



HIGHTSTOWN-APOLLO LODGE NO. 41

TRESTLEBOARD — SEPT 2025



Stated Meetings

We are a moon lodge; our meetings are held on the Friday coinciding with or immediately following the full moon

January 17, 2025
February 14, 2025
March 14, 2025
April 18, 2025
May 16, 2025
June 13, 2025
September 12, 2025
October 10, 2025
November 7, 2025
December 5, 2025

Dinner at 6:30pm
Meeting at 7:30pm

**Masonic Education,
Ritual Practice,
and Fellowship**

Thursday evenings at 6:00pm



Words from the East

Brethren,

As September greets us, we feel the crispness of the early mornings and see the subtle changes in the season around us. Nature reminds us that change is constant — yet with each shift comes renewal and opportunity. Just as the leaves begin to turn and the air grows cooler, so too does our Lodge prepare for the transition of officers later in the year. The landscape may change, but the strength of our fraternity remains steadfast, binding us together through every season of life.

I am especially looking forward to gathering once again after being dark for the summer. The fellowship we share, both in labor and refreshment, is what breathes life into our Lodge. This month, we also look forward to the possibility of conferring a Fellowcraft Degree — an occasion that marks both progress and renewal within our ranks, just as the fall season brings its own sense of growth and transformation.

Let us carry this spirit of change, balance, and brotherhood with us as we begin the months ahead. I look forward to seeing each of you in Lodge and enjoying the bonds that remain unshaken no matter how the seasons turn.

Faternally yours,

Christopher J. Aiello:
Worshipful Master



Words from the West

What makes a “good” Mason? A study of Masonic history gives testimony that our order is capable of fulfilling its aims wherever its principles are followed by men who give with their minds, their hearts, and their hands. A “good” Mason is not defined by the badges he wears on his lapels, or the offices he holds in the Lodge. Memorization of ritual, while conducive to good productions, does not define or set aside one brother from another.

Knowing verse does not define a successful mason wholly. A “good” Mason is made in his heart. He is neither covetous nor envious of his brother Masons. He conducts himself with honor, dignity, and compassion for his fellow man. His mind is open and inquiring, not narrow and focused on one particular aspect of life or beliefs.

A “good” Mason will offer to help a struggling brother. If he sees someone who is needing support in his daily life, or who is fighting a challenge that threatens to upend or alter his life, he helps without question. A “good” Mason would never sit back and allow a brother to fail in his mission.

Our apprenticeship must begin anew. Our hearts have become selfish and hardened to others’ challenges. Rather than help someone deal with their challenges, we retreat, or plot to undermine him so that we can move ahead and succeed in our own crusade. Rather than make sacrifices to help another advance, we follow our own agenda to advance before him.

When our work is done, we may lay down the tools of our Craft and stand among the brethren looking up- wards at the new light in the east, but we must adhere to the principles of Freemasonry, not ambition. The ideal traits of a “good” Mason are those of trust, honor, and sacrifice.



Words from the South

Gentlemen, my Brothers, it is time we come off our period of refreshment and continue our labor within our fine lodge.

I hope everybody had an enjoyable summer and took the necessary time required to rest, relax and reset. I look forward to hearing everyone’s adventures, highlights and how they spent their summers. Good to catch up.

As the days get shorter and we retreat indoors, I think of our refuge warmly and this eternal house that we continue to build inside of ourselves and around us.

As we press into the darker months, I am ever so reminded of That Inner Light, Lux Intus, we share with others within our walls and outside as we forge strong bonds with each other. We grow better together.

Iron Sharpens Iron. Steel must be refined and sharpened through less clumsy and more purposeful ways. Let’s put in the work.

Let us launch into autumn in peace with strength and unity. I fondly know not where the everlasting Master and Architect of the Universe will guide us next—I am ever so blessed to share time and the company of the minds that will read this trestle board.

