



District 4 Newsletter

October 14, 2020 Edition

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."

Brothers of District 4,

The fall is rapidly waning and soon winter will once again be with us. Especially challenging for everyone this year has been the COVID pandemic. Please do everything you can to keep you, your family and your Brothers safe! If you are in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Lodge or District Team for support!

There is a much information to relate to you regarding the state of Freemasonry in Wisconsin. Please see the details below about EA degrees (YES – We can do them), Elections, and Installation of Officers.

As we all learn how to operate differently in this period of heightened risk, please remember the expectations of the MWGM in any function or event you hold. Again, links to the edict are provided herein.

Lastly, please work with your Area Administrator to create a calendar of activities for the remainder of 2020! We want to be there for your events and the pandemic continues to impact each of your lodge's plans. The District Team is here to support YOU!

Christian Hirthe, DDGM-4

DEGREE, ELECTIONS, INSTALLATIONS

Following are the procedures to follow for the EA Degrees, elections and installations. These were finalized at the Grand Lodge staff meeting on October 9th & 10th. These guidelines have been approved by MWGM Gorgen. Any questions should be directed to DDGM Hirthe at 920-840-3666 or ddgm4@wimasons.org.

EA DEGREE

1. **At this current time, only the EA degree and EA examinations will be allowed.** FC/MM degrees will come eventually, but not now. Please start planning your EA degrees.
2. Before conducting your EA degree, you must get approval from your DDGM.
3. **Either an AA, DL or DDGM must be present at your EA Degree,** meaning you need to provide me the date & time of the degree when you call me for permission to conduct your EA.
4. No one will touch the Holy Writings during a degree except the candidate and the SD if the SD needs to readjust the S&C. You will not flip pages for the candidate to kiss the Holy Writings (consider a "virtual" kiss). The SD can of course, conduct his regular duties at opening and closing.
5. Nitrile (exam, non-latex) gloves will be worn by candidates and degree team members. I would recommend white or clear colored glove. Consider wearing white cotton washable gloves over the Nitrile gloves for a better look.

ELECTIONS and INSTALLATIONS

- 1) If the 5 elected officers are going to be staying in their chairs for 2021, you **DO NOT** need an election or installation. Newly appointed officers are just that – appointed – and can be installed by the WM virtually if need be since many installations are public.
- 2) If you will be having newly ELECTED officers, you will need to meet **in person** to conduct the election. **Voting virtually is NOT PERMITTED.**
- 3) If you must meet in person for an election, you will follow all COVID guidelines.
- 4) If you need to hold elections, try to use the ballot box for your secret ballot. The box and balls can be easily wiped down. If you choose to use paper for balloting like we normally do, adjudicators will be wearing gloves and masks.
- 5) If you need to elect a trustee or trustees **ONLY**, you have two options--(A) meet in person and hold an election as normal, following guidelines; (B) Section 60.03 of the WMC allows a WM to fill a vacancy by appointment until such time as an annual election can be completed.

If your lodge needs help to fill chairs to meet the minimum officers for opening in the EA degree, you are requested to please contact the DDGM or AA so we can help you out. That is part of our job and we will assist you to the best of our ability.

OR

Ask another lodge for help.

NOT BEING ABLE TO GET ENOUGH LODGE MEMBERS TO OPEN IN THE EA IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO NOT HOLD AN ELECTION (IF NEEDED).

INSTALLATIONS

Installations should be scheduled if your lodge is electing new officers. Presumably the lodges will be conducting installations as before; however, they must be conducted in accordance to the State/Local COVID restrictions and the MWGM's procedures.

OR

A District Team Member or someone else can install the WM and he in turn can install the remaining officers.

Conducting the EA Degree and Examining Candidates Within the COVID-19 Pandemic Restriction

NOTE: This document serves as an outline on procedures and safeguards to be used for conducting an EA degree and EA examination. Lodges that are proficient and can perform the EA degree will be given approval by their District Deputy Grand Master. Only the lodges given approval may conduct this degree. No other degrees will be conducted at this time. A Grand Lodge Officer will be present to evaluate the attention to detail, effectiveness, and feasibility for degree performance and safety from contracting the COVID-19 virus. Following a trial period, the results will be evaluated, and recommendations made for possibly extending degree work through the FC degree.

