



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA MASONIC CHARITY, INC.

Community Update — Q2 2026

Board Meeting Summary · April 28, 2026 · Soo Masonic Center

EUPMC is a Michigan 501(c)(3) public charity that owns and maintains the Soo Masonic Center at 3443 S. Seymour Road and supports affiliated charitable activities across the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Our board meets quarterly. Below is a summary of what we discussed and decided at our April board meeting, shared with the community in the spirit of open and accountable stewardship.

WHAT THE BOARD DID THIS QUARTER

- ✓ 501(c)(3) status confirmed — donations to EUPMC are now tax-deductible
- ✓ Property records updated to reflect EUPMC's current legal name
- ✓ Approved a community summer raffle to support building improvements (drawing July 11)
- ✓ Approved 4-H Summer Camp use of the building (July 20–22)
- ✓ Approved Girl Scout troop sleepover (August 6)
- ✓ Heard a community presentation on a proposed disc golf course
- ✓ Welcomed Newberry Chapter representatives as we extend our charitable umbrella

Our 501(c)(3) Status Is Now Official

After a long application process, we received our 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS. EUPMC is recognized as a 509(a)(2) public charity, with tax-exempt status effective January 29, 2026.

What this means for donors: Contributions to EUPMC are tax-deductible. We will issue written acknowledgments for any single gift of \$250 or more, with our EIN and the required IRS language included.

What this means for the property: We are pursuing property-tax exemption for the Soo Masonic Center under Michigan law. The exemption will not take effect until calendar year 2027 because the application window for this year has passed, but we have begun the work and expect significant annual savings going forward.

What this means for grants: EUPMC is now eligible to apply for grants from foundations and corporate giving programs that require 501(c)(3) status. We are registering on grant portals and have begun to identify funding for building improvements.

Property Records Updated

EUPMC was originally incorporated in 1922 as the Masonic Temple Association of Sault Ste. Marie. The organization changed its name to Eastern Upper Peninsula Masonic Charity, Inc. when it converted to a 501(c)(3) public charity. The Board approved two routine corrections to align our public records with our current legal name:

Quitclaim deed (Resolution 2026-03): Updates the property's chain of title to reflect EUPMC's current name. This is a name correction in the public record only — the same legal entity holds the property before and after, and there is no transfer tax or revaluation.

Account name updates (Resolution 2026-04): Updates the account names at the bank and our utility providers to match. Same accounts, same signers, same legal entity.

Proposed Disc Golf Course

The Board heard a presentation from Stephen Valley, President of the EUP Disc Golf Club, on a proposed nine-hole disc golf course on EUPMC's grounds. Disc golf has grown rapidly in the area: after the local club secured a grant to restore the city course at Minneapolis Woods, that course logged 744 rounds in roughly six months — a meaningful jump in usage, with most players being community members rather than club members.

The Board's preferred direction is a phased approach: install three holes first as a practice course with proper signage and amenities, see how the community uses it, then expand to nine holes once Phase 1 has demonstrated steady use and sustainable maintenance. The Board prioritizes building something well over building something fast. The President and Mr. Valley will walk the property to confirm tee and basket locations once weather permits.

Course features under discussion: Multiple difficulty levels using two tee pads per hole, beginner-friendly loops back to the building, signage with QR codes, and shared community access. Any course infrastructure installed will become EUPMC property and will be available to all affiliated organizations and the public.

Building Use & Community Programs

EUPMC welcomes community use of the Soo Masonic Center for charitable, educational, and youth-focused activities. Three building-use requests were approved at the April meeting:

4-H Summer Camp (July 20–22, 2026, 9 AM – noon): A daytime summer camp for children ages 5–8, organized by family members of EUPMC affiliates. Common areas of the building will be used for the program.

Girl Scout Troop Sleepover (August 6, 2026): A visiting Girl Scout troop from downstate will stay overnight at the building during their tour of the Upper Peninsula. Building use of this kind has long precedent at area Masonic temples.

