

The Grand Lodge



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

MW Omar S Morris
Grand Master

100 Barrack Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-2008

My Brothers,

With deep humility and profound gratitude, I accept the honor of serving as your 165th Grand Master. I do so not as one who seeks to rule, but as one who desires to serve, always guided by our sacred principles and the trust you have so graciously placed in me.

The theme for this term is simple yet powerful: **Educate, Elevate, and Empower**. These three words reflect not only our proud past and meaningful present but also the very promise of OUR future as New Jersey Freemasons.

To Educate

Knowledge is the foundation of Masonic growth. We will strengthen our programs of instruction and education to ensure that every Brother, whether newly initiated or seasoned by years of service, has access to meaningful instruction that deepens understanding, builds character, and renews purpose.

Some examples of this include:

- Additional mentoring workshops for all Brothers, along with new workshops aligned with statewide degrees.
- Expanded leadership training opportunities available both in person and virtually.
- A Past Masters Training Program to provide new Past Masters with resources and information to better support their Lodges.

To Elevate

We must lift the expectations of what it means to be a Mason. We will enhance communication at every level of our fraternity—between Lodges, the Grand Lodge, and, most importantly, among Brothers. Clear, consistent, and transparent communication will be a cornerstone of my term.

To that end:

- We will share thoughtful ideas and encourage Lodges to elevate the overall Masonic experience for their members, fostering meetings that are not only well-organized but also truly meaningful, inspiring, and rooted in the deeper values of our Craft.
- We have developed two new mobile applications: one to improve communication among Grand Lodge officers, District Education Officers, and Past Grand Masters; and another to strengthen communication between all Worshipful Masters across our jurisdiction so that we can better support each other.
- *The Garden State Mason* electronic newsletter will now be published monthly, featuring messages from the Grand Master along with timely updates and Masonic Light—serving as the Grand Lodge's trestleboard for all Brothers.

To Empower

Because the future of our fraternity depends on you, I will work to improve the experience of our members and ensure that every Brother and every Lodge feels a true sense of ownership and belonging within this Grand Lodge. Leadership at every level will be held accountable, not for authority's sake, but for responsibility's sake. Together, we will build a culture where our members feel connected, valued, and inspired.

Among our efforts:

- The creation of the Voyager Award, encouraging Brothers after their first year to travel and experience Masonry throughout our jurisdiction and the world.
- Higher expectations for Lodges and Districts to provide timely reports and information to improve efficiency.
- Town Halls that empower Brothers to engage with Grand Lodge Leadership, promoting full transparency and open dialogue across all levels of our Craft.
- Enhanced training for our Grand Lodge Leadership, including District Deputies, District Ritual Instructors, and the entire Elected Line.
- Open office hours at the Grand Lodge for Brothers to meet with the Grand Master to ask questions, offer suggestions, and reconnect with your Grand Lodge temple.

In addition, I will extend the edicts issued during Most Worshipful Gene Margroff's administration for an additional 60 days. This extension will allow me sufficient time to consult with my team, the Grand Staff Office, and Past Grand Masters before making any formal decisions. I believe I owe that to the Craft.

My promise to you is simple: I will always keep the welfare of the Brethren and the integrity of our institution at heart. Every decision I make will be thoughtful, mindful, and measured by one question: "Does it strengthen our Craft, and does it serve the Brothers of New Jersey well?"

Change cannot be achieved by one man alone. The strength of our fraternity lies in our UNITY. I ask each of you to join me, lend your voice, your ideas, and your energy to this shared labor. Let us rekindle the spirit of brotherhood that has made Freemasonry a force for good for generations.

Together, let us Educate, Elevate, and Empower—not for personal recognition, but for the advancement of New Jersey Freemasonry and the betterment of all whose lives we touch. Let us continue to strive to be a beacon of Light, Hope, Civility, and Kindness.

I love you all, and there is **NOTHING** you can do about it.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Omar Morris", with a stylized, flowing script.

MW. Omar S. Morris

"Educate, Elevate, and Empower"