So that everyone involved and witnessing the degree has the same understanding, these rules will be read to all prior to opening and conducting the degree.

Cleanliness

- The Lodge building will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with current edicts and guidelines.
- All Masons attending and participating will wear facemasks unless they have a respiratory condition that prevents it. A minimum of 6 foot spacing between Brothers on the sidelines must be maintained. This is mandatory.
- Freshly and professionally laundered Candidate Clothing in the laundry plastic covering will be provided to the candidate. Professional is the key word here to reduce any variation in cleanliness.
- New vinyl gloves will be provided for the officers who interact with the candidate including the WM, SW, Secretary, SD, JD, SS, JS, the candidate, and each person giving a lecture. The gloves will be deposited in a plastic bag and discarded in a garbage bin outside the lodge.
- The candidates will wear vinyl gloves and appropriate candidate clothing. The candidate clothing, and cable tow will be freshly laundered and stored in a plastic laundry bag covering or packaging until the candidate is prepared for initiation. After initiation the candidate clothing, and cable tow will be placed in a plastic bag, sealed and delivered to the laundry cleaners (not taken home and laundered). The vinyl gloves will be discarded as listed above.
- A new, disposable blindfold, or a blind fold with disposable liners, will be provided to the candidate. In no case will a be blindfold recycled or reused. In the case liners are used, the liners will be discarded, and the blindfold will be sanitized before and after each use.
- Sandals will be sanitized before and after each use and the Lodge will purchase disposable liners that will be discarded after each use.
- All working tools, including the Deacon's tool, will be disinfected just prior to, and again right after the ceremony.
- New and disinfected plastic page protectors will be used on the opened Holy Writings.

- When touching the candidate (to prepare or conduct) touch with vinyl gloves on and only touch areas covered by clothing or gloves. No skin-to-skin contact.
- Care must be taken for the safety of the candidate and anyone that comes in contact with him to cover all surfaces that may be contacted by gloves or clothing.
- A minimum of 6 foot spacing between Brothers must be maintain when forming the “perpendicular, parallel lines” or when coming down to the level when closing.
- The Secretary will record the names and will verify with every person in attendance that contact information in MORI is current. This will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

During the trial/pilot period, an Area Administrator, District Lecturer, or District Deputy Grand Master will be present before and during degree work, to witness and evaluated the execution and effectiveness of these procedures. The items on the checklist above are for the safety of all concerned, so no exceptions will be allowed.

Hand sanitizer will be made available by the Lodge and it is recommended that anyone that comes into contact with another wash his hands and/or use hand sanitizer immediately after.

***Giving In-lodge Examinations EA Degree Only.
No FC or MM Examinations Will be Given at this Time***

Mask wearing and social distancing will be required at all times. The parties participating in the posting education will wear face masks. Hand sanitizer will be available to be used before and after practicing grips.

Examinations will be completed using masks and social distancing will be maintained at the Altar. Nitrile gloves will be used to demonstrate the grips. Hand sanitizer can be used as a substitute available at the Altar. It will be used immediately before giving the grips and immediately after completing the grips.

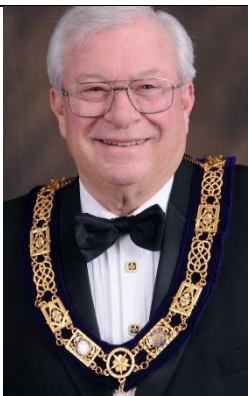


Revisions to Grand Master Gorgen's edict on reopening & food at lodge meetings

Click link for full version

The meal restriction is longer in effect providing the guidelines listed are followed.

