



HIGHTSTOWN-APOLLO LODGE NO. 41

TRESTLEBOARD – NOVEMBER 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 the leaves change and the air grows crisp, we are reminded that nature itself reflects the lessons of Masonry. Each season brings transformation — much like the journey of a Mason who continually strives for light, growth, and understanding. The falling leaves remind us that letting go of the old allows room for new beginnings, and what better time to reflect on gratitude and renewal than during the Thanksgiving season.

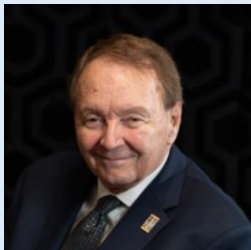
November is a time to give thanks — for family, for friendship, and for the bond we share as Brothers. I am truly grateful for the support, encouragement, and fellowship each of you has shown throughout this year. It has been an honor to serve as your Worshipful Master, and as my time in the East nears its close, I look forward to supporting our Lodge in new ways and continuing to build fellowship among us.

We are hoping to confer an Entered Apprentice Degree this month, welcoming a new Brother to begin his Masonic journey — a perfect reflection of renewal and growth in this season of change.

I also hope to see many of you down in Atlantic City for the Grand Lodge of New Jersey Annual Communication. It's always a great opportunity to reconnect, share ideas, and strengthen our bonds with Brethren across the state.

Thank you all again for your dedication to our Lodge and for the light you bring to our craft. Together, we've built something special, and I know that spirit of brotherhood will continue to thrive for years to come.

Fraternally,
Christopher J. Aiello.



Words from the West

Did you make any New Year's resolutions last January? Did you promise yourself to change anything special? Finally, have you been able to follow them through? I tried but only partially succeeded. Change is hard, whether it's our habits, our actions and thoughts, or maybe it's our relationships. Don't feel bad if you haven't. Change is hard, but change is also inevitable.

My life and my job changed radically this past year. I went from being an inside worker to one outside in the elements. My hours changed from a leisurely 9-to-5 assignment to a rotating, ever changing project, working afternoons and overnights, sometimes back-to-back shifts while dealing with an emergency. As a result of my cable tow, I have been restricted in what I can participate in at the Lodge. Nevertheless, my year in the West has had rewarding moments, and I will always remember the brotherhood and understanding extended to me during this period.

Very shortly a new slate of officers will be proposed for your consideration. Sadly, I will not be amongst the candidates. My trip to the East has reached a fork in the road and is detoured for the moment. However, my dedication and loyalty to the lodge, and to the brothers therein will never end. There will be other opportunities to lead, and I look forward to the time I can resume the Path to the East and complete my journey. In the meanwhile, I am certain I will join you in fellowship whenever the opportunity presents itself. SMIB.

John Hamilton, Senior Warden.



Words from the South

Brothers,

It's Autumn and the colors are setting to fade. I find the coziness of this season one of the finest reasons.

The youth of Summer fades as we retreat indoors as Father Winter starts to howl. Leaves fall and we retreat indoors to our creature comforts, homes, safe spaces, and our very own Lodge.

This Refuge runs on the hands, hearts and ideas of All of Us Brothers.

As we head into the Hearth and Homestead Traditions, be there for one another.

Do not let trying times divide you; Let Common Sense prevail and Find the Middle Brothers. I charge you with that as we continue our Labors in the times of festivity.

With Warm Fraternal Feelings,
JS Bro. Michael Joseph Leahy, Jr.





A Farewell Message from R.W. Alexander J. Bragat, PDDGM

(15th Masonic District, 2020–2025)

Brethren,

As I conclude six years of service as a Grand Lodge Officer—from District Ritual Instructor to District Deputy Grand Master—I reflect with deep gratitude and pride on our shared journey.

We met the challenges of the COVID era with resilience and creativity, keeping our light burning through distanced or “masked” rituals (pun intended) and renewed fellowship. When our lodges reopened, it was inspiring to see our ritual work revived and our bonds strengthened. The growth I have witnessed in the district—and especially in Hightstown-Apollo Lodge No. 41—has truly been heartwarming, with new and seasoned brethren alike deepening their devotion to our gentle Craft.

I am proud that another son of Hightstown-Apollo will carry our banner on the Grand Staff. RW Dennis Cuan has big shoes to fill, following RW Ron Herzog—the most effective Grand Chaplain I have ever known, a dear friend, and trusted consigliere. My deep gratitude also goes to all the brethren who stood beside me since my earliest days in Masonry; your friendship and guidance have been a constant source of strength.

