

# HIGHTSTOWN-APOLLO LODGE NO. 41

# TRESTLEBOARD - OCTOBER 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 Fellowshin

Thursday evenings at 6:00pm



#### **Words from the East**

Brethren,

October has always been my favorite month of the year. The cool mornings remind us of the quiet reflection that comes with the dawn, while the lingering sunlight teaches us that even as seasons change, light still shines to guide our path. As Masons, this balance of coolness and warmth reflects our own journey—temperance and fortitude, reflection and action, darkness and light. It is a season that encourages us to pause, to be grateful, and to carry the light of Masonry into the world around us.

This month, we shall celebrate a great moment in our Lodge as we raised Brother Fellowcraft Brian Yuro to the sublime degree of Master Mason. It is always a joy to see a Brother complete his journey to Master Mason, and I thank all who are able to attend and support him on this milestone occasion.

In the spirit of fellowship and curiosity, we will also be welcoming NJ Paranormal on Thursday, October 9th at 6:30 PM as they hold an investigation right here at our Lodge. For those who have ever wondered about our Lodge's own stories, especially the tales of our "Ghost Tyler of the Staircase," this promises to be an evening of fun, lighthearted discovery, and brotherly camaraderie.

Brethren, let us use this season of balance and transition to reflect upon our own Masonic journey, to strengthen our bonds with one another, and to continue to labor faithfully in the quarry of life.

Fraternally,

Christopher J. Aiello:. Worshipful Master





## **Words from the West**

As we look at the current status of affairs and progression of social trends and political realities around the globe, we see a world that has become increasingly uncivil. More and more people write and comment on the deterioration in discourse where we seem increasingly unable to be in the same room or meeting as those who disagree with us. And yet, if we reflect upon our own Craft and those who make up our Masonic family, we have the principles, tenets, symbols, and the language of civility as well as the human-power to carry these qualities out beyond our Lodges. Essentially, our teachings are all about how to treat others with dignity, respect, care, and compassion — in other words civility. Furthermore, it is incumbent upon us, as members of the Masonic family, to do all we can to repair the broken fabric of society. So why aren't we doing it?

Part of the solution to this complex problem is to consider applying the salve of our Masonic ideals, language, symbols, and tools to the wounds of societal incivility. We heal and grow from the inside out. Changing views or behavior must start from within, and with a concerted, conscious effort from the beginning. Masons are taught to constantly work to improve themselves, to take and own our personal responsibility, and not wait for everybody else to make the changes first. We must be proactive, not reactive.

A "good" Mason will offer to help a struggling brother, not shame or ostracize him for his efforts or beliefs. Let us each commit today to be to be the proverbial stone, that when dropped into the symbolic waters of complacency and uncivility, will cause our actions to spread through the brotherhood, to produce change and repair our world again.



#### **Words from the South**

Brethren.

Stay Blessed, Vigilant, Kind and Safe. Do not be spoiled by the modern luxuries as Old Man Winter comes back around; appreciate the gratitude of shifting seasons, vibrations and tides as we transition through the Autumnal tide.

With all of my love, I am proud to call you my Brothers, my Countryman, and my Friends

Carry that light and be the example, thank you for always showing up.

With Warm Sincerity, Sir Michael J. Leahy Jr





# **Your Lodge Offcers**

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	Dominque 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 PM
Historian	Alexander J.C. Bragat DDGM
Proxy to Grand Lodge	Edgardo Villafuerte PM
Lodge Trustee	Ron Herzog GC (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 (2024)

# **For Initiation or Advancement**

Knocking at the door

Knocking at the door

Christopher Felton
Robert Yamson
Sai Ronith Reddy Bongunoori
Hakeem Bey

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

To be initiated Entered Apprentice

To pass to the Degree of Fellowcraft

To be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason

Jezreal Nazario Michael Deman



# **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 GC 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**

Thomas Reynolds	October, 21, 2023
Michael Shashoua	October, 21, 2023
Elijah Basse	October, 24, 2024
Andrew Gallatin	October, 24, 2024
Brett Scott	October, 24, 2024
Conny Svensson	October, 24, 2024

