

August 1st, 2026

Volume XIII



See more Convention pictures on pg. 20
Photos courtesy of Dad Joel Michael...

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TOP STORIES:



NJ DeMolay State Council Contact list:



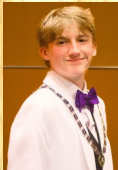
State Master Councilor
Zanthis X. Hunter
zhunter@njdemolay.org



Deputy State Master Councilor
Aaron S. Krattinger
akrattiger@njdemolay.org



State Senior Councilor
Thomas E. Siegel
tsiegel@njdemolay.org



State Junior Councilor
Xavier M. Williams
xwilliams@njdemolay.org



State Scribe
Jonathan T. Filip
jfilip@njdemolay.org



State Sweetheart 2026-2027
Emily Pydeski



Executive Officer
Frank M. Williams
(973) 960-3377
fwilliams@njdemolay.org

Message From Your EO:



Greetings!

I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer. New Jersey DeMolay has certainly been busy since I last wrote to you. First, what a great convention we had in Wildwood, and congratulations to the 2026-2027 State Officers. For those of you who may not be aware, we already have had an initial retreat, and I look forward to a follow-up retreat with our Jurisdictional Officers in mid-August. I very much looking forward to working with each of you in the year ahead!

Second, we were certainly busy in Chicago at DeMolay International. In this edition of the eState Review, you will find an announcement of those individuals who the International Supreme Council elected unanimously to receive the Degree of Chevalier, the Cross of Honor and the Legion of Honor. I encourage everyone to attend the investitures for these well-deserving individuals in the months ahead. You also will find a report of the elections of the International DeMolay Congress, and the International Supreme Council. A special congratulations to Dad Paul E. Mossberg, Past Executive Officer, on his election as Grand Junior Councilor! Additionally, congratulations to Dad John S. Cataldo on his election as an Active Member of the International Supreme Council, and Dad Michael T. Firkser on his election as a Deputy Member of International Supreme Council. Thank you all for your service!

Lastly, I would like to commend those chapters who have held some great events over the past few weeks – between pool parties (Jersey Shore), eSports competitions (Excelsior), visits to local government offices for My Government Day (Kenneth E. Hendrickson Chapter), and other social activities throughout New Jersey, I am very proud of the hard work that all of our members and advisors are putting into our programming.

We have several chapters who will be celebrating some major milestones this State Council term, and I can't wait to see the accomplishments that New Jersey DeMolay will reach during the remainder of this year. I hope that you will enjoy the remainder of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Fraternally,
Dad Frank M. Williams



Hello everyone,

I am Emily Pydeski, the New Jersey DeMolay State Sweetheart.

Congratulations to Lilly on having such a wonderful year as State Sweetheart! Your dedication and hard work have made a lasting impact, and I wish you all the best.

I am looking forward to another amazing year alongside our new State Master Councilor, Zanthis, and his outstanding team of State Officers.

I will also be working with NJ State Sweetheart Director Diana Affsa to host another Sweetheart Charity Ball, along with several additional events throughout the year.

Stay tuned for more information about the exciting events we have planned. I can't wait to see everyone and make this another memorable year!

NJ DeMolay State Council Contact list:



Message From Your JO's: continued...

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a great time at the convention and I am so excited to work with the state line and all of you to make this year unforgettable. I would like to thank the advisors and all of my other mentors that have helped me to become who I am today. This organization truly means so much to me and it will always have a shrine in my heart. If you ever need advice or help I'm only a phone call, text, or email away.

"Call me if you get lost" - Mickey Wemmer (Tyler the Creator)

Love you all,
Xavier Williams
State Junior Councilor
Ethan Allen Chapter.



Installations, Installations, Installations!

In the past 2 months 3 chapters have had installations. Union chapter went first, having a double hitter, a squire installation before having the DeMolay one. Brother Nathaniel was installed as Master Councilor. Following that we go to Clifton who had the next installation electing Brother Rafael to be Master Councilor. Rounding out the triple threat of new MC's we have Capital Chapter who elected Brother Noah to the office of Master Councilor.

Congratulations to all and we can't wait to see what you'll get up to.

