

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland
Semi-Annual Grand Assembly
PROCEEDINGS



May 16, 2017

Oriental Room Freemason Hal

Cockeysville Maryland



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The MIGM opened the Grand Assembly in Ample Form with all the Line Officers present.
2. The Credentials Committee reported that there were eight Councils represented with twenty voting members present. During the meeting there were five non-voting Companions present.
3. MIPGM's Stephen J. Ponzillo III, Patrick A. Curtis, Ronald L. Aughenbaugh, and James B. Coker were in attendance.
4. The Proceedings for the October 29, 2016 Annual Grand Assembly and April 29, 2017 Special Grand Assembly to confer the TIM Degree were approved without comment.
5. The MIGM gave his report, and announced he would not seek a second term.
6. The Grand Recorder gave his report and the report on the Operating Account which were both accepted.
7. The Grand Treasurer reported on his labors to correct Morgan Stanley's management guidelines for the Grand Council. The interim balance (April 30, 2017) was \$182,211.22
8. A budget suggested by the Grand Recorder was reviewed and amended, and then accepted.
9. The CMMRF Committee reported collecting \$1,120 in its raffle. \$500 will be paid to the name selected, and the balance sent on to CMMRF.
10. All the Council Bylaws amendments received and sent to the Jurisprudence Committee were approved without adverse comment. Councils are to act upon these changes unless and until any defect or conflict is found with the Constitution of this Grand Council.
11. The Report on the Super Excellent Master Degree stated 59 Companions received the SEM Degree.
12. The TIM Degree Proceedings noted that four TIM-Elects received the TIM Degree on April 29, 2017; Gary Kennedy, Enoch; John Mitchell, Hiram; Patrick Spangler, Salem; Dirk Wiker, Harmony.
13. The Time & Place Committee's report was received. The Grand Council will defer the decision on Time & Place to the final decision by the Grand Commandery on May 30, 2017, when further details are supplied by the committee.
14. A final report was presented on the April 27, 2017 Festive Board.
15. The proposed Standing Resolution No. 17 adopted as amended, see page 2
16. Elections for the 2017 – 2018 Grand Council Officers was held, and the following were elected: Robert B. Lumbert, MIGM; Randall L. Watson, RIDGM; Randolph Disney, RIGPCW; Patrick A. Curtis MIPGM, RIG Treasurer; Vernon H. Huebschman, RIG Recorder.

The full Proceedings will be posted to the Grand Council Website when functional again.
This is just a summary of actions taken and notable reports received.

Vernon Huebschman, RIG Secretary



GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF MARYLAND

GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL & SELECT MASTER OF MARYLAND

April 4, 2017

Greetings

On behalf the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, M.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, and the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland, M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine, the Semi-annual Grand Convocation and Semi-annual Grand Assembly are hereby announced. Attendance by all Companions is encouraged, though voting is restricted to members of the respective Grand Bodies. Please encourage all York Rite Masons to attend.

Grand Council:

April 29, 2017:

9:00 AM: The required Law School to be conducted by MIPGM Gordon Davids, prior to the Special Grand Assembly. All candidates for the TIM Degree **MUST** attend.

10:00 AM: Special Grand Assembly for the sole purpose of conferring the TIM Degree, to be held in Freemason Hall, Cockeysville, MD (300 International Circle)

May 16, 2017

Semi-Annual Grand Assembly, 7:30 PM at Freemason Hall, Cockeysville, MD.(300 International Circle)

Agenda: Reception of Reports of Officers and Committees. Final Report on 2015-2016 Financial, Interim 2016 -2017 Report, Budget for 2017 -2018; Time & Place Committee Report for 2018 Grand Assembly location; Elections of 2018 Officers;

Proposed Stand Order concerning the necessary number to Open a Council and conduct Business (Romeo/Huebschman); and such other business as the MIGM may choose to hear.

Grand Chapter

April 29, 2017

11:45 AM: The Grand Lecture will hold the required Law School for all Candidates for the CAHP Degree at Freemason Hall, Cockeysville, Lunch will be provided for those participating, Lunch for others attending is on their own.

1:00 P.M. Excellent President Richard P. Naegle will open the Council of Anointed High Priest for the conferral of the Degree, the election of Officers, and any required installations.

May 23, 2017

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation, 7:30 PM at Odenton Lodge Building (1206 Stehlik Dr., Odenton, MD.)

Agenda: Reception of Reports of Officers and Committees. Final Finance Report on 2015-2016, Interim 2016 -2017 Report, Budget for 2017 -2018; Time & Place Committee Report for 2018 Grand Convocation location; Elections of 2018 Officers. Nominations for D. Ross Vasant Scholarships; and such other business as the MEGHP may choose to hear.

Fraternally,

Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman
Grand Secretary/Recorder

Call letter April 4, 2017 (Continue)

Attachment (as mailed... later amended in discussion and action)

Proposed Standing Resolution (if enacted No. 17)

For the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

“Resolved:

That a constituent Maryland Council may assemble on the occasion of a Stated Assembly with five or more Companions of that Council, and with that as a sufficient number, conduct any normal business of relevant to that Council.

If dispensation is granted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master which includes to permit conduct of business at a Special Assembly, a Council may also conduct its normal business at a Special Assembly, as above, provided due notice is provided for the Special Assembly.

Normal business shall include election of candidates, reading and approving minutes, reception and payment of bills.

Degree work may be conferred if the Council has at least a total of its own members present, and visiting Companions sufficient to meet the ritual requirements for conferral being nine regular Cryptic Masons.”