Though my term has ended, I will remain nearby—not as your leader, but as your brother. I hope I have left some small mark on your Masonic journey, or better yet, a spark of inspiration to persevere despite the trials of time.

Farewell as your District Deputy Grand Master—but hello again, as your Brother.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
— Alex

A Message from R.W. Ronald F. Herzog, PGC

Brethren,

As we now approach the end of this Masonic year, it also marks the end of my journey as your Grand Chaplain. I again wish to express thanks to all of you individually who have supported me in this endeavour. It has been an experience I shall always remember. To those who accompanied me while travelling throughout the state from Kittatinny to Cape May, attending GLI's, Receptions and Table Lodges; visiting many lodges and participating in various social events, I thank you for your company.

I hope I have served you, the 15th District and the Grand Lodge well and represented Hightstown-Apollo's commitment to the Craft in a positive manner.

It is indeed a bittersweet feeling I am having as I leave this position. I will cherish the memories, the new friendships, and the acquired knowledge that would not have been possible without this appointment and you are the ones responsible.

I take pride that as I relinquish the Chaplain Jewel that it will be handed over W.B. (for the next 5 days) Cuan and I know you will all support him in a like manner during his term. I wish him many successes and hope he enjoys his year as much or even better than I have.

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Brother Ron
Your 2025 Grand Chaplain



A letter from Worshipful Brother Michael Kraus

My Brothers, a new Masonic year is about to begin. The past year has been one of growth in numbers and stature of the Lodge; we have burnished our reputation for excellence in our ritual; we have participated in many Masonic and Masonic adjacent activities that have enriched and enlightened us; we have faced and overcome whatever challenges fate has thrown at us.

This new year will be no different. We will continue to grow, inspired by our common quest for knowledge, self-improvement and moral development. We will face this coming year with courage, innovation, and a deep and abiding commitment to our Lodge.

Due to an unforeseen but unavoidable convergence of circumstances there has been a disruption to the orderly succession in the officer line for the first time in over five years. The wiser and more experienced among us have recognized this. After thoughtful reflection and respectful

consultation among the Brethren, having eliminated all other possible options, a single solution has emerged. For the good of the Lodge, for the benefit of the Craft and to reestablish order among the workmen, it has been proposed that I return to the East for the 2026 Masonic year. If it is your will, as Worshipful Master, I will persevere in the activities that make being a Mason and a member of Hightstown Apollo Lodge so special and establish an officer line that will provide the stability and leadership to guide our Lodge for years to come.

As Master Masons we are admonished that we must walk alone and pray for ourselves. The paradox is that in order to do that we must constantly rely on the support and encouragement of our fellow Masons. If it is your will, with confidence in your support and your loyalty to our Lodge, I will humbly resume the Oriental Chair and as with everything I do endeavor to leave you with something even better than it already is. May the Grand Architect continue to watch over you and inspire your minds with true wisdom from on high.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Michael Kraus, PM





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 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	Joseph Ragno III
To be initiated Entered Apprentice	Christopher Felton Robert Yamson Sai Ronith Reddy Bongunoori Hakeem Bey
To pass to the Degree of Fellowcraft	Jezreal Nazario Michael Deman
To be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason	

"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 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

Frank Bristol	November 18, 1969
Charles Stults	November 16, 1973
Leonard Toner	November 19, 1974
Louis Leigh	November 09, 1979
George Smith	November 09, 1984
Ronald Mayer	November 06, 1987
Mark Megee	November 08, 1995
Alan Peters	November 06, 2013
Anthony Katawick	November 21, 2014
Michael Kraus	November 13, 2015
Ryan Bennett	November 25, 2017
Salvatore Montore	November 25, 2017
Alexander Ovejas	November 25, 2017
Edgardo Villafuerte	November 25, 2017
Christopher Aiello	November 13, 2018
Rafael Sosa	November 30, 2019
Anthony Guest	November 30, 2022

Chronological Birthdays

Brent Rivenburgh	November 16
J. Dennis Cuan	November 28
Michael Deman	November 30



“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	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.



Grand Lodge Communication



The Grand Lodge
of
NEW JERSEY

Brother Secretaries and DDGMs,

I have been asked to send this to you on behalf of RW Art Campbell, PGC regarding a statewide Master Mason Degree being held on Sunday, November 16th at the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple. Should you have any questions about the event, please contact Art directly (his information is at the bottom of his message).

