



## 2024 Jurisdiction Reports

It is easy in Masonic Education to exist in a bubble and to assume that freemasonry everywhere exists and operates the way that it does in our own Lodge, District, or Jurisdiction. This is not the case, and one of the aims of this conference is to facilitate ideas exchange, opportunities for collaboration, and meaningful connections in Masonry at the jurisdictional, district, Lodge, and personal levels.

To that end, in 2022 we experimented with standardizing the jurisdiction reports and making them available before the conference so that our attendees could compare and contrast the information, identify areas of note, and spend their time at the conference making those meaningful connections to strengthen and support Masonic Education.

We have found these to be valuable tools for our conference and we do invite you to read them before attending. Please take the opportunity to speak with attendees from other jurisdictions to get more information. Masonic Education thrives in connection and dies in isolation, make those connections.

### 2024 Reports

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Montana
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Virginia
- Wisconsin

As we get completed reports, we will add them to this collection.

## Survey Of 2024 Jurisdictional Reports

Since 1949, The Midwest Conference on Masonic Education (MCME) has been a forum for Masonic Educators from various jurisdictions to confer, collaborate and commiserate. The jurisdiction reports are a treasure trove of ideas, initiatives, and contacts and provide an opportunity to easily look at education across jurisdictions and get a more national perspective on Masonic Education.

I've looked at the reports from this year which will be available online at the conclusion of this weekend's MCME in Minneapolis as well as jurisdictional reports throughout their archives and there are some things that stand out. I want to be clear that these thoughts and opinions are solely my own and do not necessarily represent those of any entity whose membership is predicated on Masonic affiliation or membership. And, as with all educational endeavors, my thoughts and opinions may change in the face of new information, time, experience, or perspective.

**Definition of Masonic Education:** In many jurisdictions, Masonic Education is defined in relationship to Ritual, either solely concerned with or expressly anything but Ritual and Ritual Instruction. In jurisdictions where Masonic education is everything but Ritual Instruction, the definition of what qualifies can be very grey and can be a struggle. Ohio's official definition of Masonic Education is 'any activity, properly framed, that teaches Brethren Masonic values and how to incorporate them into their lives.' They emphasize that it is the 'properly framed' part of the definition that is the most important. A lesson on tying a bowtie is one thing, a lesson on tying a bowtie explicitly linked to our values is something else entirely. This struggle to define Masonic Education continues.

**Role of Education:** Jurisdictions have usually recognized the importance of Masonic Education, but they have often seemed unclear on the role. In the past, many jurisdictions viewed Masonic Education more like entertainment, something to give a little something special in Lodge Meetings. It has also been viewed as addressing areas of weakness in a Lodge such as Officer Training, Candidate Counseling, or Membership Training. Recently, more and more jurisdictions seem to view the role of Masonic Education as being important in two main areas; Membership and Standardization of the Masonic Experience.

**Membership:** Many jurisdictions are recognizing that Education has a role in Membership Retention and Membership Development. Minnesota, especially, is trying to use Education, Membership, and Service initiatives as a three-pronged approach to membership issues. There has been a rise in task-based, multi-directional initiatives that emphasize education and facilitate engagement.

**Development:** Missouri debuted their Thomas Fiveash Riddick Society, sister to Ohio's Royal Scofield Society, an educational honor society open to Master Masons where membership is earned by completing certain tasks at certain levels in areas like research, mentoring, service, travel, and producing original work. These programs, along with the Scottish Rite NMJ pathfinder program, Indiana's Illumination Program, and the now sadly-defunct Minnesota Light program seem to be focused on the Brother who is asking himself 'I'm a Master Mason, now what?'

**Retention:** There are similar programs specifically aimed at the newly-minted Mason, looking to facilitate his engagement and connection. Ohio's Zerubbabel Award and Indiana's Masonic Rookie Program are two prime examples. Ideally a mentor would facilitate and accompany the new Mason as they complete these programs, but it isn't necessary. New Brethren can follow this roadmap by themselves, earning accomplishments as they complete their journeys.

**Standardization of Masonic Experience:** There seems to be a push to make the Masonic Experience standard within a jurisdiction, not to micro-manage, but to establish and support a baseline of expectations and information. It is easy to assume that Masonry as practiced the same throughout a jurisdiction; but the reality is often different. Some Lodges struggle with knowing what is expected, what they need to do and how to do it. Personally, I remember working with a Lodge and the Master telling me 'Don't you think if we knew how to do X, we'd do it?' These initiatives seem to be aimed at giving struggling Masons something to work towards and the 'superhero' Masons something to spark ideas off of. Examples:

- Illinois Intender Program: Created resources that mentors can use with candidates and Brothers so that there is consistent messaging and information topics such as Ritual, history, etiquette, symbolism, etc.
- Most jurisdictions have some form of Officer's Training or Wardens and Deacon's Training with Missouri and Virginia being excellent examples of in-person trainings. Likewise, most jurisdictions have Officer's Manuals in some form.
- Most jurisdictions have some sort of monthly e-mailed newsletter with a specific section on education, including programs that can be shared in Lodges.
- Ohio has the 'Lodge Year in A Box.' Their Education Committee collects a number of programs of varying lengths and formats centered around the Grand Master's theme. At the front of this collection is a set of 'recipes' for a Lodge Education Officer. These recipes guide the officer in using some of the pieces in the collection, some pieces archived in Grandview, or some external sources in creating an appropriate year of educational programs depending on the character of their Lodge. There are recipes for Lodges that loves history, that loves to talk, that is Ritual-focused, that is more service focused, etc.
- Wisconsin created Lodge Education Cards to be used by Education Officers. The cards have a 400-500 word pre-built education topics with questions/discussion points. These are still in development.
- Many jurisdictions have a section on education either public-facing on their websites or member-facing within Grandview, MORI, or other membership system.