This Proposed Stand Resolution is moved by:

Comp. Louis P. Romeo, PTIM

Seconded by:

R.I. Comp. Vernon Huebschman, Grand Recorder

Agenda:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Grand Council Opening | MIGM Rafine |
| 2. First Credentials Report | Comp. William Baldwin, GSentinel |
| 3. Reception of MIPGM | MIGM Rafine |
| 4. Proceedings | RI Comp. Huebschman |
| 5. MIGM's Report | MIGM Rafine |
| 6. Grand Recorder's Report | RI Comp. Huebschman |
| 7. Grand Treasurer's Report | MIPGM Curtis |
| 8. Accounts & Finance | RIDGM Lumbert |
| 9. CMMRF | Comp. Romeo |
| 10. Dispensations & Charter | RIDGM Lumbert |
| 11. Doing of Grand Officers | MIPGM Aughenbaugh |
| 12. Fraternal Relations | Comp. Spicer |
| 13. Grievance | MIPGM Ponzillo III |
| 14. Jurisprudent & Constitution | MIPGM Foreman Jr. |
| 15. Long-Range Planning | RIGPCW Watson |
| 16. Membership | TIM Hebbeler |
| 17. Recognition & Awards | TIM Hebbeler |
| 18. Ritual | MIGM Rafine |
| 19. TIM Degree | RI Comp. Huebschman |
| 20. Time & Place 2018 | RIDGM Lumbert |
| 21. Sessions 2017 | RIDGM Lumbert |
| 22. Youth Relations | RIGPCW Watson |
| 23. Electron Media | Comp. Brewer |
| 24. Unfinished Business | RIDGM Lumbert |
| 25. New Business | MIGM Rafine |
| 26. Election of Officers 2017-2018 | MIPGM Ponzillo III |
| 27. Closing Remarks | All Companions |
| 28. Closing | MIGM Rafine |

1. Grand Council Opening**MIGM John A. Rafine**

The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by Most Illustrious Grand Master, M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine with the following Officers in their respective place and stations:

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine	Grand Master
R.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert	Deputy Grand Master
R.I. Comp. Randall L. Watson	Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
R.I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman	Grand Recorder
M.I. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis	Grand Treasurer
M.I. Comp. James B. Coker	Grand Chaplain Proem
Comp. Randolph S. Disney	Grand Captain of the Guard
Comp. Alex A. Rodriguez	Grand Conduction of the Council
Comp. W. Michael Boughman	Grand Marshal
Comp. Kris D. Brown	Grand Steward
Comp. William J. Baldwin, Jr.	Grand Sentinel
Comp. John L. Thomas	Grand Lecturer Emeritus (Absent)
Comp. Jeffrey C. Ament	Grand Lecturer (Absent)
Comp. Alex A. Rodriguez	Deputy Grand Lecturer
Comp. John M. Greer	Deputy Grand Lecturer (Absent)

Pledge of Allegiance lead by MI Comp. Rafine, MIGM**Opening Prayer by MI Comp. James B. Coker, MIPGM**

Let us pray! Almighty and ever-living God, we give Thee thanks for this day and for all the beauty in it. We ask Your blessing on this Grand Council and our Most Illustrious Grand Master. May you give him wisdom to lead, strength to endure, and courage. May the blessings of Heaven rest upon us, and all Regular Masons. May Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen. So mote it be!

2. Preliminary Credentials Report**Comp. William J. Baldwin, Gr Sentinel**

Number of Councils Present	Eight (8)
Number of Voting Members	Twenty (20)
Number of Non-Voting Members	Five (5)

The MIGM acknowledged the presence of a quorum, and welcomed all for being present.

3. Reception of MIPGM's**MIGM John A. Rafine**

The Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters of this Grand Council were invited to present themselves west of the Altar. Those present were:

MIPGM Stephen J. Ponzillo III	1983
MIPGM Patrick A. Curtis	2002
MIPGM Ronald L. Aughenbaugh	2010 – 2011
MIPGM James B. Coker	2012 – 2013

Grand Honors were led by MIGM Rafine.

The MIGM greeted our MIPGM's.

Since our 2016 Annual Grand Assembly, the following MIPGM's have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above:

MIPGM Carl J. Wisner	1974
MIPGM Luther "Buddy" Bell	1991
MIPGM Robert H. McWilliams	1999

A moment of silence was observed for our MIPGM's.

The response for the MIPGM's was given by M.I. Comp. Stephen J. Ponzillo III in the Closing Remarks.

4. Proceedings**R.I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, GRec**

As the Grand Council website was not available for the posting of the Proceedings of the 2016 Annual Grand Assembly, a copy of the Proceedings as compiled by MIPGM Richard P. Naegele, Grand Recorder, was supplied as an attachment to the Agenda and distributed to all attending.

The Proceedings of a Special Grand Assembly called by MIGM Rafine held on April 29, 2017 for the purpose of conferring the TIM Degree were similarly attached. These are shown below.

A Motion was made to accept both Proceedings by

*Special Grand Assembly
April 29, 2017 10:00 a.m.
Gothic Room, Freemason Hall
Cockeysville, Maryland*

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Comp. John A. Rafine, opened a Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland in Ample Form. Due notice had been provided to the permanent members and members for the time being in the call letter for the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly sent of March 1, 2017. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer, MIGM Rafine declared the



Grand Council open for the sole purpose of conferring the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree, and directed the Officers of the Thrice Illustrious Masters Council to take their respective places for the conferral of that Degree. The officers processed into the Assembly Room and took the following places:

R.I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, RIGSec	Thrice Illustrious Master
R.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, RIDGM	Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden
III. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas, PTIM	Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden
M.I. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM	Thrice Illustrious Grand Steward
M.I. Comp. Gordon A. Davids, MIPGM	King David

The Candidates for the Degree had earlier attended the Grand Council Law School conducted by Past Grand Lecturer, MIPGM Gordon A. Davids. The Candidates were permitted to observe the opening of the TIM Council, as allowed in the ritual. The Candidates were:

Comp. John P. Mitchell, TIM-Elect	Hiram Council No. 5 R&SM, Cockeysville, MD
Comp. Gary Kennedy, TIM-Elect	Enoch Council No. 10 R&SM, Frederick, MD
Comp. Patrick Stangler, TIM-Elect	Salem Council No. 11 R&SM, Cumberland, MD
Comp. S. Dirk Wiker, TIM-Elect	Harmony Council No. 20, Annapolis, MD

The Degree was opened in Full Form, and in an excellent manner. Following the conferral, the TIM introduced the cast which received the thanks of the Candidates and the Companions present. The MIGM expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the cast, especially the very challenging parts rendered by MIPGM Curtis and MIPGM Davids. After the remarks were concluded, the TIM closed the TIM Council. MIGM Rafine the closed the Special Grand Assembly at 11:15 a.m. in Ample Form.

Respectfully and Zealously,

R. I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman
Grand Recorder.

The Proceedings of the 2016 Annual Grand Assembly were printed as received from MIPGM Naegele, and presented to each attendee with the agenda. RI Comp. Huebschman moved the adoption of the 2016 Proceedings together with the Proceedings of the Special Grand Assembly; seconded by MIPGM Curtis. Passed unanimously. The website has not been available up to this point. When available again the Proceeding will be posted there.

5. Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

MIGM John A. Rafine

142nd Semi-Annual Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master May 16, 2017

Most Worshipful Grand Master Vourvoulas, Right Puissant Assistant Deputy General Grand Master McCollum, Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters, Thrice Illustrious Masters, and Companions, welcome to the 142nd Semi-Annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland.



There were several challenges to overcome at the beginning of my term. A new Recorder and Treasurer were elected, and the transition still has not been completed. Our Grand Treasurer, Most Illustrious Past Grand Master Curtis, experienced considerable difficulty obtaining the delivery of our monthly account statements. Our Grand Recorder, Right Illustrious Vernon Huebschman, has been dealing with some health issues, and was contemplating resigning from office. Thankfully, his doctors have successfully been able to relieve the chronic pain he was experiencing, and although still mending, his health has improved to the point that he feels he will be able to continue his duties as Grand Recorder.

Companion Jeff Ament, informed me that he was unable to continue to serve as Grand Lecturer. We will miss his services. Most Illustrious Past Grand Master Gordon Davids volunteered to conduct the law school this year, and we appreciate his continued devotion to the Grand Council and Maryland Masonry.

In-State Activity

To date, the Grand Council has visited the following Councils:

- Concordia #1
- Jerusalem #2
- Hiram # 5
- Enoch # 10
- Salem # 11
- King Solomon # 13
- Harmony # 20
- Acacia # 24

A joint visitation of the Eastern Shore Councils, namely, Jeshua # 8, Zebu # 9, Giblim # 12, and Adoniram # 21 was held on May 10 at Jeshua # 8.

Palestine # 16 will be visited on June 5, and Carroll # 7 in September. York # 23 and Samuel Clemmons # 25 have not scheduled their Grand Visitation.

On May 9th, MIPGM James Coker, RIGR Vernon Huebschman, IGSent Kris Brown, and myself had the honor of installing the officers of Jerusalem Council #2. We have been asked to install the officers of Enoch Council # 10, King Solomon Council # 13 and Hiram Council # 5 and are looking forward to these events.

I have been pleased with the number of Council members present; however, the numbers of Grand Council officers attending has been less than desirable. We need our officers to honor their Grand Council commitments, and I have been less than successful accomplishing that.

Around the state, many Councils are performing their own degree work, with minimal, if any assistance from other Councils. Fantastic! Some Councils are taking in substantial numbers of candidates. Unfortunately, they are not returning to their Council. I have discussed some ideas with their Thrice Illustrious Master, and plans are underway to increase the number attending regular meetings.

The conferral of the Super Excellent Master Degree at the Scottish Rite Temple was a very rewarding experience. Sixty-Six Companions received this degree and seven new companions received their Royal and Select Master degrees that morning. Again, thanks to Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Companion Randall Watson, for managing this event.

The Grand Council Festive Board held on April 27th was very successful. This event sold out within two weeks after ticket sales started. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun! Thanks to John Mitchell for his hard work with this event, Hiram Council #5 for hosting the event, and to all Companions attending this event. Dr. S. Brent Morris gave a most –informative talk about the High Degrees of Masonry, and all attending had a fantastic time.

The Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master was conferred upon four Companions on Saturday, April 9, 2017. Congratulations to Companions Gary Kennedy (Enoch # 10), John Mitchell (Hiram # 5), Patrick Spangler (Salem # 11), and Dirk Wiker (Harmony # 20). All four Companions were certified proficient in the Royal and Select Master degrees, and opening and closing a Council. Would those four please stand for recognition.

Out-of-State Activity

To date, I have attended Grand Council Assemblies in Delaware, Washington, D.C., New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Health issues have restricted me from air transportation and prolonged travel by auto. I plan to attend additional States if able. Regrets have been sent to each State I could not personally attend, and Right Illustrious Grand Master Robert Lumbert represented me at Rhode Island.

All states share the same concerns - lack of attendance, membership, lack of communication and increased costs among others. All states are addressing these concerns, and the comradery that exists in the North East enables the opportunity to discuss common concerns and possible solutions.

Website

The information superhighway has potholes and needs repair. We have not been successful with keeping our website updated. Changes are not being made timely, if at all, and is causing the delayed or non-receipt of information. A committee is being formed to resolve this problem. Our current webmaster, Companion Arthur Hebbeler, is experiencing health challenges, and informed us that he is resigning as webmaster. Eric Giesbrecht, a relative of Pat Curtis has agreed to serve as webmaster for the Grand Chapter and Grand Council websites, and we appreciate his assistance. We will get Eric started on this activity immediately. The webmaster cannot post changes to the website if he does not know about them, so all Councils need to provide the Grand Council with information for posting to our website.

Status of Initiatives

Further discussions with the newly-elected Right Puissant Grand Master of PA have renewed my hopes of restarting our tradition of meeting with the Grand Council of PA and holding a joint conferral of the Council degrees. While this will not happen until later this year, both PA and MD are interested in restarting this annual event.

Work has started on the Louis F. Bandell, Jr. Ritual Award I proposed. A draft of the plan has been submitted to me. I learned that there is another award, a monetary award that was left by his estate, and is not to be confused with this award.

Charitable Contributions

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation continues to be our primary charity. I was privileged to award three plaques to Concordia Council #1, Jerusalem Council, #2 and Carroll Council # 7. Companion Lou Romeo works zealously to raise funds for CMMRF, and Maryland is in the middle of the State rankings this year. A raffle was created to raise money for the foundation, and we are going to draw the winning ticket at this time.

The Grand Council was invited to attend the fourth annual open Masonic Meeting at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Money is being raised to improve the outside garden area, install a shade structure, provide wheelchair-friendly picnic tables, rubber surfacing on the grounds area, and a canopy swing.

Although I did not personally attend, the Grand Council donated \$100 towards this most-worthy project.

Awards

The Grand Council is lacking a list of award recipients, and minutes of our assemblies are difficult to obtain. As such, we are not able to easily identify the pool of Companions eligible for awards. I would like any Council having a worthy candidate for a Council award notify me ASAP and provide me with a narrative containing the basis for making your nomination. I will work with the awards committee and Grand Recorder to get these awards processed timely so they can be presented at the Annual Assembly.

Term of Office

Unfortunately, personal health concerns along with mobility issues persist and are limiting my ability to perform the physical demands of my position. Rather than negatively affect the Grand Council, I have made the difficult decision to only complete one year as Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Respectfully submitted,

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine, MIGM

A motion was made to accept this report was made by Comp. Randall Watson RIGPCW; seconded by Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM Passed unanimously.