Community Tabletop Gaming Event (May 16, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 PM): A free family-friendly event hosted by an EUPMC director, featuring a classic Uno tournament. Members of the community are invited to bring board games to donate. Flyers have been distributed locally.

Summer Raffle to Support Building Improvements

The Board approved a summer raffle, conducted under EUPMC's 501(c)(3) umbrella, to raise funds for ongoing building improvements — most importantly, the replacement of the front porch and entry, which is the building's primary accessibility need. Proceeds support EUPMC's charitable purposes; affiliated lodges and organizations may help sell tickets, and a portion of net proceeds offsets their facility-use contributions to the building.

Drawing: Saturday, July 11, 2026, at the lodge picnic.

Prizes under consideration: Outdoor and summer-themed items, including local gift cards. Donations from local businesses are welcome and will be acknowledged.

How to participate: Tickets will be available beginning in May. If you would like to donate a prize or know a business that might, please reach out through eupmc.org.

Welcoming the Newberry Chapter

EUPMC is in the process of formally affiliating with a charitable group in Newberry under our 501(c)(3) umbrella. This arrangement allows the Newberry organization to operate under EUPMC's tax-exempt status while maintaining local control and decision-making. In exchange for EUPMC's help with state filings, IRS compliance, and donor receipting, the Newberry organization operates as a local chapter and follows the rules that come with charitable status.

Craig Dawson attended the April meeting on behalf of the Newberry chapter. Draft governing documents have been provided for the chapter's review. We expect to finalize the affiliation in the coming months.

Building & Property Updates

May Saturday cleanups: The President will be at the building every Saturday in May for cleanup and organization work. Anyone willing to help is welcome to drop in.

Front porch replacement: Materials are estimated at approximately \$4,000. The summer raffle is a major part of the funding plan, along with grants and donations.

Outside lighting: Working with Cloverland Electric on a parking-area pole light to improve evening visibility and safety.

Interior painting: The main entry needs paint. Volunteer help and paint donations welcome — color choice goes to whoever buys the paint.

Grants: We are registering with nonprofit grant portals and have identified several funding opportunities for volunteer-built building projects, including programs from major retailers.

Hospital auxiliary scrap metal drive: Saturday, June 13. Metal items from our cleanup work will be saved for the drive, which benefits the hospital auxiliary.

Financial Stewardship

EUPMC operates on a modest budget supported primarily by facility-use contributions from affiliated bodies (Bethel Lodge No. 358, Eastern Star, Shrine Club) and by donations. Our largest annual expenses are insurance, property taxes (until exemption takes effect), utilities, and routine maintenance. The Board reviews financial position at every meeting.

As of late April, the organization holds approximately \$3,500 in combined checking and savings. Summer property taxes are the next significant obligation. Once the property-tax exemption is granted in 2027, we anticipate annual savings of approximately \$5,000, which will free those funds for building improvements and program support.

How EUPMC Is Governed

EUPMC is governed by a board of nine voting directors. Officers serve three-year terms. The board meets quarterly, with the annual meeting held each February. EUPMC's bylaws, articles of incorporation, IRS Form 1023 application, and Form 990 filings (the first of which is due May 15, 2026) are part of the public record and available on request.

EUPMC does not endorse political candidates, does not engage in partisan activity, and operates exclusively for the charitable, educational, and historical purposes set out in its founding documents.

Next Quarterly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 (tentative)

Location: Soo Masonic Center, 3443 S. Seymour Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Community members with questions about EUPMC's work, building use, donations, or the disc golf project are invited to reach out through eupmc.org.

Eastern Upper Peninsula Masonic Charity, Inc.

3443 S. Seymour Road · Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan · eupmc.org

Recognized 501(c)(3) public charity · EIN 38-1232623 · Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

This is a public summary prepared for community distribution. The official board meeting minutes are maintained as an internal record.