

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

2014

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Frederick Masonic Lodge

Frederick, Maryland

May 12, 2014

7:30 p.m.

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by Most Excellent Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion, Richard P. Naegele with the following officers in their respective places and stations or excused;

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele	Grand High Priest
R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson	Grand King
R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis	Grand Scribe
R.E. Comp. John M. Lister	Grand Treasurer
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP	Grand Secretary
E. Comp. & Rev. Arthur F. Hebbeler	Grand Chaplain
E. Comp. Carl A. Michel	Grand Captain of the Host
E. Comp. Gordon A. Davids	Grand Principal Sojourner (Absent)
E. Comp. Robert W. Hamilton	Grand Royal Arch Captain
E. Comp. John Austin	Grand Master of the Third Veil
E. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas	Grand Master of the First Veil (Absent)
E. Comp. Bruce Colburn	Grand Master of the Second Veil (Absent)
E. Comp. James J. Morgan, Jr.	Grand Sentinel
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP	Grand Lecturer
E. Comp. Robert E. Young	Grand Organist (Absent)

Opening Prayer by the Grand Chaplain:

Supreme Architect of the Universe, we invoke Thy blessing at this time. Be present with us during our deliberations. Guide us in our conversations. We ask this in your most holy and glorious Name. Amen. So mote it be.

The Grand High Priest then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.
The Grand Chapter was then declared open in Ample Form.

Reception of The Past Grand Officers present;

M.E. Comp. Bennie G. Owens	Past Grand High Priest
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman	Past Grand High Priest
M.E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.	Past Grand High Priest
M.E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert	Past Grand High Priest
M.E. Comp. John B. Maclay, Jr.	Past Grand High Priest

Grand Honors were given to the assembled Past Grand High Priests by the MEGHP and assembled Companions. PGHP Owens was chosen to respond for the Past Grand High Priests:

MEGHP,

Unaccustomed as I am... MEGHP, on behalf of the PGHP's of this Jurisdiction, we congratulate you on the efforts you put forward for our Grand Chapter this year, especially for the amount of time you have leaned on Vernon, for the amount of work he has done. We appreciate very much your kindness to us and if you don't mind Sir, may we sit down.

Presentation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland, M.I. Comp. James B. Coker. Grand Honors rendered, and received with thanks.

Introduction of Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Maryland, V. E. Sir Knight Randall Disney.

READING OF THE PROCEEDINGS

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand

Secretary

MEGHP,

The Proceedings of the 2013 Annual Grand Convocation are available in printed form at this Convocation. The Grand Secretary reports that the Annual Proceedings were available on the Grand Chapter web site.

The MEGHP accepted the Proceedings as published to the website. The Grand Secretary offered to receive comments or correction until the Annual Grand Convocation in October.

REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand Secretary

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

I would like to begin this report with a special thank you to Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler III for his efforts in bringing to life the Grand Chapter website. Comp. Art has developed new forms for a variety of special needs, and has helped with posting larger files of general interest. The Proceedings for the 2013 Annual Meeting were posted to the Grand Secretary's page one week after the Sessions with Comp. Art's help and advice. A copy of a generic Mark Card is on the site, and a three part petition for your use with your candidates. Also, a score sheet for the Ritual Award and the Sweetheart Award. If anyone would like to see any other form available there, please let me know and I will make it so, if appropriate.

After announcing for many years that the IRS was quite serious about returning the IRS Form 990-N Postcard Form each year, I was able to discover that several Chapters had forfeited their tax-exempt status, and one had already recovered their tax exempt status, after an arduous path. Thanks to the

(Report of the Grand Secretary, Continued)

Chapters that have reported corrected EIN's. The confirmation of the IRS 990 is now required to be attached to the Chapter's Annual Report

The Grand Chapter of Maryland has issued four Waivers of Territorial Jurisdiction to the Grand Chapter of Washington, DC. We have also issued two dispensations for special elections of officers, and one special installation for Hayward Chapter. There have been two dispensations for special & place for Convocations, and conferring of degrees.

Please remember that any Brother who lives in another state must have a Waiver of Jurisdiction along with a Certificate of Good Standing from his Lodge. These must be secured through the Grand Secretary.

The never- ending uphill struggle to keep the Royal Arch Mason Magazine list up to date continues with the help of our Secretaries. I will be happy to include anyone after they have received their Mark Master Degree if you will supply me the necessary contact information by email.

The Annual Reports of constituent Chapters close on August 31, 2014, and is due to the Grand Secretary by October 1, 2014 with all data supplied and all payments made to the Grand Chapter for Exaltations at \$10.00 per new member, and the Annual Per Capita Fee totaling \$8.50 per Companion on the books as of August 31st. (\$5.00 Grand Chapter Assessment, \$2.50 Royal Arch Mason Magazine per member assessment, and \$1.00 General Grand Chapter Assessment).

Fraternally & Respectfully,

M.E. Comp. Vernon Huebschman, PGHP
Grand Secretary / Grand Lecturer

Motion to accept this report by the Grand Secretary, Seconded by REG SCRIBE Curtis, and passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE

Ex. Comp. John Austin, Chairman

MEGHP,

The Register shows that there are 44 Companions present. Among them, there are 30 Companions eligible to vote and cast a ballot. There were twelve (13 of 19) of twenty Chapters represented.

The Committee on Conference provided a final Report which was unchanged. The information below enumerates those attending.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

2014

This Interim Report was received with the thanks of the MEGHP, who declared that a quorum was present for the lawful conduct of business. Later, prior to Elections, this Report was confirmed unchanged, as the basis for the following election results.

Full Report of the Committee on Conference

Concordia Royal Arch Chapter No.1	Robert B. Lumbert, PGHP James J. Morgan, Jr. PHP	Phoenix Royal Arch Chapter No. 7	Arthur Gordon, MEHP Richard P. Naegele, MEGHP Henry McDonald, EK (Ralph Perry)
Chesapeake Royal Arch Chapter No. 17	No Represented	Salem Royal Arch Chapter No. 18	John Greer, MEHP Robert W. Hamilton Kenneth Robertson
St. Johns Royal Arch Chapter No. 19	James B. Coker PHP Vernon Huebschman, PGHP John A. Rafine PHP	Adoniram Royal Arch Chapter No. 21	Louis F. Bandell, Jr. PGHP
Talbot Royal Arch Chapter No. 22	Not Represented	Enoch Royal Arch Chapter No. 23	Dennis Brekhus, ES Howard Graham, MEHP (Charles Kennedy) Secty James King, EK (Robert Morris) (David Duffy) (Alan Smith) (Roal Davis, Jr.) (Chuck Ridgeway) (Charles Chipley) (Ron Maston)
Mt. Vernon Royal Arch Chapter No. 25	Randolph Disney, MEHP John M. Lister, REGTreas (E. Robert Madel) Secty Bennie G. Owens, PGHP	Ithiel Royal Arch Chapter No. 27	Not Represented
Druid Royal Arch Chapter No. 28	William E. Eppig PHP Michael G. Faby, MEHP Carl A. Michel PHP Richard Reccardi PHP (Mark Pearlstein)	Hayward Royal Arch Chapter No. 29	Not Represented
Carroll Royal Arch Chapter No. 31	William Baldwin PHP	James F. Allen Royal Arch Chapter No. 33	John Austin PHP Kris Brown PHP (Thomas Marraffa)Secty Romain Tweedy, MEHP (Michael Brolly) HP-Elect
Edenton Royal Arch Chapter No. 36	Not Represented	Baltimore Royal Arch Chapter No. 40	Not Represented
Tuscan Royal Arch Chapter No. 42	John B. Maclay Jr. PGHP	York Royal Arch Chapter No. 44	Patrick A. Curtis, GCoH
	Piscataway Royal Arch Chapter, No. 46	Randall L. Watson, REGK, HP Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, EK (Calvin Price)	(xxx)= Non-voting Comp's.