6 Report of the Grand Recorder

RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

MIGM,

Transition

Thank you for your patience during my return to the Southeast Corner. While being a Masonic secretary has a lot of generic similarities, it is taking a while to become accustomed to the particulars of the Grand Council again.

Operating Account: M&T Bank

The MIGM and I visited the Dundalk Branch of M&T Bank to put the signature authority into his hands and mine. We also re-established contact with the M&T website which provides instant access to the disposition of deposits, checks written, and the bank statements going back to the establishment of the Operating Fund Account.

To facilitate the management of the Operating Account, which is the only account which can pay the financial obligations of the Grand Council, the MIGM has modified the signature authority practiced by the Grand Council Officers. The Grand Recorder may issue check checks up to and including \$500.00 under his single signature. Checks greater than \$500.00 require two signatures.

The entire statement history of the M&T Operating Account has been entered into QUICKEN which is a well-known account management program. The records of 2016 and 2017 to date have been reconciled using Quicken, providing definitive proof of accuracy of calculations, and a tool for the analysis of spending by the accounts established in the approved Annual Budget.

Please see the attached exhibits for the specifics of the 2015 – 2016 Annual Operating Report and the Interim 2016 – to date Operating Report.

General Grand Council

MIPGM Richard Naegle submitted the 2016 Annual Report to the General Grand Chapter, per the data supplied in the 2016 Annual Council Reports submitted and reported to the 2016 Annual Grand Council Assembly. There has been no communications received from their offices during my tenure.

IRS

The Grand Council has successfully submitted the IRS 990n Form for 2017. All Councils are reminded that the Recorder must file this report annually by computer to the IRS. The report requires the name and contact information of the presiding officer and the Recorder. There is a required affirmation that the Council has not received more than \$50,000 in revenue in the past year, and is still in operation. The Recorder must print a confirmation copy of the filing, which will later be attached to Annual Council Report. This procedure mirrors that adopted in Grand Chapter in 2016, and was 100% successful.

Council Locations

Two Councils have been forced to change the location of their Regular Assemblies. King Solomon Council No. 13 was displaced from Rockville the unilateral action of the host Lodge, and is presently operating in Perseverance Lodge in Germantown by dispensation of the MIGM until action taken by this Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. Similarly, Palestine Council No. 16 was displaced by the sales of the Masonic Temple in Hagerstown and is operating under the dispensation of the MIGM until a permanent location can be found.

Annual Reports

Council Recorders will note that the 2017 Annual Reports will be made to closely parallel the 2017 Chapter Reports, which should be useful for those Recorders who do double-duty on the Chapter side.

I respectfully request that Councils (and Chapters) complete their annual reports over the Summer months and get them to me as early as possible. The closing date of the annual report is officially August 31st, and are due to the Grand Recorder not later than October 1st. With the joining of the roles of Grand Secretary in Grand Chapter with that of Grand Recorder in Grand Council, that means that the 19 Chapter reports and the 15 Councils reports hit at the same time...assuming everyone adheres to the stated schedule. Thirty-Four annual report as impossible to review, correct as needed, and post into the now unified Grand Chapter Grand Council Database. The next task is to use this data to produce Dues Card for the same 34 bodies by their respective annual meetings. This work is combined with the general preparations for two annual meetings by the same person serving two grand presiding officers.

To relieve this situation, I ask that the secretaries and recorder complete their annual reports as soon as possible after their last spring meeting so that all new Companions will be entered on the report with their contact information (including Grand Lodge Membership Numbers), along with all deaths, NPD's and demits know to that time. We can always pick up summer deaths in the next annual report. I cannot produce your Council's dues cards until the information on membership status is in the database. Please consider cooperating with this request.

Grand Council Liability Insurance

The Grand Council devised a formula to spread the responsibility as equitably as possible among the 15 Councils and the Grand Council. The Grand Council pays a larger portion of total premium, while each Council pays on a per capita basis. MIPGM Naegele sent a mailing to each Council invoicing it for its per capita participation. All Councils have made their contributions at this time. The Premium was increased because of the relocation of King Solomon Council No. 13 based on different site conditions. The Grand Council paid this adjustment for 2017 only. The 2018 premium will be partitioned as was the 2017 premium.

MIGM, thank you for cooperation in helping me transition back these duties and your consideration of my recent health issues. While I was original not inclined to continue trying to serve both the Grand Chapter and the Grand Council as their administrative secretary, I am willing to give this situation the balance of this York Rite year, and will commit to serving in 2018 if the Companions would like me to continue. If however there is another Companion who the Grand Council would care to elect, I will support him and help in yet another transition.

Respectfully,
R.I Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

I move the adoption of this report, and that it be spread upon the Proceeding of this Grand Assembly. Seconded by MIGM Curtis, and passed unanimously.

7 Report of the Grand Treasurer

M.I. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis

MIGM,

I want to thank the members of this body for electing me to serve as their Grand Treasurer. The first half (October 2016 – April 2017) of this term has been an enlightening experience for me. I am still working on learning all the ins and outs of how to read the monthly statements provided by Morgan Stanley to me and the Grand Recorder.

Companions, we are apparently recovering quite well from the events of two years ago when our stocks were suffering from the economic conditions prevalent at that time. I am pleased to report that our well-diversified investments (Cash, Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds) have recovered quite well, resulting in a significant increase this reporting period. With the wise investments made by those who served before me, I am able to report, during the past six months, our total investments at Morgan Stanley have grown by Ten Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty-nine dollars and eighty-three cents (\$10,089.83), giving us a total of One Hundred Eighty-two Thousand, Two Hundred and Eleven Dollars and Twenty-two cents (\$182,211.22).

The Grand Recorder has requested a withdrawal of Eight Thousand (\$8,000.00) to be transferred into the Operating Fund. Having sufficient funds in the account at Morgan Stanley, I concur with his request.

Although I am new to the position of Grand Treasurer for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland, I am willing to serve another year should the Companions see fit to elect me for another term.

Respectfully,

M.I. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM

I move the adoption of this report, and that it be spread upon the Proceedings of this Grand Assembly; Seconded by R.I. Comp. Randall L. Watson, and passed unanimously.

8 Accounts & Finance**R.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert**

MIGM,

The Grand Recorder has suggested a budget which I have reviewed.

Fraternally submitted,

The Grand Recorder suggested a brief discussion of the budget he suggested based on the prior year's Operating Budget. An addition of \$500 was made to provide funding for a Festive Board in the next year which was accepted, and offset with an additional transfer of \$500.