- All counter tops in the kitchen and dining area will be sanitized using a Clorox Wipe bleach based similar product or with a bleach and water mixture.
- Catering of food is preferred but not required.
- Hand washing will be done on a frequent basis.
- All food preparation will be done with kitchen staff wearing face masks and gloves.
- All food not catered in must be cooked and prepared on the lodge property. No food shall be brought in from outside the lodge facility unless it is supplied by a licensed caterer.
- No potluck suppers are to be planned or served.
- No serve yourself buffets. The dinners must be plated by staff wearing gloves and face masks with the assembled plates given to the diner. All diners must be wearing face masks while receiving their dinner. The face mask can be removed while eating. Anyone not eating or drinking will wear a face mask; this includes the serving line.
- For fundraising events, if possible, use a drive up outside the lodge for take-out meals.
- For meals inside the lodge, table seating should be set with social distancing in mind.



GRAND MASTER'S MASONIC UPDATE IS OCTOBER 26th

The Grand Master has scheduled a new Masonic Update for October 26th at 6:30 PM. Please use the following link to access the Webinar:

<https://wimasons-org.zoom.us/j/86255216493?pwd=Q3JFQ3R0MXFRc21Ra2ZrWIZsMIQ3dz09>



District Meeting

Save the Date

District 4 Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 27 @ 6:30pm

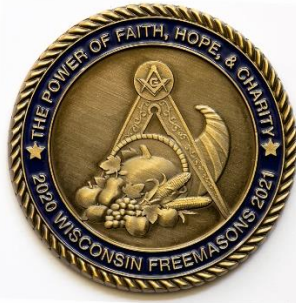
Link will be emailed separately.



Effective September 1st, 2020 the wearing of masks is **required** before entering a lodge building.

The Grand Lodge Square Store has beautiful "Masonic Masks" for sale. Please click [here](#) to be directed to the site to purchase these masks individually or in bulk.

GRAND MASTER GORGEN'S APPEAL FOR FEEDING WISCONSIN



Since 2015, Lady Jan and I have been distributing food from Feeding America at a mobile food pantry. The visitors to the pantry are folks suffering from food insecurity. Food insecurity is defined as not having enough food for an active life [USDA definition]. In the process of handing out groceries, getting to know the folks that come to the site, and doing some research about hunger, especially child hunger, it did not take me long to decide that feeding the hungry would be the target of 2020-2021 Grand Master's Appeal. All monies collected will be distributed to Feeding Wisconsin through the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation.

Feeding Wisconsin is the State association of the six regional Feeding America food banks that provide food to over 1,000 local food programs in all 72 counties of the state. The organization provides 50 million meals annually to over 550,000 people in every corner of our state. The organization has diverted 16 million pounds of excess food to Wisconsin families and has captured 13 million pounds of agricultural surplus for distribution. [Data from Feeding Wisconsin flyer and website. www.FeedingWI.org]

Unfortunately, this appeal has become timely because of the devastation and carnage left in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic one in eleven households in Wisconsin were food insecure. With the COVID-19 pandemic a new survey from "Hunger Free America" found that in the past months 37% of the parents skipped or cut the size of their children's meals because they didn't have enough money to buy food. People are out of work and with less income to buy food. Food insecurity has become a normal way of life for their families. Plus, with the schools being closed, many children are not even able to partake in the only meal they would have in a breakfast or lunch program at their school.

Here's where we need to shine as Masons. We learn from our ritual, *"To relieve the distress is a duty incumbent on all men, but more particularly Masons. ...to compassionate their miseries and to restore peace to their troubled mind is the grand aim we have in view."* We can't do it all, but we can help. My goal this year is to raise \$40,000 to help prevent at least some children from going hungry. I ask your thoughtful consideration and donation for this appeal.

Take a moment to watch this video about Emily on childhood hunger.
<https://facebook.com/FeedingAmerica/videos/10157368557097731/>

At the top of this letter is pictured two sides of a challenge coin. For every donation of \$25 or more to the appeal, a challenge coin will be sent to you as a memento of your generosity. My hope is that you will carry the coin with pride and challenge your brothers to donate and take possession of one also.