**Role of Proficiencies:** Proficiencies vary widely from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, with few requiring long-form memorized proficiencies as a prerequisite to advancement in the degrees. Jurisdictions report that roughly 25 years ago there was a push to remove memorized proficiencies as a barrier to membership. Many jurisdictions have a short-form proficiency with just modes of recognition or some sort of alternative proficiency separate from the Ritual, few require memorization. Some jurisdictions are rethinking proficiencies as part of membership development. The point of the proficiencies isn't just memorizing Ritual, it also facilitates a mentor and candidate making meaningful connections, which is why men join and why they stay.

**Education From 'Non-Traditional' Sources.** There is a lot of good Masonic Education being done in the world, many jurisdictions are embracing the efforts of other Masonic educational entities. Examples:

- Lodges of Research seem to be coming to the fore with regards to a state's Masonic Education, especially in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky.
- Since the pandemic, there is a return and increase in Masonic symposia like the different Masonic Cons, Minnesota Masonic Camp, Nebraska's Yearly Education Breakfast among others.
- There are a number of excellent or unique educational experiences such as Spes Novum Lodge in Illinois, Pentalpha Lodge in Indiana, Goose and Gridiron in Ohio, Castle Island Virtual Lodge in Manitoba among many others. Brethren seem willing to travel for the kind of experience they value.
- Online educational meetings have continued since the pandemic, from entities such as the Rubicon Masonic Society in Kentucky, Virginia's Lodges of Research, Missouri's Truman Lecture Series, Castle Island Virtual Lodge in Manitoba.
- Many jurisdictions have outstanding online libraries with the Grand Lodge of Iowa, the John E. Fetzger Digital Library in Michigan, the Montana Masonic Library and Research Center among many others.
- A number of jurisdictions have official podcasts or YouTube Channels. Grand Lodge of Michigan's Trowel Time on their Michigan Masons YouTube Channel is an excellent example of communicating and connecting from the grand Lodge to the Lodge level.

**Lingering Issues.** As much phenomenal work is being done, there are still issues that remain and jurisdictions are still searching for appropriate solutions.

- Declining Attendance: Multiple jurisdictions report a decline in attendance and engagement since the pandemic. This results in a bigger strain on Lodges, especially in having Brethren to hold Lodge Offices, conduct Lodge business or proficient enough in the Ritual to confer degrees. Education has a piece in this, but it is difficult to get a Lodge engaged in a presentation on Sacred Geometry when they are more worried about being able to remain open.
- Establishing a Baseline : The quality and consistency of Masonic Education, however defined, can vary throughout a jurisdiction. Ideally, a newly-raised Master Mason in Milwaukee should have a similar baseline of knowledge as a newly-raised Master Mason in Rhinelander. A Senior Warden in Munising should have a similar baseline of expectations and tools as a Senior Warden in Ann Arbor.
- Technology Issues: There is no perfect platform for all Brethren. Whether it is videos, e-books, e-mails, virtual libraries, or on-demand printing, it is difficult to get resources to Brethren in a way that is easy and accessible. With many jurisdictions moving to Grandview, the system does allow for wider access to educational materials within that jurisdiction; but removes those resources for anyone outside that jurisdiction.
- Facilitating Connections: This gets expressed in many forms, such as: getting Lodges to engage with the wealth of materials and resources around them, getting Brethren to travel or participate; or just getting Brethren outside their bubble. Masonry is about meaningful connections; it is why men join and it is why they stay. More and more, Masonic Education is being freed from the confines of the Lodge Building and Stated Meeting, there are many different opportunities to make those meaningful connections that go unnoticed or underutilized. At last year's MCME, one Brother described it as if he had just found the most beautiful beach in Hawaii, but he can't get the guys in his Lodge to leave the hotel sandbox.
- Combatting Fatigue and Frustration-Jurisdictions aren't race cars, they are aircraft carriers. Changes in direction are slow and require an incredible expense of resources, the same is true with Lodges. After a year of work, you may have only changed course two inches. But a two-inch change today becomes a three-foot change next year and a four-mile change the year after that. The challenge is keeping that perspective.

The state of Masonic Education is strong, but evolving. There are common problems, creative solutions, and outstanding resources out there which you discover through looking across jurisdictional lines. The reports tell one part of the story, it is the conversations with Brethren from those jurisdictions that tell a richer and more complete one. As Masonic Education is something that thrives in connection and dies in isolation, I would encourage you to look at these reports, connect with Brethren and form your own conclusions.

Best wishes for safe travels

Chad Kopenski  
Past President-Midwest Conference on Masonic Education

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# ILLINOIS

### Leadership

<b>Grand Master:</b> David Lynch	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>Grand Master's Theme:</b> Back to The Basics	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

### Demographics

<b>Lodges:</b> 476	<b>Ritual:</b> Written, Cyphered Obligations
<b>Members:</b> 57,000	<b>Proficiency:</b> Short and long form for EA and FC, MM is optional. Certificate for proficiencies. Short form is still Q&A, but not the obligation.
<b>Member System:</b> MORI	
<b>Annual Communications:</b> October	

### Structure

<b>State Level:</b> Grand Lodge Committee on Education. Hand-picked men on Committee.
<b>District Level:</b> 4 Area Education officers who oversee 9-12 District Education Officers. These DEOs focus on candidate counseling, steering Lodges to resources, and working on the overall Lodge Experience. The DEOs are almost like Tour Guides, making sure that Lodges know what is possible and get the most out of their experience. Area Education Officers report to Area Grand Masters.
<b>Lodge Level:</b> Lodge Education Officer, appointed yearly by the Master. The LEO is charged with the Lodge Experience, Lodge quality, and candidate counseling,.
<b>Other:</b> Illinois Lodge of Research promotes Masonic study and research, maintains extensive virtual library and archives. Publishes the Lyceum.