Stay Blessed!
With All Love,

Sir Michael J. Leahy Jr

Your Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Christopher J. Aiello
Senior Warden	John T. Hamilton
Junior Warden	Michael Leahy
Treasurer	Ernesto C. Somera PM
Secretary	Michael Kraus PM
Chaplain	James Hauck PGC
Senior Deacon	Rafael Sosa
Junior Deacon	Dominique Jennette
Sr Master of Ceremonies	Thomas Reynolds
Jr Master of Ceremonies	Robert Meier
Senior Steward	Elijah Basse
Junior Steward	Conny Svensson
Marshal	Brett Scott
Tyler	Earl C Groendyke
Historian	Alexander J.C. Bragat DDGM
Proxy to Grand Lodge	Edgardo Villafuerte PM
Lodge Trustee	Ron Herzog (2022)
Lodge Trustee	Anthony Katawick (2022)
Lodge Trustee	Earl Groendyke (2023)
Lodge Trustee (Chairman)	James Hauck PGC (2023)
Lodge Trustee	Matthew Beltran PM (2024)
Lodge Trustee	Alexander J.C. Bragat DDGM

For Initiation or Advancement

Knocking at the door

Christopher Felton
Robert Yamson
Sai Ronith Reddy Bongunoori
Hakeem Bey

To be initiated Entered Apprentice

To pass to the Degree of Fellowcraft

Jezreal Nazario

Michael Deman

To be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

Brian Yuro

In our efforts to grow the Craft, remember to guard the West gate

Living Past Masters

William Rowles 1972	Michael Lakat, PGP 2004
Bob Sprout 1973	Ronald Mayer 2006, 2010
Charles O'Neill 1975	John Chobrda 2007
Gary Grubb 1976	Barry Cutler 2008
Wayne Hetzell 1976	John Chobrda 2008
Charles Stults III, PGC 1979	Earl Groendyke 2012
Peter McNulty 1980	Denis de Leon 2013
Francis Conway 1981	Robert Sullivan 2014
Wayne Hetzell 1985	Alexander Bragat, DDGM 2015
Raj Sudarsanam 1988	James Hauck, PGC 2016, 2018
George Smith, PGC 1990	Ernesto Somera 2017
Thomas Estelle 1991, 1993	Ronald Herzog 2019
William A. Counterman 1994	Anthony Katawick 2020
James Mount, PGC 1995, 2001	Michael Kraus 2021
Gerald Fabisch 1997, 1998	Edgardo Villafuerte 2022
Mark Megee, PDDGM 1999	Matthew Beltran 2023
Carlos Rodriguez 2000	J. Dennis Cuan 2024

A Past Master never ceases to labor; his work may change, but his duty remains — to guide with wisdom, support with experience, and inspire by example

2025 has been assessed
Payment of \$225.00 may be made by check
payable to Hightstown Apollo Lodge No. 41

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

Masonic Birthdays

David Babcock DB	September 13, 2006
Barry Clark	September 19, 2020
James Hauck PGC	September 19, 2008
Andrew Keller	September 27, 2002

Chronological Birthdays

Elijah Basse	September 2
Rey Alonzo	September 16
Stephen Early	September 18
MW Leonard Vander Horn PGM	September 21



As the sun marks another year upon your journey, may the Great Architect of the Universe continue to guide your steps with light, wisdom, and brotherly love

District Lodges of Instruction

Date	Host Lodge	Topic
Jan 9, 2025 Thu	HA41	Opening, Drop to EA, Close, Ballot
Feb 5, 2025 Wed	GM270	FC Degree (3 cand), Block Out FC Lecture - Short Form Exam
Mar 5, 2025 Wed	A12	EA Degree (2 cand), Short Form Exam
Apr 2, 2025 Wed	TC5	MM 1st Section (2 cand), Short Form Exam
May 7, 2025 Wed	HA41	MM 2nd Section (5 cand), MM Charge
Jun 4, 2025 Wed	TC5	GLI Rehearsal
Jun 23, 2025 Mon	TC5	Grand Lodge of Instruction
Jul-25	-	Dark
Aug-25	-	Dark
Sep 3, 2025 Wed	GM270	Rusty Mason "You Can't Do That"
Oct 1, 2025 Wed	A12	PM's only – Qualification Ceremony
Nov 4-6 2025 Tue -Thu	-	Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Atlantic City
Dec 3, 2025 Wed	TC5	Open, Close, and Ballot from Advanced Stations

Lodges of the 15th Masonic District

Lodge	Address	Meeting Schedule
Trenton Cyrus 5	131 Burd Street, Pennington	3rd Wed @ 7:00 PM every month; except Jul, Aug. Dinner at 6:00 PM before all Regular Communications.
Amwell 12	21 Bridge Street, Lambertville	2nd Wed @ 7:30 PM every month. Dinner at 6:30 PM. No meetings in Jul & Aug.
Hightstown-Apollo 41	535 North Main Street, Hightstown	Full Moon Friday or directly after the full moon. Dinner at 6:30 PM; gavel at 7:30 PM.
Horizon Daylight 299	2308 Burlington-Mt Holly Road, Burlington, NJ 08016	2nd Wed of the month @ 10:00 AM.
Gothic-Mercer 270	3682 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Sq.	1st & 3rd Mon @ 7:30 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM every month except Jul & Aug.