Please remember, "...and the greatest of these is Charity [unconditional love]."

Thank you and fraternally,



Brother Ken Gorgen
Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin

SENIOR WARDEN'S WORKSHOP



ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE

32ND DEGREE MASONS ▼ VALLEY OF EAU CLAIRE

HISTORIC EAU CLAIRE MASONIC TEMPLE ▼ 636 GRANHAM AVE

POST OFFICE BOX 345

EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702
(715) 832-7759

September 28, 2020

RE: Senior Warden's Workshops
October 22, 2020

PLEASE FORWARD TO YOUR SENIOR WARDEN!! Thank you!!

The time is rapidly approaching when you will assume the responsibility for ascending to the chair of the Worshipful Master for the coming year. The success of your year as Master is largely dependant upon you.

We want you to have the most successful year possible as Master. The primary tenant of the Scottish Rite is that the foundation to all Masonic bodies is the Symbolic Lodge. A chief purpose of the Scottish Rite is to help foster strong Symbolic Lodges. There is a very good reason for this. A Scottish Rite Valley is only as healthy as the Symbolic Lodges which comprise the Valley. If your Lodge is actively doing the work in raising Master Masons, then these men have the opportunity to seek further light in Masonry in the Scottish Rite.

In cooperation with Grand Lodge, the Valley of Eau Claire is holding a Senior Warden's workshop on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. lasting about two hours. The meeting will be conducted via "Zoom". This will not be a pep talk but rather a "roll up your sleeves" planning session to help you plan your year. The trainers will be all Past Masters. Please mark your calendar to save the date.

Senior Wardens interested in attending must contact me via email or phone call to reserve your place of this worthwhile planning session. Once I am contacted of your interest, I will send you the necessary planning documents that will be reviewed during this training session. Again, we wish for you a most successful year as Worshipful Master of your Lodge, and hope we can be of assistance to you in your endeavor to do so.

Fraternally & Sincerely,

Lyle N. Koerner Jr., 33°
Valley of Eau Claire - Secretary
Scottishrite-ec@sbcglobal.net
715-832-7759

THE UNIVERSITY OF FREEMASONRY

THE
WISCONSIN
Masonic Journal

Online Edition

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE MOST RECENT WISCONSIN MASONIC JOURNAL](#)



Remember you are a MASON when posting on Social Media!

Wisconsin Masonic Grand Lodge Social Media Code of Conduct

“To preserve the reputation of the Fraternity unsullied must be your constant care.” When we represent ourselves as members of the fraternity, we become someone’s impression of Freemasonry. As such, it is important that we act accordingly and subscribe to the lessons we are all taught as Masons in terms of how we communicate and interact with Masons and non-Masons.

Many of us are finding ourselves online more during these days.

Please remember you are a Mason and should act accordingly.

Click image or link for full [Code of Conduct](#)

COGMNA COMING TO WISCONSIN!

RELAX! IT'S NOT THE NEWEST VIRUS! IT'S THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF NORTH AMERICA.



Volunteers Needed!!

From February 19-23, 2022, Milwaukee will serve as the host of the **2022 Conference of Grand Masters of North America (COGMNA)**. This yearly conference rotates locations around the United States, Canada and Mexico -- it's the largest gathering of Grand Masters in the world and attracts nearly one thousand Masons and guests from all 50 states and around the globe. While the conference and most of the dinners will take place at the Pfister Hotel, attendees will have

opportunities to tour local sights and travel to places around Milwaukee for planned events that will help make their experience here more enjoyable.

This presents us, as Wisconsin Masons, with a unique opportunity to showcase our great state to the world. Our theme will be "**Wisconsin Gemütlichkeit**" - which is a German word used to describe a feeling of warmth, friendliness, and good cheer; in other words, what Wisconsin is all about!