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
General	The focus now is a unification of education efforts, information, dissemination and support. There should be a baseline to Masonic Education and preparation.
Working hand in hand with Membership.	Process of taking Intender program and bring it into a video program online for district education officers to roll-out/implement to their LEOs. Borrowed from an Ohio program, it helps with education from petition to when the Brother is raised. These are created resources that mentors can use with candidates and Brothers so that there is consistent messaging and information topics such as Ritual, history, etiquette, symbolism, etc. on a variety of topics.
Intender Plus Program	Process of taking Intender program and bring it into a video program online for district education officers to roll-out/implement to their LEOs. Borrowed from an Ohio program, it helps with education from petition to when the Brother is raised. These are created resources that mentors can use with candidates and Brothers so that there is consistent messaging and information topics such as Ritual, history, etiquette, symbolism, etc. on a variety of topics.
Workshop to the East.	Wardens and Deacons training; but open to all officers. Focus on more of a values-based/identity approach to the Lodge. Awareness, facilitating specific conversations, making sure Lodges know what they have to do, should do, could do.

<u>Education Contacts</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Grand Lodge Education Committee	Bernard Davis	<a href="mailto:glcme@ilmason.org">glcme@ilmason.org</a>
Illinois Lodge of Research	Mark D. Nokes	<a href="mailto:WM@Illinoislodgeofresearch.org">WM@Illinoislodgeofresearch.org</a>

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

### INDIANA

#### Leadership

<b>Grand Master:</b> Gary Brindley	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>Grand Master's Theme:</b> Not Just A Man, A Mason	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

#### Demographics

<b>Lodges:</b> 349	<b>Ritual:</b> Written Ritual in each Lodge, Individual can purchase a Cyphered Ritual with corresponding monitor.
<b>Members:</b> ~40,000	
<b>Member System:</b> Patriot	<b>Proficiency:</b> Minimum: modes of recognition. Each Lodge can set their own standards/requirements for proficiency.
<b>Annual Communications:</b> May	

#### Structure

<b>State Level:</b> Chairman of Committee and ad hoc committee.
<b>District Level:</b> Lodge Liaisons. Not a part of Lodge Education specifically, they are meant to form relationships with Lodges, identify and escalate issues, facilitate discussion and provide needed resource.
<b>Lodge Level:</b> The Worshipful Master is responsible for ensuring that education is presented at every meeting. He can delegate or enable people to present, if he chooses.
<b>Other:</b> Dwight L. Smith Lodge of Research promotes Masonic study and research, maintains extensive virtual library and archives. Separate from Grand Lodge, Indiana University houses the Center for Fraternal Collections and Research, which collects, preserves, and makes accessible historical and cultural materials related to fraternal organizations and their membership, with an emphasis on organizations that are extinct or without stable historical repositories, and promotes research into the history of fraternal organizations in service of the university's teaching, research, and service mission..

#### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
General	Encourage Lodges to make Masonic Education a regular part of their stated meetings, or separate meetings all together.
Working Title: Indiana Masonic Academy.	A LMS (Learning Management System) to get education into the hands of Brethren on their own time according to their own interests. Also looking into a education-based, multi-tiered, achievement-oriented transformative journey of self-discovery like the Riddick and Scofield Societies, but distinct for Indiana. Currently in the research and development phase.
Ramblings of a Traveling Man	A quarterly online presentation of 3 speakers, each about 15-20min long. It has been well received and is now being led by the Dwight L. Smith Lodge of Research.
Illumination Program	This is a three-part take home test on the monitor, Ritual, and Masonic Law. Those who complete the exams earn a certificate and a pin.
Drip Campaign	Brief e-mails sent on a regular basis to New Master Masons giving them tidbits of information, links to resources, notices on upcoming events. Existing members can also sign up for it. Information can be found at: <a href="https://www.inglmarketing.com/drip">https://www.inglmarketing.com/drip</a> . Easily shareable with other jurisdictions.
Rookie Program	This is a program to facilitate participation for Brethren newly raised. It is a challenge to complete certain tasks in the first year since your raising. Brethren earn points by attending a certain number of meetings at their own Lodge, by participating in fundraising or social activities in their own Lodge, by seeing or participating in each of the degrees, by visiting other Lodges, participating in an event that celebrates the life of a Brother such as a funeral or a 50-year anniversary, attending Lodges of Instruction, etc. Those who complete the program earn a certificate signed by the Grand Master and a commemorative pin.
Traveler's Journey	This document created and curated by the Education Committee has chapters on etiquette, history, leadership, Ritual, etc. written by specific committees for that purpose.

<u>Education Contacts</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Grand Senior Deacon	WB John Bridegroom	<a href="mailto:grandcouncilofficer@comcast.net">grandcouncilofficer@comcast.net</a>
Grand Lodge Education Committee	WB James A. Buckhorn	<a href="mailto:james@areyouatravelingman.com">james@areyouatravelingman.com</a>
Center For Fraternal Collections and Research at Indiana University	Dr. Heather Calloway	<a href="mailto:hkc@iu.edu">hkc@iu.edu</a>

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# IOWA

### Leadership

<b>Grand Master:</b> MWB Darrell G. Fremont	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>GM Theme:</b> Get in the Game, Live the Ritual	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

### Demographics

<b>Lodges:</b> 226	<b>Ritual:</b> Cyphered.
<b>Members:</b> 12,318	<b>Proficiency:</b> There is a short form and long form proficiency. Short form consists of modes of recognition long form consists of the "questions" from the degrees.
<b>Member System:</b> GrandView	Enlightenment course. Learn modes of recognition. 10-12. Mentor vouches for them. Enlightenment course required from everyone. Memory work optional.
<b>Annual Communications:</b> September	

### Structure

**State Level:** Grand Lodge of Education Committee established by Code. Membership is defined as 14 members consisting of three 3 members from each quadrant of the state and two from Des Moines.