Submitted by Ex Comp. John Austin, and seconded by R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe., passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, Grand Treasurer

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

2014

Printed: 5/8/2014

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of MD - 2013 Final Report 11/1/2012 to 10/31/2013 - Using Grand Chapter 2013 Budget

Category	11/1/2012 Actual	Budget	10/31/2013 Difference
INCOME			
Exaltations	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (40.00)
Per Capita	\$ 12,562.00	\$ 14,450.00	\$ (1,888.00)
Transfer Income	\$ 6,989.64	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,989.64
_DivInc	\$ 1,731.05	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (668.95)
_InInc	\$ 132.82	\$ 135.00	\$ (2.18)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 22,375.51	\$ 22,985.00	\$ (609.49)
EXPENSES			
1 - Grand Officers and Related Items			
1.1 - Grand Secretary	\$ 1,725.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 25.00
1.2 - Grand Lecturer	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
1.3 - Grand Treasurer	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
1.4 - Grand Senttinel	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00
1.5 - Grand Organist	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
TOTAL 1 - Grand Officers and Rel	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,585.00	\$ 85.00
2 - Personal Expenses			
2.1 - Expenses In Out State	\$ 1,933.91	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,066.09
2.2 - Expenses N. E. Region	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
2.4 - Degree Team Expenses	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
TOTAL 2 - Personal Expenses	\$ 2,933.91	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 2,366.09
3 - General Grand Chapter			
3.1 - Dues General Grand Chap	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
3.2 - Royal Arch Magazine for P	\$ 3,886.89	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 113.11
3.3 - RAM Editor Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL 3 - General Grand Chapte	\$ 3,886.89	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 1,913.11
4 - Office Expenses			
4.01 - Office Supplies	\$ 545.28	\$ 450.00	\$ (95.28)
4.02 - Printing Visitation Bookl	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.03 - Printing Annual Proceedi	\$ 150.80	\$ 500.00	\$ 349.20
4.04 - Postage and Delivery Ex	\$ 184.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 316.00
4.05 - Past GHP Jewel and Engr	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.06 - GHP Apron & Case	\$ 373.95	\$ 500.00	\$ 126.05
4.07 - Memorials	\$ 60.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00
4.08 - Membership Program	\$ 377.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 122.50
4.10 - Equipment Fund	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00
4.11 - Dues Cards	\$ 173.29	\$ 350.00	\$ 176.71
4.12 - Miscelanecus Expense	\$ 520.88	\$ 100.00	\$ (420.88)
4.13 - Awards	\$ 134.64	\$ 200.00	\$ 65.36
TOTAL 4 - Office Expenses	\$ 2,720.34	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,779.66
5 - Service Contracts			
5.1 - Office Rent	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
5.3 - Insurance	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 50.00

Printed: 5/8/2014

**Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of MD - 2013 Final Report
11/1/2012 to 10/31/2013 - Using Grand Chapter 2013 Budget**

5.4 - Web Site	\$	100.00	\$	100.00	\$	-
TOTAL 5 - Service Contracts	\$	350.00	\$	800.00	\$	450.00
6 - Grand Sessions						
- Hotel Guest Rooms & Svcs	\$	336.74	\$	800.00	\$	463.26
6.3 - Distinguished Guests Mea	\$	-	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
TOTAL 6 - Grand Sessions	\$	336.74	\$	3,300.00	\$	2,963.26
7 - Charity						
7.1 - Masonic Youth	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	-
7.2 - RARA	\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
7.3 - Grand Lodge	\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
TOTAL 7 - Charity	\$	500.00	\$	700.00	\$	200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	13,227.88	\$	22,985.00	\$	9,757.12

**Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
D Ross VanSant Fund Final Report - 2013**

Category	11/1/2012		10/31/2013			
	Actual	Budget	Difference			
INCOME						
Donations Received	\$	2,012.00	\$	-	\$	2,012.00
_DivInc	\$	4,270.25	\$	2,400.00	\$	1,870.25
_IntInc	\$	0.91	\$	135.00	\$	(134.09)
_LT CapGnDst	\$	896.06	\$	-	\$	896.06
TOTAL INCOME	\$	7,179.22	\$	2,535.00	\$	4,644.22
EXPENSES						
7 - Charity						
7.4 - Scholarships	\$	9,000.00	\$	-	\$	(9,000.00)
TOTAL 7 - Charity	\$	9,000.00	\$	-	\$	(9,000.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	9,000.00	\$	-	\$	(9,000.00)

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

2014

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of MD - 2014 Semi-Annual Report 11/1/2013 to 5/10/2014 - Using Grand Chapter 2014 Budget

Printed: 5/9/2014

Category	11/1/2013 Actual	Budget	5/10/2014 Difference
INCOME			
Exaltations	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)
Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 15,300.00	\$ (15,300.00)
Transfer Income	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ (9,000.00)
_DivInc	\$ 768.01	\$ 3,300.00	\$ (2,531.99)
_IntInc	\$ 1.54	\$ 200.00	\$ (198.46)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 769.55	\$ 28,800.00	\$ (28,030.45)
EXPENSES			
1 - Grand Officers and Related Items			
1.1 - Grand Secretary	\$ 875.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 875.00
1.2 - Grand Lecturer	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 50.00
1.3 - Grand Treasurer	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00
1.4 - Grand Senninel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1.5 - Grand Organist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL 1 - Grand Officers and Related Items	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,325.00
2 - Personal Expenses			
2.1 - Expenses In Out State			
2.1.1 - GHP Personal Expenses	\$ 2,195.34	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,304.66
2.1.2 - Grand King Personal Expenses	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
2.1.3 - Grand Scribe Personal Expenses	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
TOTAL 2.1 - Expenses In Out State	\$ 2,195.34	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,804.66
2.2 - Expenses N. E. Region	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
2.3 - Regional Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2.4 - Degree Team Expenses	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
TOTAL 2 - Personal Expenses	\$ 2,195.34	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,304.66
3 - General Grand Chapter			
3.1 - Dues General Grand Chapter	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 210.00
3.2 - Royal Arch Magazine for Members	\$ 2,025.01	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,474.99
3.3 - RAM Editor Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
3.4 - Triennial Expenses	\$ 205.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,795.00
TOTAL 3 - General Grand Chapter	\$ 3,820.01	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 5,579.99
4 - Office Expenses			
4.01 - Office Supplies	\$ 233.03	\$ 450.00	\$ 216.97
4.02 - Printing Visitation Booklet	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
4.03 - Printing Annual Proceedings	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.04 - Postage and Delivery Expense	\$ 42.19	\$ 400.00	\$ 357.81
4.05 - Past GHP Jewel and Engraving	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
4.06 - GHP Apron & Case	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.07 - Memorials	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
4.08 - Membership Program	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.10 - Equipment Fund	\$ 204.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 496.00
4.11 - Dues Cards	\$ 131.73	\$ 400.00	\$ 268.27

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of MD - 2014 Semi-Annual Report
11/1/2013 to 5/10/2014 - Using Grand Chapter 2014 Budget

Printed: 5/5/2014

4.12 - Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 333.33	\$ 100.00	\$ (233.33)
4.13 - Awards	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
TOTAL 4 - Office Expenses	\$ 944.28	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 4,955.72
5 - Service Contracts			
5.1 - Office Rent	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
5.3 - Insurance	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 50.00
5.4 - Web Site	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL 5 - Service Contracts	\$ 250.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 550.00
6 - Grand Sessions			
6.1 - Hotel Guest Rooms & Svcs	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
6.3 - Distinguished Guests Meals & Enter	\$ 268.72	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,731.28
TOTAL 6 - Grand Sessions	\$ 268.72	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,431.28
7 - Charity			
7.1 - Masonic Youth	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
7.2 - RARA	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
7.3 - Grand Lodge	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL 7 - Charity	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 8,953.35	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 19,846.65

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons D Ross VanSant Fund Current Year
11/1/2013 through 5/10/2014 Using 2014 Grand Chapter

Category	11/1/2013 Actual	Budget	5/10/2014 Difference
INCOME			
_Divinc	\$ 1,793.52	\$ 3,300.00	\$ (1,506.48)
_Intinc	\$ 0.26	\$ 200.00	\$ (199.74)
_LT CapGnDst	\$ 2,641.91	\$ -	\$ 2,641.91
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,435.69	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 935.69
EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 4,435.69	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 935.69

Motion to accept made by R.E. Comp. Lister; seconded by M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP, passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, REGT

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, "Reserve Account" (633115782-529) accumulated \$9,785.67 in dividends and interest. In accordance with establish procedures, we will request that 85% of the earnings for the year ending 31 March 2014 be transferred to account 495-106754, the Grand Chapter RAM Grand Treasurer's Operating Account.

The Reserve Account balance (before transfer of funds) as of 31 March 2014 was \$293,158.58 .

Cash	\$7310.50
Common Stocks	\$188,608.40
Closed End Funds	\$25,483.00
Corporate Fixed Income	\$29,543.60
Mutual Funds	\$42,213.08
Grand Total	\$293,158.58

The Total revenue available was \$ 9,785.67, and by calculation 85% of that amount, \$ 8,317.82, was transferred to the operating account.

