



**MICHIGAN MASONIC  
FESTIVE BOARD**

**ACCEPTED ANNUAL COMMUNICATION 1991**

## MICHIGAN MASONIC FESTIVE BOARD

### FESTIVE BOARD HISTORY

Dinners and/or Festive Boards have traditionally followed our Sister Jurisdictions from their earliest days to the present time.

The following examples verify this as they are from actual minutes recorded by the Secretaries:

June 24, 1721

"After Grace said, they sat down in the Ancient manner of masons to a very elegant feast and dined with joy and gladness."

From the book of Constitutions dated 1723:

"You may enjoy yourselves with innocent mirth, treating one another according to ability, but avoiding all excess of forcing any brother to eat or drink beyond his inclination or hindering him from going where his occasions call."

### FESTIVE BOARD WORKING TOOLS

Brethren, before the First Grace, I would like to explain the *WORKING TOOLS*, which are the *FORK, KNIFE & TUMBLER*. We also ask you to refrain from smoking until after the toast to: *OUR COUNTRY & THE CRAFT*, following dinner.

First of all Brethren, we are not here assembled as *FREE & ACCEPTED* but rather as *ENERGETIC MASONS* and the *WORKING TOOLS* are delivered to us as vehicles to moral instruction and thus we apply them.

The *FORK* points out to us that as the prongs are all equal, and mutually assist each other, being joined together in one compact structure, so are we all equal when met together as Masons. So the fork points out to us, that we should stand together shoulder to shoulder and practice those great qualities which cannot be too strongly recommended, namely:

1. SYMPATHY with the failings of a Brother
2. STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS in all our dealings with one another
3. GOOD TEMPER in all our difference of opinion
4. FIDELITY to the Sacred cause which binds us together

The *KNIFE* points out to us the value of assiduity and patience. It teaches us not to cut off more than we can chew, but to limit our desires in every sphere of life, that rising to eminence by merit, we may "*LIVE RESPECTED and DIE REGRETTED.*"

The *TUMBLER* indicates the necessity of moderation in all things, and as the perfect tumbler rings true, whether it be empty or filled with liquid, so should the convivial Mason ring true after partaking in the labors of the *FESTIVE BOARD*; as a **CRACKED TUMBLER IS DESPISED & REJECTED** by all men..

Thus, *THE WORKING TOOLS* of the *FESTIVE BOARD* teach us to bear in mind, and act accordingly to the cordial wishes of PRUDENCE and TEMPERANCE, so that when we are summoned to drink the *TILER'S TOAST* after partaking of all the good things which a bountiful providence has provided for us, may we rise and depart on our homeward way with the gratifying testimony of a CONTENTED MIND, an EQUABLE POISE, and an EQUALLY CLEAR HEAD.

Before we apply this lesson of the *WORKING TOOLS* for this evening, Brethren, let us stand and give our attention to our Chaplain, Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who will give us the **FIRST GRACE**:

**Chaplain:**

**"FOR WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE, MAY THE G.A.O.T.U. GIVE US GRATEFUL HEARTS AND KEEP US EVER MINDFUL OF THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. AMEN.**

### **TOASTS DURING DINNER** (Between Courses)

Any time after serving of the First Course and before the Second Course.

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, the Worshipful Master wishes to take wine with the OFFICERS and MEMBERS of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_, for a job well done.

(W.M. stands and acknowledges Toast)

Any time after serving of the Second Course and before the Third Course.

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, the Worshipful Master wishes to take wine with \_\_\_\_\_ (any person or group of persons of his choice.)

(W.M. stands and acknowledges Toast)

Any time after serving of the Third Course and before continuing with the evenings festivities.

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, the Worshipful Master wishes to take wine with ALL BRETHREN present, and for this Toast, he requests that you remain seated.

(W.M. stands and acknowledges Toast)

**FOLLOWING DINNER**

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, before continuing with the FESTIVE BOARD, please be upstanding, and give your attention to our Chaplain, Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for the **SECOND GRACE:**

**Chaplain:**

“For what we have received, may the G.A.O.T.U. give us grateful hearts.” Amen.