**District Level:** Education officers are Ritual-focused. Those certified as Masonic Instructors have been examined as word-perfect on the Ritual. Those certified as District Lecturers must have attended at least three years of the Ritual schools that the Custodians of the Work have held and be proficient in the floor work.

**Lodge Level:** The Worshipful Master is ultimately responsible for seeing that Lodge Education is presented in his Lodge, by Code. He may delegate this to another Brother on his discretion.

### Other:

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
Grandview	Year 6 of transitioning to Grandview. Ongoing effort/training to bring people onto the system
Meaningful Connections	Neighborhood Area Meetings, Regional Schools, and Grand Master Area Meetings are held throughout the state and throughout the year to provide an opportunity for Masons to meet, connect, share ideas, thoughts, tactics, struggles, and support in regards to modern Masonry.
Iowa Masonic Academy	In the process of implementing Iowa Masonic Academy : History, Law, Symbolism, Philosophy, and Ritual as a part of Grandview. Each are broken down into more detail. Courses feed into next course. Program is designed to be a commitment.
Masters and Wardens Handbook	Looking at re-writing Master and Wardens handbook. Each office will have a section (some grouped together). This is meant to cover what is expected, and what prep work is needed for upcoming year. Moving for more extensive education for what is needed for each office in the lodge.

<u>Education Contacts</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Deputy Grand Secretary	Kelly H. Bruce	<a href="mailto:dgs@gl-iowa.org">dgs@gl-iowa.org</a>

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4/28/2024

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# KENTUCKY

### Leadership

**Grand Master:** Richard F. "Dick" Short

[GL Website:](#)

**Grand Master's Theme:** Being A Mason 24/7

[GL Facebook:](#)

### Demographics

**Lodges:** 350

**Ritual:** No standardized Ritual. Kentucky has three approved Ritual books. The most popular is the Pirtle's Monitor, next is the 'Dark Blue Ritual' which contains Pirtle plus elements from the Grand Lodge of Virginia's Ritual; the third is the 'Light Blue Ritual,' which is just elements from th Grand Lodge of Virginia's Ritual.

**Members:** ~30,000

**Member System:** Nexus Elite

**Annual Communications:** October

**Proficiency:** There is a minimum of 1 lunar month between degrees. A Brother is deemed proficient upon a 2/3 majority vote of the Lodge. Proficiency usually entails questions and answers, test oath, obligation, but is left up to interpretation by the Lodge.

### Structure

**State Level:** Committee on Masonic Education: 3-5 members. Duties are to be proficient in Constitution and the Ritual in order to aid and assist the Lodges; they are also duty-bound to effectively communicate the education wishes of GM. 6 Lodges of Research that operate regionally

**District Level:** 32 Districts within the state separated into three areas. Each area has their own Ritual Committee that oversees the Ritualist program. No dedicated district-level education officers.

**Lodge Level:** No dedicated lodge-level education officer.

**Other:** Not really a definition of or requirement for education at meetings.

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
General	The regional speakers at the District Meetings were incredibly well received. This year has seen a state-wide increase in the interest in regular Lodge Education. The Jurisdiction will be discussing the next steps forward in terms of definition, dissemination, and standardization of education.
Rubicon Masonic Society	Sponsored by the William Ware Lodge of Research, this is a Lecture Series both in-person and online that highlights new ideas, contemporary research, and quality education.
Yearly Masonic Program	Changes yearly according to the wishes of the Grand Master and consists of educational pieces presented yearly in regional meetings.
Statewide Meetings	At least one main officer of each Lodge (WM, Wardens, Secretary, or Treasurer) must attend a mandatory virtual meeting in January to receive information on the Yearly Program and other important elements. This meeting typically has 400-600 people in attendance and the videos or documents that are created are stored in a members-only database for Kentucky Masons. Typically 6 in-person meetings and 3 virtual meetings.
District Meetings	32 held in the different districts over the course of the year. This year, Grand Lodge has charged the 6 different Lodges of Research with presenting on different educational topics at these meetings. This year a speaker from a Regional Lodge of Research spoke at each of the meetings.

### Education Contacts

Grand Lodge Education Committee

### Contact Person

Cameron Clark Poe

### E-Mail



**2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT**

**MICHIGAN**

**Leadership**

<b>Grand Master:</b> Leonard Kelley Davis	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>Grand Master's Theme:</b>	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

**Demographics**

<b>Lodges:</b> 255	<b>Ritual:</b> Ritual is mostly monitorial with the modes of recognition cyphered. <b>Proficiency:</b> Utilizes short form: obligations and modes of recognition. It cannot be used as a requirement to progress through the degrees. After giving their test, the Worshipful Master decides and declares the candidate proficient. Separately, the Craft will then vote on the candidates worthiness to proceed to the next degree.
<b>Members:</b> ~20,000	
<b>Member System:</b> Groupable	
<b>Annual Communications:</b> MONTH	

**Structure**

<b>State Level:</b> There is no Grand Lodge Education Committee.
<b>District Level:</b> District Deputy Instructors-Instruct on the work. Lodge, District, and Regional Ritual Instructional schools
<b>Lodge Level:</b>
<b>Other:</b> 5 Lodges of Research that create and disseminate content