Sickness and Distress

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Right Worshipful Brother Keith Bergmann, Past Master of Hightstown-Apollo Lodge No. 41, F. & A.M.

Brother Bergmann began his Masonic journey when he was Initiated an Entered Apprentice on September 8, 1995, Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on October 13, 1995, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 5, 1996.

He served the Craft with distinction as Worshipful Master of Hightstown-Apollo Lodge No. 41 in 2009, Worshipful Master of Horizon Daylight Lodge No. 299 in 2012, and later as Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in 2014.



Right Worshipful Brother Bergmann's steady leadership, faithful service, and brotherly kindness leave behind a legacy that will long be remembered by all who had the privilege of laboring with him.

His obituary may be found here: [Obituary Link](#)

We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and Brethren. May the Great Architect of the Universe welcome him into the Celestial Lodge above, where peace, love, and harmony forever reign.



The dead, whom we now lament, are but sleeping; they are gone to that country from whose bourne no traveler returns. There the weary rest from their labors, and the brother is at peace

Grand Lodge Communication



The Grand Lodge
of
NEW JERSEY

Brethren

See below and attached for the reception for R.W. Omar Morris (if elected) as our new Grand Master on 11-15-2025

You're invited to join us for MW Omar S. Morris's Official Visit!

Grand Master's Reception

Saturday, November 15th, 2025

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Venetian, 346 River Drive, Garfield, NJ

Cost: \$125 per person (if you RSVP by Oct 31st - goes up to \$150 after)

Payment: Make checks payable to "Peninsula Lodge No. 99" and mail to:
Butch Elliott, 38 Main Street, Flanders, NJ 07836

Include a note with your name, phone, lodge, and district for seating.

Questions? Contact RW Butch Elliott at (201) 390-3415 or Butch0012@gmail.com
(Zelle payment available - just ask)

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Peninsula Lodge No. 99 & Square and Compassion Foundation

--

RW Jonathan A. Dershowitz, PGC

Secretary to the Grand Master, 2026

(917) 608-7520

rwdershowitz@gmail.com[Grand Master Reception 2026 \(1\).jpg](#)

Larry

Larry S. Plasket, PGM

Grand Secretary



The Grand Lodge
of
NEW JERSEY

IMPORTANT

Brethren

Reminder!!!! Do not pay your dues through Amity without checking with your lodge secretary to determine if your lodge is set up to receive the payment. If they are not set up the lodge will not receive the payment and the money will just sit there in Amity's account until you request a refund or the lodge gets set up with Amity, it is entirely the lodge's decision whether they want to or not. Amity is an independent company and Grand Lodge has no control.

Larry S. Plasket, PGM
Grand Secretary



The Grand Lodge
of
NEW JERSEY

Brethren

Below are the links to make a reservation for the Wednesday night dinner or for the entire package, for the Annual Communication, Nov 4-6. There are 2 links, 1 to just purchase tickets for the Wednesday Night Banquet, and 1 to purchase the full package which includes:

Banquets, Tuesday & Wednesday nights
Room for Tuesday and Wednesday nights
Breakfast Wednesday & Thursday
Lunch Wednesday
Larry

Larry S. Plasket, PGM
Grand Secretary

Link for Wednesday banquet: <https://forms.gle/sLhdL4wHCiZtrbpd7>

Link for complete package: <https://forms.gle/B1eGt6Wd5x4kDonG7>



The Grand Lodge
of
NEW JERSEY

Brother Secretaries

Please see below and attached concerning registration for the Masonic Leadership Conference.

Larry

Larry S. Plasket, PGM

Grand Secretary

Attention Masters and Secretaries:

The 2025 Masonic Leadership Conference is now open for registration. Although the registration deadline is October 2, 2025, registration is on a first come, first served basis until all slots are filled. The past two years were full earlier than the deadline. Please register your officer candidates using the attached form ASAP. Remember that only a lodge check will be accepted as payment.