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, the remainder of the FESTIVE BOARD is for MASONS ONLY and all Non-masons must be excused from the room.

**“CANNON” INSTRUCTIONS**

**Master of Ceremonies:**

When the *PROPOSER* says, “RIGHT HAND TO ARMS”, everyone will rise (unless the toast is for you.)

RAISE your CANNON shoulder high with your arm straight out.

With the *PROPOSER*, repeat IN UNISON, to whom the TOAST is for.

Take Wine.

Return CANNONS to the table.

Remain standing for the “QUICK FIRE.”

**“MASONIC TOAST” INSTRUCTIONS**

(Action Only)

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)

Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions to S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, {“All charged in the West!”})

2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, {"All charged in the South!"})

(Following J.W. Response)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, you will give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, (the person PROPOSING the Toast), who will PROPOSE THE NEXT TOAST.

**QUICK FIRE INSTRUCTIONS**

**Master of Ceremonies:**

After every Masonic Toast it is customary to finish them off with what is referred to as a "QUICK FIRE", and it is SYMBOLIC of a 21 GUN SALUTE as an HONOR to whom it was for, and is given thusly, taking your time from me:

1. Place your RIGHT ELBOW in your LEFT HAND
2. With your RIGHT INDEX FINGER, I will direct you to  
Point - Left - Right  
Point - Left - Right  
Point - Left - Right  
One - Two
3. We will then CLAP our hands RAPIDLY ONCE (+), and then THREE TIMES THREE or NINE.

(+++ -+++ -+++)

Now that everyone has been instructed and knows exactly what to do, we will start this evenings program.

**FIRST TOAST**

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)  
Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)  
Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, {"All charged in the West!"})
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, {"All charged in the South!"})

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will PROPOSE the FIRST TOAST, to OUR COUNTRY and THE CRAFT.

(Optional)

[Brethren, please remain standing after the Quick Fire to sing the National Anthem (s).]

(Have a flag available)

**Proposer:**

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

“To Our Country and The Craft.”

**Master of Ceremonies:**

“Quick Fire” Brethren, taking your time from me.

[Option: Sing the National Anthem (s)]

Those who must may now smoke.

**NATIONAL ANTHEMS**

**“STAR SPANGLED BANNER”**

O' say can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we  
hailed at the twilights last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,  
O'er the rampart we watched, were so gallantly streaming.  
While the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night, that our flag was still there  
O' say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

**O'CANADA**

O' Canada, our home and native land  
True patriot-love in all thy sons command  
With glowing hearts, we see thee rise  
The true north strong and free  
From far and wide, O' Canada  
We stand on guard for thee  
God keep our land, glorious and free  
We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee,  
O' Canada we stand on guard for thee.

**SECOND TOAST**

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)  
Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)  
Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, (“All charged in the West!”))
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, (“All charged in the South!”))

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will PROPOSE the SECOND TOAST, to THE GRAND MASTER, and I will couple this toast with the name of \_\_\_\_\_ who will respond following the Quick Fire.

**Proposer:**

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)

“To THE GRAND MASTER.”

**Master of Ceremonies:**

“Quick Fire” Brethren, taking your time from me.

(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

Brethren, please give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond to the toast.

**THIRD TOAST**

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)

Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?

(Wait for his response, {“All charged in the West!”})

2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?

(Wait for his response, {“All charged in the South!”})

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will PROPOSE the THIRD TOAST, to GRAND LODGE OFFICERS both PAST and PRESENT, and I will couple this toast with the name of \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond following the Quick Fire.

**Proposer:**

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)

“To GRAND LODGE OFFICERS both PAST and PRESENT.”

**Master of Ceremonies:**

“Quick Fire” Brethren, taking your time from me.

(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, please give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond to the toast.

**FOURTH TOAST**

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)  
Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)  
Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the West!"])
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the South!"])

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will PROPOSE the FOURTH TOAST, to THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, and I will couple this toast with the name of \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond following the Quick Fire.

**Proposer:**

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)

"TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER."

**Master of Ceremonies:**

"Quick Fire" Brethren, taking your time from me.

(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, please give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond to the toast.