For the Committee,

Stephen J Ponzillo III, PGHP

Clifton R. Friel, PGHP

James B Coker, PHP

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK

MEGHP,

We submit the following as the budget for 2014 – 2015:

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

2014

Page 1

2

Grand Chapter of Royal ArchMasons in Maryland			
2015 BUDGET PREPARATION		Approved Budget	Suggested Budget
Acct #	Description	Nov 1 - Oct 31 2013-2014	Nov 1 - Oct 31 2014-2015
1.0	Grand Officers Expenses & Related Items		
1.1	Grand Secretary	1750	1750
1.2	Grand Lecturer	250	250
1.3	Grand Treasurer	800	800
1.4	Grand Sentinel	0	0
1/5	Grand Organist	0	0
	Sub-Total	2800	2800
2.0	Personal Expenses		
2.1	Expenses GHP I/O State	3500	3500
	Expenses Grand King	250	250
	Expenses Grand Scribe	250	250
2.2	Expenses N.E. Region	1250	1250
2.3	Regional Meetings		
2.4	Degree Team Expenses	250	250
	sub-Total	5500	5500
3.0	General Grand Chapter		
3.1	Dues General Grand Chapter /PC	1800	1800
3.2	Royal Arch Mag for Members	4500	4500
3.3	RAM Editor Expense	100	100
3.4	Triennial Expenses	3000	0
	Sub Total	9400	6400
4.0	Office Expenses		
4.1	Office Supplies	450	450
4.2	Printing: Visitation Booklet	750	750
4.3	Printing: Annual Proceedings	500	500
4.4	Postage	400	400
4.5	Past GHP Jewel & Engraving	800	800
4.6	GHP Apron & Case	500	500
4.7	Memorials	100	100
4.8	Membership Program	500	500
4.9	Anniversary Fund		
4.10	Equipment Fund	700	700
4.11	Dues Cards	400	400
4.12	Miscellaneous	100	100
4.13	Awards	700	700
	SubTotal	5900	5900
5.0	Service Contracts		
5.1	Office Rent	400	400
5.2	Telephones		
5.3	Insurance	300	300
5.4	Web Site	100	100
	Sub-Total	800	800
6.0	Grand Sessions		

6.1	Hotel: Guest Rooms & Svcs	700		700
6.2	Luncheons	0		0
6.3	Distinguished Guests Meals & Entertainment	3000		3000
	Sub-Total	3700		3700
7.0	Charity			
7.1	Masonic Youth	500		500
7.2	RARA	100		100
7.3	Grand Lodge	100		100
	Sub-Total	700		700
	Grand Total	28800		25800
8.0	Northeast Conference			
	Meals			
	Income			
	Per Capita	15300		14300
	Investments	3500		3500
	Transfers	9000		7000
	Exaltations	1000		1000
	Total Income	28800		25800

REPORT OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Daniel Brewer, Chairman

MEGHP,

The committee of electronic communications has compiled this report for the 2014 Semi-Annual Grand Sessions.

The local website for the Maryland Grand York Rite bodies and subordinate bodies

(<http://yorkritemd.org>) continues to host the Maryland York rite calendar. The calendar is updated daily with data submitted by the local and Grand bodies of Maryland. The local body information is outdated, however, as local bodies provide this information it is corrected. The contact information remains current, for all bodies, so as to provide prospective members a human contact.

The list server (email group) Marylandyorkrite @ gmailgroups.com continues to provide calendar reminders and other timely notifications to subscribers. There have been 1002 messages sent via the email list and currently there are 146 companions which receive them.

The facebook page, <http://facebook.com> (Maryland York Rite), has 129 members, however, this is an open list, therefore total number of viewers is unknown.

The primary focus of this page is for recruitment, however, general information and reminders are posted.

There has been an increase in the number of local Chapters submitting their schedules for posting to the calendar. We would like to see an increase of local chapter submissions, for degree work and regular communications.

I have truly enjoyed being able to provide this small service to our Grand Chapter and being appointed by Most Eminent Companion Richard Naegele to continue to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grover D. Brewer

Chairman

R.E. Grand King, R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, was asked to preside during the following report of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

Report of the Grand High Priest

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, MEGHP

I would like to welcome everyone to the Semi Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland. Special welcome to our MEPGHP's, and MIGM James B. Coker and REGC Richard A. Ortt, Sr.

During the first six months we have lost many companions. We also lost Jane Rickard, wife of MEPGHP Marion Rickard earlier this year. Before going further I wish to pause to pay respect to those who have passed. Companion EGPS conduct the EG Chaplain to the altar for prayer.

Almighty Father, we ask your blessings on the lives that have been given to this Fraternity through our members, those close to us. Provide comfort to those who remain behind in this tragedy. We trust that you have welcomed into your presences those who have departed. Watch over the family and friends of those Companions whom we have lost. Guide us in the footsteps they left. This we ask in your most gracious and holy name. Amen. So mote it be.

May they rest well among the veils on high. Later today we will be presenting a memorial service that may be used for our Companions.

State of the Chapters/ Exemplifications

During the first month, the Grand Chapter was very busy visiting the Chapters in Maryland. I need to thank those officers who were able to attend the visitations with a special note to the EGCH who made almost all of them.

I sent a letter to all chapters outlining plans for the coming year. These included conferring or exemplifying the Mark Master Degree by ALL Chapters, presentation of the White Tau to recognize newer Companions for their service, promoting the York Rite and Royal Arch through existing programs as well as the Peculiar Stone and formalizing an educational program to better prepare our leaders in the York Rite and Chapters. The first two are well underway, the third is scheduled for a September presentation and the final is still being formulated.

Concordia No. 1/ Baltimore No. 40 – At the beginning of my term I sent a letter to these two Chapters informing them that any dispensations issued by my predecessors allowing them to meet together were discontinued. I gave them until March 31, 2014 to conclude the matter and find suitable conditions for both to meet separately. They were given several options. The MEHP of Concordia No. 1 approached me in February and asked for an extension in order to resolve this situation. He assured me progress was being made so I am allowing them to continue to make their plans until September 30, 2014. By that time both Chapters will be meeting separately. I am pleased to say that Concordia No. 1 has exemplified the Mark Master degree as laid out at the beginning of my term. Baltimore No. 40 still needs to comply.

Phoenix No. 7 – This Chapter has installed its first new High Priest since being reborn. This has been a major accomplishment. While it still relies heavily on other Chapters, signs of growth and strengthening are evident in its lower officers. This Chapter has conferred all four degrees so far this year.

Chesapeake No. 17 – The Companions in Salisbury are working very hard to rebuild the York Rite. They are planning degree work and conferring some themselves. They will be installing a new High Priest later this month as well as conferring the Mark Master degree. I am very pleased with the progress made on the lower shore.

Salem No. 18 – Another shining spot in the Chapter is out west. Salem Chapter has weathered many a storm and continues to bounce back. A new High Priest currently runs the Chapter and degrees in the York Rite are regularly conferred. They conferred the Mark Master Degree earlier this year.

St. John's No. 19 – St. John's has new leadership with the recently replanted MEPGHP Huebschman taking the reins. They have conferred three of the degrees with some assistance and will be conferring the Royal Arch next month. This Chapter is beginning again to show its luster.

Adoniram No. 21 – This is our daylight Chapter, a forgotten treasure. Any retired Companion or those working night work could benefit from membership in Adoniram. It meets at the Grand Lodge and involves residents of the Masonic Homes when possible. They have conferred the Mark and Past Master degrees on an active candidate.

Talbot No. 22/ Hayward No. 29 / Edenton No. 36 – These three Chapters are linked together in my report and in how they function. They meet in three areas on the Upper and Mid Shore. After the Visitation to all three a Companion stepped forward to help Hayward Chapter, which was on the verge of merger. We know the Chapters are planning to jointly confer the degrees and will have a class in early June. We wish them well and offer our support in their re-growth.

Enoch No. 23 – Great things are happening in Frederick. They continue to involve families and other Masonic bodies in many activities. A new High Priest will be installed after many years of dedicated service by their current High Priest Howard Graham with the support of numerous companions. They have met the requirement for the Mark Master degree and continue to improve on their work.

Mt. Vernon No. 25 – The central area continues to grow with the work of this Chapter. These Companions are dedicated to improvement and strengthening their respective bodies. They have conferred all four Chapter degrees and continue to do excellent work.

Ithiel No. 27 – This Chapter has fallen significantly because of a lack of leadership. While the Commandery is showing some signs of rebirth, nothing is happening in the Chapter. When visiting there only three Companions were present. At this time I am removing the High Priest of the Chapter and declaring it vacant until such time as a Companion with some enthusiasm steps forward to show the leadership so richly needed.