**Initiatives**

<b><u>Areas of Focus:</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
General	Michigan recognizes that there are amazing educational programs available through other jurisdictions, AASR, and LORs, encourages Lodges to seek and use them. Leadership and Ritual are separate from Education, but there are connections.
Lodge of Research Coordination	With 5 Lodges of Research in Michigan, there needs to be a nexus for communication, collaboration, perspective, and support while also providing avenues for distribution and dissemination of generated content to Lodges.
Leadership Ttraining	Fall and Spring Leadership conferences focusing on operations and membership. Much of the main thrust of these conferences is on the importance of and the necessary steps to building relationships and creating meaningful connections. For example, a Six Steps to Membership document that aids a Lodge vetting a candidate, identifying and establishing connections before they would even petition. The seminars are intended to specifically provide the attendees with understanding of how to provide opportunities for members to build better and deeper friendships and relationships with the brethren, reinforce concepts of servant leadership, and how leadership of a lodge impacts their membership.
Lodge Success	The focus of this team has shifted. In the past, the team would objectively score a Lodge categories such as Governance and Leadership; 2. Financial sustainability; 3. Membership; 4. Operational Efficiency; 5. Community Involvement through interviews and observation. They would then work with a Lodge to develop a plan for improvement, then facilitate, guide, and suport that Lodge's Plan. The team has shifted to a more responsive position than a proactive one, providing ongoing on-demand support to the Lodges.
<a href="#">John E. Fetzer Digital Library</a>	Digital library that preserves John E. Fetzer's life-long inquiry into the interconnectedness between science and spirituality for the transformation of self and society. Searchable archive of articles, videos, and other media.
<a href="#">Michigan Masons YouTube Channel</a>	Ongoing YouTube videos on a variety of topics from history to Lodge Management to check-ins with Grand Lodge Officers. "Trowel Time" is usually released monthly. These are done in a quick, informative, and responsive manner to meet the needs of the Brethren.
<a href="#">Michigan Masonic Museum and Library</a>	Dedicated to preserving and celebrating Michigan History. Their Facebook page has great, short videos that highlight Michigan Masonic History.

<b><u>Education Contacts</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Person</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail</u></b>
System CEO	Robert Conley, PGM.	<a href="mailto:rconley@grandlodgemi.org">rconley@grandlodgemi.org</a>

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# MINNESOTA

### Leadership

<b>Grand Master:</b> Foster Solem	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>Grand Master's Theme:</b> (Pending)	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

### Demographics

<b>Lodges:</b> 130	
<b>Members:</b> 9300	<b>Ritual:</b> Cyphered Ritual.
<b>Member System:</b> Grandview	<b>Proficiency:</b> Required Q&A like the Preston-Webb Ritual. Lodges may have one mentor per Candidate or they may do one Mentor per class of Candidates.
<b>Annual Communications:</b> April	

### Structure

**State Level:** Grand Education Officer with direct contact to Lodges. This is incredibly busy creating content: Reforming a Grand Lodge document, 12 e-Mason columns, 6 Minnesota Mason bi-monthly newsletter, 6 Masonic Conundrum (trivia challenge, random winner out of correct) 9 Masonic Education Bulletins, Annual Report to Grand Lodge and the Annual Report to MCME.

**District Level:** N/A

**Lodge Level:** Lodge Education Officer. Often there is a Lodge Mentor, who mentors candidate education and proficiency. LEOs must assist the Lodge in Lodge Education.

**Other:** Monthly e-mail bulletin with resources and links.

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
General	Bringing Meaningful Connections. Synergies with Minnesota Charities and Membership Chairman. Reboot of Membership, Mentorship, and Leadership. Synergy of three separate Committees working towards decentralizing it into regional committees. Event with over 60+ Masons attended.
Chivalry School	John Schweitz-CEO Minnesota Masonic Charities and Reed Endersbe-Membership Chair hold a training for young men and women on life skills such as manners
Minnesota Writer's Guild	Informal way of recognizing those who have published on a statewide level or higher.
Minnesota Masonic Charities Publication	Quarterly publication starting in the Summer of 2022 that will feature articles from particular bodies and groups within Minnesota Masonry: Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite, DeMolay, Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Grotto, Tall Cedars, etc.
Minnesota Masonic Camp	Held in July, this is an opportunity to gather among the pines and around the campfire for education, reflection, and fellowship.
Light Program	Program open to any Mason, whether they are in Minnesota or not. It is designed to build competency and Masonic Knowledge in at least seven of nine established areas: Leadership, Masonic History, Ritual, Masonic Philosophy & Symbolism, Computers & Masonry on the Internet, Contemporary Enlightenment, Mentoring, Lodge Administration. Concordant/Appendant Bodies Brethren earn points for completing certain activities in these areas ranging from attending meetings to crafting artistic items for the Lodge to reading and reflecting on Masonic Literature. Upon completing any area of proficiency, participants receive a special certificate. After completing two of the areas, participants earn a commemorative coffee mug, upon completing seven of the nine, they receive a specialized medallion awarded by the Grand Master.
Wayfaring Man Program	The Wayfaring Man Program is an passport initiative to help in the revitalization of the lodges and to promote one of the Landmarks of Freemasonry. Mackey's 14th Landmark is the "Right of Every Mason to Visit and Sit in Every Regular Lodge" and this has been recognized as an inherent right to every Mason as he travels.

<u>Education Contacts</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Grand Lodge Education Officer	WB Brad Phelps	<a href="mailto:traveler@bythecompass.org">traveler@bythecompass.org</a>

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# MISSOURI

### Leadership

**Grand Master:** Charles Wiegart

[GL Website:](#)

[GL Facebook:](#)

**Grand Master's Theme:** Peace and Harmony

### Demographics

**Lodges:** 282

**Members:** 25,916

**Member System:** GrandView

**Annual Communications:** September

**Ritual:** Written, Cyphered

**Proficiency:** There are three methods: Proficiency cannot be required as a condition for advancement in the degrees. Candidates are provided the information on the Historical Candidates Proficiency Lecture and are given the opportunity to return the work in Open Lodge or to a committee of his choosing. There is a mentoring program which is necessary for advancement.

### Structure

**State Level:** Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee. 6 members appointed to 2-year terms. GM, DGM, and Wardens are ex-officio.

**District Level:** District Grand Lecturers and District Deputy Grand Lecturers to instruct on Ritual Work. No District-level education officers.

**Lodge Level:** Lodge Education Officer, appointed yearly by Master. Charged with developing and carrying out plans for continuing Masonic Education for Lodge Members.

**Other:** Missouri Lodge of Research promotes Masonic study and research, maintains extensive virtual library and archives.