Over the course of the conference, we aim to show all of our distinguished guests that feeling of welcomeness and warmth -- and that's where we need your help. As the planning committee continues to work on logistics, tours, dinners, and hospitality events, we've realized that we are going to need a lot of volunteers to help convey that warm Wisconsin welcome.

By volunteering, you will essentially have a free "all access pass" to this event. This is a tremendous opportunity to meet Grand Masters and Brothers from all over the world.

We will need volunteers to welcome and greet guests and guide them in the right direction, scan tickets for events, and generally help everyone feel welcomed and be in good cheer. These are volunteer opportunities for Masons and non-Masons alike, so this is also a great opportunity to invite your wife, friends, or someone who may be interested in Masonry to join you! Additionally, for those from outside the greater Milwaukee area: if you are able to volunteer multiple days, we will absolutely work to secure you overnight accommodations in Milwaukee.

If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Bro. Jeff Schoenfeldt at peshtigofire@yahoo.com. Thank you -- danke und prost!

Masonic Education Resources:

- <https://www.reddit.com/r/freemasonry/>
- [Silas Shepherd Lodge #1843 - Lodge of Research](#) - articles suitable for presentation within your Lodge and other resources for presentations and education.
- [The Masonic Roundtable](#) - a weekly video podcast of discussions of various Masonic topics
- [The Winding Stairs Podcast](#) - a semi regular podcast on various Masonic topics
- [Whence Came you Podcast](#) - a weekly podcast reading of various Masonic topics

Masonic Organization News

What's happening in Grand Lodge, York Rite, and Scottish Rite? Click below to find out!

[Grand Lodge - Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin](#)

[Scottish Rite - Northern Masonic Jurisdiction](#)

[Scottish Rite - Valley of Green Bay](#)

[York Rite of Wisconsin](#)

[Wisconsin DeMolay](#)

[Wisconsin Job's Daughters](#)

[Women's General Auxiliary - SHC Twin Cities](#)

[Daughters of the Nile](#)

[Order of the Eastern Star - Wisconsin](#)

District 4 Team

We are here to serve you, Brothers! Please reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like us to attend an upcoming lodge function.

- **Christian Hirthe** **District Deputy Grand Master**
 - Phone (cell): 920.840.3666
 - Phone (cell-work): 920.376.2809
 - Phone (work): 920.721.4827
 - Email (Grand Lodge): district_deputy4@wisc-freemasonry.org
 - Email (personal): tta240@yahoo.com
 - Email (work): Christian.hirthe@kcc.com

- **Dave Leistra** **Grand Chaplain**
 - Phone: 920.866.8957
 - Email: doleistra@hotmail.com

- **Moses Adams** **District Lecturer**
 - Phone: 906-396-0085
 - Email: kealii79@yahoo.com

- **Jim Herman** **Area 1 Administrator**
 - Phone: 715.853.8462
 - Email: wisconsinser@frontiernet.net

- **Mitch Custer** **Area 2 Administrator**
 - Phone: 608.770.2928
 - Email: Mitchell.custer@gmail.com

- **Jacob Sylvester** **Area 3 Administrator**
 - Phone: 920.405.3690
 - Email: jksylvester31@gmail.com



Area 1: Shawano, Clintonville, Antigo, Crandon, Mason Woods

Area 2: Washington, Des Peres, Henry S. Baird, Theodore Roosevelt, N.E.W. Daylite

Area 3: Marinette, Pine, Tri-County Daylite, Hiram Fisher, Oconto Falls

Traveling Gavel

The District Traveling Gavel is currently at Mason-Woods #368. Come steal it before they can deliver it to you! Let's get this gavel around the entire District before the end of the Masonic year!



Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Reports/Reminders

- **Lodge Inspections:**

At the request of the Grand Master, the District Deputy will complete a lodge inspection for all lodges in their District. Please ensure that your lodge is compliant with the expectations ([link](#)). Questions include: Minutes completeness, Budget, By-laws, Sarbannes-Oxley binder, MORI usage, Wisconsin Masonic Code access. Inspections will start in October.