Druid No. 28 – Druid Chapter has become the steady rock that supports all others. The Companions continue to go out of their way to make sure other Chapters are able to function. They continue with excellent work as was demonstrated recently by a visit from our Most Excellent General Grand High Priest Edmund D. Harrison. During this visit I bestowed a MEGHP Award upon ME Companion Harrison for his dedication to Royal Arch masonry and Maryland. He wears it proudly as he visits around the world. Maryland Royal Arch masonry was on display to the world and it came through in excellent fashion.

Carroll No. 31 – Just a few years ago this area seemed desolate. A few dedicated Companions decided to help rejuvenate the bodies and with the effective leadership of MEPGHP Louis F. Bandell, Jr. it has paid great dividends. They met the requirement last October and continue to show great improvements.

JF Allen No. 33 – A new High Priest was installed this year with hopes of strengthening this chapter. Some assistance is still needed but I believe it will happen. New leadership will take over and I hope bring together the Companions in a harmonious manner. I do not believe they have met the Mark Master requirement but know it was conferred there over a year ago.

Tuscan No. 42 – Good things are beginning again in Towson. Tuscan has conferred three of the degrees and recently installed a new High Priest. I am looking forward to the rejuvenation of this Chapter in the coming years.

York No. 44 – The companions of the York bodies have been trying different things to rejuvenate each of the organizations. I am not sure of their success on attracting the companions to the meetings. They also need to begin focusing on the ritual. I hope that they are able to achieve their goals and applaud them for at least trying something different.

Piscataway No. 46 – I was pleased and excited to be able to constitute a new Chapter at the beginning of my term. The Grand Chapter officers demonstrated their dedication through the participation in this event. Piscataway is new and growing but has already set an ambitious goal of making a York Rite center in the Catonsville area. They too have conferred all four degrees.

In general, I can say the state of the craft is excellent with showing improvement and growth in many regions with 11 Chapters having met the Mark Master requirement and 4 planning to do so within a month. Only a few need our focus and attention and we plan to devote time during the remainder of the term.

Out of State Visits/ Coordinate Bodies

Along with visiting all of the Chapters, over 40 Blue Lodges and the sessions for Grand Lodge, Rainbow, Job's Daughters and Eastern Star, I also made four out of state visits to the Grand Chapters of New York, Delaware, District of Columbia, and Maine. All were very receptive and it was a joy to participate in these sessions. Some jurisdictions I was unable to attend due to schedule conflicts and send my apologies. I only hope others take advantage of this opportunity when it avails itself to you.

WM 2014 Pins

I am pleased to say that over 95% of the lodges in the state have received the 2014 Worshipful Master pins this year. By organizing it prior to the beginning of the year and locating many

faithful Companions to carry out the task this seemingly overwhelming deed was accomplished. I personally presented over 30 of the pins at the installations or at a meeting following. I did learn that many had never received them in the past or heard of the program. I can only say to my successor – planning in advance makes all this come to fruition.

White Tau Awards

I have been very pleased with the way this program has been received. I need to thank our Grand Secretary in helping make this possible by securing the pins. I have presented 16 Companions and have more today. If any of these Companions are present please join me west of the altar.

Kevin Drabczyk No. 23

Scott Wilson No. 23

Michael Zaiter No. 23

George Martinez No. 25

James Frock No. 31

Glen Zetina No. 40

If you find other Companions worthy of this recognition the High Priest only needs to notify me. The criteria were presented at the Grand Visitations but basically are for a Companion with three years or less with outstanding dedication to his Chapter.

Prince Hall Grand Chapter

Since 1999 Masons in Maryland have had fraternal recognition with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Maryland. Visitation rights were extended several years later. It is now time for the York Rite to follow suit. During this convocation you will be asked to extend full recognition with right of visitation to The Most Excellent Hiram Holy Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons (PHA). On May 8th the Grand Council voted to extend this recognition and this past Saturday, the Grand Chapter of Prince Hall also voted favorably to extend this right.

Festival for the Child

This event was envisioned by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, Companion Herbert Y. Holcomb, III. He wanted to see an event where the major masonic bodies in Maryland came together for one cause – children. This event, when it reaches its potential will net over \$10,000 for each of the Charities for Grand Lodge (MCM), Shrine Hospitals, Tall Cedars Foundation MDA, Scottish Rite Speech and Language centers and three York Rite Charities. Support is needed not only from our members but also non-members. This is yet another way to share with the community at large the great work we as Freemasons strive to do for others. Please help my selling tickets to this event. Flyers were available at the registration desk.

Plans for the Future

Promotion of the Royal Arch and York Rite in general needs to be placed on the front burner. Everyone that has joined has experienced the same feelings – “I never knew” and “I wished I had done this sooner”. This needs to be shared with all of our Brothers in Maryland. We have several well versed Companions that are always willing to share the York Rite with all who ask. Your job is to get your lodges to ask. The newest program “The Peculiar Stone” needs our attention to make it a reality. Six companions are needed to make this so. If you can help or could recommend someone please let me know.

A leadership program to help educate our members is needed. I hope this will come to fruition by August. As this develops information will be sent to all chapters to share with their membership.

Acknowledgments

Where do you begin with so many to thank. Everyone has been so gracious when we visited formally to each Chapter as well as just meeting along the path. I can't thank you enough for this respect you have shown and hope I return the favor in kind.

Many of the officers of the Grand Chapter have been extremely loyal and dedicated. I thank them for their commitment thus far and hope for even more in the future.

Special note needs to go to a few individuals. Companion Carl Michel has been a staunch supporter and promoter of the Grand Chapter and Royal Arch Masonry. I cannot thank him enough for his commitment, dedication and friendship.

The Excellent King Randy Watson has been a trusted advisor and close friend. He will serve this Chapter well if it is so decided.

Vernon Huebschman has been a dedicated and tireless worker for this Grand Chapter. He has been an advisor, confidant, mentor, and sounding board. He is a true friend in all that word means.

I thank all of you for allowing me the stewardship of the Grand Chapter during this past six months. I hope what I have done thus far has met with your approval. I can only ask assistance from God and you Companions for what awaits in the coming months.

Fraternally,
Richard P. Naegele
MEGHP

Motion to accept this report by M.E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr., PGHP ; seconded by R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe

The REGK surrendered control of the Grand Convocation back to the MEGHP.

Election of Officers for 2014 – 2015

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, MEGHP

The following Companions were nominated for their respective office:

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST

R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK, and current MEHP of Piscataway Chapter No. 46, for the office of Grand High Priest, was nominated by Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, III Grand Chaplain; seconded by R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe. Upon being thrice requested for further nomination, and there being none offered the MEGHP declared the nominations closed. On being asked if the nomination was accepted, R.E. Comp. Watson did accept the nomination.

RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND KING

R. E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe, and current MEHP of York Chapter, No. 44, for the office of Grand King, was nominated by Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, Grand Chaplain; seconded by R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK. Upon thrice requesting for further nominations, and there being none offered the MEGHP declared the nominations closed. On being asked if the nomination was accepted, R.E. Comp. Curtis did accept the nomination.

RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SCRIBE

Ex. Comp. William C. Eppig, PHP of Druid Chapter No. 28, and Executive Officer for the State of Maryland and for Washington, D.C. for the Order of DeMolay, for the office of Grand Scribe, was nominated by M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, seconded by seconded by R. E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK. Upon thrice requesting for further nominations, and there being none offered the MEGHP declared the nominations closed. On being asked if the nomination was accepted, R.E. Comp. Eppig did accept the nomination.

RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND TREASURER

R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, REGTr of Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 25 was nominated by R. E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe; seconded by M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman. Upon thrice requesting further nominations, and there being none offered the MEGHP declared the nominations closed. On being asked if the nomination was accepted, R.E. Comp. Lister did accept the nomination.

Elections of Officers (continued)

RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SECRETARY

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP and REG Secty, of Druid Chapter No. 28 was nominated by Ex. Comp. James B. Coker, PHP of St. Johns Chapter No. 19; seconded by R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, REGTr. Upon thrice requesting further nominations, and there being none offered the MEGHP declared the nominations closed. On being asked if the nomination was accepted, M.E. Comp. Huebschman did accept the nomination.

TRUSTEE, for a Three-year Term (to replace M. E. Comp. Clifton R. Friel, PGHP)

Comp. William Gyr of Druid Chapter No. 28, was nominated by R.E. Comp. John M. Lister REGTr; seconded by Curtis;

M.E. Comp. John B. Maclay, PGHP of Tuscan Chapter No. 42, was nominated by M.E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr. PGHP; seconded by Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, Grand Chaplain;

Upon thrice requesting further nominations, and there being none offered the MEGHP declared the nominations closed. On being asked if the nominations was accepted, R.E. Comp. Lister reported that Comp. Gyr did accept the nomination. M. E. Comp. John B. Maclay accepted the nomination.