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
General	Focus on implementing Thomas Fivish Riddick Society and Masters and Wardens - getting useful tools in the hands of Lodges.
General	Standardize Candidate Counseling
Masters and Warden's Training	Implemented, and held across state typically twice per year.. Updated curriculum and evolving training opportunities: protocol, operational instructions, personality management, etc.
Missouri Lodge of Research	Regular newsletter and searchable Library. Archives of the Truman Lecture Series.
Thomas Fivish Riddick Society	Similar to Ohio's Royal Scofield Society. Soft announcement in April, full launch in September. Averaging 15-20 each new enrollments month, 87 enrolled right now, 60 Fellow of the Craft, 4 completed Pillar of the Craft level. Very little advertising for program, but response beyond expectations. Pin given for each level presented by GL Officer with certificates at each level.

<u>Education Contacts</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Grand Lodge Education Committee	Jacob Thompson	<a href="mailto:jacobthompson1641@gmail.com">jacobthompson1641@gmail.com</a>
Missouri Lodge of Research	Russ Pence	

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# MONTANA

### Leadership

**Grand Master:** MWB David Schantz  
**Grand Master's Theme:**

[GL Website:](#)  
[GL Facebook:](#)

### Demographics

**Lodges:** 77

**Members:** 3,375

**Member System:** Grandview

**Annual Communications:** June

**Ritual:** Written, Cyphered

**Proficiency:** "Short Form" consisting of modes of recognition and obligation, or "Long Form" which includes questions and answers. Either must be memorized and verification of proficiency may be determined by the lodge in open lodge, by a committee of three elective officers or three Past Masters, or by combination of the lodge and a committee. Additionally, an open book test must be completed for proficiency.

### Structure:

**State Level:** Grand Lodge Committee on Education and Research, consisting of seven members.

**District Level:** District Grand Lodge officers have the duty to "Promote Masonic education."

**Lodge Level:** Education programs determined by each Lodge. Each Lodge has a Lodge Instructor, whose duty it is to: A. Hold schools of instruction and instruct the officers of the lodges in the ritual; B. Prepare officers of the lodge for advancement; C. Instruct in those portions of the Constitution and Statutes of Grand Lodge which relate to the government of the lodge; D. Instruct in the proper administration of the affairs of the lodge; and E. Encourage preservation of the Ancient Landmarks.

### Other:

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
<a href="#">Montana Freemason Magazine</a>	The Montana Masonic Foundation (A 501c3, separate from the Grand Lodge of Montana), publishes the Montana Freemason Magazine, which includes educational content and is mailed to each Master Mason. Curated articles from about the country on a variety of topics. Is an excellent resource. Archives available on GL website
<a href="#">Montana Masonic Library and Research Center</a>	The Montana Masonic Museum houses a distinguished museum, library, and research center, with collections oriented toward Masonic and Montana histories and the role of the Freemasons in the development of Montana. Extensive collections from the American Revolution to the present, Masonic jewels made of Montana gold and silver, regalia, paintings, engravings, photographs, and ephemera. Offers leadership, education and mentoring programs and resources to youth throughout Montana.

<u>Education Contacts</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Grand Lodge Committee on Education and Research	Jason Smith	<a href="mailto:jasonsmith@grandlodgemontana.org">jasonsmith@grandlodgemontana.org</a>
Montana Masonic Museum	Daniel Gardiner	<a href="mailto:gs@grandlodgemontana.org">gs@grandlodgemontana.org</a>

## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# NEBRASKA

### Leadership

**Grand Master:** MWB John Ferguson  
**Grand Master's Theme:**

[GL Website:](#)  
[GL Facebook:](#)

### Demographics

**Lodges:** 97

**Ritual:** Cyphered Ritual with monitorial portions available

**Members:** 7,145

**Member System:** Grandview

**Proficiency:** Required between each degree, recently reinstated the long from memory. Proficiency is determined by a vote of the Lodge. Brethren deemed proficient receive a challenge coin and a certificate.

**Annual Communications:** February

### Structure:

**State Level:** Committee on Masonic Education: five members appointed by Grand Master plus two ad-hoc members.

Education is defined as distinctly separate from Ritual.

**District Level:** No dedicated district-level education officers.

**Lodge Level:** By-laws require education at every meeting. No dedicated lodge-level education officer.

**Other:**

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>	
General	The Masonic Education Committee of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska AF&AM provides educational materials and presentations to Nebraska Freemasons, to include monthly education articles for blue lodge business meetings, Masonic book reviews, articles about Masonic history and famous Nebraska Masons, and news about Masonic events around the world.	
Educational Symposium	Aspirational to hold three per year.	
Awards	Rock Maul Award for the Lodge, Pillar Award and Grand Master's Leadership Award. Rock Maul is a competitive award given to two Lodges per year, one Large and one Small. In each of these awards are elements of education and proficiency.	
Monthly Education Pieces	One-page mini-paper with discussion questions e-mailed out to every Secretary along with monthly Grand Lodge Message.	
<a href="#">To Light!!!</a>	Quarterly publication containing short and long-form educational papers and presentations. Has gone to an online-only format and is included in The Nebraska Mason news magazine.	
Yearly Educational Breakfast	Held during February GL communications, breakfast that includes a speaker(s) on various topics. This has grown in the last decade or so to become one of the best-attended and appreciated sessions at Grand Lodge Communications.	
<a href="#">Nebraska Masonic Foundation Library and Museum</a>	Repository for primary source material and artifacts relating to the history and practice of Freemasonry. Searchable online database of books, objects, images housed in the museum.	
<b><u>Education Contacts</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Person</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail</u></b>
Committee on Masonic Education	Matt Parker (co-chair)	<a href="mailto:mwparker42@gmail.com">mwparker42@gmail.com</a>
Committee on Masonic Education	T. J. Brumfeld (co-chair)	<a href="mailto:enderandrew@gmail.com">enderandrew@gmail.com</a>