**9 O'CLOCK TOAST**

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)  
Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)  
Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the West!"])
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the South!"])

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will PROPOSE the NEXT TOAST, to ABSENT BRETHREN,

**Proposer:**

(Read the following:)

Brethren, in times past, the custom arose for Freemasons in their Lodges to remember their ABSENT BRETHREN, and the terms of what is now the TILER'S TOAST were compiled to effect this remembrance so far as Brethren in need are concerned. As the Toast DOES NOT INCLUDE those Brethren who are absent due to other causes, our predecessors maintained a Toast on the subject. We know that at this time, our absent Brethren are thinking of the observance of this custom and are in unison of spirit with us. We wish them all good, and hope the time will shortly come when they can once more be in our company.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)  
"TO ABSENT BRETHREN."

**Master of Ceremonies:**

"Quick Fire" Brethren, taking your time from me.

(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

**FLOATING TOAST**

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)  
Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)  
Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, {"All charged in the West!"})
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the  
CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, {"All charged in the South!"})

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will PROPOSE the NEXT TOAST, to THE CANDIDATE, and I will couple this toast with the name of \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond following the Quick Fire.

**Proposer:**

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)  
"To THE CANDIDATE."

**Master of Ceremonies:**

“Quick Fire” Brethren, taking your time from me.  
(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, please give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond to the toast.

**FLOATING TOAST**

Master of Ceremonies ..... Raps Gavel (\*)  
Senior Warden ..... Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)  
Junior Warden ..... Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, (“All charged in the West!”))
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, (“All charged in the South!”))

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will PROPOSE the NEXT TOAST, to THE VISITORS, and I will couple this toast with the name of \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond following the Quick Fire.

**Proposer:**

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

“Will all Visiting Brothers please be upstanding.

Starting on my right (or left), please give your name, Lodge and office held if any.

On behalf of the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren, of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, I bid you a Hearty Welcome (Start applause and seat all Visitors)

Ask all members of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge to be upstanding for this Toast. (Visitors remain seated.)

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.  
(after everyone is standing:)  
“TO THE VISITORS.”

**Master of Ceremonies:**

“Quick Fire” Brethren, taking your time from me.  
(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, please give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond to the toast.

## FLOATING TOAST

Master of Ceremonies . . . . .	Raps Gavel (*)
Senior Warden . . . . .	Follows M.C. Gavel (*)
Junior Warden . . . . .	Follows M.C. Gavel (*)

### Master of Ceremonies:

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, ("All charged in the West!"))
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, ("All charged in the South!"))

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_,  
who will PROPOSE the NEXT TOAST, to MASONIC CHARITIES,  
and I will couple this toast with the name of \_\_\_\_\_,  
who will respond following the Quick Fire.

### Proposer:

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

Masonic Foundation of Michigan.

Juvenile Diabetes.

Scholarships.

Matching Funds.

Michigan Masonic Home.

Retirement Home.

Nursing Care.

Independent Estate Homes.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)

"TO OUR MASONIC CHARITIES."

### Master of Ceremonies:

"Quick Fire" Brethren, taking your time from me.

(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

### Master of Ceremonies:

Brethren, please give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will respond to the toast.

(The Worshipful Master should announce at this time that the "Box of Fraternal Assistance" will be passed around by the Stewards, and the purpose for which the gift shall be used; keeping in mind, NEVER for a building fund, the purchase of equipment or a donation to another organization.)

## FLOATING TOAST

Master of Ceremonies .....	Raps Gavel (*)
Senior Warden .....	Follows M.C. Gavel (*)
Junior Warden .....	Follows M.C. Gavel (*)

### Master of Ceremonies:

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the West!"])
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the South!"])

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_,  
who will PROPOSE the NEXT TOAST, to ALL PAST MASTERS,

### Proposer:

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)

"TO ALL PAST MASTERS."

### Master of Ceremonies:

"Quick Fire" Brethren, taking your time from me.

(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

## ..... SPECIAL TOAST .....

Master of Ceremonies .....	Raps Gavel (*)
Senior Warden .....	Follows M.C. Gavel (*)
Junior Warden .....	Follows M.C. Gavel (*)

### Master of Ceremonies:

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the West!"])
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, ["All charged in the South!"])