A motion was made by the Grand Recorder to accept the Budget as amended, seconded by MIPGM Ronald L. Aughenbaugh, and passed unanimously. The budget is appended to this report.

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

Adopted Budget for 2017 - 2018

2017 -2018
**November 1-
October 31**

		Income	
	Per Capita (1235) @ \$5 Md + \$2.50		
A	GG		\$9,300.00
B	New Companions (60) @ \$10.00		\$600.00
C	Interest/Dividends		\$900.00
D	Miscellaneous		\$200.00
E	Transfer from Investment		\$5,950.00
F	Ritual		\$50.00
G	Raffle		
H	SEM		
I	Insurance		\$1,500.00
	Total		\$18,500.00

		Expenses	
1	Grand Recorder Expenses		\$1,200.00
2	Grand Lecturer Expenses		\$100.00
3	Grand Treasurer Expenses		\$200.00
4	Grand Sentinel Gratuity	\$	50.00
5	Grand Organist Gratuity		0
6	Officers' Travel Expenses		\$3,200.00
7	Per Capita General Grand		\$3,100.00
8	Office Expenses		\$850.00
9	Annual Proceedings & Postage		\$600.00
10	Flowers & Memorials		\$100.00
11	Sessions Expenses		\$1,600.00
12	Grand Master's Apron & Case		\$500.00
13	Triennial Expenses	\$	-
14	CMMRF		

15	Printing/Dues Cards		\$250.00
16	Equipment Purchase	\$	200.00
17	Bonnie Blink Church Service	\$	-
18	Awards & Recognition		\$200.00
19	Membership/Degree Teams		\$350.00
20	Youth Group/Hershey Trip		\$500.00
21	Web Site		\$500.00
22	Miscellaneous		\$100.00
23	SEM Degree		
24	Insurance		\$3,400.00
25	Anniversary		\$1,000.00
26	Festive Board		\$500.00
Total			\$18,500.00

9 CMMRF**Comp. Louis P. Romeo, Jr.**

As CMMRF Chairman for the Grand Council, we have had a good turnout for our current raffle. We have collected over \$900 so far. If you haven't gotten your ticket for the drawing yet, there is still time to get your ticket for a chance for the \$500.00 drawing, which will happen during this Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. All money besides the \$500.0 will go to support our Charity for Cryptic Masons Medical Research fund which is looking for cures in the fields of Diabetes, Heart, COPD, and many other related issues.

Fraternally submitted,

Comp. Louis P. Romeo, Jr.

And I move the adoption of this report, seconded by RI Comp. Watson and Passed unanimously.

The drawing was then ordered by the MIGM, and the winning ticket was purchased by Mr. Lupus Campbell, a prize amount of \$500.00 was made. A total of \$620 was raised for the benefit of CMMRF.

Also, Comp. James King reported that Enoch Council has voted to contribute \$5.00 per member to CMMRF, in honor of the service of MIGM Rafine.

10 Dispensations & Charters**R.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert**

There are no issues to be considered at this time.

11 Doings of Grand OfficersMIPGM Ronald L. Aughenbaugh
Amended by MIGM John A. Rafine

Most Illustrious Grand Master

In order to have a successful year, it is always encouraging and necessary that your Grand Officers are ready and willing to help and join you in your programs. To that end, we wish to thank Randy Watson for his leadership in correlating the Super Excellence Master's Degree (SEM) held at the Scottish Rite Temple. Bob Lumbert in making several out of state Grand Visitations (NJ, DE, RI & PA) on your behalf, playing Zedekiah in the drama in the SEM Degree, and Grand visitation to Cumberland & Denton. Thanks to Randy Disney in representing you at the International Assembly of Rainbow Girls, being the TIM in the SEM Degree, and conferring the Royal Master Degree at Grand Visitation at Harmony Council #20. Other officers noted who were a great help was John Mitchell who pulled together the Festive Board (Table Lodge-outstanding food) and he and the MIGM did the set-up. We want to thank Lou Romeo for the handling the ticket sales for the raffle. Also listed below are the travels and meeting of our MIGM.

And thanks goes to those other members who supported and attended this year's programs.

I thank the MIGM for the opportunity to sever this Grand Body.

Sincerely;

Ronald L Aughenbaugh, MIPGM Chairman

MIGM's Schedule

11/18/16	Attended Grand Master's banquet
11/19/16	Attended Grand Lodge of MD Annual Communication
11/29/17	Visited Jerusalem Council # 5
12/03/16	Represented the Grand Council at Palestine Commandery # 7's Christmas Observance
12/08/16	Represented the Grand Council at the Druid/Hiram Festive Board
12/14/16	Represented the Grand Council at Jacques DeMolay Commandery # 4's Christmas Observance
12/15/16	Attended Hiram Council degree conferrals
12/16/16	Represented the Grand Council at the Druid, Hiram, Monumental holiday event
12/18/16	Attended the York Rite Religious Service at Bonnie Blink
12/20/16	Represented the Grand Council at Carroll Commandery # 17's Christmas Observance
1/20/17	Grand Council Visitation with Concordia # 1 and Acacia # 24
2/13/17	Grand Visitation to Harmony Council # 20
2/20/17	Super Excellent Master Degree practice
2/22/17	Grand Council visitation to King Solomon # 13
2/23-25/17	Attended New Jersey Grand Council Sessions
2/26/17	Super Excellent Master Rehearsal
2/28/17	Grand Council Grand visitation to Jerusalem Council #2
3/08/17	Super Excellent Master degree rehearsal
3/10-11/17	Attend Delaware Grand Council Grand Sessions
3/13/17	Degree exemplification – Enoch Council # 10
3/17/17	Attended Wash. DC Grand York Rite Sessions
3/20/17	Super Excellent Master degree rehearsal
3/23/17	Grand Council Grand visitation to Hiram Council # 5
3/24/17	Super Excellent Master degree rehearsal
3/25/17	Degree conferrals R&SM degrees and Super Excellent Master Degree
3/28/17	Visited Enoch Council # 10
4/18/17	Grand Council Grand Visitation to Salem Council # 11
4/24-25/17	Attended PA Grand York Rite Grand Sessions
4/27/17	Grand Council Festive Board
4/29/17	Thrice Illustrious Master Degree



5/09/17 Installed Jerusalem Council # 2 officers
5/10/17 Joint Grand Visitation with Eastern Shore Councils
Jeshua # 8, Zabud # 9, Giblym # 12, Adoniram # 21

MIPGM moved the report as submitted, seconded by MIPGM Ponzillo, and passed unanimously.

