



Michigan Triple Tau *Official Publication of the* *Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons* **February 2024**

Dear Companions and Everyone:

Hello February! The weather sure kept us shoveling snow or holding back the water from the thawing of all that snow. I wonder what this month's weather has in store for us.

The date that needs to be as a reminder is February 9th. It is the deadline to have dinner reservations in for the George Washington Birthday celebration. It will be held at Port Huron's Masonic Center but sponsored by St. Clair Chapter No. 12, R.A.M. There is a flyer for a celebration dinner included in this issue of the Triple Tau. It has changed the location, but I am sure you would all have a good meal and a great time.

Thank you to our article writers. Please read about the ladies of the Grand Chapter. Hunter House is a wonderful place for families in crises. Any donations would be appreciated.

Fraternally,
Jane Todd, Editor of the Triple Tau



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Greetings Companions,

I hope everyone is remaining warm now that the weather has turned cold, or should I say downright frigid. Please be careful when you are shoveling snow. Take rest whenever needed. I hope that everyone remains safe so that I can greet you on my travels.

I am glad to report that Oakland #5 and Iosco #83 will be conferring degrees in the weeks to come. For more information, please contact me.

If your Chapter needs some help in conferring degrees for your Chapter's candidates, do not hesitate to contact me for assistance. I, or any other Grand Officer will be happy to be of assistance.

Finally, please note the article related to the lady's project for Hunter Place. Any assistance will be sincerely appreciated.

Fraternally,

Brent Helm, MEGHP*

*Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Royal Arch Masons of Michigan





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Secretaries Scribbles

We have made it through the first month of 2024, and as mother nature in Michigan is true to form, we from day to day haven't a clue as to what the weather will be. We in southern Michigan have rain, snow, sleet, and hail, all in the same day. Four days of sub-zero and then forty degrees. As we always say, if you don't like the weather in Michigan wait a half hour and it will change.

January was a relatively slow month for degree work, but we should have been busy. The Masters's Pins should have been distributed by the end of January they should have been recorded with in the data base if they have not been, would the chapter secretaries please do so. Many of the chapters that have presented the Masters Pins may have noticed that the Eastern Stars are also presenting pins. We have been doing it since 1950, as I have replacement pins for almost all the years since then, it is a great tradition of Grand Chapter and gives us a little exposure. I hope that Eastern Star continues with this also, as we and they cannot recognize our lodge Worshipful Masters enough.

February will be a month of events; degree work will be in full swing. Chapters that wish to put on their own work. You don't have to do it alone; your neighboring Chapters can help, or the York Rite Colleges can help also.

All degree days are also an option. The George Washington birthday celebration will be held on the 17th of February in Port Huron. All members of the Chapters are invited to the meeting, but we would like the Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, DDI's and Secretaries to attend, if available. The DDI's should make a special effort to attend, as the new director of DDI's, Terry Baker, will be presenting the program for DDI's forth coming for the remainder of the year and what will be expected for the coming year. If you plan on attending, please call the Grand Chapter office to get a Head Count for lunch, and if you are staying for dinner give Bill Herlihy a call for dinner reservations and pass along the check.

One thing to look forward to, spring is March 19th, I didn't say it will be warmer just it will be spring.

See you around the State!
Donald





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REC Dave Montgomery
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Greetings Companions:

“What I want from tomorrow, is to be better than today: Step by step.” -Huey Lewis

Growing up in the 70’s and 80’s one of my favorite bands was Huey Lewis and the News. Above is a quote from one of his songs. Even though this was just music at the time, it hits home now for Royal Arch Masonry.

Complacency is the enemy of growth, and for those who are satisfied with ‘good enough’ there will never be any growth, or ‘Further Light in Masonry.’

Always strive to be better and better every day. Never be satisfied with mediocrity and do the very best you can. Not just for you, but for those around you. Let those who seek Further Light in Capitular Masonry look to you as something and someone to emulate. Some ways to improve yourself in Masonry (especially Royal Arch Masonry are:

- Attend every meeting of your Chapter.
- Visit other Chapters and make new friends and learn something new.
- Allend other Chapter’s degrees and attend all-degree day festivals.
- Take active parts in degrees for your Chapter and for other Chapters.

These are just some ways, talk among your Chapter members and see how your own Chapter can become better tomorrow, and the day after and the day after that. Until I see you again, keep seeking further light in Masonry.

Your Servant,
Tom Black, Grand King



Greetings Companions:

I am seeing a great deal of interest in the York Rite bodies with lots of new candidates petitioning for membership. I was busy in the month of January with work in Blue Lodge, Chapters, and other York Rite bodies. There was once an old phrase” to be one, ask one.”. Many of the Blue Lodge Masons when approached by a York Rite Brother, seem to be very receptive to joining. So, I say “to get one, ask one.”. If we are going to grow, make the effort to recruit. Then put on a good degree for the candidates. If your Chapter needs help, help is available from other Chapters, York Rite Colleges, and from your Grand Chapter Officers. Candidates deserve a good degree, and there is help available.

One activity that is happening in February is the George Washington birthday celebration. It will be held on February 17th at Port Huron Masonic Temple. Reservations for dinner are needed. No later than February 9th. If anyone is interested the form is on the website and the Triple Tau.

Fraternally,
Dave Montgomery, Grand Scribe





REC Harold R Staley
Grand Captain of the Host
 Lady Deborah
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George Washington's Birthday

On the third Monday in February, we honor our first President, George Washington, whose birthday is February 22. By Judsen Hale.