**2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT**

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**Leadership**

<b>Grand Master:</b> MWB Chad Kainz	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>Grand Master's Theme:</b> Not a theme, but	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

**Demographics**

<b>Lodges:</b> 42	<b>Ritual:</b> Single-letter cypher.
<b>Members:</b> 2,439	<b>Proficiency:</b> At the discretion of the Master of the Lodge, either Traditional Proficiency or the candidate has Proficiency Packets for each degree. Packets contain questions about symbols, lessons of the degree, factual recall questions. Once complete, handed in to Lodge.
<b>Member System:</b> Grandview	
<b>Annual Communications:</b> June	

**Structure**

<b>State Level:</b> Two Grand Lecturers with the option of District Grand Lecturers. Traditionally Senior Grand Warden is the Grand Lecturer.
<b>District Level:</b>
<b>Lodge Level:</b> Each Lodge is supposed to have a Special Instructor in the Ritual, recommended by the Master but appointed by the Grand Master. Each Lodge is supposed to have a Local Director of Masonic Education who have great leeway in the
<b>Other:</b>

**Initiatives**

<b><u>Areas of Focus:</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
General	Lodges of Instruction. Re-establish connections with Lodges and communities. There has been a disconnect between State and Local levels for a while and it is important that those connections are restored.
Attitude of Improvement	GM's message is that no Lodge or Mason is perfect; but what is important is the drive to improve. Grand Lodge Officers are visiting Lodges, participating more actively at various levels to communicate that message and establish more personal connections.
One-Day Classes.	Prevalent in the state as a response to struggles coming out of COVID.
Struggles.	Because of how widely Lodges are dispersed, the issues with attendance and Ritual competency left over from COVID, and the disconnect between various levels and regions in the jurisdiction, there are some significant struggles in this jurisdiction. The current focus is on making meaningful connections one Mason, one handshake, one moment at a time.

<b><u>Education Contacts</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Person</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail</u></b>
Grand Lodge Education Committee	Fred Kitko	

**2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT**

**OHIO**

**Leadership**

<b>Grand Master:</b> Paul Weglage	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>Grand Master's Theme:</b> Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

**Demographics**

<b>Lodges:</b> 426	<b>Ritual:</b> Written, Cyphered. Each District has Typewritten Ritual entrusted to DDGMs.
<b>Members:</b> 62,150	<b>Proficiency:</b> Three methods: Traditional - ciphered, typically from memory; Minimum - demonstrate modes of recognition, read obligation; Principles: Brother answers factual and open-ended questions about the Degree in Open Lodge to demonstrate that they have mastered the lessons of this degree, demonstrates minimum proficiency.
<b>Member System:</b> GrandView	
<b>Annual Communications:</b> October	

**Structure**

<b>State Level:</b> Grand Lodge Committee on Education and Information. Consists of representative from each of Ohio's 25 Districts, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Grand Deacons.
<b>District Level:</b> 62 District Education Officers, appointed yearly, limited to three-years. Typically 1 DEO for every 6 Lodges in a District. Charged with aiding Lodges in Lodge Experience, Candidate Counseling, Lodge Quality. Expressly forbidden from interpreting Ritual or Code. <b>Officer training as well (can train on code not code enforcers).</b>
<b>Lodge Level:</b> Lodge Education Officer, appointed yearly. Charged with Lodge Experience, Candidate Counseling, Lodge
<b>Other:</b> Ohio Lodge of Research promotes Masonic study and research, maintains extensive virtual library and archives. Has started podcast on research topics. Royal Scofield Society is educational honor society where membership is earned through completing a challenging curriculum of study and reflection. Both entities operate separately and distinctly; but in amity with the Grand Lodge Education Committee.

**Initiatives**

<b><u>Areas of Focus:</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
General	Providing opportunities and resources for Brethren to stay connected, organizing and shoring up current tools, enlightening and emposing Lodges to establish individual identity and implement individual solutions.
Quick-Sheets	Streamlined LEO and DEO manuals to give specific tasks/mission centered on candidate counseling and lodge improvement based on set of guiding principles. (Like a cheat sheet that links to resolution in officer manual).
Lodge Year In A Box	A collection of presentations of varying length on a theme. These presentations are paired with 'recipes' so that Lodge Education Officers have a map to create a unified Lodge Education Year to meet the needs of their Lodge.
Grand Master Roadshow	Statewide virtual 'roadshow'- event with speakers around a general theme, moderated by Grand Lodge Officer. Held quarterly. Presentations recorded and offered in Grandview for Brethren to watch individually or present in Lodge.
Grand Master's Award	Lodges may earn this award by accomplishing certain tasks or benchmarks in areas of Membership, Lodge Administration, Lodge and Member Programs, Fraternal Events and Community Involvement. Tasks include hosting a table Lodge or a Friendship Night, restoring a certain percentage of membership, exchanging educational programs with other Lodges, learning new Lectures, having Officers take the online Code or Officer's Manual Courses. Lodges can choose the activities that best fit.
Zerubbabel Engagement Award	Task-based engagement program for Masons in their first two years after being raised. Brethren can earn points by completing certain tasks such as attending/participating in degree conferrals, visiting other Lodges, serving on certain Lodge committees or mentoring candidates. Brethren who earn enough points are recognized at Grand Lodge and given a special pin. Has been highly successful so far.
Roadmap For Improvement	Document for Lodges to identify values, strengths, and weakness. Push for Lodges to embrace individual identities and talents. If Lodge identifies area that they would like to work on improving or maintaining, DEO can assist in finding resources, speakers, mentors, best practices, etc.
Royal Scofield Society	Named after PGM and Past President of MCME Royal Scofield. Advanced Masonic education society. Currently 850 enrolled in OH - 50 have completed through Master of Craft. 3 levels - each has specific requirements. Those who have completed all levels get the privilege of appending RSS to their signature. Other states looking to create similar programs: Iowa, Missouri, Georgia, New Jersey.

