



Proceedings of the  
**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch  
Masons of Maryland**  
Semi-annual Grand Convocation  
Held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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Executive Summary of the May 23, 2017 Semi-Annual Convocation.

1. The MEGHP Curtis opened in Ample Form. Some officers absent but excused.
2. The PGHP's were introduced...and pledged their assistance.
3. The reports of the MEGHP, Grand Secretary, and Grand Treasurer were presented and accepted.
4. The Grand Secretary asked Chapters to complete their reports over the summer, and submit as early as possible. Checks could be provided in September, or the chapters could vote to pay the amount calculated over the summer months. Forms will be mailed, and available on website soon.
5. The Grand Chapter and Grand Council website are in disrepair. Some information is still correct. We are interviewing a new webmaster to take over operation of these two site, with goal of staying current and providing more Chapter input.
6. The 2017 - 2018 Budget was presented and accepted.
7. The Conference Committee report 11 Chapters represented, 22 Voting Members, 6 Non-Voting.
8. The Committee Reports were received with the thanks of the MEGHP.
9. The Time & Place Committee for the 2018 Annual Sessions venue gave a presentation similar to that given at the Grand Council. A motion was made and passed to accept the Radisson Hotel in Timonium. The Sessions Committee is charged to work out the specifics on meeting locations...either in the hotel or at the Grand Lodge Building. Onto Grand Commandery next week.
10. The 2017 Sessions Committee needs some volunteers to assist with Registration management with Randy Watson, and Hospitality Room and Registration Desk staffing: Bill Eppig.
11. The Awards Committee deferred their report to the Annual Meeting but encourage each Chapter to nominate recipients for the White Tau Award for new Companions who are actively supporting their Chapter.
12. Jurisprudence Committee reported no action necessary on the Constitution. There was a motion to confirm the new locations of James F. Allen Chapter in Germantown, and Piscataway Chapter to Palestine Lodge. Ithiel Chapter will work under a dispensation until they have a final location, which will be reviewed by a committee (PGHP Watson, Gr Sentinel Baldwin) for suitability.
13. PGHP Watson conducted the election of 2017 - 2018 Officers, with the following results:  
MEGHP: Patrick A. Curtis; REGK: William C. Eppig; REGS: Bruce Colburn; REGTr: John M. Lister; REGSec: Vernon H. Huebschman. Trustees with remain in place
14. Grand Chapter voted to support the Autism Speaks Walk on 10/22/17, and voted to contribute \$100 to the
15. The RARA report submitted effort to coordinate with Autism Speaks Annual Walk in October. Local Chapters are encourage to supply walkers and raise funds.

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

16. Grand Chapter voted to provide \$75 for the MSADC Program Book. (DeMolay)



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.**

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

**1:00 P.M. Excellent President Richard P. Naegele 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 Vansant Scholarships; and such other business as the MEGHP may choose to hear.**

Fraternally,

Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman  
Grand Secretary/Recorder

May 23, 2017      Agenda:

- 1 Opening of Grand Chapter/ Preliminary Report of Conference
- 2 Reception of Past Grand High Priests
- 3 Reading of Proceedings of Prior Grand Convocation
- 4 Report of the Grand Secretary
- 5 Report of the Grand Treasurer & Trustees
- 6 Report of the Committee on Accounts & Finance
- 7 Report of the Grand High Priest
- 8 Final Report of the Committee on Conference
- 9 Nominations & Election of Officers for the Next Capitular Year
- 10 Report of the Grand Lecturer & Committee on Work
- 11 Report of the Committee on Youth Relations & Scholarships
- 12 Report of the Committee on Royal Arch Research Assistance
- 13 Report of the Committee on Time & Place
- 14 Report of the Committee on Sessions Planning & Activities
- 15 Report of the Committee on the Triennium
- 16 Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence & Constitution
- 17 Report of Committed on Awards & Recognition
- 18 Report of Committee on Grievance
- 19 Committee on Long Range Planning
- 20 Committee on Membership
- 21 Unfinished Business from Prior Grand Convocation

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

- 22 New Business introduced at this Grand Convocation
- 23 Introduction of Distinguished Visitors
- 24 Announcements of Schedule Items
- 25 Other Committees (Doings, Correspondence)
- 26 Voluntary Remarks
- 27 Installation of Officers, if required
- 28 Final Remarks: MEGHP
- 29 Final Remarks: General Grand Officer
- 30 Final Remarks: MWGM
- 31 Closing of Grand Chapter

The MEGHP may abridge or amend the order of these items at his discretion.

**The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland  
Semi-Annual Grand Convocation  
Concordia RAC No. 1  
Odenton, Maryland  
May 23, 2017  
7:30 p.m.**

The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion, Patrick A. Curtis, with the following officers in their respective places and stations or excused:

<b>M.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis</b>	<b>Grand High Priest</b>
<b>R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig</b>	<b>Grand King</b>
<b>R.E. Comp. Bruce G. Colburn</b>	<b>Grand Scribe</b>
<b>R.E. Comp. John M. Lister</b>	<b>Grand Treasurer</b>
<b>M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP</b>	<b>Grand Secretary</b>
<b>E. Comp. &amp; Rabbi Randall A. Schoch</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain</b>
<b>M.E. Comp. Clifton R. Friel, PGHP</b>	<b>Grand Captain of the Host</b>
<b>E. Comp. Daniel Brewer (absent)</b>	<b>Grand Principal Sojourner</b>
<b>M.E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, PGHP</b>	<b>Grand Royal Arch Captain</b>
<b>E. Comp. R. Joseph White</b>	<b>Grand Master of the Third Veil</b>
<b>M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson PGHP Veil</b>	<b>Grand Master of the Second</b>
<b>E. Comp. Randall A. Schoch</b>	<b>Grand Master of the First Veil</b>
<b>Comp. William Baldwin</b>	<b>Grand Sentinel</b>
<b>M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP</b>	<b>Grand Lecturer</b>
<b>E. Comp. Robert E. Young</b>	<b>Grand Organist (Absent)</b>

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

**Pledge of Allegiance:  
MEGHP**

**M.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis,**

**Prayer:**

**Grand Chaplain**

Blessed are those who dwell in the House of the Lord. They will sign God's praises forever. We thank You, O Lord God, for this chance to come together for this Semi-Annual. We pray for those who are a part of this organization, that they conduct its business. And be with us now, that Thy will be done in our lives. Hear this our prayer. Amen So mote it be.

