be a mentor as well as a friend.

Please join Grand Ledge Chapter #85 in August at Grand Sessions and show your support for Chris Potts.

Fraternally,
The Companions of Grand Ledge Chapter #85



Hello Companions,

My name is John Blanchard, and I am a candidate for one of the open chairs at the annual communication of The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Michigan. I am proud to carry the support of both my Chapter and Craft Lodge into this adventure. I also carry the support of a steadfast family and social group, grown in large part from this fraternity we enjoy. I look forward to introducing new ideas and creative ways to promote our events and aid our Chapters. Together, we can build our next 177 years.

Past Master - Ira A Beck Lodge No. 503
Past High Priest - Battle Creek Chapter No. 19
Thrice Illustrious Master - Zabud Council No. 9
Captain General - Peninsular Commandery No. 8
Jackson College No. 3
Trinity Council - Knight Masons
Senior Warden - Kalamazoo Valley AMD
Regis Cordis Court - Masonic Order of Athelstan

If you have any questions or need assistance, my personal contact information is below.
I look forward to seeing you all at the Grand Session.

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John Blanchard, PHP
(269) 419-6205
johnsblanchard97@gmail.com

Royal Arch Education – Working Tools

By Comp. Kevin Brown, PHP of Oakland Chapter No. 5

In Michigan and many other jurisdictions across the world Mason's have adopted the phrase “making good men better” and in the first degree we are taught how our rude and imperfect state in nature is symbolically represented by the rough ashler. We also inform every newly made Mason that we are to use the common gavel for the “purpose of divesting our minds and consciences of the all the vices and superfluities of life.”

As we progress through Royal Arch Masonry we see this theme again with the engravers chisel being used to implant “moral precepts of this degree, to make a more deep and lasting impression upon your future life and character.” Finally as we prepare to discover what was lost we are presented with the Crow, Pick-axe and Spade. Similar to the beginning of our Masonic journey we are told that these tools will help “lift from his mind the heavy weight of passions and prejudices” and to “loosen the hold which long habits of sin and folly have” and to “remove the rubbish of vice and ignorance.”

When I reflect upon these lessons, I was reminded of how frequently these themes are revisited throughout our Masonic ritual. This solicits the question – why do we need so many tools that focus on helping us break our bad habits? The simple answer is – ***Because it's difficult to change.***

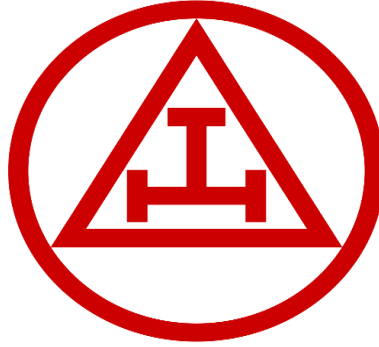
Despite our best efforts, we often fail to quit smoking, gambling, or spend less time on our phones because they trigger a dopamine response in our brains. Combining this effect with the fact that we often turn to these vices as a means to cope with stress, anxiety, boredom or trauma makes change more challenging. Furthermore, I think many social factors push us back towards those bad habits: trying to quit smoking but surrounded by friends/family that still smoke, eating healthy but Friday is always pizza night with the kids, or trying to get up to exercise but it just feels better to hit snooze one more time.

As we try to move from the rough ashler to the perfect ashler I think it is important to remember that you are not alone. You have a network of Brothers and Companions that are committed to “contribute as liberally to his relief as you can without material injury to yourself.” This is often thought of as monetary relief but is equally relevant to supporting one another's personal endeavors. Wouldn't it be easier to quit smoking if you had a Brother going through it with you? Would you really hit snooze on the alarm clock if you've agreed to meet someone else at the gym?

Reflecting back on our ritual, we see clear evidence of how it's expected that we work together. The Grand Council didn't send you back work alone – you were sent back with the working tools in groups of three. What an excellent reminder that we are on this journey of self improvement together and that in times of struggle that you are not alone.

Fraternally,
Kevin Brown, PHP, Oakland Chapter No. 5





MM, PM, MEM, RA

In Reed City, Michigan, carved out of the woods on the Eastern border of the Manistee National Forest, is the home of the Outdoor All-Chapter Degree Day. Owned by a Royal Arch Mason, this 5-acre property will host the Outdoor All-Chapter Degree Day the first Saturday after Labor Day every year. This year, the Outdoor Degrees will be on September 6th, 2025.

2021: John Ames Class	71 individuals total	17 candidates
2022: Mike Whiting Class	97 individuals total	33 candidates
2023: Larry Inscho Class	99 individuals total	34 candidates
2024: Bob Cooper Class	91 individuals total	22 candidates
2025: Dave Dossette Class	?????	?????

Beginning at 10:00 Sharp!!!

- Mark Master
- Past Master
- Most Excellent Master
- BBQ lunch
- Royal Arch Degree
- Fun, Fellowship, & Hospitality all day long.

“Royal Arch Outdoor Degree 2025” hats are \$13, and “Royal Arch Outdoor Degree 2025” red polos are \$20. This IS outdoor in the woods. Normal attire, for this degree will be what you would wear in the woods: hiking boots, jeans, perhaps a red shirt. Wear what you want; however, this is **not** the best place for a coat, tie, & dress shoes. But please bring a chair. Candidates are encouraged to bring an extra pair of shoes & socks.

Exit 159 on US 131. Approximately ½ mile north of 10417, 220th AVE. Reed City, MI.
Follow the Royal Arch signs.



Outdoor Degree Sign-Up

(Please print legibly)

Name_____

Address_____

E-Mail_____

Phone_____

Shirt Size and quantity_____

Hat quantity_____

Make checks payable to “Judy Simons” for hats & Shirts. Please send information BY SEPTEMBER 1st for your shirt and hat. If you don’t want a shirt or hat, please sign up anyway to ensure we have enough food.

Send information to:

Tom Black
2251 Wolfboro Dr.
Kentwood, MI 49508
616-438-8371
xsealtom@yahoo.com