The Dates are: October 24-26, 2025

Location: Patton Masonic Campus, Elizabethtown, PA

Recommended attendees include: Junior and Senior Wardens, though all NJ Master Masons are eligible

The MLC ensures the future of masonic leadership in New Jersey through a comprehensive program of education on lodge management, best practices, networking, vital information on finance, officer duties and cutting edge topics needed by our lodge leaders.

Sincere Thanks! Mike

RW Michael Czech .:

Chairman, Masonic Leadership Conference

609-638-2926 cell

[MLC 2025 registration form.pdf](#)

The Grand Lodge



Most Ancient and Honorable Society
of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey

Nominations for Grand Lodge Offices 2025-2026

Grand Master

Omar S. Morris, Peninsula Lodge #99

Deputy Grand Master

Bruce C. Golway, Vineland Lodge #69

Senior Grand Warden

Bernard J. Madgey, V, Laurel Lodge #237

Junior Grand Warden

(Vote for 1)

Ronald A Murad, Atlas Pythagoras Lodge #10

Glenn T. Visscher, Cincinnati Lodge #3

Grand Treasurer

Douglas R Policastro, Ocean Lodge #89

Grand Secretary

(Vote for 1)

Larry S. Plasket, Merchantville Lodge #119

Roger Quintana, Blue Stone Mystic Tie Malta Doric Lodge #35

Grand Lodge Trustee

(Vote for 3, 2 full terms 1 unexpired term)

Larry Alcime, Alpha Lodge #116

Alexandru D Aldea, Essex Lodge #7

Dwayne A Dolly, II, Mansfield Lodge #36

Michael Mattes, Mozart Lodge #121

David J Weiss, MilltownPalestine Lodge #294

Historic Trenton Masonic Temple Trustee

Andrew G. Churney, Mt Holly Lodge #14

Masonic Charity Foundation Trustee

3 full term positions

Arthur J. Campbell, Matawan Lodge #192

Bruce S Graham, Cape May Lodge #30

Donald R Tuttle, Mantua Lodge #95

1 unexpired term position

Richard F. Schmidt, Fulton Friendship #102

Larry S. Plasket, PGM
Grand Secretary

In and About the Apartments



Brotherhood, family, and fellowship — a perfect day for our Lodge picnic!



Congratulations to Companion Tom Reynolds. Hightstown Apollo's latest member to receive the degrees of Royal and Select Master

Masonic Events

COMING BACK FOR MORE?

2nd Annual

\$65 PER PERSON **\$65 PER PERSON**

Festive Board

TAYLOR-HART NORTH -VS- SOUTH FORK-ROEL

WINE WILL BE SERVED **7 COURSE MEAL**

September 27, 2025- 5 to 9pm
Fellowship Center
1114 Oxmead Rd.
Burlington, N.J. 08016
Casual Attire

Make checks payable to:
TEAM MORRIS
NJ GRAND STAFF




<https://tinyurl.com/northvsouth25>

MAIL TO:
TEAM MORRIS NJ GRAND STAFF
JONATHAN DERSHOWITZ
31 MERCER STREET, CARTERET NJ 07008

ZELLE PAYMENTS:
GRANDSTAFF2025NJ@GMAIL.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
WB Edward G Santano
(917) 559-5429
Eddiesantano@gmail.com



MASONIC CLAY SHOOT

Join Gothic-Mercer Lodge No 270 for an exciting day of Sporting Clays!
Event to support Gothic-Mercer #270 F&AM & Trenton Forest #4 Tall Ceders

October 19, 2025

Registration Opens at 8:15 AM / Safety Demo at 9:15 / Shotgun Start at 9:30 AM / Rain or Shine

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays (LVSC)
 2750 Limestone Street, Coplay, PA 18037 - <https://www.lvsclays.com/>

\$170 per Shooter
\$640 per Foursome
 (\$40 Savings over Single Shooter!)