**The MEGHP then declared this Semi-Annual Grand Convocation opened in Ample Form.**

## **Full Report of the Committee on Conference: Complete Attendance**

<b>Concordia Royal Arch Chapter No.1</b>	Robert B. Lumbert, PGHP Bruce Colburn, GrScribe James B. Morgan Frederick A. Spicer Richard Burkman* David Smith* Dan Stone*	<b>Phoenix Royal Arch Chapter No. 7</b>	William Miller, MEHP-Elect Arthur Gordon
<b>Chesapeake Royal Arch Chapter No. 17</b>	Not Represented	<b>Salem Royal Arch Chapter No. 18</b>	Not Represented
<b>St. Johns Royal Arch Chapter No. 19</b>	Vernon Huebschman, MEHP James B. Coker PHP	<b>Adoniram Royal Arch Chapter No. 21</b>	Not Represented
<b>Talbot Royal Arch Chapter No. 22</b>	Not Represented	<b>Enoch Royal Arch Chapter No. 23</b>	James M. King, MEHP
<b>Mt. Vernon Royal Arch Chapter No. 25</b>	John M. Lister, REGTreas George Martinez, MEHP Bennie G. Owens, PGHP Charles Carmichael*	<b>Ithiel Royal Arch Chapter No. 27</b>	R. Joseph White, MEHP
<b>Druid Royal Arch Chapter No. 28</b>	Randall L. Watson, PGHP Stephen J. Ponzillo III PGHP William E. Eppig REGS	<b>Hayward Royal Arch Chapter No. 29</b>	Christopher Jensen MEHP

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	Johnny Law* Robert England		
<b>Carroll Royal Arch Chapter No. 31</b>	William Baldwin GSentinel	<b>James F. Allen Royal Arch Chapter No. 33</b>	Jeff Alderdice, ES
<b>Edenton Royal Arch Chapter No. 36</b>	Clifton R. Friel, PGHP	<b>Baltimore Royal Arch Chapter No. 40</b>	Not Represented
<b>Tuscan Royal Arch Chapter No. 42</b>	Not Represented	<b>York Royal Arch Chapter No. 44</b>	Patrick A. Curtis, REGK Randall A Schoch, G Chap.*
	<b>Piscataway Royal Arch Chapter, No. 46</b>	Charles Matulewicz, MEHP	*= Non-voting Comp's.

## **Interim Report of the Committee on Conference Comp. William Baldwin**

**Ex.**

### **MEGHP,**

The register shows the following:

11 Chapters represented of 19.

22 Voting Members present.

6 Non-Voting Members present.

*This Interim Report was received with the thanks of the MEGHP, and declared a quorum present.*

### **Reception of The Past Grand Officers present;**

M.E. Comp. Bennie G. Owens	Past Grand High Priest 1973
M.E. Comp. Clifton R. Friel	Past Grand High Priest 1996
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman PDDGGHP	Past Grand High Priest 2004,
M.E. Comp. Stephen J. Ponzillo, III	Past Grand High Priest 2006
M.E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert GGAmb/MD	Past Grand High Priest 2010 - 2011
M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson	Past Grand High Priest 2014 - 2015

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

*MEGHP,*

*I don't see why you don't let the rest of the Companions sit down. Thank you very much for receiving us. It is our pleasure to serve you, and anything we can do to*

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*make your term as Grand High Priest more pleasant and more productive, let us know.*

## **Reading of the Proceedings Huebschman**

**M.E. Comp. Vernon H.**

MEGHP,

The Proceedings of the 2017 Council of Anointed High Priests (see below), and the 2016 Annual Proceeding were distributed with the agenda for this meeting. Because the York Rite website has not been available to The Grand Secretary has elected this method to put this material in the hands of those attending. When the website is again functional, the Proceedings will be placed there for open access to all Companions.

Motion to accept as posted by PGHP Huebschman; Seconded by PGHP Watson, Passed Unanimously. The Grand Secretary offered to receive comments or correction until the Annual Grand Convocation in October.



# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

## Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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### **Minutes of April 29, 2017**

#### **Council of Anointed High Priests**

The 193<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Council of Anointed High Priest of Maryland was opened at 1:00 p.m. in Due Form by Most Excellent President Richard P. Naegele, who then led the Pledge of Allegiance the Flag of our Country. The Opening Prayer, and all other prayers, was offered by Ex. Chaplain Dean Burt III. It was reported that Ex. Secretary James B. Coker was home recovering from surgery, and that Ex. Treasurer Vernon H. Huebschman would fill that role for this meeting. The minutes of the 2016 meeting were unavailable at this meeting, and will be published later.

Ex Master of Ceremonies Randall L. Watson read the names of W. Neil Siebold of Adoniram RAC No. 21, and Ian Hongola of Enoch RAC No. 23 as candidates for this Council. The Secretary called a Roll Call Ballot which was unanimous. The Most Excellent President proceeded to confer the Degree upon both candidates. Following the conferral, Ex. Chaplain Burt presented our new members with their Bibles and admonished them with his memorable words of caution and inspiration. The new members then signed the Bylaws. Their words of gratitude were simple and sincere.

The Most Excellent President lead a Memorial Service for those Past High Priests who passed to the Celestial Lodge Above since our last Convention. Of particular note were Past President Carl J. Wisner, PGHP; Buddy Bell, PGHP, and Robert McWilliams, PGK.

The Most Excellent President greeted MEGHP Patrick A. Curtis, RIDGM Robert B. Lumbert, And VEDGC Spyridon G. Treklas. Each of these Masonic leaders introduced members of their respective lines present.

The Excellent Secretary called the Roll of Past Presidents, finding the following present: Alexander Dean Burt III, Gordon A. Davids, Patrick A. Curtis, Clifton R. Friel, and Frederick A. Spicer. The ME President extended his thanks for the assistance of all the Past Presidents and greeted those present.

The Excellent Treasurer reported that the Wells Fargo account had been closed and all funds were now deposited with M&T Bank, in an account that bears no bank charges. Two checks that were authorized by the 2016, and two which were subsequently approved this dated were conveyed to Richard Naegele for presentation to the MWGM at the Semi-Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge. The current statement balance was \$7,855.63 (3/32/17) A motion was made for the 2017 donations of \$100.00 each to the Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library, and to the Maryland Masonic Homes, which passed unanimously. There were no bills to be addressed at this Convention.

Most Excellent President Naegele announced that he was unable to apply himself to a second term and conducted elections for a succeeding line of Officer. The names of those elected, and immediately installed by Ex. Chaplain Burt are listed here.

Most Excellent President Robert M. Penny offered his thanks for his elected and pledged his efforts on behalf of this Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland.

There being no further business to claim the attention of this Council of Anointed High Priests, Most Excellent President Penny closed the Council in due form.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon H. Huebschman

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Excellent Secretary / Treasurer

## **Report of the Grand Secretary Huebschman**

**M.E. Comp. Vernon H.**

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

### **IRS**

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

### **Royal Arch Mason Magazine**

My recent illness, the transition to Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, and my professional responsibilities have delayed my proofing of the RAMMag mailing list. I will retire from my career position with Anne Arundel County Public School on June 30, 2017.