Jonathan Filip
State Scribe



Message From Your JO's:

Hello Brothers,

Since I was installed at our convention, I have been on the road traveling a lot! I had the privilege of representing New Jersey DeMolay at Maryland DeMolay's Conclave (Their version of convention!) and was able to catch up with some brothers as well as make some new friends. We had a lot of fun during the weekend like playing flag football, a Chevalier Vs. DeMolay softball game, and we attended a Shorebirds baseball game where we did some chants, started the wave, and got a photo with the Shorebirds mascot Sherman. I was also able to see my friends, Brother Peter Ruesing and Brother Caleb Gatto, Get installed as Maryland's State Master Councilor and Deputy State Master Councilor!

I also have the privilege of representing New Jersey DeMolay at New York DeMolay's Convention where Brother Joe Ferraro was installed as New York's State Master Councilor. August 2nd to the 8th is Keyman. I'm excited to see some of my brothers there that I haven't seen since last year (and for the chocolate milk). August 15th is New Jersey's International Order of Rainbow for Girls Instillation. I'm excited to see who I'm going to be working with and wish them luck with their term; I'm also excited for the dance that always happens after!

"Carpe diem. Seize the day... Make your lives extraordinary!"

Bro. Zanthis X. Hunter
77th State Master Councilor
NJ DeMolay



Dad Jokes of the Month from your SJC:

What kind of shoes to frogs wear? Open-toad sandals.
I just built an ATM that only gives out coins. I don't know why no one's thought of it before: it just makes cents
Why do crabs never volunteer? Because they're shell-fish.
I had a quiet game of tennis today. There was no racket
What's a shark's favorite saying? "Man overboard!"

What did one slice of bread say to the other before the race? You're toast!



2026 NJ DeMolay Honorees

Degree of Chevalier

Aaron S. Krattiger (*Clifton*)

Michael Blake Edmilao (*Ethan Allen*)