The MEGHP declared the polls open for election. Ballots were distributed to those by Comp. Chuck Ridgeway of Enoch Chapter No. 23 and Ex Comp. Randy, MEHP of Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 25; Ex. Comp. Chris Brown, PHP of James F. Allan Chapter No. 33 as Tellers.

The MEGHP explained that the Voting Members of the Grand Chapter are all Past High Priest who have served at least one full, and the sitting Most Excellent High Priests, Excellent Kings, and Excellent Scribes for the time being.

When the ballots were collected, the Tellers assisted the Grand Secretary to tally the results. The Grand Secretary reported to the Grand High Priest the count of the ballots. The MEGHP then announce that M.E. Comp. John B. Maclay, PGHP was elected for the open Trustee.

The MEGHP called for a motion for the Grand Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for those un-opposed nominated above. Motion to so do by Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, III; seconded by Comp. Randall Disney, MEHP, passed unanimously, and so ordered.

The Elections were then declared closed

REPORT OF THE GRAND LECTURER

M.E. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

The Grand Chapter received a letter from the Grand Lodge of Maryland stating that Comp. Robert Haber of Cornerstone Lodge No.195, has been place on a Definite Suspension by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, Most Worshipful Brother and Companion Gerald E. Piepiora. In consequence to the Grand Master's action, Mr. Haber is suspended for all rights and privileges as a Royal Arch Mason until such time as the Grand Master re-instates him.

The condition of Chapter Ritual throughout the state is slowly and steadily improving. More chapters are now competent to confer some degree work, and more Chapters are now able to confer all four Degree, with some assistance. The High Priests in our Chapters are to be commended for taking up the challenge to move toward proficiency and then onto excellence.

More than half of the Chapters (12) have completed their exemplification of the Mark Master Degree already. I have visited most of those who have done so, and in the cases where I was not able to be present, I was represented by Past Grand Lecturers or well respected Ritualists...holders of the General Grand Chapter's Ritual Award. I was certified in St. Johns Chapter by REGK Randall L. Watson, with three Past Grand Lecturers on the sideline watching my work, and everyone sweats.

I would like to thank the Committee on Work on completing and review a draft version of a Royal Arch Chapter Memorial Service. Thanks to PGHP Maclay who stayed with this project to its present state. The draft is attached to the notes for the Semi-Annual Convocation, and for the purpose of initiating discussion I move its adoption. I strongly recommend that this service not be used unless the Lodge Memorial is also requested.

The Companions are asked to remember to promote the Attitude of Reverence during prayers, obligations, and the tending to the Great Lights. Veterans are reminded that they may use a hand salute for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

For any Chapter wanting to hold a rehearsal with a particular emphasis on staying current with Maryland Ritual, I will be pleased to join your Chapter, or arrange for a knowledgeable Companion to be with you.

Fraternally & Respectfully,

M.E. Comp. Vernon Huebschman, PGHP
Grand Secretary / Grand Lecturer

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

2014

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORK

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

It is a distinct pleasure to report the following Companions have been found to be proficient in the Ritual of the Capitular Degrees or were granted your dispensation for Ritualistic Skills according the standards which established for this year, and as by determined by the Grand High Priest's direction:

Chesapeake Royal Arch Chapter No. 17	Companion Jacob Todd
Hayward Royal Arch Chapter No. 29	Companion. Christopher Jensen
Enoch Royal Arch Chapter No. 23	Companion James King
James F. Allen Royal Arch Chapter No. 33	Companion Michael Brolly, PHP of NY
Tuscan Royal Arch Chapter No. 42	Companion Paul Sparaco, Sr.
Piscataway Royal Arch Chapter No. 46	Companion Arthur Hebbeler III

With the exception of PHP Brolly, these Companions presented themselves for the conferral of the Anointed High Priest Degree on April 26, 2014 at Odenton, MD. They are in all respects suitable and ready of Installation within their respective Chapters.

We congratulate each Chapter and Companions for dedication to excellence. Each has displayed a justifiable pride in Work well done. As the number of Brothers petitioning for the Chapter Degrees continues to challenges our resources to confer the Work, the accomplishments in Ritual means a great to those who have been stretched thin for that past decade answering the call for our Sister Chapters.

The Committee stands ready to support the efforts of all Chapters.

Fraternally & Respectfully,

M. E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP, Grand Lecturer

Ex. Comp. William C. Eppig

Ex. Comp. Gordon A. Davids

Motion to accept the two reports by M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP; accepted by the MEGHP pending further action on the Motion to accept the proposed Memorial Service.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH RELATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP, Comp. Jeffrey L. Dill, Chair

Given by the Grand Secretary for Comp. Dill. The full report to be published in the Annual Proceedings.

"We have received seven applications for scholarships this. Preliminary review shows that all are eligible. The Grand Treasurer has informed the Committee that there are \$7,000.00 available for scholarships, which will mean seven scholarships of \$1000.00 each for this year. Names and applicable information will be forwarded to the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer upon complete review of the applications."

Motion to accept with the right to revise and complete details in the Annual Report; second by Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, Grand Chaplain. Passed unanimously.

REPORT OF ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH COMMITTEE R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe

MEGHP,

"Companions, with respect to RARA, I am sure that each Chapter is collecting money, and has either sent its money into the Grand Secretary or by will be doing so by September at the very latest. There is one project I need for you to note. On October 11th there will be RARA/ Autism Speaks Walk in the state of Maryland. I decided not to make it a 26 mile walk, because I know that I couldn't do that, and that only one or two you could, so it's going to be a 5K Walk, set up at four different locations. One for Eastern Shore, Northern Maryland, Western Maryland, and Southern Maryland.

For Northern Maryland, I have asked Comp. Henry McDonald to work that one out for me. I have asked Comp. Dennis Brekhus to help in Western Maryland; Comp. Bob Penny on the Eastern Shore; and Comp. Terry Royce in Southern Maryland

I have an appointment with the Autism Speaks Committee in Washington, DC., on May20th, to iron out the details on this. All this information will be coming out to you. I ask that you ask the Companions of your Chapters to participate in this... and to your Councils and your Commanderies...and also to go your Blue Lodges. A letter will go to the Blue Lodges... I have permission from the Grand Master to do so. Asking them to participate with us. Basically it's going to be a 5K, which is about 2.5 Miles...or as much as you can do. We are going to make a request for a \$5.00 donation for each person who walks. That way we can raise money for...there will be a split between Autism Speaks and RARA. So I hope we will get everyone behind us in working hard we can raised a good substantial fund. Thank you."

Question by M.E. Comp. Bandell regarding paperwork, to which R.E. Comp Curtis replied that paperwork will be available to our Chapters in June.

Question by Comp. Bill Eppig as to whether the Youth Groups can be involved, to which R.E. Comp. Curtis replied "definitely yes!"

Accepted by the MEGHP without objection.

Submitted to the May 2014 Semi-Annual

Annual Session Dates: Friday, October 23rd and Saturday, October 24th, 2015.

Proposed Location: Ocean City, MD

Potential Hotels (alphabetically):

- The Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel (Clarion) located at 101st Street and the Ocean.
www.clarionoc.com
- The Grand Hotel & Spa (Grand) located at 21st Street and the Boardwalk.
www.grandhoteloceancity.com

The Clarion

Rooms: All rooms are \$119 per night + 10.5% tax = \$131.50 per night

75 room-nights guaranteed

Meeting Room: No charge with 75 room-night guarantee

Hospitality Room: No charge with 75 room-night guarantee

Hotel “Atmosphere” Items: The Clarion is at 101st Street, and is direct oceanfront. The Eastern Star has their session at the Clarion. We would be sharing the hotel with a larger group, that has reserved much of the meeting space, but our needs can still be met, because the Clarion has a large conference center.

The Grand

Rooms: Grand View \$84 per night + 10.5% tax = \$92.82 per night

Premier View \$94 per night + 10.5% tax = \$103.87 per night

Direct Ocean Front \$104 per night + 10.5% tax = \$114.92 per night

No minimum room-night guarantee

Meeting Room: \$500

Hospitality Suite: \$230 (\$104 per night + tax)

Hotel “Atmosphere” Items: The Grand is at 21st Street and is directly on the Boardwalk. We would be the large group, even if another group decides to stay at the Grand that weekend. All rooms view the ocean.