### **Chapter Locations**

Three Chapters have been forced to change the location of their Regular Assemblies. James F. Allen Chapter No. 33 was displaced from Rockville the unilateral action of the host Lodge, and is presently operating in Germantown by dispensation of the MEGHP until action taken by this Semi-Annual Grand Convocation. Similarly, Ithiel RAC No. was displaced by the sales of the Masonic Temple in Hagerstown and will be operating under the dispensation of the MEGHP until a permanent location can be found. The York Rite center in Catonsville which has been meeting at the Odd Fellows Hall is moving on a proposal to move to Palestine Lodge on Frederick Road...developing.

### **Petition Verifications**

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I would like to thank the several Chapters who have submitted the names of their petitioners prior to balloting on them. This process is in place to verify Maryland residency, Lodge membership, Master Mason Proficiency. The data are confirmed in the Grand Lodge Membership Management System. We cannot proceed with candidates who do not comply with the standards of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Chapter Constitution. The process only take a few minutes if the data are clear, once I get onto the computer.

### **Annual Reports**

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

I respectfully request that Chapters (and Councils) 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 31<sup>st</sup>, and are due to the Grand Secretary not later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. With the joining of the roles of Grand Recorder in Grand Council with that of Grand Secretary in Grand Chapter, that means that the 19 Chapter reports and the 15 Council 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 Recorders and Secretary 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 Chapter's dues cards until the information on membership status is in the database. Please consider cooperating with this request.

MEGHP, 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 respective administrative secretary, I am willing to give this situation the balance of this York Rite year, and will commit to an serving in 2018 if the Companions would like me to continue. If however there is another Companion who the Grand Chapter would care to elect, I will support him and help in yet another transition.

Respectfully,

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M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

I move the adoption of this report, and that it be spread upon the Proceedings of this Grand Convocation.

Fraternally & Respectfully,

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

Motion to accept by the Grand Secretary, seconded by the REGK: passed unanimously

**Report of the Grand Treasurer  
REGTreas**

**R.E. Comp. John M. Lister,**

MEGHP,

The report of the Grand Treasurer is that the Grand Chapter is in good financial condition the Treasurers Final Report for 2016, as of October 31, 2016, is attached. A couple of notes, although the actual income collected fell short of the budget, the Total Expenditures for all categories did not exceed the amount of income generated and overall the budget stayed in the black. Also attached is the 2016 Final Report for the D. Ross Van Sant Fund.

A proposed budget for 2018 is also included, the budget proposed is reduced by \$3,000 from 2017 as there is not a Triennial in 2018, it was increased by \$600 to cover the chapter assessment paid to Council of Anointed High Priests. It was also increased by \$500 to cover the insurance costs of \$3,100+/- and any changes caused by changes in facilities.

The Treasurers Interim Report for 2017 and the current status of the Trustees Reserve Fund are included. The transfer income from the reserve fund was made in May.

The Trustees report attached shows the status of the account as of April 30, 2017. The value of the account and its investments as of that date was \$341,303.45.

Respectfully submitted,  
John M. Lister  
Grand Treasurer

Category	Actual	Budget	Differen ce
FINAL REPORT of 2015 – 2016 Fiscal Year			
INCOME	\$ <b>23,219.14</b>	\$ <b>25,800.0</b>	\$ <b>(2,580.8</b>

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_DivInc	\$ 1,275.32	\$ -	\$ 1,275.32
_IntInc	\$ 21.25	\$ -	\$ 21.25
Exaltations	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)
Invest Inc	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (3,500.00)
Other Income	\$ 1,017.57	\$ -	\$ 1,017.57
Per Capita	\$ 11,205.00	\$ 14,300.00	\$ (3,095.00)
Transfer Income	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,700.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 22,077.81</b>	<b>\$ 28,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,322.19</b>
1 - Grand Officers and Related Items	<b>\$ 2,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,800.00</b>	<b>\$ (50.00)</b>
1.1 - Grand Secretary	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ -
1.2 - Grand Lecturer	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
1.3 - Grand Treasurer	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -
1.4 - Grand Sentinel	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ (50.00)
2 - Personal Expenses	<b>\$ 5,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,500.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
2.1 - Expenses In Out State	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
2.1.1 - GHP Personal Expenses	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
2.1.2 - Grand King Personal Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
2.1.3 - Grand Scribe Personal Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
2.2 - Expenses N. E. Region	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -

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	\$	\$	\$
2.4 - Degree Team Expenses	250.00	250.00	-
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
3 - General Grand Chapter	<b>5,704.38</b>	<b>6,400.00</b>	<b>695.62</b>
	\$	\$	\$
3.1 - Dues General Grand Chapter	2,660.00	1,800.00	(860.00)
3.2 - Royal Arch Magazine for Members	\$	\$	\$
	2,944.38	4,500.00	1,555.62
	\$	\$	\$
3.3 - RAM Editor Expenses	100.00	100.00	-
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
4 - Office Expenses	<b>3,013.49</b>	<b>5,900.00</b>	<b>2,886.51</b>
	\$	\$	\$
4.01 - Office Supplies	427.16	450.00	22.84
	\$	\$	\$
4.02 - Printing Visitation Booklet	96.84	750.00	653.16
	\$	\$	\$
4.03 - Printing Annual Proceedings	457.12	500.00	42.88
	\$	\$	\$
4.04 - Postage and Delivery Expense	12.88	400.00	387.12
	\$	\$	\$
4.05 - Past GHP Jewel and Engraving	250.00	800.00	550.00
	\$	\$	\$
4.06 - GHP Apron & Case	333.64	500.00	166.36
	\$	\$	\$
4.07 - Memorials	-	100.00	100.00
	\$	\$	\$
4.08 - Membership Program	927.50	500.00	(427.50)
	\$	\$	\$
4.10 - Equipment Fund	-	700.00	700.00
	\$	\$	\$
4.11 - Dues Cards	158.35	400.00	241.65
	\$	\$	\$
4.12 - Miscellaneous Expense	150.00	100.00	(50.00)
	\$	\$	\$
4.13 - Awards	200.00	700.00	500.00
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
5 - Service Contracts	<b>3,203.00</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>297.00</b>
	\$	\$	\$
5.1 - Office Rent	-	400.00	400.00
	\$	\$	\$
5.3 - Insurance	3,103.00	3,000.00	(103.00)
	\$	\$	\$
5.4 - Web Site	100.00	100.00	-

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6 - Grand Sessions	<b>\$ 1,106.94</b>	<b>\$ 3,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,593.06</b>
6.1 - Hotel Guest Rooms & Svcs	\$ 472.94	\$ 700.00	\$ 227.06
6.3 - Distinguished Guests Meals & Enter	\$ 634.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,366.00
7 - Charity	<b>\$ 700.00</b>	<b>\$ 600.00</b>	<b>\$ (100.00)</b>
7.1 - Masonic Youth	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	-
7.2 - RARA	\$ 100.00	-	\$ (100.00)
7.3 - Grand Lodge	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	-