**Matthew Stephen DiPaula
(*Delaware-Valley Chapter*)**

**Nicholas Andrew Waszkiewicz
(*Delaware-Valley Chapter*)**





2026 NJ DeMolay Honorees

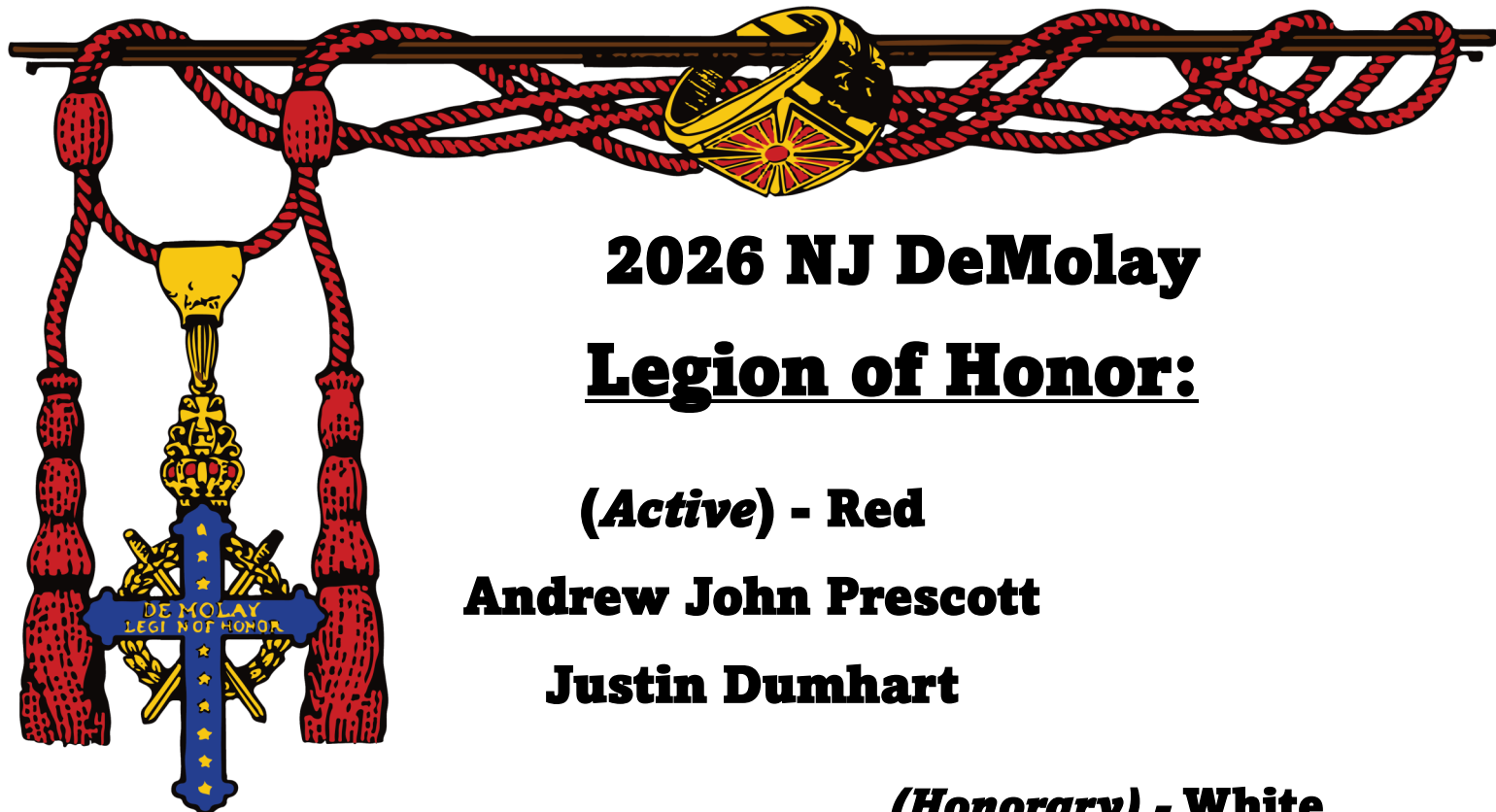
Cross of Honor

Raymond Steven Krattiger (*Clifton*)

Diana D. Affsa (*Union*)

**Bernard Michael Byrne
(*Ethan Allen Chapter*)**





2026 NJ DeMolay Legion of Honor:

(Active) - Red

Andrew John Prescott

Justin Dumhart

(Civic) - Blue

Barbara K. Gee

Cherly McGrady

Lizette Yvonne Priliszch

Cynthia June Golway

Susan M. Gray-Labaw

Barbara Rutler

Vera I. Dakak

Margaret J. Golway

(Honorary) - White

Bernard J. Madgey V

Deyo William Swarts, II



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DEMOLAY
NEW JERSEY



Report on elections of the 2026 Annual Session of DeMolay International



The International DeMolay Congress elected the following brothers as International Master Councilor and International Congress Secretary, respectively, for 2026-2027:

Bro. Matthew McKay
60th International Master Councilor
(Maryland)

Bro. Kevin Durden
60th International Congress Secretary
(Arkansas)

New Jersey Delegates to the 59th International DeMolay Congress were: Michael Wemmer II, PSMC/Region 2 Cabinet Member; Zanthis X. Hunter, SMC and Michael Blake Edmilao, PSJC.



The following New Jersey advisors and Senior DeMolays of New Jersey were elected as Active or Deputy Member of DeMolay International, respectively:

Dad John S. Cataldo (Clifton Chapter)
Active Member

Dad Michael T. Firkser (Ridgewood Chapter)
Deputy Member



The International Supreme Council elected the following advisors as the elected leaders of the International Supreme Council for 2026-2027:

Dad Russell A. Scanlan
Grand Master
(Illinois)

Dad Brad J. Norcutt
Grand Senior Councilor
(Oklahoma)

Dad Paul E. Mossberg
Grand Junior Councilor
(New Jersey)

Dad Gregory A. Chiles, PGM
Grand Treasurer
(Indiana)

Dad Ron J. Minshall, PGM
Grand Secretary
(Oklahoma)

Congratulations to all leaders and thank you for your service!



2026 New Jersey DeMolay New Member Goals
(eScribe Reporting as of July 30, 2026)

<u>Chapter Name</u>	<u>01/01/2026 Membership</u>	<u>2026 Majorities</u>	<u>2026 Initiates</u>	<u>2026 Goal</u>
Capital	33	14	1	15
Clifton	27	5	0	8
Ethan Allen*	11	0	2	6
Excalibur	7	0	1	6
Excelsior	12	0	0	6
Jersey Shore*	14	1	4	6
KEH	13	0	4	6
Union	27	17	1	18
Tyrean*	2	1	0	0
William Findlay	7	2	0	6
New Jersey at Large	14	9	0	-
	167	49	13	77

Membership Goals are initially based on Chapter size, based on a formula established by the Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Membership.

If Chapter size is <25, the annual goal is 6.

If Chapter size is ≥25, but <40, the annual goal is 8.

If Chapter size is ≥40, but <55, the annual goal is 10.