# **Chronological Birthdays**

Jeffrey Turrisi	October 14
Rafael Araneta	October 15
Ronald Herzog	October 18
Brian Hartel	October 19
Christopher Aiello	October 23
Robert Meier	October 23
Kirk Buono	October 27
Paul Zeszotarski	October 29



"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
<del>Jan 9, 2025   Thu</del>	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
<del>Jun 4, 2025   Wed</del>	TC5	GLI Rehearsal
<del>Jun 23, 2025   Mon</del>	TC5	Grand Lodge of Instruction
<del>Jul-25</del>	-	<del>Dark</del>
<del>Aug-25</del>	-	<del>Dark</del>
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,	3rd Wed @ 7:00 PM every month; except Jul, Aug. Dinner
	Pennington	at 6:00 PM before all Regular Communications.
Amwell 12	21 Bridge Street,	2nd Wed @ 7:30 PM every month. Dinner at 6:30 PM. No
	Lambertville	meetings in Jul & Aug.
Hightstown-Apollo 41	535 North Main Street,	Full Moon Friday or directly after the full moon. Dinner at
	Hightstown	6:30 PM; gavel at 7:30 PM.
Horizon Daylight 299	2308 Burlington-Mt	2nd Wed of the month @ 10:00 AM.
	Holly Road, Burlington	
Gothic-Mercer 270	3682 Nottingham Way,	1st & 3rd Mon @ 7:30 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM every month
	Hamilton Sq.	except Jul & Aug.



## **Sickness and Distress**

We mourn the passing of our Brother, **Gary R. Long**, who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on **November 2, 1990**. A proud veteran, devoted teacher, and faithful Mason, Brother Long lived a life of service, integrity, and fellowship.

Though he has laid down his earthly working tools, we take comfort in knowing he has been called to the Celestial Lodge above, where the Great Architect of the Universe forever presides.

May his memory be a blessing and an inspiration to all who knew 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**



#### Brethren

See below an important message from the Grand Master concerning social media. Larry S. Plasket, PGM Grand Secretary

#### Brethren,

As masons we are reminded of the standards that we hold ourselves to, especially when dealing with each other as brothers. The events of the past week brought to mind a lot of thoughts and feelings as we were made aware of a shooting and we remembered those who lost their lives on 9.11 and beyond.

Please, during our social discourse be mindful of who may see or hear what we post or say, whether in the fraternity or outside as it is a reflection on who we are. In Freemasonry we are taught to be free thinkers, I still encourage that but we need to be vigilant as well and not by into what others may say as well.

#### Respectfully,

J. Eugene Margroff





#### Brethren

As per the Grand Master, there will be 1 official candidate's night. this year. To be held on October 21, 2025 at the Fellowship Center on the Masonic Home Campus, 1114 Oxmead Rd, Burlington, NJ. Doors open at 6:30PM, meeting starts at 7:00PM, dress is jacket & tie. Water, soda, coffee & tea will be provided. Larry
Larry S. Plasket, PGM
Grand Secretary



#### Brethren

Here are the links to register for the annual communication. There are 3 options if you wish (you do not have to register to attend the meetings). November 4-6, 2025

Hotel room only, if you call the Tropicana use code: ST11GL5, to register for a room online use: https://

book.passkey.com/go/ST11GL5

To purchase the Wednesday night banquet only use: https://forms.gle/sLhdL4wHCiZtrbpd7

To purchase the entire package, 2-nights room, 2 banquets, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch use https://forms.gle/B1eGt6Wd5x4kDonG7

If you have a problem with the link (it may ask for verification) copy the link and paste it into a browser.

Larry Larry S. Plasket, PGM Grand Secretary





#### Brethren

Please see attached information for the reception for our incoming Grand Master, R.W. Omar Morris, as well as information on the ad book for the reception.