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons D Ross VanSant 2016 Final Report  
11/1/2015 through 10/31/2016 Using 2016 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME	<b>\$ 5,250.53</b>	-	\$ 5,250.53
_DivInc	\$ 3,638.19	-	\$ 3,638.19
_IntInc	\$ 1.69	-	\$ 1.69
Donations Received	\$ 1,610.65	-	\$ 1,610.65
EXPENSES	<b>\$ 7,150.00</b>		\$ 7,150.00
7 - Charity	\$ 7,000.00	-	\$ 7,000.00
7.4 - Scholarships	\$ 7,000.00	-	\$ 7,000.00
4 - Office Expenses	\$ 150.00	-	\$ 150.00
4.12 - Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 150.00	-	\$ 150.00

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

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### Semi - Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>2,749.70</b>	<b>32,000.00</b>	<b>(29,250.30)</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
_DivInc	\$ 2,737.21	\$ -	\$ 2,737.21
_IntInc	\$ 1.82	\$ -	\$ 1.82
_Rlzd Gain	\$ 10.67	\$ -	\$ 10.67
Exaltations	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)
Invest Inc	\$ -	\$ 3,600.00	\$ (3,600.00)
Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 15,400.00	\$ (15,400.00)
Transfer Income	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (12,000.00)
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 8,442.94</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,557.06</b>
<b>1 - Grand Officers and Related Items</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>
1.1 - Grand Secretary	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 900.00
1.2 - Grand Lecturer	\$ 125.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00
1.3 - Grand Treasurer	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00
1.4 - Grand Sentinel	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ (25.00)
<b>2 - Personal Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 433.43</b>	<b>\$ 5,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,066.57</b>
2.1 - Expenses In Out State	\$ 433.43	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,566.57
2.1.1 - GHP Personal Expenses	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
2.1.2 - Grand King Personal Expenses	\$ 125.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00
2.1.3 - Grand Scribe Personal Expenses	\$ 308.43	\$ 250.00	\$ (58.43)
2.2 - Expenses N. E. Region	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

	-	1,250.00	1,250.00
	\$	\$	\$
2.4 - Degree Team Expenses	-	250.00	250.00
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
3 - General Grand Chapter	<b>5,634.38</b>	<b>12,600.00</b>	<b>6,965.62</b>
3.1 - Dues General Grand Chapter	\$	\$	\$
	2,730.00	4,500.00	1,770.00
3.2 - Royal Arch Magazine for Members	\$	\$	\$
	2,804.38	5,000.00	2,195.62
	\$	\$	\$
3.3 - RAM Editor Expenses	100.00	100.00	-
	\$	\$	\$
3.4 -Triennial Expenses	-	3,000.00	3,000.00
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
4 - Office Expenses	<b>975.13</b>	<b>5,100.00</b>	<b>4,124.87</b>
	\$	\$	\$
4.01 - Office Supplies	99.99	450.00	350.01
	\$	\$	\$
4.02 - Printing Visitation Booklet	-	300.00	300.00
4.03 - Printing Annual Proceedings	\$	\$	\$
	-	200.00	200.00
4.04 - Postage and Delivery Expense	\$	\$	\$
	243.35	400.00	156.65
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	529.48	500.00	(29.48)
	\$	\$	\$
4.10 - Equipment Fund	102.31	650.00	547.69
	\$	\$	\$
4.11 - Dues Cards	-	400.00	400.00
	\$	\$	\$
4.12 - Miscelaneous Expense	-	100.00	100.00
	\$	\$	\$
4.13 - Awards	-	700.00	700.00
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
5 - Service Contracts	<b>3,870.74</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>(370.74)</b>
	\$	\$	\$
5.1 - Office Rent	-	400.00	400.00
	\$	\$	\$
5.3 - Insurance	3,271.00	3,000.00	(271.00)
	\$	\$	\$
5.4 - Web Site	-	100.00	100.00
5.5 - Council Anointed High	\$	\$	\$

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Priests	599.74	-	(599.74)
	\$	\$	\$
6 - Grand Sessions	-	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>
	\$	\$	\$
6.1 - Hotel Guest Rooms & Svcs	-	300.00	300.00
6.3 - Distinguished Guests Meals & Enter	\$	\$	\$
	-	1,500.00	1,500.00
	\$	\$	\$
7 - Charity	-	<b>700.00</b>	<b>700.00</b>
	\$	\$	\$
7.1 - Masonic Youth	-	500.00	500.00
	\$	\$	\$
7.2 - RARA	-	100.00	100.00
	\$	\$	\$
7.3 - Grand Lodge	-	100.00	100.00

Grand Chapter RAM D Ross VanSant Fund Semi-Annual Report 2017  
11/1/2016 through 5/15/2017 Using 2017 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
	\$	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>1,713.90</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>(1,786.10)</b>
	\$	\$	\$
Invest Inc	1,713.90	3,500.00	(1,786.10)
	\$	\$	\$
<b>EXPENSES</b>	-	-	-

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

## Committee on Finance

**R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, REGK**

MEGHP,

### 2018 BUDGET PREPARATION

Acct #	Description	Revised Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2016-2017	Proposed Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2017-2018
<b>1.0</b>	Grand Officers Expenses & Related Items		
1.1	Grand Secretary	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750
1.2	Grand Lecturer	\$ 250	\$ 250
1.3	Grand Treasurer	\$ 800	\$ 800
1.4	Grand Sentinel	\$ -	\$ -
1/5	Grand Organist	\$ -	\$ -
	Sub-Total	<b>\$ 2,800</b>	<b>\$ 2,800</b>
<b>2.0</b>	Personal Expenses		
2.1	Expenses GHP I/O State	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
	Expenses Grand King	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Expenses Grand Scribe	\$ 250	\$ 250
2.2	Expenses N.E. Region	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
2.3	Regional Meetings		
2.4	Degree Team Expenses	\$ 250	\$ 250
	sub-Total	<b>\$ 5,500</b>	<b>\$ 5,500</b>
<b>3.0</b>	General Grand Chapter Dues General Grand Chapter		
3.1	(PC)	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
3.2	Royal Arch Mag for Members	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
3.3	RAM Editor Expense	\$ 100	\$ 100
3.4	Triennial Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ -
	Sub Total	<b>\$ 12,600</b>	<b>\$ 9,600</b>
<b>4.0</b>	Office Expenses		
4.1	Office Supplies	\$ 450	\$ 450
4.2	Printing: Visitation Booklet	\$ 300	\$ 300
4.3	Printing: Annual Proceedings	\$ 200	\$ 200
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
4.10	Equipment Fund	\$ 650	\$ 650
4.11	Dues Cards	\$ 400	\$ 400
4.12	Miscellaneous	\$ 100	\$ 100
4.13	Awards	\$ 700	\$ 700