Meal Costs

The actual meal costs will depend on the menus selected by the Session Committee, but the Clarion is generally \$3 to \$5 more per meal than the Grand for comparable selections.

Registration Fee

In 2011 the sessions charged a \$10 registration fee, which was paid by 57 Maryland attendees. The Sessions Committee might not need to charge a registration fee if we meet at the Clarion. We have not yet reached an agreement with the Grand on whether we can get the meeting room and hospitality suite at no charge with a room-night guarantee that we can meet. If we don't reach an agreement, the Session Committee will probably have to implement a registration fee to cover the Grand Bodies' overhead costs.

Cost Comparison between the Clarion and the Grand

The Clarion is more expensive than the Grand, even if there is the need for a registration fee. As noted, the Clarion charges \$3 to \$5 more than the Grand for comparable meals. The room charge for staying Friday and Saturday nights is \$263 at the Clarion; but the most expensive room at the Grand is \$230; so two nights in a Clarion room would cost at least \$33 more than a Direct Ocean Front at the Grand. A Grand View Room for both nights would cost \$186, which is \$77 less than a room at the Clarion.

Recommendation

The Time and Place Committee recommends that the 2015 Grand Sessions be held at the Grand Hotel & Spa (Grand) located at 21st Street and the Boardwalk in Ocean City.

The Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland had previously accepted this recommendation at their Semi-Annual Assembly on May 8, 2014.

Further information since this report was draft was that the Grand waived the Room Fees if there was a commitment to a 75 Room-night minimum. Neither Hotel charges for parking.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee by M.E. Comp Bennie G. Owens PGHP: seconded by Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, Grand Chaplain. Passed unanimously.

TRIENNIAL COMMITTEE

R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe

MEGHP,

The 69th General Grand Chapter Triennial Convocation will be held on 26th – 30th of September of 2014 in Buffalo, NY, and will be headquartered at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Reservation by September 1, 2014.

The General Grand Convocation will be held on September 29 2014, at 8:00 a.m.

Forms for registration are available on the General Grand Chapter website. Hotel contact information for online reservations are also available there.

The MEGHP added that the MEGGHP will be conferring the Royal Arch Degree during this event. The General Grand Council will confer the Super Excellent Master Degree. By Columbian Council No. 1 R&SM

Accepted by the MEGHP without objection

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL FESTIVAL

R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe

MEGHP,

The Multi-Jurisdictional Festival will be held in Washington, DC. The Grand Chapter of Maryland has asked to confer the Most Excellent Master Degree. Cast positions will be organized. At least one rehearsal will be set during the summer. The location is likely to be the Scottish Rite Temple. Because of limitations in parking, please plan to carpool.

Accepted by the MEGHP without objection

REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK

The following pages are the actual proposed amendments as they were offered for consideration.

For the purpose of bringing each item to the floor, each was separately moved and seconded by R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK, and R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe.

All amendments, **except Amendments No. 3 & No. 9**, were approved unanimously and adopted immediately.

The four Standing Resolutions were all retired, and are no longer in effect.

- **The following amendments to the Grand Chapter Constitution are proposed for action at the May 12, 2015 Grand Convocation. Any amendment that is adopted unanimously is immediately adopted. Any amendment that is opposed will carry over for action at the Annual Convocation.**

Amendment #1 – To clarify the procedures for Plural members in the process of forming a new Chapter:

Article V

Amend as indicated:

Section 3: Petitioners for a new Charter may apply with the intention of transferring their membership from their current Chapter to the new Chapter, or they may apply with the intention of retaining membership in their current Chapter and becoming a plural member in the new Chapter.

Petitioners for a new Charter who desire to transfer their membership from their current Chapter to the new Chapter must file their demits with the Grand Secretary. Chapters may however, issue conditional demits to such petitions, to become final only when the Charter for the new Chapter has been granted, of which fact the Grand Secretary shall notify the issuing Chapter. If a Charter be refused, the Grand Secretary shall cancel and return the conditional demits to the issuing Chapter. In the meantime such petitioners shall not be liable to the parent Chapter for dues.

Petitioners for a new Charter who desire to retain membership in their current Chapter and become a plural member in the new Chapter must file their certificates of good standing with the Grand Secretary. Such petitioners shall remain liable to the parent Chapter for dues.

Any signer of a petition for a dispensation who may desire to sever his connection with the new Chapter before a Charter has been granted, shall notify the Grand Secretary, who shall cancel the conditional demit and return it to the issuing Chapter, in which Chapter the petitioner's membership shall be immediately revived.

Amendment #2 – To eliminate the limitation on a Chapter's representation in the Grand Chapter elective line:

Article IX

Delete entire section and renumber subsequent sections:

Section 5: No Chapter shall be represented by more than one elective officer in the Grand Chapter at any given time, provided that in applying this provision, the office Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Trustee shall not be considered.

- The following amendments to the Grand Chapter Constitution are proposed for action at the May 12, 2015 Grand Convocation. Any amendment that is adopted unanimously is immediately adopted. Any amendment that is opposed will carry over for action at the Annual Convocation.

Amendment #3 – To eliminate the requirement that nine members must be present for a Chapter to conduct business other than degree conferrals:

Article XII

Amend as indicated:

Section 2: Nine members of a Chapter are necessary to ballot on candidates or elect officers. A Chapter may transact other business when open as a Mark Master's or Past Master's Lodge. However, unless there are at least three members present, they may not transact business other than the opening and closing of, and the conferring of degrees in, a Mark Master's, Past Master's, or Most Excellent Master's Lodge.

Amendment #4 – To correct the reference for the Chapter installation to the spring Grand Convocation when the Grand Chapter's Year was changed:

Article XII

Amend as indicated:

Section 5: Each Chapter shall elect its officers in March annually by ballot, beginning in March 1962. No High Priest-elect shall be installed unless he is competent to confer the traditional work of the Capitular degrees. Such competency shall be determined by a majority of the committee on work, composed of the Grand Lecturer and two permanent members of the Grand Chapter, appointed annually by the Grand High Priest. They shall issue a certificate to that effect to be placed in the hands of the Grand Secretary who shall notify the respective Chapter prior to the installation of its officers, which shall be after the High Priest-elect has been Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood in Maryland, at a stated or special Convocation of the Constituent Chapter concerned, immediately following the Semi-Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter; provided, however, that the Grand High Priest may, for good cause, issue a dispensation to elect or to install at a different time, and to waive the requirement of competency to confer the traditional work of the Capitular degrees.

Amendment #5 – To eliminate the requirement that a petition for membership must lie over to the next stated convocation before balloting:

Article XII

Amend as indicated:

Section 7: Every Master Mason who is desirous of receiving the Capitular Degrees, must petition some regular Chapter for advancement. He shall be recommended by a member of the Chapter in good standing, ~~which petition shall be referred to a committee, and lie over to the next stated Convocation before balloting;~~ and if elected and exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason, he thereby becomes a member of the Chapter, and as such shall be returned to the Grand Chapter.

- The following amendments to the Grand Chapter Constitution are proposed for action at the May 12, 2015 Grand Convocation. Any amendment that is adopted unanimously is immediately adopted. Any amendment that is opposed will carry over for action at the Annual Convocation.

Amendment #6 – To implement the standardization of the petition fee for all Chapters:

Article XII

Delete the current language of both sections:

Section 10: ~~No Chapter in the city of Baltimore shall confer the degrees for less than thirty dollars, and no Chapter outside the City of Baltimore for a less sum than twenty dollars. Chapters shall not confer the degree without payment of the fee, nor shall the fee or any part thereof be remitted.~~

Section 11: ~~When residents of Baltimore City apply for exaltation in the rural Chapters, they shall be required to pay the fees charged in said City.~~

Replace with (and renumber subsequent section):

Section 10: No chapter shall confer the degrees without payment of the fee which shall be \$50.00. No fee nor any part thereof may be remitted.

Amendment #7 – To eliminate the requirement that election of Chapter officers must be by ballot, even if the office is unopposed (language modified from Article XVI, Section 3. A. of Grand Lodge Constitution):

Article XII

Delete the current language:

Section 21: ~~No Chapter shall elect its installed officers in any other manner than by ballot; nor shall it decide on any petitions for advancement or membership in any other way than by ballot.~~

Replace with:

Section 21. Nominations for the elective officers can be made and seconded in open Chapter. Nomination declarations shall consist only of the name of the nominating Companion, who must be a Chapter member, the name of the nominee and the office to be elected. A second is required. The second Companion will give his name and declare a second for the nomination. There shall not be nominating speeches. The nominee may stand, in place, to be recognized. He may only accept or reject the nomination. Uncontested officers will be declared elected from the East, and contested offices will be balloted on, secret and written.