- **Important Time Lines:**

Report	Send To	Date Due
Non-payment of Dues	Grand Lodge	Nov 1 st and Dec 1 st
Certificate of Election	Grand Lodge	Immediately after Installation/Election
Audit Lodge Finances	Lodge	End of WM's year
Junior Warden Report	Junior Grand Warden	Dec 15 th
Preliminary Recapitulation & Membership Report	Grand Lodge	Dec 31 st
Lodge Budget	DDGM	Feb 15 th
LEA Award	DDGM	Feb 15 th
Financials	Grand Secretary	Feb 15 th
Reconcile Final Recapitulation Report	Grand Lodge	Mar 1 st
File any Resolution to Present at AC	Grand Secretary	75 days prior to AC
WMF Matching Scholarship Deadline	Grand Lodge	Apr 1 st



District 4 Lodges – Locations & Meeting Times

- **Washington #21**

1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm
Dark July & August
1950 Bond Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

- **Des Peres #85**

2nd & 4th Wednesday @ 7:00pm
Dark July & August
1950 Bond Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

- **Shawano #170**

1st & 3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm
Dark January & February
2324 East Richmond Street
Shawano, WI 54166

- **Henry S. Baird #174**

2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 6:30pm
Dark July & August
31 South 3rd Avenue
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54325

- **Marinette #182**

1st Thursday @ 7:30pm
1610 Main Street
Marinette, WI 54143

- **Pine #188**

2nd Wednesday @ 7:30pm
Dark December & January
535 Superior Avenue
Oconto, WI 54153

- **Clintonville #197**

1st & 3rd Monday @ 7:00pm
Dark January, February, and March
Meets at Shawano Masonic Center
2324 East Richmond Street
Shawano, WI 54166

- **Masonic Lite Lodge # 218 (Formerly Tri-County DayLite #218)**

1st Wednesday @ 6:00pm
918 Louisa Street
Crivitz, WI 54114

- **Hiram D. Fischer #222**
2nd Wednesday @ 6:30pm
433 Central Avenue
Florence, WI 54121
- **Crandon #287**
2nd Tuesday @ 7:00pm
118 South Lake Street
Crandon, WI 54520
- **Oconto Falls #293**
1st Monday @ 7:00pm (Except September – 2nd Monday)
170 North Washington Street
Oconto Falls, WI 54154
- **Theodore Roosevelt #322**
1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30pm
Dark July & August
1950 Bond Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
- **N.E.W. Daylite #360**
2nd Thursday @ 10:00am
Dark July & August

1950 Bond Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
- **Mason Woods # 368**
1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 10:00am
N6446 Emery Ansonge Road
Cecil, WI 54111

Traveling outside District 4 and want to attend a lodge meeting in Wisconsin?
Please see the
[WISCONSIN LODGE LOCATOR](#)



National Sojourners, Inc

The Masonic Military Veterans' Order in America

SERVING AMERICA & FREEMASONRY THROUGH PATRIOTISM

www.nationalsojourners.org



The Purposes of National Sojourners, Inc. (NSI) shall be to organize current and former members of the Uniformed Forces of the United States, and Honorary Members who are Master Masons, into Chapters for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true Patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation, for bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military need of National Defense, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the National Security.

Through the Lodge of Military Tribute Program, Flag Presentations, support of Youth Leadership Conferences, ROTC and JROTC Medal presentations, NSI has become an exceptional resource for all Lodges in Wisconsin and the community at large. Our Military and Honorable members provide direct support to the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin on all matters Veteran, including the Grand Lodge Permanent Veteran's Pin initiative. NSI provides recognition, education and opportunities for our citizens to more fully appreciate and love our Veterans and this Republic. By so doing we seek to promote the ideals of our forefathers which made the United States of America a singularly unique and exceptional nation based on equality, justice, and liberty.

Interested in becoming a National Sojourner in Wisconsin?

Contact milw27soj@gmail.com

or WB Bob Roth, National President Elect, at 414-708-5830.