If Chapter size is ≥55, but <70, the annual goal is 12.

If Chapter size is ≥70, but <85, the annual goal is 14.

If Chapter size is ≥85, but <100, the annual goal is 16.

If Chapter size is ≥100, the annual goal is 20.

In the event that majorities equal or exceed the membership goal, the goal will be modified only to ensure that no goal is set lower than growth by at least one new member.

All membership goals for PMC-MSA eligibility shall be those goals in effect as of the date of the Master Councilor's installation. For a Master Councilor to be eligible for PMC-MSA eligibility shall be based upon either (1) whether the chapter initiated his share of all initiates during the months of his term (i.e., half of the goal during a 6-month term), or (2) the chapter meets its membership goal during the calendar year, regardless of whether the initiates were initiated during his term.

* Denotes Letters Temporary



Beademolay.org



NJ DeMolay Calendar



DeMolay International Distinguished Service Award

2025-2026 Nominations are now OPEN!

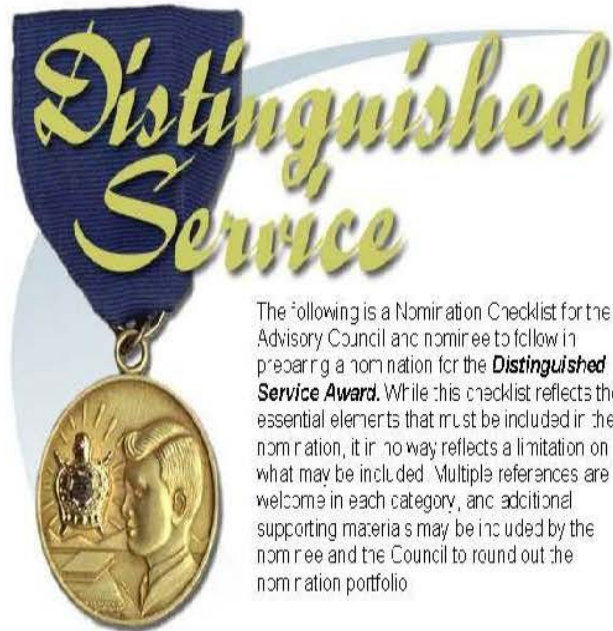
The Distinguished Service Award ("DSA") recognizes outstanding overall service by a DeMolay in various fields of life. The purpose of the DSA is to recognize a DeMolay member's outstanding service to others in his home, school church, community, county and Chapter.

Established by DeMolay International in 1959, it is awarded to a maximum of two (2) DeMolay members per jurisdiction per year, and complete applications for consideration **MUST** be received by May 15. Of those two recipients each year, the Executive Officer will transmit one of the two winners to DeMolay International for its consideration as DeMolay International "DeMolay of the Year". If a member is not selected as a recipient, his advisory council may re-submit his nomination for consideration the following year, with any additional materials they deem necessary in support of his application. It should be noted that this award is different from (but may, in fact, be awarded to), the same individual who receives the honor of New Jersey DeMolay of the Year, as selected by the State Master Councilor and the Jurisdictional Officers.

Since the DSA is an award, rather than an honor, the prospective recipient may participate actively in preparing his own nomination. Applications may be submitted at any time; however, recipients will only be notified of their selection at the annual banquet of New Jersey DeMolay each June. The Executive Officer, in consultation with other staff, selects the recipients from among qualified applicants, and he further may submit his own nomination if no nominations are received from any chapter during the year. It is strongly recommended that for a candidate to receive this award, he first must have received the Representative DeMolay Award and Lamp of Knowledge.

There is no standard form for applying for the DSA. Rather, the applicant, working with his local Advisory Council, assembles a package of materials demonstrating his service in various areas. The local Advisory Council generally assists in soliciting recommendations from individuals who have worked with the applicants in various areas of service. The nomination for the Award officially comes from the Advisory Council, though a member may apply for his own nomination through his Advisory Council.

The information below will help you in assembling an application for the DSA and outlines the essential information that should be included. The package of materials should reflect the personality and experience of the nominee, while showcasing his qualifications to be designated as truly distinguished in his service, both in DeMolay and beyond.



The following is a Nomination Checklist for the Advisory Council and nominee to follow in preparing a nomination for the **Distinguished Service Award**. While this checklist reflects the essential elements that must be included in the nomination, it in no way reflects a limitation on what may be included. Multiple references are welcome in each category, and additional supporting materials may be included by the nominee and the Council to round out the nomination portfolio.