Winters Greetings Companions,

The Lakes are making ice as we have battled deep snow and frigid conditions. All Ice fishermen should be safe and cautious. 4" of ice is the minimum thickness I will venture out on personally. Every year, the Coast Guard fishes out a motor vehicle or two from the bottom of the lake as careless people took the deep plunge by operating under unsafe ice conditions.

Snow mobile trails can also be dangerous due to high speed and booze. The polar plunge takes place in many of our communities including Gaylord, Grayling, and Hubbard Lake. Those people go in on purpose to raise Charity money and awareness of social causes.

Please join us on February 17th for the annual George Washington celebration at the Port Huron Masonic Center Temple located at 927 6th ST in Port Huron Mi. This is the meeting where the DDIs give their address on the participation and proficiency of the various Chapters in their District. This is also the meeting where the Grand Chapter Officers give a report on the Chapters they have visited. Dinner will be served at 5pm. The meeting starts at 9am. All Royal Arch Masons are Welcome. Check out the Triple Tau for more information and the dinner reservation form.

On February 10th the members of Iosco Chapter 83 will be hosting a Mark Master Mason Degree for four new candidates. The participating cast is quite impressive, including many Grand Chapter Officers, Past Grand High Priest CJ Peterson, and Sitting High Priest Brent Helm. Please join us at the Mio Masonic Lodge to witness this most important degree, share in fellowship, and increase fraternal relations. All Royal Arch Masons are invited. Gavel drops at 12 noon and dinner will be served following Degree Work

Fraternaly yours,
 Harold R Staley,
 Grand Captain of the Host.



Can you imagine having *two* birthdays every year? Well, for 47 of his 67 years, George Washington did. The first was the date on which he was born in 1732, February 11th. But wait—wasn't his birthday always on February 22nd? Not always. In 1752, you see, when George Washington was twenty, Great Britain adopted the new, improved calendar instituted by Pope Gregory the 13th late in the 16th century and proceeded to impose it on us as we were then colonies of Great Britain. This newly imposed Gregorian calendar, as it became known, fixed the length of the solar year at 365 days, to which was added one day every four years if said year was divisible by four (i.e. Leap Year).

The switch to the Gregorian calendar from the old Julian calendar (named for Julius Caesar) was because the old calendar had become out of whack relative to the suns and earth's cycles by ten whole days. By 1752, it was off by eleven whole days. So those eleven days were simply dropped that year. The day following February 1, for instance, was not February 2nd. It was February 11th. So, George Washington's old birthday on February 11th jumped all the way to February 22nd.

Although at first many colonial communities refused to go along with this, George Washington apparently took the change in stride and, from 1752 on, accepted February 22nd as his birthday. On the other hand, he didn't completely ignore his old February 11th birthday. For instance, in 1799 he attended a gala birthday party in his honor in Alexandria, Virginia, on February 11th, writing in his diary that night that he "went up to Alexandria for the celebration of my birthday."

Eleven days later, on February 22nd, 1799, he celebrated his second birthday of that year which turned out to be the last of his life. He died ten months later, on the evening of December 14, 1799.

I think it's ironic that today we don't really celebrate either one of George Washington's two February birthdays. The closest we come is our celebration of Presidents' Day on the 3rd Monday in February.

* [Judson Hale](#) is best known for his a half century at Yankee Magazine and a long tenure as editor of The Old Farmer's Almanac.



The ladies of the Grand Chapter have decided to undertake a charitable project in conjunction with George Washington's Birthday Celebration. The recipient will be the Hunter Hospitality House in the Port Huron area. There are three locations in the Port Huron area where individuals or their family can stay while they or a family member receives treatment or comes to comforts a loved one.

The items being collected are:

Grocery Gift Cards (Kroger or Meijer preferred)

Bottled Water

Juices (Single serving bottles)

Non-Perishable Food Items

Deodorant (5 oz size)

Toilet bowl cleaner

Hand Sanitizer

Clorox Wipes

Kleenex

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper (Not Dollar Store)

Automatic Dishwashing Detergent



Please bring your donations to Port Huron on February 17th. They will be appreciated.

Fraternally,
Grand Chapter Ladies Auxiliary



St. Clair Chapter No. 12,
Royal Arch Masons
An Invitation to the Annual
George Washington Birthday Celebration

St. Clair Chapter No. 12 once again will be hosting the George Washington Birthday Celebration. Please join us on Saturday, February 17th, 2024, at 6:00 pm. This year we will be celebrating Brother George Washington's 292nd's birthday. The dinner will be at the **Port Huron Masonic (Center) Temple** located on 927 Sixth Street, Port Huron, Michigan. A brief program will follow the dinner.

For those wanting to stay overnight, we recommend the Super 8 Motel on 1484 Gratiot Blvd., Marysville, Michigan, phone number (810) 292-0328 or the Hampton Inn on 1655 Yeager Street, Port Huron, Michigan, phone number, (810) 966-9000. No rooms have been reserved.

Dinner reservations are due no later than February 9th, 2024. Dinner is paid for by reservations only. No dinner tickets will be sold at the door. To make your dinner reservations please fill out the bottom of this page and send your check out no later than February 9th, 2024. We look forward to seeing you at dinner!



 Name _____

Phone number _____ (In case we need to call you.)

Number of dinner(s) _____ @ \$25.00 each Total amount enclosed _____

Make your check(s) out to **St. Clair Chapter No. 12, RAM:**
 Mail this information to **Bill Herlihy, 874 Crystal Lane, Marysville, MI 48040-1598.**