Registration Includes: Cart, Course Fees, Ammo, Targets, Breakfast, & Lunch
 *Shotgun Rentals are available for an additional charge
 Make checks out to Gothic-Mercer Lodge #270

Deadline to Register and Pay - 10/12/25

For More Information Call or Text
 Mike Pylypiak +1 (609) 273-5525
 Vik Sharma +1 (609) 638-7742
 Email: gf270secretary@gmail.com

Sponsorships Available

<p>Station Sponsor - \$150</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage at shooting station 	<p>Ammo Sponsor - \$750</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition on Sponsor banner at Registration • Registration for 4 Shooters (1 Foursome)
<p>Cart Sponsor - \$1,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition on Sponsor banner at Registration • Signage at Registration • Signage at Shooting Station • Registration for 8 Shooters (2 Foursomes) 	<p>Event Sponsor - \$3,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Sponsor Banner at Registration • Recognition on Sponsor banner at Registration • Signage at Shooting Station • Registration for 12 Shooters (3 Foursomes)



Saturday Sept 20, 2025
Grand Chapter Widows Sons NJ
11TH ANNUAL
2025 CHARITY RIDE

Cash Bar, Food,
Raffle, Music.

Net Proceeds benefit

Make-A-Wish
NEW JERSEY

1:00pm Food, Band,
Vendors, Prizes are
included with admission
K&J 11:00 am sharp

Registration 9-10:30 at Prohibitions Bar
612 White Horse Pike, Hammonton NJ



RIDE ENDS AT THE PIC-A-LILLI INN
866 US 206, Shamong NJ

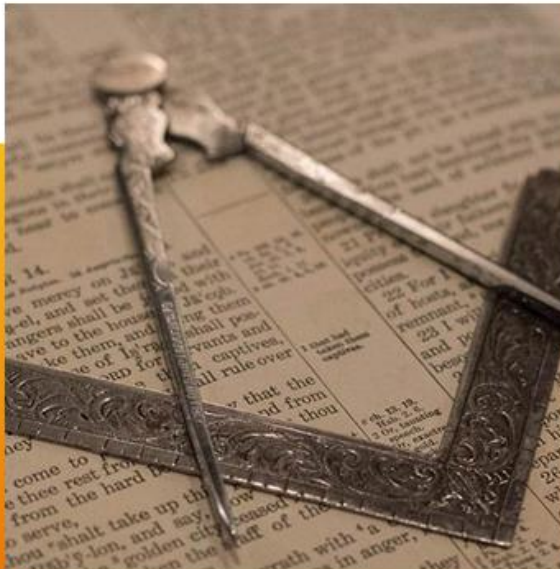
Riders \$25 Passenger / Walk-ins \$15
All are welcome to after-party

for more info: widowssonsnjgrandchapter.com
Rain Date: Sunday Sept 21



Visit the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy website

[Click HERE](#)

[Home](#)[Articles](#)[Contact](#)[About](#)

Welcome to the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Masonic Legacy Project

The Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy Project aspires to create a living archive, where the voices and experiences of our members resonate through interviews, anecdotes, and reflections. This digital repository will serve as a testament to the enduring principles, camaraderie, and contributions that have shaped our lodge.



Meet the Brethren

RW Ron Herzog, PGC

Brotherhood, Hospitality, and a Coyote Hat: A
Tribute to Right Worshipful Ron Herzog



Meet the Brethren

**RW James Hauck
PM, PGC**

Past Master 2016, 2018



Meet the Brethren

WB Gerald Fabisch PM

Past Master 1997, 1998



Our primary method of communication with members is through our email list. If you are not receiving our emails, please contact our Secretary at **hightstownapollo41@gmail.com**

We also use the **Signal app** to share time-sensitive updates, such as reminders and information about weekend meetups. If you would like to be added to our Signal group, kindly reach out to the Secretary at the email address above.



100 Barrack Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-2008
njglinfo@njmasonic.org
609.239.3950

Grand Lodge of New Jersey

Mission Statement

Freemasonry promotes a way of life that binds like-minded men with the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth in order to serve God, Family, Country, Neighbor and self.

Most Worshipful J. Eugene Margroff, Grand Master
100 Barrack St
Trenton, NJ 08608
njgm2024@gmail.com
Cell 201-362-3982

Right Worshipful Omar S. Morris, Deputy Grand Master
Right Worshipful Bruce C. Golway, Senior Grand Warden
Right Worshipful Bernard J. Madgey, Junior Grand Warden
Most Worshipful Douglas R. Policastro, PGM, Grand Treasurer
Most Worshipful Larry S. Plasket, PGM, Grand Secretary

HIGHTSTOWN-APOLLO LODGE NO. 41
Hightstown, New Jersey 15th Masonic District
Established by Charter of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey
535 North Main St Hightstown NJ
hightstownapollo41.org | hightstownapollo41@gmail.com
609-303-2993