12 Fraternal Relations Committee

Comp. Frederick A. Spicer

MIGM,

Having not heard from any of our Grand Representatives near our sister Jurisdictions, or from any of our Sister Jurisdictions directly, and apply the adage "No news is good news." I am proclaiming our fraternal relations good.

Fraternal submitted,

Comp. Fred Spicer,

And move the adoption of this report. Seconded by and passed unanimously

13 Committee on Grievance

MIPGM Stephen J. Ponzillo III

This Committee has not received any communication to date that indicates any action needed for the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Grand Council in this regard.

14 Jurisprudence and Constitution

MIPGM Edward A. Foreman Jr.

No report was submitted by the Chairman.

Several Councils submitted amendment or replacements for their Bylaws. Concordia No. 1; Hiram, Enoch. Absent any negative report the Councils may consider the changes as approved. If at any future period a conflict between the Council's Bylaws and the Constitution, the Council will adhere to the Constitution for guidance.

King Solomon Council was forced to abandon its long home in Rockville and move with permission to Germantown, operating under the Dispensation of the MIGM. The Grand Council voted to confirm this action and to make the location now permanent. Similarly, Palestine Council has been displaced from the Masonic Temple in Hagerstown, and now operates under the MIGM Dispensation until a permanent home is found. Finally, Samuel Clemens Council has voted to move to Palestine Lodge in Catonsville. And will be dealt with at the Annual Assembly.

A motion was made to approve the above actions passed unanimously.

The Proposed Standing Order, later adopted as No. 17, was discussed and amended to remove the last paragraph referring to the conferral of Degrees, and to correct certain typographical errors, and then adopted unanimously.

15 Long Range Planning Committee

RI Comp. Randal Watson

No report submitted for the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly.

17 Membership

TIM Arthur Hebbeler

No report submitted for the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly.

18 Recognition and Awards**TIM Arthur Hebbeler**

No report submitted for the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly.

19 Ritual**Various**

The Ritual Committee is working on a Ritual Competition in the spirit of the suggestion made by our late Companion Louis F. Bandell Jr. Details will be presented at the Annual Convocation.

Report on Super Excellent Master Degree Conferral**May 16, 2017**

MIGM,

The Grand Council provided the Conferral of the Super Excellent Master Degree on Saturday, March 25th at the Scottish Rite Temple in Baltimore. The Royal Master and Select Master Degrees were conferred in the morning, with the SEM conferred after lunch.

Thirty-four Companions participated. Some did up to four parts in the various scenes. The list of cast members is attached below. Howard Roe and Mike Boughman staffed the Robing Room, and Fred Spicer was prompter.

There were 59 candidates in attendance. The list is attached below.

Lunch was provided by Gleaner Chapter of the Eastern Star with assistance from Charity Rainbow Assembly in Cockeysville, George Fleming Moore Chapter of DeMolay in Cockeysville and Job's Daughters Bethel #46 in Towson. Sixty-eight lunch tickets were turned in at \$15 each.

I thank you and all the Companions who assisted for your support.

Fraternally,

Randall L. Watson, RIGPCW
Chairman

**Super Excellent Master Degree Cast by Scene
March 25, 2017**

Part	Person	Scene
Royal Master Degree		
TIM	Art Hebbeler	RM
DIM:	John Rafine	RM
PCW:	Joe White	RM
CoC:	Dennis Ewing	RM

CGd:	John Mitchell	RM
Stew:	Bob Lumbert	RM
Marsh:	Kris Brown	RM
Furniture:	Bill Hare	RM
Select Master Degree		
TIM:	John Mitchell	SM
DIM:	John Rafine	SM
PCW:	Joe White	SM
CoC:	Dennis Ewing	SM
CGd:	Bob Lumbert	SM
Stew:	Art Hebbeler	SM
Marsh:	Kris Brown	SM
History:	John Mitchell	SM
Charge:	Bill Hare	SM
SEM Scene 1		
MIGM	John Rafine	1
Illustrious Master	Randy Disney	1
Conductor of the Council	Austin Fogle	1
Recorder	Kris Brown	1
Prologues	John Rafine	1
SEM Scene 2		
King Zedekiah	Robert Lumbert	2
Gedeliah , Prince	Chuck Ridgeway	2
Pashur, Counselor	Randy Watson	2
Zephaniah, Counselor	Art Hebbeler	2
Jeremiah, Prophet	Pat Curtis	2
Seraiah, High Priest	Michael Boughman	2
Keeper 1	Bill Hare	2
Keeper 2	Alex Rodriguez	2
Keeper 3	Patrick Stangler	2
Guard 1	Alan P. Smith	2
Guard 2	Barry Noe	2
Guard 3	Don Cilento	2
Guard 4	Edsel Spellman	2
Herald	John Austin	2
Councilor	Jeffrey Alderdice	2

SEM Scene 3		
Illustrious Master	Randy Disney	3
Square	Cameron Newman	3
Triangle	Dennis Ewing	3
Circle	Alex Rodriguez	3
Prologue	John Rafine	3
SEM Scene 4		
King Nebuchadnezzar	Michael Faby	4
Nebuzaradan	Patrick Stangler	4
King Zedekiah	Robert Lumbert	4
Sissinna, Capt Gd	Austin Fogle	4
Artaban, Lt Gd	Greg Smith	4
Satrap of Province 1	Mark Pearlstein	4
Satrap of Province 2	Kris Brown	4
Satrap of Province 3	Tom Marraffa	4
Satrap of Province 4	Tom Heimiller	4
Guard 1	Alan P. Smith	4
Guard 2	Barry Noe	4
Guard 3	Don Cilento	4
Guard 4	George Sherman	4
Soldier 1	Jeffrey Alderdice	4
Soldier 2	Jeff Ament	4
Soldier 3	Samuel Lane	4
Soldier 4	Charles Taylor	4
Sentry	Edsel Spellman	4
Sentinel	Jeffrey Alderdice	4
SEM Scene 5		
Illustrious Master	Randy Disney	5
Prologue	John Rafine	5
SEM Scene 6		
Ezekiel	Art Hebbeler	6
Courier	Cameron Newman	6
Companions	Alan P. Smith	6
Companions	Bill Hare	6
Companions	Alex Rodriguez	6