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

	SubTotal	\$ 5,100	\$ 5,100	
<b>5.0</b>	Service Contracts			
5.1	Office Rent	\$ 400	\$ 400	
5.2	Telephones			
5.3	Insurance	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,500	
5.4	Web Site	\$ 100	\$ 100	
5.5	Council Anointed High Priests	\$ -	\$ 600	
	Sub-Total	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,600	
<b>6.0</b>	Grand Sessions			
6.1	Hotel: Guest Rooms & Svcs	\$ 300	\$ 300	
6.3	Distinguished Guests:Meals & Entertainment	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
	Sub-Total	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	
<b>7.0</b>	Charity			
7.1	Masonic Youth	\$ 500	\$ 500	
7.2	RARA	\$ 100	\$ 100	
7.3	Grand Lodge	\$ 100	\$ 100	
	Sub-Total	\$ 700	\$ 700	
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 32,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,100</b>	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Northeast Conference</b>			
	Meals			
	<b>Income</b>			
	Per Capita	\$ 15,400	\$ 15,400	
	Investments	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	
	Transfers	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,100	
	Exaltations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 32,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,100</b>	
	1461 x \$10.50 =	\$ 15,330.00	\$ 10.50	
			\$ 2.50	RAGMAG
			\$ 8.00	
			\$ 3.00	GGC PER CAPITA
			\$ 5.00	MD GCRA

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE THREE ATTACHED EXHIBIT AND TO APPROVE THE BUDGET BY RE COMP. EPPIG; SECONDED BY RE COMP. COLBURN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Report of the Grand High Priest  
MEGHP**

**M.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis,**

Companions,

I will begin by thanking the members of this Grand Chapter for your trust in me and giving me the opportunity to serve you for the 2016 term of office. Beginning

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

## Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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shortly after taking office it has been quite busy, I have attended over 40 functions on behalf of the Grand Chapter. REGK Eppig and REGS Colburn also have represented the Grand Chapter at numerous other functions including Lodge Installations and presentations of Master's Pins, Grand Sessions of other jurisdictions, and Masonic Youth sessions.

### **Grand Visitations**

The Grand Line and I have attended scheduled Grand Visitations to 17 of the 19 Chapters. Due to unforeseen circumstances two Grand Visitations have had to be rescheduled. They are Carroll # 31 and Towson # 42 which will be scheduled for September.

My agenda at all the Grand Visitations was:

First, requested the MEHP give a short rundown. on their membership, degree work that they might be doing, and their efforts to make themselves known in the local community.

Encourage the Promotion of the York Rite in the Blue Lodges- either through a talk on York Rite Masonry or to present one of our Plays - "Fervency and Zeal" or "the Peculiar Stone".

To actively engage newly raised Master Masons about the York Rite, how we can further their education by filling in several of the issues unanswered in the Blue Lodges.

Be sure to mentor new York Rite Members, seeking to know what interests them

To work with other Chapters if needed, particularly in the conferring of the degrees.

Conferral of degrees as much as possible from memory rather than reading it.

Of the seventeen Grand Visitations made (see below), they were for the most part successful, although several of them were only lightly attended.

The Grand Visitation to Salem # 18 was particularly pleasing. Several sideliners were present in addition to the officers. Also, the Regional Session, held on the Eastern shore and consisting of Chesapeake # 17, Talbot No. 22, Hayward No. 29 and Edenton No. 36. It was well attended with almost thirty Companions present from the four Chapters

9 November - York #44;

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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16 November - Adoniram #21;  
8 February 2017 - Piscataway #46.  
20 February - James F. Allen #33.  
21 February - Salem #18.  
28 February - Concordia # 1.  
1 March - Regional Meeting (Chesapeake, Talbot, Hayward and Edenton)  
7 March - Baltimore # 40  
9 March - Druid # 28.  
10 March - Enoch # 23  
15 March - St. Johns # 19  
22 March - Phoenix # 7, and  
3 April - Ithiel #27.  
2015 Master's Pins

January is the usual busy installation season for Maryland Masonic Lodges. The Grand Chapter continued the tradition of presenting pins to the 2017 Worshipful Masters. This practice was started in 2006 by MEGHP Stephen J. Ponzillo, III. In addition to giving the opportunity for the York Rite to be seen by the Lodge members, these pins are treasured by many of the incoming Worshipful Masters. I was privileged to travel with the Most Worshipful Grand Master Kostas (Gus) Vorvoulis and personally present the pin at 23 Lodges. The result is, to my knowledge, the Worshipful Masters of all 102 Maryland Blue Lodges received their pin by the middle of March.

With the aid of Past Grand High Priest Watson, Past Grand High Priest and Deputy Grand Master Richard Naegele, REGK Eppig, REGS Bruce Colburn, Dennis Berkus, John Austin, Robert (Joe) White, and Fred Lunn, we were able to present all 2017 Worshipful Masters with their 2017 Master's pin. If by chance a WM indicates that he was missed, please let the MEGHP know so we can make a belated presentation.

## **Other Functions Attended**

Five (5) Grand Lodge functions, including the presentation of a 50-Year Masonic Service Award to Comp. Harry Miller at the Charlotte Hall Veterans' Home.

One (1) other Masonic functions: Grand Council Table Lodge in the Gothic Room at the Grand Lodge

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

## Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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Two (2) Youth Group functions: Maryland Rainbow Grand Assembly at Hunt Valley and the Grand Session of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, Job's Daughters International. Companion William Eppig represented our Grand Chapter at the formal opening of the Rainbow's Grand Assembly, while I attended the Installation function the following night.

Four (4) other York Rite Grand Chapter's sessions: Grand Chapter of the State of New York, Royal Arch Masons; the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia. REGS Bruce Colburn represented our Grand Chapter at the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Virginia session.

I also attended the annual session for the Grand Chapter of Maryland, Order of the Eastern Star.

A copy of the full list of events will be attached to the formal report.

### **Chapter Ritual Certification Requirement**

Three years ago MEGHP Richard Naegele set a requirement that each Chapter must demonstrate proficiency in conferring or exemplifying the Mark Master Degree. MEGHP Randall Watson repeated that requirement in 2015 and in 2016 added the Past Master Degree. As MEGHP, I continued the requirements for both the Mark Master and Past Master and added the requirement that all Chapters must demonstrate proficiency in conferring or exemplifying the Most Excellent Master Degree.

### **Membership Recruitment - Lodge Presentations**

Under MEGHP Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. in 2006, the "Fervency and Zeal" (6 parts) program was adapted for presentation in Maryland. Under MEGHP Louis Bandell in 2008 & 2009, we actively managed it at the Grand Chapter level, and were able to have presentations done at Lodges throughout the State. Once the newness wore off, we shifted our tactics to responding to requests for the program; but those requests have been decreasing. Although the "Fervency & Zeal" program was designed to be presented within a closed Master Mason Lodge, this spring, we updated it to be suitable for presentation to audiences containing Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts. The text of the presentation still allows for the presenter to use the appropriate sections from the Maryland Masonic ritual when in a closed setting with all Master Masons.