Step 1: Select a Nominee

Your Chapter's Advisory Council may select an outstanding DeMolay for each six month term. Each nominee should be active in the basic areas listed below. The Advisory Council should formally act on the nomination, and include a signed certification form with the nomination.

Step 2: Gather Endorsement and Recommendation Letters

Letters explaining your nominee's activities and outstanding qualities in the following basic areas must be attached with the summary sheet. These letters should be from reputable persons of the community who know of the nominee's activities.

The nominee should provide contact information for these potential endorsers, and the Advisory Council should send letters to them, requesting that they provide a letter of recommendation to the Council for inclusion in the DSA nomination. A completed nomination should contain *at least one* endorsement in each of these areas:

Area of Activity	Recommendations from ...	Letter Should Cover
Religious Life	Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Sunday School Teacher, or other religious leader.	Attendance, youth group activities, choir, camp, or other services rendered to his faith community, and general character.
Education	Teachers, Administrators, Coaches. High School and/or college.	Grade average, ability and effort, and honors earned. All clubs, school sponsored activities participated in, and general character.
Community	Civic leaders, organization advisors	All activities which provide services to the community, jurisdiction, or state. Also service to clubs like Boy Scouts, YMCA and other civic-type organizations.
Home	Parents and/or close family and friends	Describe regular home duties, attitude, cooperation. All special services and assistance to the family, and general character.
DeMolay	Chapter Advisor or other Advisors, Deputy Executive Officer, Executive Officers' Staff	All offices held and all honors and awards. Committee service, Chapter and state-wide service and honors. This area must be covered in great detail and should only contain DeMolay information. Give years applicable.
Other	Employers, other persons who can offer insight to the candidate	Employment record and any activity which falls under service to humanity and is not covered elsewhere.
Recommendation	Advisory Council Chairman	Appropriate remarks explaining reasons for selection and recommendation only.

Step 3: Complete the Summary

A summary (see sample) of the nominee's activities for the last four years must be included with all nominations. The more complete this summary is, the better the nominee's chances for selection.

Step 4: Enclose a Photo of the Nominee

A quality "head and shoulders" photo of the nominee should be included to be used in publicity. The photo shall be e-mailed to the Executive Officer.

Step 5: Send Nomination Material to the Executive Officer

Aside from the photo, please MAIL all materials in one envelope or package. The completed portfolio should be sent to the Executive Officer for his review. All documents must be sent via mail in order to ensure that all documents are properly then transmitted to the DeMolay International Service and Leadership Center for further consideration.

Distinguished Service Award

Nomination Summary

Nominee's Name and Age

Chapter

Address, City, State, Zip

EDUCATION

Central High School

Football letterman 3 years
Football captain in Senior Year
All-District End (Football)
Senior Year
Drama Club 3 years
Valedictorian
Grade average in high school of
3.80
Voted best-liked senior

Valley College

Freshman Council
Science Scholarship Senior yr.
Intramural Gymnastics 3 yrs.
Phi Kappa Sigma Senior Year

DeMOLAY

RD 2003
PMC
Chevalier 2006
Fourteen merit bars
Blue Honor Key 2005
State Junior Deacon
MATOC Flower Talk Champion
2005
Attended Key Man Conference
2002, 2003

COMMUNITY

Eagle Scout
Senior Patrol Leader
Junior Rotarian 1 year
God and Country Award
Red Cross Life Guard Certified
City Youth Council 1 year

CHURCH

President of Youth Fellowship 1
year
Participation in Youth Sunday
Service 1 year
Delegate to District Camp 1 year
Perfect attendance during 1 year
Chairman of fund raising for
youth group – current

HOME

Maintain savings account for
college
Perform assigned household
chores
Responsible for looking after
younger brothers and sisters
while parents travel
Aids in household repair work.

[Chapter Letterhead]

[Date]

Mr./Mrs. _____

Dear _____:

_____, of _____ Chapter, Order of DeMolay is being considered for the DeMolay International's **Distinguished Service Award**. This award recognizes the outstanding service of a DeMolay to others: in his home, school, community, church, country and Chapter.

DeMolay is a service and leadership organization open to young men from 12 to 21 who believe in God and are of good moral character. Founded in 1919, DeMolay International has had over 1 million members, and continues its commitment to leadership and character development among young men today.