- The following amendments to the Grand Chapter Constitution are proposed for action at the May 12, 2015 Grand Convocation. Any amendment that is adopted unanimously is immediately adopted. Any amendment that is opposed will carry over for action at the Annual Convocation.

Amendment #8 – To clarify procedures for Plural and Dual members and specify that for Plural members, only the home Chapter will make payment of the annual per capita assessments to the Grand Chapter (language modified from Article XVI, Section 7, B. of Grand Lodge Constitution):

Article XII

Delete current language:

Section 23: That a Chapter may admit to membership a Companion who is a member of another Maryland Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction, or is a member of a Chapter or Chapters in other Grand Jurisdictions, whose laws do not forbid dual membership, may affiliate with a Maryland Chapter, if such Companion meets all other requirements of affiliation. In both situations his application must be accompanied by a current certificate of good standing in his home Chapter.

Replace with:

Section 23. Plural and Dual Membership - A member of a Maryland Chapter may affiliate with other Maryland Chapters and shall be known as a *Plural Member* if he is subsequently elected to membership in those Chapters. A member of a Chapter or Chapters in other Grand Jurisdictions, whose Laws do not forbid dual membership, may affiliate with a Maryland Chapter if he is at least eighteen years of age and meets and all other requirements of affiliation, and shall be known as a *Dual Member* if he is subsequently elected to membership in that Chapter. In both situations his application must be accompanied by a current certification of good standing from his home Chapter.

1. A member of a Chapter in Maryland may request a Certificate of Good Standing for the purpose of transferring his membership or applying for plural membership in another Maryland Chapter or dual membership in a Chapter of another Grand Jurisdiction.
2. The membership of a plural or dual member in a Maryland Chapter shall not be affected by his demit or suspension for nonpayment of dues from another Maryland Chapter or any Chapter in any other Grand Jurisdiction. Expulsion or suspension for cause by another Maryland Chapter or by a Chapter in any other Grand Jurisdiction shall automatically terminate his membership in a Maryland Chapter upon receipt of certified action by the other Chapter.
3. Dual membership entitles an affiliating Companion from any other Grand Jurisdiction to all the rights and privileges of a member of the Maryland Chapter with which he affiliates, without regard to such honors and offices he may have received or attained in any other Grand Jurisdiction. However, a Companion who affiliates with a Maryland Chapter and relinquishes his membership in all other Chapters or another Grand Jurisdiction shall be recognized by his Maryland Chapter as having all of the honors that were accorded him in his former Chapter.
4. If a Companion is a member of two or more Maryland Chapters, he shall pay to all Chapters the dues and assessments required of him under the Bylaws of those Chapters, but only his home Chapter shall be required to pay Grand Chapter dues and assessments with respect to him.

- The following amendments to the Grand Chapter Constitution are proposed for action at the May 12, 2015 Grand Convocation. Any amendment that is adopted unanimously is immediately adopted. Any amendment that is opposed will carry over for action at the Annual Convocation.

5. If a Plural Companion is a member of two or more Maryland Chapters, and Chapter membership is a factor in a particular situation, he shall be considered a member of his home Chapter.

Amendment #9 – To modify the process for suspending a member for nonpayment of dues:

Article XII

Amend as indicated:

Section 24: Subordinate Chapters shall ~~may~~ suspend from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, without trial, any member who shall fail to pay his dues for two ~~years~~one year; provided, that no member shall be suspended under this section until he shall have at least one month's notice of the intention of this Chapter to take action upon his delinquency, and the penalty of which he renders himself liable by failure to liquidate his indebtedness. Should any member who shall be suspended under this section, within six months after the notice of the action of the chapter is given him, pay all arrearages up to his suspension, he shall automatically be restored to all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry and failing to do so within six months, he can regain those rights and privileges only by paying all arrearages due by him up to the time of suspension and petitioning the Chapter in regular form for reinstatement. Should the latter be denied him by his Chapter, he shall be considered a non-affiliated Royal Arch Mason, and shall have the right of petitioning another Chapter. Nothing in this section shall be construed, in any way, as affecting the rights of a Chapter to remit the dues of any member.

~~Notice to a member in arrears for dues of the intention of the Chapter to suspend him for non-payment thereof, as provided herein, shall be sent to such member within sixty days after the expiration of the second year for which the dues of such member are in arrears. This notice shall be sent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to such member so in arrears, to his residence, if known, then said notice, duly mailed at the Post Office nearest his last known place of residence, shall be deemed legal notice; proof of service of notice shall be required by the Chapter and the same duly recorded amount the minutes of the proceedings. Notice of actual suspension shall be sent to such member by certified or registered mail in the same manner as provided herein for notice of intention to suspend.~~

Amendment #10 – To eliminate the requirement that the Grand inspectors, Grand Lecturer and Committee on Work must meet within Baltimore City:

Article XII

Amend as indicated:

Section 29: The Grand Inspectors shall meet the Grand Lecturer and Committee on Work in the City of Baltimore, and in such other places as may be designated, on such dates as may be determined, the time to be devoted to instruction and rehearsal.

Y The following amendments to the Grand Chapter Constitution are proposed for action
at the May 12, 2015 Grand Convocation. Any amendment that is adopted unanimously
is immediately adopted. Any amendment that is opposed will carry over for action at
the Annual Convocation.

Y
Y
Y
Y
Y
Y

The following resolutions to rescind certain Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter
are proposed for action at the May 12, 2015 Grand Convocation. Any resolution
receiving a majority vote is adopted.

Whereas the need and appropriateness that existed at the time of their
adoption has since lapsed, therefore be it resolved, by separate action, that
each of the following Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter is hereby
rescinded:

1. That the Grand Representatives of Jurisdiction near the Jurisdiction of Maryland be
relieved from duties when they fail to be present at the Annual Convocation of the Grand
Chapter three years, in succession, provided the relieving of such negligent
representatives meets with the approval of the Jurisdiction which such representatives
have been appointed to represent.
3. Article XII of the constitution and the Standing Resolutions of the Grand Chapter shall be
read in every Subordinate Chapter at a regular Convocation thereof, during each capitular
year, the precise Convocation at which the same shall be read shall be chosen by the
High Priest. (Amended May 11, 1976).
7. That the books containing the official key to the ritualistic work shall remain in
possession of the Grand Secretary and shall not be removed from this office. Access to
them may be had by the Grand Lecturer and Committee on Work; but only in the
presence of the Grand Secretary.
10. That a card, business card in size, be prepared and presented to any Royal Arch Mason
who has rendered valuable service, be it in securing new members, education, or any
form of outstanding assistance to the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

MEGHP,

The Special Committee offers the follow Standing Resolution:

Purpose: To establish mutual recognition between the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland and The Most Excellent Hiram Holy Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons (PHA), to establish and promote a continuing harmonious relationship, to provide the right of each Grand Chapter to retain its sovereignty over its own affairs, having the legitimate right of each to continue to exist and operate within the geographical bounds of the State of Maryland, to provide for inter-visitation, and to promote Royal Arch Freemasonry in general.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland and The Most Excellent Hiram Holy Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons (PHA) do mutually agree to the following:

Resolved: That each Grand Chapter extends fraternal recognition to the other, and grants to the other, the rights of visitation.

Resolved: That each of the Grand Chapter will remain autonomous within, and unto itself, operating hereafter as heretofore, each within its own Grand High Priest, Constitution, laws, rules and regulations.

Resolved: This compact, while firmly establishing, as well as guaranteeing, the sovereignty of each Grand Chapter over itself and its members; it is intended to establish a relationship where each will work together to promote Royal Arch Freemasonry, to reside and work together in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love.

Motion to accept by R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK, seconded by R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe and approved unanimously.

MEGHP,

After studying the Proceedings of the previous Annual Grand Convocation, no unfinished business was found.