Larry S. Plasket, PGM Grand Secretary

GM Ad Journal Letter 2025 option v3.pdf GM Recp-Ad Journal form 2025 v5.pdf IMG 5356.jpeg





#### 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 <a href="mailto:Butch0012@gmail.com">Butch0012@gmail.com</a> (Zelle payment available - just ask)

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Peninsula Lodge No. 99 & Square and Compassion Foundation

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RW Jonathan A. Dershowitz, PGC

Secretary to the Grand Master, 2026

(917) 608-7520

rwdershowitz@gmail.comGrand Master Reception 2026 (1).jpg

Larry

Larry S. Plasket, PGM

Grand Secretary





M.W. J. EUGENE MARGROFF GRAND MASTER NJGM2024@GMAIL.COM 100 BARRACK STREET TRENTON, NJ 08608-2008 609-239-3970 B

#### **EDICT**

WHEREAS, Trials were held to hear the charges of unMasonic conduct against R.W. Gary J. Olsen on September 14, 2022; R. W. Jose Villalta on September 27, 2022; and R. W. Michael Holt on October 20, 2022; and

WHEREAS, R. W. Olsen was found guilty of 47 specifications, R. W. Villalta was found guilty of 57 specifications, and R. W. Holt pleaded guilty to 22 specifications; and

WHEREAS, each were independently sentenced to penalties of expulsion, followed by the completion of all appeals; and

WHEREAS, I, as Grand Master of Masons of the State of New Jersey have been requested to review the penalties imposed following the trials, and have compared these penalties against prior penalties imposed for similar charges against others in the past, and having reviewed these matters and believing that the actions of these expelled brothers was similar to that of prior bad actors who did not receive as significant a penalty; and,

**WHEREAS**, based on my review, and my understanding of basic Masonic jurisprudence, that although by edict this may seem shortsighted, I personally consider the overall sentences in these cases to have been excessive;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I hereby invoke my authority, pursuant to Landmark 3 and suspend, to the extent necessary, the provisions of the Grand Lodge Bylaws, Title Four, Article XI, Section 8, Part 7, and consider the time served under the current expulsions to be adequate penalty; and,

It is **HEREBY ORDERED** that, effective immediately, R.W. Olsen, R.W. Holt, and R.W. Villalta are, by virtue of this Edict, restored to active membership in the Grand Lodge F &AM of New Jersey, and entitled to the rights and privileges of active membership, and,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Grand Secretary shall communicate this Edict to the involved Brethren, the elected officers of this Grand Lodge, the Past Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge, all lodges of this Grand jurisdiction and other Grand Lodges with which this Grand Lodge enjoys fraternal communion.

Dated: September 24, 2025

J. Eugene Margroff

Lay State

Grand Master of Masons for the State of New Jersey

Attest: Larry S. Plasket, PGM Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of New Jersey



# The Grand Lodge

Honorable Society Most Ancient and 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

Lay State Larry S. Plasket, PGM Grand Secretary



# **In and About the Apartments**



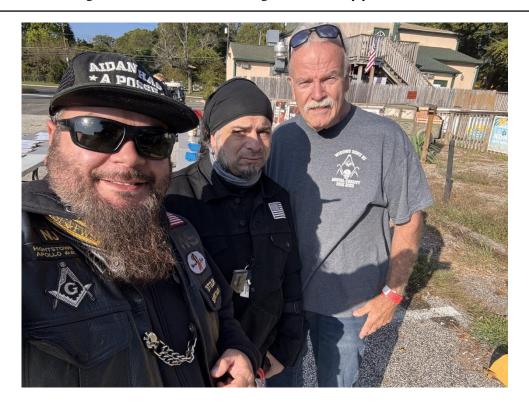
In a very singular occurrence, our very own Brother Brian Yuro was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at Durand Lodge in Point Pleasant by a degree team led by none other than MW J Eugene Margroff, Grand Master of Masons of the State of NJ assisted by the elected Grand Line







The Worshipful Master and brethren of the Lodge gathered at the East Windsor Memorial Site to honor and remember the tragic events of 9/11. We come together here every year in solemn remembrance



The Worshipful Master riding with the Widows Sons to raise money for Make-A-Wish Foundation of NJ