<b><u>Education Contacts</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Person</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail</u></b>
Grand Lodge Education Committee	Steve Hessler, 33, PDDGM	<a href="mailto:shessler32@hotmail.com">shessler32@hotmail.com</a>
Royal Scofield Society	Charlie Murphy, PGM, RSS	<a href="mailto:wyloway@aol.com">wyloway@aol.com</a>
Ohio Lodge of Research	Chad Kopenski, PDDGM, RSS	<a href="mailto:chad.kopenski@gmail.com">chad.kopenski@gmail.com</a>



## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# VIRGINIA

### Leadership

**Grand Master:** MWB Jack Kayle Lewis

[GL Website:](#)

**Grand Master's Theme:**

[GL Facebook:](#)

### Demographics

**Lodges:** 300

**Members:** 26,564

**Member System:** GrandView

**Annual Communications:** November

**Ritual:** Mouth to ear. Manual of Work that contains monitorial parts

**Proficiency:** Traditional question/response for each degree. Proficiency is not required to progress between degrees. An alternate path is available where you can be deemed proficient if your mentor vouches for you.

### Structure

**State Level:** The Committee on Masonic Education shall be appointed from each of the general geographical divisions of the state who shall be Division Provosts and, in addition, the Chairman shall be the Grand Provost, who shall not represent any division. Such other members may be appointed to meet the special needs of the Masonic Education program. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and the Grand Deacons shall be ex-officio, members of the Committee with voice and vote. This Committee shall conduct such conferences, seminars and forums of Masonic education as it may deem appropriate or as the Grand Master may order. It shall review and approve all publications of the Grand Lodge concerning Masonic education with the exception of the Virginia Masonic Herald.

**District Level:** 50 Districts, each with their own DDGM, DEO, and Deputy Instructor of Work (Ritual)

**Lodge Level:** LEO is optional position. Master is ultimately responsible for Lodge Education

**Other:**

### Initiatives

<u>Areas of Focus:</u>	<u>Description</u>
General	Masonic Education is everything Masonic except for Ritual
Masonic Herald	Quarterly publication of GL-VA with monthly supplements with news, articles, events, and opportunities. Past issues available on GL-VA website
Committee on Lodge Services	Handbook on Lodge Community Service Projects available in GrandView detailing specific projects, their concepts, guidelines for implementation with an eye toward member engagement
<a href="#">Virginia Masonic Academy</a>	Premier resource for Masonic Education in Virginia. It is an online resource of papers, manuals, information, and links relating to Masonic Education. Public-facing, it is an incredible resource. Under grand Lodge Publications are some great resources for hosting particular events, such as 'Bring A Friend' Night or establishing a Widow's Program. Offers correspondence courses on Virginia Law and Ritual.
Ritual Schools	Held in the different districts for direct instruction on the Ritual.
<a href="#">Lodges of Research</a>	A. Douglas Smith Jr. Research Lodge #1949, Civil War Lodge of Research #1865, George Washington LOR #1732, Peyton Randolph LOR #1774, Virginia Research Lodge #1777. Information and resources in the link

<u>Education Contacts</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Grand Provost	Jonathan Alexander Giles	<a href="mailto:grandprovost@glova.org">grandprovost@glova.org</a>



## 2023-2024 MCME JURISDICTION REPORT

# WISCONSIN

### Leadership

<b>Grand Master:</b> Dave Ritchie	<a href="#">GL Website:</a>
<b>Grand Master's Theme:</b> Opened Unto You	<a href="#">GL Facebook:</a>

### Demographics

<b>Lodges:</b> 162	<b>Ritual:</b> Written, Cyphered
<b>Members:</b> 8,173	<b>Proficiency:</b> Called 'hosting a candidate.' Proficiency is required between degrees and consists of modes of recognition and the questions from Ritual opening and closing. Does not need to be memorized.
<b>Member System:</b> MORI	
<b>Annual Communications:</b> June	

### Structure

<b>State Level:</b> Grand Lodge Masonic Education Committee. 8 members one year appointments. Appointed Chairman.
<b>District Level:</b> District Lecturer for Ritual. No District-level education officers. There have been recent discussion in adding Education Officer positions at both the Lodge and District levels.
<b>Lodge Level:</b> Education is the responsibility of Master. Sometimes the appointed Candidate Counselor will do Lodge Education. Lodge education presentations are encouraged in Lodges.
<b>Other:</b> Silas H. Shepherd Lodge of Research #1843. Meets quarterly to discuss presentations, research, and areas of interest.

### Initiatives

<b>Areas of Focus:</b>	<b>Description</b>
Wisconsin Masonic Journal	11 journals a year, each one gets an Educational article.
<a href="#">Podcast</a>	Further Light Podcast: 70 episodes created. Hosted by Chris Luedke, covering a variety of topics, but typically long form on symbols, history, or events in Masonry.
Education Contest	Co-sponsored by education committee and research lodge (2nd year). Speakers contest - had to give an original topic (recorded with discussion). Top 3 winners received a prize as did the winners' lodges
Education Newsletter	Monthly e-mail sent to all elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers with content, links, events, guides, and context in Masonic Education.
Education Symposium	have been held so far with plans for more to come. Topics have included Civil War and Morgan Affair.
Education Cards	Think portable education program starters. In development: 400-500 word pre-built education topics with questions/discussion points, possibly questions to start discussions. Focusing on providing to Grand Lodge presenters.

<b>Education Contacts</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
Grand Lodge Education Committee	Chairman	<a href="mailto:EDUCATION@wimasons.org">EDUCATION@wimasons.org</a>
Silas H. Shepherd Lodge #1843 LOR	Napoleon S. Janczak	<a href="mailto:njamfam@yahoo.com">njamfam@yahoo.com</a>