New Business

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, MEGHP

1. A motion was made to provide \$1000.00 for the preparation of the necessary documents, and celebratory event, by M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP; seconded by R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe. Passed Unanimously
2. A motion was to provide \$2014.00 for the International Supreme Assembly of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, made by R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK; seconded by Ex. Comp. James B. Coker. Passed unanimously.
3. A motion was the provide \$1,000.00 for tickets for one table for workers, with the condition that any proceeds from the various prizes be returned to the Grand Chapter, motion made by Ex. Comp. Carl Michel, PHP; seconded by M.E. Comp. Bennie G. Owens, PGHP. Passed unanimously.
4. The Grand Chapter was asked to consider the pending raise in annual assessment by the General Grand Chapter from \$1.00 to \$3.00. The additional funds are too used mainly for international development. No action required.
5. Ex. Comp. Carl Michel reported that two new DeMolay Chapters were in the process of chartering.
6. A motion was made to support the Annual Conclave by purchasing a full page ad at the cost of \$75.00, made by Ex. Comp. Carl Michel; seconded R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REG Scribe. Passed unanimously
7. A motion was made to adopt the proposed Royal Arch Memorial Service, made by M.E. Comp. Vernon. H. Huebschman, PGHP; Seconded by R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK. Passed unanimously.
8. Awards:

The MEGHP presented the Breast Plate Award to the following Most Excellent High Priests:

Comp. Arthur Gordon, Phoenix Chapter No. 7

Comp. John Greer, Salem Chapter No. 17

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, St. John's Chapter No. 19

Comp. Michael G. Faby, Druid Chapter No. 28

R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK, Piscataway Chapter No. 46

This award was instituted by M.E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.

Other recipients present were Ex. Comps. James B. Coker, Carl Michel, Henry McDonald. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.

9. **Ephraim Kirby Award:** A motion was made that the honorarium be paid by the Grand Chapter, made by Comp. James B. Coker. M.E. Comp. Huebschman explained that the first fifty recipients have also been designated as the Custodian for his jurisdiction, with the responsibility to nominate three additional Companions for 2014; two for 2015; and one thereafter from 2016 on.

REMARKS OF THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND KING

R.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, REGK

I want to thank the Companions for electing me Grand High Priest upcoming. On behalf of The Grand Line and more so myself, want to welcome back Comp. Maclay as a Trustee and welcome to the line Comp. Bill Eppig as REGS-Elect. Congratulations to Comp. Curtis for advancing to REGK. But where my true gratitude is to these two gentlemen on my right and left for their continued service to the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. I appreciate that your work will make my work easier.

The Long Range Plan adopted by this Body will continue to be followed. First, membership is stressed upon by helping Lodges learn about our Chapters by giving a more detail information on the Fervency & Zeal Program, and now the new Peculiar Stone, enlisting a couple of companions to identify those who know the parts in the Fervency & Zeal Program, and find several cast members for each role in the new Program. Both of these short plans are still suitable for presentation in our own Chapters. This might stimulate our Companions to renew and re-inspire them

Back when PGHP Bandell first placed an emphasis on the Fervency & Zeal Program, we had a particular spike in membership. Since then Lodges have had a significant increase in membership as a result of the Grand Lodge's media program, but the Chapters have not yet enjoyed a similar rate of expansion to mirror the Lodges. This is particularly true in some of our most successful Lodges where the incoming Brothers may find it difficult to be as involved in their Lodges because of the increases. As an example, Mt. Ararat could have four full lines of officers from those Raised just last year. Some of these new men, will find their place in other Bodies. I want to be sure that the Royal Arch is there for them, so we don't lose them as Masons, and so we continue to grow.

The other item, this past year every Chapter had to exemplify the Mark Master. To preserve the progress we have made, I will continue to make this the requirement for the coming year so that we maintain the skills we have developed.

Thank you for this opportunity.

CLOSING COMMENTS

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, MEGHP

I want to thank Enoch Chapter No. 23 for hosting or Semi-Annual Convocation. And for the excellent refreshments.

The Ambassador of the General Grand Chapter, M.E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr. brought the fraternal greetings and best wishes of M.E. Comp. Edmund D. Harrison, MEGGHP. Comp. Ted is a very good friend of Maryland Masons, and would have been proud to have present here tonight to witness the excellent fraternalism harmony, and Brotherly Love that has been exhibited here. Most Excellent Sir, we have known each other quite a while, and we have had a lot of laughs together. I would like to publicly congratulate you on the good job you have be doing as Grand High Priest. You have been a champion for Royal Arch Masonry, as well as for the Grand Commandery and the Grand Council. Not only donning the hat in the East as you are right, but in doing everything you can do to promote York Rite Masonry. No one could ask any more of you than all the work you have done over the years in all the roles you have filled and the work you have given over a period. You have had a great Session here tonight. I hope all the Companions can relish and enjoy the happiness in having been here tonight.

M.E. COMP. RICHARD P. NAEGELE, MEGHP

I thank you all for being here this evening. The hour is growing rapidly late, so I am going to ask our newly-elect Grand Scribe-Elect to conduct the Grand Chaplain to the Altar for a closing prayer and a blessing for the refreshments that await us downstairs.

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S CLOSING PRAYER:

Supreme Architect of the Universe, we give you thanks for this meeting this evening, for the fellowship, friendship, and Brotherly Love extended to one another. Bless the food which we will in enjoy in refreshment... the hands that have made it, and let us be mindful of those less fortunate who will not have good food, good friends, good fellowship in a safe place this evening. Watch over us as we travel to our respective homes. Deliver us safe. Be with those who stand in harm's way both here and abroad, return them to their homes quickly and safely as well. We ask this in your holy name. Amen. So mote it be!

M.E. COMP. RICHARD P. NAEGELE, MEGHP

Everyone have safe travels home. I will see you all around the way...

By virtue of the power and authority in me vested as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, and waving all further forms and ceremonies, I now declare this Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland....Closed!

Respectfully submitted,

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP
Grand Secretary / Grand Lecturer

Appendix 1: Grand Chapter Memorial Service

Chapter Memorial Service

Most Excellent High Priest: Friends, Brothers and Companions,

We are assembled as Royal Arch Masons to celebrate the Life of our Companion,
_____ ,
and to extend our condolences to all who knew and loved Him.

As Masons, we know that with the sadness and sorrow of death, there is also a peace in knowing our Companion has passed to a better place of wages, refreshment, and rest.

As we reflect and remember our Companion's work here,
let us turn reverently to God, the Grand Architect of the Universe,
to support and sustain us according to our needs and his Mercy.

Chaplain: Let us pray.

Supreme Architect, Almighty God,
we ask your comforting arms
surround those gathered here in this time of grief.

Aid us in our time of mourning,
and show us the depth of your love
and compassion for your children.

Help us to celebrate the gift of friendship and love
that our departed Companion and friend shared with us,
and strengthen us each day as we continue our journey.
This we ask in your blessed and holy Name. Amen.

Most Excellent High Priest:

Royal Arch Masons learn
that each man must build a temple of his spiritual life
over the span of his years.

The stones with which he builds
are the hours and days he is granted.

Each stone is shaped to fit the moment's needs and the Master's plan,
and each stone is joined in harmony
with his Companions who labor with him.

When his labor is complete
he will carry up his work
to stand the test of the Grand Overseer's Square.

Each stone bears his Mark that prove each piece is his own,
and inspiring him toward his best effort.

As a Royal Arch Mason, our Companion selected his mark
and placed it among the records of his Chapter.

His design was of his own choosing...
personal and meaningful to him alone.

As his Mark was unique and meaningful, so has been his life.

All who knew him shared the joy of seeing the progress of his life, guided by faith
and shaped in fortitude.

As a Royal Arch Mason, he joined all of his Companions
in a pledge to labor industriously and faithfully
in the unending task of erecting his spiritual Temple...
a House worthy of his great Creator.

Our Companion was united with us in the great promise
to build a Good Life, a True Life, a Square Life,
such a Life that would be fitting to lay before the Grand Overseer
as a testament to his fidelity to his promise,
and his perseverance through difficulties and triumphs.

We have every confidence that our Companion sought
in his best moments to live faithfully and labor creditably
for the glory and honor of the Grand Architect.

Our Companion set his Mark upon his days
for all to see the good that he wrought.

Finally, he was reminded that each person is promised
a Penny a day for his labor...
whenever the day's end comes.

Our Companion is beyond the place of toil and burdens,
now to enjoy the wages he has laid up in a life well lived.

As our moment of reflection draws to a close,
let us be inspired by our Companion's example
to labor diligently and to be prepared,
when we at the end of our days,
to carry up our work, to stand our Test,
and to receive the wages of a true and faithful Craftsman.

Chaplain: Let us pray.

Eternal Father, the Great I Am,
with bowed heads and heavy hearts
we ask your grace and mercy upon our departed Companion
and those gathered here.

We give you thanks and praise for the joy and companionship
he gave to us while on his earthly sojourn,
and we await that day when we shall be reunited with him
in your heavenly home.

Bless us and keep us in your love, O Lord.

May your favor shine upon us and be gracious to us.

Lift up your countenance upon us, and grant us your peace. Amen