Last year, MEGHP Naegele brought "The Peculiar Stone" (6 parts) to Maryland and put out a call for volunteers to learn the parts to establish conferral teams, but there haven't been many "takers".

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

## Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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Last year, PGHP Naegele was tasked by MEGHP Watson to coordinate the recruitment of Companions to learn the various parts of both programs, with the hope that we will be at least two or three deep on each part. That needs to be followed up, my companions. I am therefore tasking our Right Excellent Grand Scribe to take responsibility for following up and establishing Degree teams able to perform these plays. Once accomplished we will need to actively approach the Blue Lodges and other groups about the possibility of presenting one of these programs instead of waiting for them to ask us.

### **Petitioning for Membership**

With respect to petitioning a Chapter for membership, Chapters were directed to inform the Grand Secretary of such petitions. They are to supply him with the name of the petitioner, his current address and his Grand Lodge Identification Number which can be found on their Blue Lodge dues card. This is to insure the petitioner is a Master Mason in good standing and has stood his proficiency in the MM degree. This is a requirement of the Grand Lodge, that no Master Mason can become a member of a collateral body unless he has received the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and has stood his proficiency for that degree. Until this has been fulfilled, a petitioner cannot receive the Royal Arch Degrees.

With respect to petitioners living in an adjoining state, it is necessary the Grand Secretary communicate with his counterpart in that state requesting we be allowed to confer the Degrees. Without that approval, we cannot proceed with conferral of the Degrees.

### **Dispensations**

Upon taking office at the Annual Convocation in October, I directed the R.E. Grand Secretary to continue to respond to certain routine types of requests with my approval without unnecessary delay:

- Cancel a stated Convocation for:
  - Weather and road conditions;
  - Proximity to Holidays; or
  - Schedule conflicts.
- Hold a Special Convocation for Degree conferrals and/or other specified business when meeting in:
  - The Chapter's regular meeting location;
  - The regular meeting location of another Maryland Royal Arch Chapter or Masonic Lodge; or
  - A location that has previously been approved and used for a closed Chapter Convocation.
- Waiver of Territorial Jurisdiction for a Maryland resident to petition a Chapter in a neighboring jurisdiction when he:



# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

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- Already has established Masonic membership(s) in the other jurisdiction;
- Resides closer to the petitioned Chapter in the other jurisdiction than he does to the nearest Chapter in Maryland; or
- Has a family connection to the petitioned Chapter.

I issued a dispensation that members should give the sign of fidelity during the opening and closing prayers of a convocation also during the giving of obligations. I gave James F. Allen a dispensation to move its convocations from Rockville to Pentalpha Lodge located in Germantown, MD until its relocation to Germantown was approved by this Grand Body.

### **Edicts - 2017**

Two (2) Edicts were issued: 1) The first one dealt with petitions, requiring all Chapter Secretary's to provide the Grand Secretary with the name of a petitioner as well as his Blue Lodge number in order to verify he was a Master Mason in Good Standing. Furthermore, for any Master Mason who resides outside the State, the Chapter must seek a Waiver of Territorial Jurisdiction from his home state. Such request must be made to the Grand Secretary within 48 hours. In addition, any Chapter which receives a petition for the degrees, less than 7 days prior to a scheduled conferral of the Mark Master degree, may seek approval via an email, with all the pertinent information, to the Grand Secretary

The Second one concerned the number of Royal Arch members required for a Chapter to conduct business other than the conferral of any of the Royal Arch Degrees. At least five (5) Chapter members must be present in order to conduct normal business, including acting on the reception of petitions, or to elect new officers of a Chapter. Five (5) members are required for conferral of the Most Excellent Master, three (3) for the conferral of the Past Master Degree, and seven (7) for the Mark Master Degree. There must be at least nine Royal Arch members present for the opening, closing, and conferral of the Royal Arch Degree

### **Council of Anointed High Priest**

This year the Council of Anointed High Priests met on Saturday, April 29th and two new High Priests-elect: W. Neil Siebold, Adoniram Chapter # 21, and Ian Hongola of Enoch Chapter # 23 were Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood. Companions, I congratulate you both on having this high honor conferred upon you and wish you well as you lead your Chapters this coming year.

### **Acknowledgements**

I wish to express my gratitude to the support of the members of the Grand Chapter and the 19 Royal Arch Chapters. The encouragements and welcomes given by all has been greatly appreciated.

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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I particularly want to thank the members of the Grand Chapter Line as they have been extremely loyal and fully dedicated in fulfilling their obligations. Brother Bill and Bruce, you both have been loyal advisors and I thank you for your commitment thus far and hope for even more down the line.

Vernon your dedication to your job, your friendly advice and suggestions have been deeply appreciated. I look forward to the next year. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

MEPGHP Randy Watson, what can I say about you, other than you have my utmost appreciation for your continued guidance to me. You have gone well past all I could have hoped for.

I am extremely sorry that Companion Charles Phillips due to medical problems will no longer be able to continue as Captain of the Host. Charlie, you have been a dedicated friend and I thank you for all you have done in the past.

Finally, I again thank all of you for allowing me the stewardship of this Grand Chapter for the last seven months. I hope what I have done has meet with your approval. I can only ask for your continued assistance and pray God will lead me in all my actions during the next five months.

With Fervency and Zeal

Patrick A. Curtis

M.E. Grand High Priest

Received with a standing ovations. Motion to accept this report by PGHP Owens ; Seconded by the Grand Secretary and passed unanimously.

**Committee on Conference**

**Ex Comp. William Baldwin**

## FINAL REPORT (Given to verify the Number of Ballots)

Present this information when called for by the MEGHP

Number of Voting Members: 22

Representing 11 constituent Royal Arch Chapters

Non-Voting Members: 6

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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*Details from the sign-in sheets are shown above in Attendance.*

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# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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## **Nominations and Elections Watson, PGHP**

**M.E. Comp. Randall L.**

M. E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, not being nominated, chose to preside

Grand High Priest	R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis
Grand King	R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig
Grand Treasurer	R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, REGTreas
Grand Secretary	M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, REGSecty
Trustee, 2017 - 2020	M.E. Comp. John B. Maclay (returning Trustee)

There being no other nominees for these positions after asking three times, the MEGHP declared the nominations closed, and directed the Grand Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of all.

The Elections were then closed.

## **Report of the Grand Lecturer; Comm. on Work Huebschman**

**M.E. Comp. Vernon H.**

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

MEGHP,

Following the vote take by the Grand Chapter to approve the revised version of the Grand Chapter Ritual Book, the progress halted abruptly with my incapacitation. As my health issue has been resolved, I look forward to returning to the final editing of the book in July 2017, following my retirement from fulltime employment.

The new text with expanded floor work directions has been shared through DROP BOX with those who have expressed an interest in accessing the new material. I look forward to their comments.