Good evening Brethren All,

The following Districts have responded with Candidates for the MM Degree:

- 5th District - 4 Candidates
- 8th District - 3 Candidates
- 11th District - 4 Candidates
- 12th District - 2 Candidates
- 17th District - 2 Candidates
- 19th District - 4 Candidates

Schedule:

- 9am Doors open
- 10am Degree begins
- 11:30 Lunch break
- 12:15 Second Section

Mentorship break-outs immediately after the Degree

District Deputy Grand Masters:

Please confirm the expected numbers of candidates for these Districts and add if any others will be attending. **Your complete list of Candidates and Mentors needs to be sent to me by Friday, Nov 7th. (Day after the GL of NJ Annual Communication)**

Food:

The event may be attended by Master Masons in good standing. Coffee and water will be provided in the morning. To manage costs and order an appropriate amount of food, we are asking for attendees that wish to have lunch to register with a donation of \$20, if you would like to have lunch by November 10th. Attendee registration link will be sent separately.

Candidates, Mentors, and Degree teams will attend and eat at no cost.

Location:

Historic Trenton Masonic Temple -100 Barrack St, Trenton, NJ 08608-2008

Parking is in the usual lot down the street by the highway. Directions will be sent to Candidates and Mentors after confirmed.

Lodge Responsibilities:

Aprons, Bibles, Compasses & Squares (Paper representatives will be available)

As a reminder, each Candidate will be required to have a Mentor (1:1) that will work with them through the next 1 Year and will be required to follow a checklist of actions. Mentorship presentations and training will be conducted at the event for both the newly Raised Master Masons and their Mentors. Please take this point very seriously as it is a further iteration within our Jurisdiction to improve long term value for our Brothers and Lodges.

Please feel free to reach out directly for questions and share this email and my contact information as below. See you at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication!!

Fraternally & Respectfully,

R.W. Art Campbell, PGC



The Grand Lodge
of
NEW JERSEY

Brethren

Here is the basic schedule for the Annual Communication, November 4-6

Tuesday Night, November 4

6:00 PM Grand Masters Banquet (for those who have registered)

Wednesday November 5

9:00 AM Grand Lodge opens

12:00 PM (approximately) Grand Master declares balloting open to 7:00 PM

12:00 PM (approximately) Call off for Lunch

1:00 PM (approximately) Grand Lodge resumes

4:00 PM (approximately) Call off

6:00 PM Grand Lodge Banquet (for those who have registered)

Thursday November 6

9:00 AM Grand Lodge resumes

10:00 AM (approximately) Grand Master declares balloting closed

12:00 PM (approximately) Grand Lodge closes

2:00 PM Installation



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



A memorable evening at our October Masonic communication — the official visit and final meeting for RW Alex Bragat as DDGM after three years of dedicated service, fittingly held in his Mother Lodge



Congratulations to Bro. Conny Svensson, recipient of the Brearley Award, a well-deserved recognition of his dedication and enthusiasm for the Craft



After three years of devoted service, RW Alex Bragat, DDGM, presided over his final District Lodge of Instruction — a proper close to a term marked by wisdom, humility, and brotherly love



Congratulations to Bro. Conny Svensson on being initiated into the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Trenton Forest No. 4



Masonic Events



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

WHEN:

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

WHERE:

VENETIAN, 546 RIVER DRIVE, GARFIELD, NJ, 07026

COST/DEADLINES:
\$125pp if RSVP-ed by Oct. 31st
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.

QUESTIONS: Contact RW Butch Elliott at (201) 390-3415 or Butchoo12@gmail.com





Donate your Gently used Sneakers



DROP OFF
AT THE LODGE

HIGHTSTOWN APOLLO
LODGE NO 41

535 N MAIN ST
HIGHTSTOWN NJ



Did You Know?

Most people throw away their used sneakers every 125-200 days without ever thinking about recycling. Since sneakers are manufactured with materials that are not biodegradable, they remain in landfills or are incinerated, which leads to toxic chemicals in our air and soil.

The process of manufacturing sneakers produces large amounts of CO2 which contributes to the serious effects of climate change and global warming. Recycling and reusing sneakers keeps sneakers out of landfills, reduces the need for manufacturing new shoes and sneakers, and supports a growing circular economy.



Visit the Hightstown-Apollo Lodge Legacy website



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[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, install the Signal app and scan the QR code



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 1856 by Charter of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey
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hightstownapollo41.org | hightstownapollo41@gmail.com
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