Companions	Barry Noe	6
Companions	Michael Boughman	6
Companions	John Austin	6
Companions	Tom Marraffa	6
Companions	Austin Fogle	6
Companions	Greg Smith	6
Companions	Patrick Stangler	6
SEM Scene 7		
Lecture	Randy Disney	7
MIGM	John Rafine	7
Prompter	Fred Spicer	All

Super Excellent Master Candidates
March 25, 2017

Jeffrey	Alderdice	King Solomon	13
Miguel P.	Banagan, Jr.	York	23
Ryan	Berman	Hiram	5
Glynn	Bridge	Giblim	12
Ronald E.	Brown, Jr.	Salem	11
Darius	Butler	Samuel Clemens	25
Robert	Caldwell	Giblim	12
George	Christoff	Hiram	5
Ronald	Cool	Enoch	10
Irvin J.	Crowl, Jr.	Hiram	5
Raymond	Dore	Giblim	12
Kevin	Drabczyk	Enoch	10
Pete	Evans	Giblim	12
Richard G.	Feeser	Giblim	12
Matthew	Ficca	Harmony	20
Austin	Fogle	Enoch	10
Matt	Frye	Harmony	20
Jeffrey M.	Grogg	Salem	11
Robert	Hansen	Hiram	5
George	Hansrote	Salem	11
James R.	Hedges	Carroll	7
Seth	Howard	Harmony	20

Charlton	Howard, III	King Solomon	13
Valdez	Jenkins	Harmony	20
Greg	Jones	Hiram	5
Samuel J.	Lane	Salem	11
Scott	Lapp	Hiram	5
Jonathan	Law	Hiram	5
L. Randal	Loy	Enoch	10
Dennis	Lucas	Harmony	20
Christopher	Luciano	Hiram	5
James	Massey	Giblum	12
Ian	McIntosh	King Solomon	13
Jarrett	Messina	Hiram	5
John	Mitchell	Hiram	5
Cameron	Newman	Hiram	5
Barry	Noe	Jerusalem	2
Phillip	Oneschuk	Giblum	12
David	Peters	Adoniram-Zabud	2
Robert J.	Purnell, Jr.	Giblum	12
Steven	Reall	Hiram	5
Ashok	Reddy	King Solomon	13
David	Rehmeyer	Hiram	5
Bryan	Remley	King Solomon	13
Robert	Reynolds	Hiram	5
Jack	Richard	James F Allen	33
George	Sherman	Jerusalem	2
L. Keith	Slemp	Harmony	20
Greg	Smith	Hiram	5
Edsel	Spellman	Hiram	5
Malcolm	Steigerwald	Hiram	5
David	Tallant	Enoch	10
Arthur	Tawes	Giblum	12
James Bradley	Thomas	Jerusalem	2
Chad	Vaughn	Hiram	5
R. Joseph	White	Palestine	16
Franklin "Crabby"	Williams	Giblum	12
Michael	Youse	Giblum	12
Bernhard	Zinkgraf	Hiram	5

20 TIM Degree

MI Comp. John A. Rafine

(Proceeding for Special Grand Assembly are included above)

Companions,

Illustrious Grand Lecturer Jeff Ament announced that he was unable to continue to serve as Grand Lecturer for the Grand Council of Maryland. Companion Ament is a great ritualist and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

Most illustrious Past Grand Master Gordon Davids conducted the Grand Council law school on Saturday, April 29, 2017 and the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree was conferred on the same date upon the following four candidates:

Comp. Gary Kennedy
Comp. John Mitchell
Comp. Patrick Spangler
Comp. Dirk Wiker

We thank the following Companions for an excellent conferral:

RIGR Vernon Huebschman
RIDGM Robert Lumbert
Companion Spyridon Treklas
MIPGM Gordon Davids

Respectfully Submitted,
John Rafine
Most Illustrious Grand Master

21 Time & Place 2018

RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

MIGM,

MIGM,

The official report will be presented in written form later. R.E. Comp. Bill Eppig, REGK of the Grand Chapter, is taking the lead in the search for a location for the 2018 Annual York Rite Sessions. The committee did meet, and we did have a preferred site, but Comp. Eppig wanted to see if one site would reduce its food prices and to see what our Westminster location would offer for 2018. I have not heard anything more as of this time. Comp. Eppig states that a report will be available for this Grand Assembly. (see below)

Fraternally,
R.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, RIDGM



Information provided by RE Comp. William C. Eppig, Grand King:

Annual Session Dates: Friday, October 27rd and Saturday, October 28th, 2017.

Proposed Location: Baltimore Area

Potential Hotels:

- Radisson North Baltimore- 2004 Greenspring Dr. Timonium -
www.radisson.com/Timonium/Maryland
- Colony South – 7401 Surratts Rd. Clinton, Md.
www.colonysouth.com

The Radisson

Rooms: All rooms are \$101.00 per night + 14% tax = \$115.14 per night

75 room-nights guaranteed

Meeting Room: \$500 charge per day + 14% tax and 6% set up charge = \$635

May be less, as charge will be based on sliding scale on number of rooms booked

Microphone and Podium will cost \$110 for the weekend

Hospitality Room: No charge

Onsite Catering: Meals from \$20 to \$45 per person

Hotel “Atmosphere” Items: Conveniently located near the MTA Light Rail, the hotel offers easy access to the most popular Baltimore attractions. With a full range of meeting and event services, including audiovisual equipment, on-site catering and free Wi-Fi, the Radisson North Baltimore is the ideal location for your catered events and meetings.

The Colony South

Rooms: \$99.00 - \$101 +13% tax per night \$111.87 – 114.13

Meeting Room: \$3200 Lunch & \$6,400 Banquet meals get room free

(Need to check charge if not met)

Hospitality Suite: No charge

Meals: \$ 20 to \$55 per person

Hotel “Atmosphere” Items: Located in Clinton Maryland, leisure travelers with an impeccable blend of traditional style and contemporary lifestyle amenities. Whether you are visiting for a family vacation or a



business meeting, our Washington, DC area hotel is a welcoming retreat for relaxing, working, connecting and dining near America's capital city.

Hospitality Room

Due to law changes, both hotels would normally not allow alcohol to be brought in for the hospitality room and would charge for them to provide. They have agreed to allow us to provide our own, as long as it is brought in by a side door and concealed.

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.

Notes

We also looked into the Best Western again, but they have not sent us anything on numerous request (Should look at last year number for comparison.) I do not have that information.