The brethren and dog joined Gothic-Mercer #270 and The Valley of Central Jersey Scottish Rite to support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Out of the Darkness Walk 2025



The brethren at the second annual North vs South, Taylor Ham vs Pork Roll Festive Board. Sadly, the Pork Roll side lost by a very narrow eight votes. It was still a great time for everyone who came



#### **Masonic Events**



## 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**

#### Station Sponsor - \$150

Signage at shooting station

#### Cart Sponsor - \$1,500

- Recognition on Sponsor banner at Registration
   Event Sponsor Banner at Registration
- Signage at Registration
- Signage at Shooting Station
  Registration for 8 Shooters (2 Foursomes)

#### Ammo Sponsor - \$750

- Recognition on Sponsor banner at Registration
- Registration for 4 Shooters (1 Foursome)

#### Event Sponsor - \$3,000

- Recognition on Sponsor banner at Registration
- Signage at Shooting Station
- Registration for 12 Shooters (3 Foursomes)





Peninsula Lodge No. 99, in partnership with the Square and Compassion Foundation, cordially invites you to the Official Visit of MW Omar S. Morris at the:

# Grand Master's Reception



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2025 FROM 11:00AM TO 4:00PM







VENETIAN, 546 RIVER DRIVE, GARFIELD, NJ, 07026

# COST/DEADLINES:

\$125pp if RSVP-ed by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>
Cost will increase to \$150pp on Nov. 1st

#### PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

A check can be made payable to: "Peninsula Lodge No. 99" Please mail your check to Butch Elliott, 38 Main Street, Flanders, NJ, 07836

Along with your check, please enclose a note stating your name, phone number, lodge, and district to assist with seating arrangements.

\*\*Prefer Zelle payment? Call RW Butch Elliott for details.

Contact information found below.\*\*

OUESTIONS: Contact RW Butch Elliott at (201) 390-3415

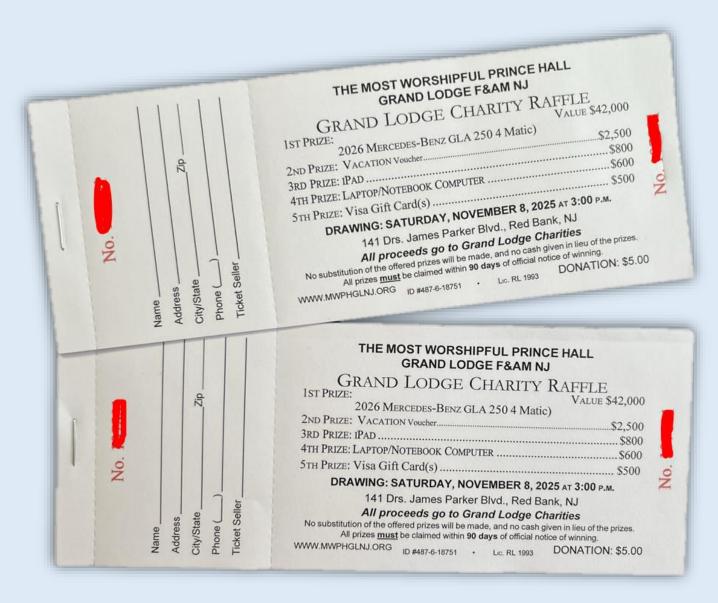
or Butchoo12@gmail.com







Take a chance to win a brand new Mercedes Benz GLA 240 worth \$42K in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge charity raffle. Tickets are \$5 each payable in cash, check or Zelle, contact WB Cuan at 917-331-7485 if you're interested





#### Visit the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy website Click HERE

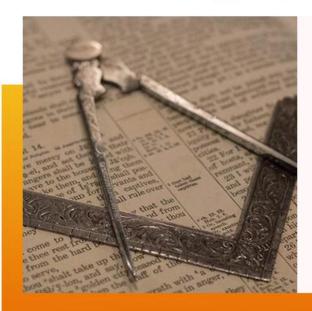


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# Welcome to the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Masonic Legacy Project

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



RW James Hauck PM,PGC

Past Master 2016, 2018



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