Law School was conducted on Saturday April 29, 2017 for Companions W. Neil Siebold and Ian Hongola. This year we used a working lunch format between the TIM Degree and the CAHP to facilitate an early start to a busy session of the CAHP.

The Ritual Committee is pleased to see Chapters continue to expand their facility with the Degree work. This is a slow process as new men come forward each year to accept the challenges of learning the Work. The Proceedings of the Council of Anointed High Priests notes two Companions who have demonstrated their

# Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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proficiency...and dedication to continuing their study...to be proper candidate for High Priests of their respective Chapters. Comp. W. Neil Siebold of Adoniram Chapter No. 21, and Comp. Ian Hongola of Enoch Chapter No. 23. I wish to express my appreciation for those who act as Chapter Ritualist throughout Maryland who teach those who see the great treasure in our work.

I would like to commend to each Chapter the pursuit of the General Grand Chapter Ritual Award. The Score sheet is on the Grand Chapter website and the General Grand Chapter pages.

Respectfully,

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

Grand Lecturer & Chair

## **Youth Relations & D Ross Vansant Scholarship Curtis**

**MEGHP Patrick A.**

No report has been submitted for this occasion.

This is the second year in a row that there was no report at the Semi-Annual. The donations were delayed until the Annual Grand Convocation in October.

## **Royal Arch Research Assistance Colburn, REGS**

**R.E. Comp. Bruce G.**

MEGHP,

The following is the data to date from RARA:

RARA Donations North Eastern Region	April 13, 2017		
State	Regular	Memorials	Total
Maryland	\$175,021.12	\$ 6,402.00	\$181,423.12
New Jersey	\$150,273.16	\$ 12,974.25	\$163,247.41
Maine	\$140,696.81	\$ 12,789.00	\$153,485.81

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District of Columbia	\$ 44,109.00	\$ 1,455.00	\$ 45,564.00	
Vermont	\$ 35,717.23	\$ 2,852.25	\$ 38,569.48	
New Hampshire	\$ 32,064.51	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 37,064.51	
Connecticut	\$ 36,552.97	\$ 300.00	\$ 36,852.97	
Delaware	\$ 32,901.35	\$ 2,879.00	\$ 35,780.35	
Rhode Island	\$ 11,990.00	\$ 2,210.00	\$ 14,200.00	
New York	\$ 9,966.57	\$ 1,145.00	\$ 11,111.57	
Massachusetts	\$ 2,921.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 2,996.00	
Pennsylvania	\$ 1,569.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,694.00	
Virginia	\$ 440.72	\$ 50.00	\$ 490.72	
Quebec	\$ 170.00		\$ 170.00	

Respectfully submitted,

R.E. Comp. Bruce Colburn.

**Time & Place**

**R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, REGK**

MEGHP

### **Time and Place Report Submitted to the May 2017 Semi-Annual**

**Annual Session Dates:** Friday, October 27<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Proposed Location:** Baltimore Area

**Potential Hotels:**

- Radisson North Baltimore- 2004 Greenspring Dr. Timonium - [www.radisson.com/Timonium/Maryland](http://www.radisson.com/Timonium/Maryland)
- Colony South - 7401 Surratts Rd. Clinton, Md. [www.colonysouth.com](http://www.colonysouth.com)

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## **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 with tax

**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 without tax

**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.

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## **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 will keep them as low as possible for both locations.

## **Grand Council - Lumbert**

**Vote:** Grand Council decided to not make a decision and agreed to go along with whatever the Grand Chapter and/or Grand Commandery decides.

**Impression:** Clinton option seems to be off the table. The meal prices are just too much. We are never going to have anything close to \$3200 for lunch or \$6400 for dinner (130-160 people each).

The Radisson seemed to be acceptable, but they didn't like the cost for the meeting room. I think what would have been chosen, if there had been a vote, is to have the rooms at the Radisson but the meetings at Grand Lodge. We would have to have lunch at GL on Saturday but presumably would go back to the Radisson for the banquet Saturday evening. We'd need to find out costs for lunch at GL and if we'd need to pay rent. We would have to have a way to get people from the Radisson to Cockeyville and back, and that may be an expense. And at some point the Sessions Committee would have to figure out what to do about a meal on Friday night.

## **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. John Rafine said he knows someone at the Best Western in Westminster, and he will try to get some figures from them for 2018. If he sends me anything, I will pass it on.



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Suggestion was made to charge a registration fee. This would help cover cost of meeting room and hospitality room supplies. I understand this was done with little success and much aggravation in the past. Those that stay the weekend had little problem, but those coming in for the day complained and was hard to track. I feel this should be looked into for the future due to rising cost of facilities.

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, provide food, or were cost prohibited.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Eppig, REGK

Motion to accept the report M.E. Comp Watson      Seconded by R.E. Comp. Colburn

Motion to accept the Radisson Proposal by M.E. Comp. Huebschman; Seconded by M.E. Comp. Watson. Passed unanimously. Session Committee to determine meeting & meal locations.

**Sessions Committee**

**R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig**

MEGHP,

## **Session 2017 Report Submitted to the May 2017 Semi-Annual**

The York Rite Grand Session 2017 will be held on October 27-28, 2017 at the Best Western Westminster Hotel located in Westminster, Maryland. Registration should begin at 1pm Friday.

The committee has not formally met, but will in the next month. At that time we should have the costs, forms, and tentative schedule completed for Session 2017.

At many Grand Visitations, I have asked for and received some volunteers to work on this committee, but I am still looking for a few more.

We need assistance with the following:

**Registration:** PGHP Comp Watson has agreed to handle the registration as he has done past, but need someone to work with him this year in order to take it over for upcoming sessions. We will also need 2 more volunteers to work the table.

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**Hospitality Room:** The last few sessions we had 2 individuals taking responsibility for the room and worked out very well. The Grand High Priest has requested that the hospitality room this year and in the future be open during most of the weekend. This will require more volunteers.

In order to see that this is done, I am asking for 2 or more people including ladies to assist. This same request will be made by our two other York Rite Bodies. We need 6 or more to volunteer for the room.

**Ladies Activity:** Every year we try to find an activity for the ladies present to do while we are in meetings and to make it worthwhile for them to attend. This year I would like 2 of our ladies to participate on the session committee with the responsibility of planning that activity. They would have a better idea in what would be of interest for the ladies present.

If you would like to volunteer, please see me after the meeting

**Thoughts:** One of the problems I have seen this year and in years past is having 3 separate Session Committees and Time/Place Committees, Council, Royal Arch, and Commandery. With each committee working on its own or waiting for one to take the lead

For example with Time and Place, Comp. England was appointed for Grand Chapter to look into session facilities. Is he to look on behalf of the Grand Chapter and present what we find or is he to work with representatives of the other two committees.

Is each Grand Body taking turns to run the session or is it to be done together? (What should it be)

It also seems every year the Grand body that holds their Semi-annual meeting first seems to give input, but holds off on a decision until the other two decide.