Brethren, you will now give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_,  
who will PROPOSE this SPECIAL TOAST to: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Proposer:

Makes comments appropriate to the Subject.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

(after everyone is standing:)

"TO \_\_\_\_\_."

**Master of Ceremonies:**

"Quick Fire" Brethren, taking your time from me.  
(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ ++)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

(Read before conducting Last Toast)

**TILERS OATH**

Then to our final toast tonight,  
our glasses freely drained,  
Happy to meet, Sorry to Part  
Happy to meet again.

The Masons social Brotherhood,  
around the Festive Board,  
Reveals a Truth more precious far,  
Than the Miser's Hoard.

We freely share the bounteous gifts,  
That generous hearts contain,  
Happy to meet, Sorry to Part,  
Happy to meet again.

We meet as Masons Free and True,  
and when our work is done,  
The merry song and social glass  
is not unduly won.

And only at our Farewell Pledge,  
is pleasure mixed with pain,  
Happy to meet, Sorry to Part,  
Happy to meet again.

Amidst our mirth we drink,  
to all poor Masons O'er the Earth,  
On every shore our Flag of Love  
Is gloriously unfurled.

We prize each Brother Fair or dark,  
Who bears no Moral stain,  
Happy to meet, Sorry to Part,  
Happy to meet again.

We Masons prize that Noble Truth,  
the Scottish Peasant told,  
That Rank is but a Guinea Stamp.  
the man himself the Gold.

We meet the Rich and Poor alike,  
the Equal Rights maintain,  
Happy to meet, Sorry to Part,  
Happy to meet again.

Dear Brethren of the Mystic Tie,  
the night is wanning fast,  
Our work is done, our Feast is O'er,  
this Toast must be our last.

Goodnight to all, once more goodnight,  
again that farewell Strain,  
Happy to meet, Sorry to Part,  
Happy to meet again.

### LAST TOAST OF THE EVENING

#### Master of Ceremonies:

Brethren, the Last Toast of every Festive Board is that of the Tiler and is both a Toast and a Supplication, and is delivered as such, leaving a due interval between the last words and drinking of the Toast for the real meaning to be impressed upon those present. The Tiler's office bears a symbolic meaning as does his sword, which teaches us to set a watch at the entrance of our thoughts, place a guard at the door of our lips, and post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions. Our Brother Tilers remind us of our duties as a Freemason when we are about to enter the Lodge; and before we part at night his Toast reminds us of our sacred task to be mindful of THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Raps Gavel (\*)  
Senior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)  
Junior Warden . . . . . Follows M.C. Gavel (\*)

#### Master of Ceremonies:

(Questions the S.W. & J.W.)

1. Brother S.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the West?  
(Wait for his response, ("All charged in the West!"))
2. Brother J.W., how do you find the CANNONS in the South?  
(Wait for his response, ("All charged in the South!"))

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you the Tiler of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, who will propose the last and most important Toast of the evening. Please be upstanding, and give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, for: THE TILERS TOAST.

**Tiler:**

Brethren, by command of the Worshipful Master, I give you the TILER'S TOAST.

To all poor and distressed Masons, wherever dispersed over the face of Earth and Water, wishing them a speedy relief from all their sufferings and a safe return to their Native Country should they so desire it.

(Then:) Brethren, Right Hand to Arms.

"TO ALL POOR AND DISTRESSED MASON'S."

**Master of Ceremonies:**

"Quick Fire" Brethren, taking your time from me.

(PLR PLR PLR P P + +++ +++ +++)

**Master of Ceremonies:**

Brethren, please give your attention to \_\_\_\_\_, who will lead us in:

**AULD LANG SYNE.**

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
and never brought to mind,  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
for Auld Lang Syne!

For Auld Lang Syne, my dear.  
For Auld Lang Syne,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for Auld Lang Syne!

Then here's a hand my trusty friend,  
and here's a hand o'thine  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for Auld Lang Syne!

For Auld Lang Syne, my dear.  
For Auld Lang Syne,  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
for Auld Lang Syne!