I would like to thank Comp. Robert England for visiting and talking with over 10 hotels in different area of Maryland for this committee. Many of the hotels visited could not hold our numbers or were cost prohibited.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Eppig, REGK

Motion made by RI Comp. Randall L. Watson to accept the report, seconded by MI Comp. Ronald L. Aughenbaugh, and unanimously approved.

After much discussion, and acknowledging that some critical details were not available at the time of this Grand Assembly, a motion was made by MI Comp. Stephen Ponzillo III and seconded by RI Comp. Randall Watson that the Grand Council defer to the decisions taken in Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery regarding the final choice of locations for 2018. Passed Unanimously.

22 Sessions 2017

RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

No report at this Grand Assembly

23 Youth Relations

MI Comp. John A. Rafine

MIGM,

The members of the Committee on Youth Relations are very active in supporting the Masonic Youth Groups.

The three State-level Youth Leaders have organized a Religious Service for the Bonnie Blink Residents on June 11th. This service has been very well attended in the past, and all Companions are encouraged to join them this year.

The 16th Annual Hershey Park Trip will be on June 22nd this year. This day is primarily sponsored by the Grand Commandery and Grand Lodge with support from the Grand Council and other bodies. This year we will charge the Youth \$15 and Adults \$40, with no charge to prospective members for any of the Youth Groups. It continues to prove successful in attracting new members while reenergizing current members in the fraternalism experienced.

Job's Daughters will have a wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery on June 25th. Interested Companions can join us there at 1:00 pm. Dress will be business attire.

For the Super Excellent Master Degree conferral on March 25th, we requested that the Eastern Star Chapter doing the lunch should request the assistance of the local bodies of the three Masonic Youth Groups, so they could share in the proceeds. Gleaner OES was assisted by members of Charity Rainbow Assembly in Cockeysville, George Fleming Moore Chapter of DeMolay in Cockeysville and Job's Daughters Bethel #46 in Towson.

We thank you for allowing us to serve and thank you for your support.

Fraternally,

Randall L. Watson, RIGPCW
Chairman

24 Electronic Media

Comp. Dan Brewer

MIGM

The committee of electronic communications has compiled this report for the 2017 Semi-Annual Grand Session.

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 1859 messages sent via the email list and currently there are 185 companions which receive them.

The Facebook page, <http://facebook.com> (Maryland York Rite), has 185 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 Excellent Companion Randall L. Watson to continue to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grover D. Brewer

Chairman

25 Unfinished Business

RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

MIGM,

There is no unfinished business remaining from the 2016 Annual Grand Assembly.

Fraternally,

R.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, RIDGM

Approved final Resolution, following amendments :

26 New Business

MI Comp. John A. Rafine

The proposed Resolution was read on the floor. There were typographical errors which were corrected by unanimous agreement. The final paragraph which referred to ritual work was removed with the permission of those who brought the proposal, and by unanimous vote. Finally, the Resolution in the form below was accepted by a unanimous vote.



“Resolved:

That a constituent Maryland Council may assemble on the occasion of a Stated Assembly with five or more Companions of that Council, and with that as a sufficient number, conduct any normal business relevant to that Council.

If dispensation is granted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master which includes language to permit conduct of business at a Special Assembly, a Council may also conduct its normal business at a Special Assembly, as above, provided due notice is provided for the Special Assembly.

Normal business shall include election of candidates, reading and approving minutes, reception and payment of bills.” Passed Unanimously.

Samuel Clemens Council has provided notice that they are working with Palestine Lodge to move to their facilities, and ask your dispensation to pursue this action and endure until the Annual Grand Assembly when a proposed amendment to their own bylaws will be offered for consideration.

27 Election of Officers

MI Comp. John A. Rafine

MIGM Rafine announced that he would not seek another term in his present office. MIGM Rafine conducted the elections

Credentials Committee reported that no change had taken in the original total of voting members and Councils present.

The following Companions were nominated and seconded to their respective offices. There being no further nominations, the nominations were declared closed. The Grand Recorder was directed to cast a unanimous ballot for each of the following:

RIDGM Robert B. Lumbert	Most Illustrious Grand Master Nominated by RI Comp. Watson; Seconded by MIPGM Curtis
RIGPCW Randall L. Watson	Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master Nominated by RI Comp. Lumbert; Seconded by MIPGM Curtis
Comp. Randolph Disney	Right Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Work Nominated by PTIM K. Brown, Seconded by ICoC Boughman
MIPGM Patrick A. Curtis	Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer Nominated by RIG Secty; Seconded by ICoC Boughman
RIG Rec Vernon H. Huebschman	Right Illustrious Grand Recorder Nominated by PTIM Romeo; Seconded by RIGPCW Watson

All consented to serve. The MIGM directed a single unanimous ballot be cast in favor of all those so elected. The Installation of these officers will occur at the Annual Grand Assembly in October.

28 Closing Remarks

Various

MIPGM Curtis asked that the budgeted \$500 for the website payment be used for services to expand its usefulness and compensate the talents of the new webmaster.

MIPGM Coker thanked MIGM Rafine for his exemplary service to date, which has been unique, with both the conferring of the SEM Degree, and Festive Board as outstanding events.

MIPGM Ponzillo offered his congratulations to the MIGM for his strength, and for the often thankless work of being a grand presiding officer. Best wishes and congratulations to the newly elected officers... especially Grand Recorder & Grand Treasurer. He observed that he was now the Senior MIPGM, and that 34 years ago at the age 36 he could not imagine being in this position today. Comp Ponzillo praised the movement of Council, and that as a small body, it held the unique power of innovation. Nobody expects great things from a small body...but we continue to build great events together. He stated is regrets at the passing of MIPGM's s Carl Wisner, Buddy Bell, and Bob McWilliams... and his own Father, MIPGM Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Always a pleasure to be present.

Ritual Books are available at the Grand Recorder's Desk. Books are \$5.00 each.

29 Closing

MI Comp. John A. Rafine

The MIGM closed this Semi-Annual Grand Assembly in Ample Form.

Closing Prayer:

Supreme Architect of the Universe, we thank Thee for being able to come together as Cryptic Masons. In this beautiful building. We thank Thee for Thy guidance and ask Thy blessing on our newly elected officers. As we depart remember those who have protected us we ask thy blessing on those who have passed this past year. In thy holy name we pray. Amen. So mote it be!

The Grand Assembly was declared closed at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebchman, PTIM
Grand Recorder.