To qualify for the award, a DeMolay must demonstrate a willingness to give freely of his time and efforts in the service of others while striving to fulfill his own individual ideals and beliefs through his daily actions. It is necessary that we obtain written references on behalf of _____ and would appreciate your participation in this important endeavor by providing your impressions of _____ in the area of _____.

We hope that you will help us to encourage worthy accomplishments by today's youth through the submission of a letter. Your appraisal will be important in the final decision. Please forward your letter of reference to the address below.

Thanks for your assistance in this very important project!

Sincerely yours,

Chapter Advisor

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

DEMOLAY

UNION CHAPTER

FUNDRAISER

BBQ AND GAMES

DATE: AUGUST 29, 2026 (SATURDAY)

TIME: 4:00PM TO 7:00PM

LOCATION: ATLAS PYTHAGORAS LODGE

1011 CENTRAL AVE, WESTFIELD



COST :

\$20.00 PER PERSON

UNDER 10 YEARS OLD—\$10.00

INCLUDES:

BBQ FOOD, BEVERAGES, SNACKS AND LOTS OF FUN !!!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

DAD MIKE FIRKSER

CELL # 732-266-1294

EMAIL: UNIONCHAPTERNJ@GMAIL.COM





DEMOLAY

JERSEY SHORE CHAPTER

Presents

END OF THE SUMMER BASH

LAKE BARNEGAT BEACH



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

4:15 PM - DARK



WIBIT WATER OBSTACLE COURSE

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

\$15

**PER PERSON
TO RESERVE SPOT**



CASH OR VENMO: @JERSEYJOEL86

ADMISSION INCLUDES THE WIBIT SESSION

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



**LAKE AND
BEACH**



**FOOD
TRUCKS**



**WATER
OBSTACLE
COURSE**



**OPEN TO
EVERYONE**



WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED TO PARTICIPATE



**PARENT OR GUARDIAN
PERMISSION REQUIRED FOR MINORS**



**FOOD TRUCKS AVAILABLE,
FOR PURCHASE**



LAKE BARNEGAT BEACH

251 LAKESIDE DR

FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731



RSVP: DAD JOEL RIDDELL

609-626-0644

THE ROAD BEGINS HERE

William Findlay Chapter Presents



*A day filled with
fun and adventure!*

GREAT ADVENTURE

\$45 per Person

Unless you have a season pass

Date: August 22, 2026 Time: 10:30 AM

Interested in attending?

Email Dad Holst to sign up.

Email: rwholst@gmail.com





Capital Chapter Pig Roast

Back to the Grove

September 6, 2026, 2PM - 6 PM

Cost: \$40 per person (in advance)

\$45 per person (at the door)

Tall Cedars of Lebanon - Trenton Forest Picnic Grove

245 Sawmill Road, Hamilton Twp. NJ

*Brought to you by the Capital Chapter DeMolay and Capital Chapter
Alumni Association*

RSVP to Jose Calves: jacalves7@gmail.com

& Capital Chapter: capitalchapter31044@gmail.com

PUTT-PUTT **GOLF** *Tournament*

SATURDAY
SEPT. 19 @ 1PM
CALLOWAY'S

597 MAIN ST. WEST CREEK, NJ 08092

FOURSOMES

\$25

**PER
GOLFER**



***SIGN UP AS A
TEAM OR
INDIVIDUAL**

TWO DIVISIONS

**ADULTS
ONLY**



**MIXED
ADULTS
& KIDS
(*UNDER 16)**

SPONSORS

\$20

PER SPONSOR



**SPONSORS LISTED ON
THE BANNER
AT THE
ENTRANCE**

INCLUDES

GOLF • PIZZA • WINGS • SODA • PRIZES

***CASH BAR**



**PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
20TH MASONIC DISTRICT ASSOC.**



**TO SIGN UP, TEXT OR EMAIL JOE SCHWARTZ AT:
(609) 276-7290 OR JOESCHWARTZJR@COMCAST.NET**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
				10pm - OES Family Unity Night at Trenton Thunder @		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6:30pm - Keyman Conference						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					New Jersey IORG Convention	
						New Jersey JO/Staff
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
New Jersey IORG						
New Jersey JO/Staff						
3pm - Jersey Shore End						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8am - Capital Chapter Pig	Labor Day				Mid-Atlantic Tournament of Champions @ Masonic	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mid-Atlantic Tournament						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30pm - Ethan Allen						
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