In talking with the representatives from the Council and Commandery committees they see the same thing and believe we must change the approach to planning Session.

I believe we should look into having one joint “York Rite - Session / Time and Place Committee”. This committee made up of individuals’ appointed by the heads of each body and serve for 2-3 sessions with at least 1 new member from each body every year. This would lend to better consistency and communication to all bodies in the planning of this important event. It will also provide a minimum number of people necessary to have a successful Session.

I will continue to discuss this with my counter parts in order to present a proposal in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Eppig, REGK- Chairman

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## **Multi Jurisdictional Festival**

**RE Comp. William C. Eppig**

The Multi Jurisdictional Degree class will be held October 7, 2017. 8am – 3pm Lunch will be provided.

Registration fee will be \$10 - \$15 based on cost of lunch and other supplies.

The Grand Chapter will be presenting the Royal Arch Degree with the other degrees presented by teams from Delaware, Virginia, and DC.

Forms and more information will be sent to our Chapters in near future.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Eppig, REGK – Chairman

## **Jurisprudence Committee Ponzillo, III**

**M.E. Comp. Stephen J.**

The Grand Chapter needs to act on the Chapter Location changes reported in the MEGHP's Report.

Motion to confirm the two Chapters to new location by PGHP Ponzillo. Passed

Piscataway and James F. Allen RAC's are approved to move.

Impromptu report by HP Joseph White on a favorable location, which has already been approved by the Grand Lodge Committee on Halls. MEGHP appoints a committee to provide a recommendation as to its suitability. PGHP Lister and PHP Baldwin will be that committee.

## **Triennium Committee**

**RE Comp. Bruce G. Colburn**

MEGHP,

The 2017 Grand Chapter Triennial Convocation will be held on August 29, 2017 in Portland Oregon. Red Lion on the River. Registration information and descriptive information is available on the General Grand Chapter Website. Due date for early registration end on July 16, 2017.

The Elections will advanced James Hodge to MEGGHP; Stephen Tiner to REGGK; Three candidates for REGGS.

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Report and additional comments accepted. Later information: ME Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman later announced his candidacy for the officer of General Grand Secretary.

### **Grievance Committee**

**ME Comp. Bennie G. Owens, PGHP**

A report submitted stated there was no contact with this committee.

### **Long Range Planning**

No report offered for the Semi-Annual.

### **Membership Committee Colburn**

**R.E. Comp. Bruce G.**

Per last Octobers report, we currently have 1,376 members.

As of October 2016, we added 60 new Companions, but lost 126 through either death, suspension, or demits. Net loss 66.

Membership rolls for Maryland Chapters vary from a low of 16 to a high of 178.

All that being said, this committee chair has visited most Chapters in the last 6 months, and attendance varies from a low of 3 to a high of 10 (of which some include the Grand Chapter members). Most Chapters only meet once a month, and some not that often.

To the best of our knowledge, there are only 2 Chapters capable of doing all 4 degrees with only their own members, and books are used for some of the parts.

Membership is more than just numbers. Having over a hundred members is useless if only 10 are active. While many Companions join the York Rite to become Knight Templars, their attendance there is also lacking.

Where our membership goals should be:

- 1) New members come from Lodges where they have just had 3 degrees done without books, from memory, making an impression upon the new member, whose sincerity they will compare to that of the Chapter, reading the work. Sure, the Lodge may have a prompter, but that shows more teamwork and interest than lack of study.

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- 2) Presenting information to our Lodges about what the Royal Arch degree is, the completion and perfection of the 3rd degree. This used to be done in the Blue Lodge! Few have the people to do the degrees from memory, and even fewer have the people to present either the “Fervency and Zeal” or “Peculiar Stone” plays. This work needs to be started on an individual basis. Talk it up!
- 3) We should not be telling our newly proficient Master Masons that they should wait a year before petitioning the Chapter. We should be getting them while the first 3 degrees are fresh in their minds, as they will appreciate the additional information more, and we will be providing the Lodge with better, more informed Masons. We are not “stealing” them from Lodge activities.
- 4) The Grand Chapter web site needs to be kept current and up to date. This is where new Masons will go to find answers to questions about when degrees are being done, where Chapters are, and who they can reach out to for answers. And current companions should be able to access information to present to candidates. Finding all information a year behind is deplorable, to say the least.
- 5) Finally, our Companions who are active in Council and Commandery need to realize that if they want new members, we could use some help with our work from them. Without our work, they will not get new members.

Respectfully submitted by REGS Bruce Colburn who moved that it be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings; seconded by PGHP Watson. Passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

The report of this committee is that there is no known Old Business to bring before this Grand Convocation, as reported by the Grand Secretary

### **New Business**

Motion by PGHP Robert B. Lumbert that the Grand Chapter of Maryland purchase a \$300.00 ad in the Triennium Program Book, Seconded by REGK Eppig, and passed unanimously.

Austism Speaks Annual Walk will be held on October 22, 2017 at the Camden Yard Sports Complex. RE Comp. Colburn will establish a team for the Grand Chapter as will act as Team Captain.

**Motion by REGS Colburn that the Grand Chapter donation \$100.00 by REGS, seconded by REGK, passed unanimously.**

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**PGHP Watson motion to donate \$75 for MSADC for a full page ad. Second by VHH, passed unanimously.**

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## **Introduction of Distinguished Guests**

**M.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis**

The MEGHP introduced RW Brother Randall L. Watson, RW Grand Treasurer, who reported on the evening's travels of the MWGM and the Grand Line; and introduced MWPGM Owens and MWPGM Ponzillo. Comp. Fred Spicer was introduced for his universal presence throughout the State and as an officer in the York Rite College. Ambassador of the GGCh. Robert Lumbert. Invited a visit to the General Grand Chapter website.

## **Closing Remarks**

**M.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis**

- a. Northeast Regional Meeting will be held on September 8 & 9<sup>th</sup> in Albany, NY.
- b. August 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:00 for the Southern MD Picnic. Centennial Lodge.
- c. Westminster Memorial Day Parade: Comp. William asked Companions to join in the group of Masons walking, on Monday May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- d. MEGHP reminded all that the Masonic Youth Organization need adult support and advisors. Please investigate your opportunity to assist.

MEGHP: Thanks to all who have attended this evening. We all enjoy the gathering and participating. ME Comp. Curtis wished all a safe journey home. He conveyed his thanks for assisting in the Chairs to the Comp. Dan Stone, PGHP Cliff Friel, PGHP Lumbert, PGHP Watson, and Gr Chaplain Randy Schoch.

## **Closing of the Grand Chapter MEGHP**

**M.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis,**

## **Closing Prayer**

**Comp. Daniel Stone**

**May the blessing 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!**

There being no further business coming before this Semi-Annual Grand Convocation, the MEGHP proceeded to Closed in Ample Form at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ME Comp. Vernon Huebschman, PGHP  
Grand Secretary