

*Presenting the*  
*Maryland*  
*Traveling Gavel*





# What Is It?



## The Maryland Traveling Gavel



New Maryland-only program restarted in 2013



This gavel is **not** the Master's gavel. The Traveling gavel is engraved with state's name on it, made of hardwood, is 24 inches long, and weighs only a few pounds.



The traveling gavel program is designed to promote fraternal visitations to other lodges. Specific rules guide how to obtain the gavel.





## A Traveling Gavel Program

A lodge visitation can be one of the most educational and rewarding experiences within our fraternity. Let us share our fraternal friendship and fellowship with our brothers by visiting lodges in the state and throughout our great jurisdiction.

Two “Administrative” lodges will know at all times where the Traveling Gavel resides and it is their responsibility to track it and record time of possession.



## Summary of the Maryland Traveling Gavel Program

Specific rules exist (see Rules document)

But In summary:



Requires minimum of four (4) visiting lodge members to capture gavel, including an elected officer



Tie breaker is a visiting lodge the farthest distance away



Captures must be communicated to program administrators, by winner and loser of gavel



Annual award for longest time of possession.



July and August are not counted toward time of possession



# Administrators



**IMPORTANT:** Location and whereabouts of The Traveling Gavel must be communicated to the program administrators upon every transference of possession! There is a **penalty** for not doing this.



Odenton Lodge # 209

[secretary@odentonlodge209.net](mailto:secretary@odentonlodge209.net)

John Stoneham: (410) 499-9848



Birmingham Lodge # 188

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Quinn F. Harry: (240) 338-9230

Webpage:

[www.marylandmason.org/traveling\\_gavel.html](http://www.marylandmason.org/traveling_gavel.html)



# About the Gavel Itself



- **The Traveling Gavel is a resurrection of a previous gavel used years ago.**
- **It measures 2 feet in length, weighs a few pounds and has a head of 3.75 inches inches in diameter.**
- **It is made of cherry and ash with a newly engraved brass banding.**
- **It comes in a new, finely crafted travel case, and a plaque with nameplates of previous annual winners of possessions.**





# Annual Kickoff Plan



- **Annual Kick-off of the program will begin in September with either Odenton Lodge #209 or Birmingham Lodge #188 in home possession of the gavel**
- **Lodge in possession of the gavel in June will deliver the gavel back to either administrative lodge at their first September Stated Communication (bonus possession awarded to surrendering lodge)**
- **The gavel will then recycle, beginning in September, to be captured again from the holding administrative lodge.**

## **NOTE:**

**A “Ceremony of Capture” , although not required, is highly recommended to promote fun, humor and brotherly affection (see rules document).**



Finally . . .



- **Have fun !**
- **Have great fraternal visits !**
- **May the most traveled lodge win !**