Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

Annual Grand Assembly

PROCEEDINGS



OCTOBER 26, 2018

Oriental Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink

Cockeysville Maryland

**Call Letter for Annual Meetings Location:**

**Grand Lodge of Maryland, Freemason Hall, Gothic Room. 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD.**

Companions & Sir Knights

By order of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, ME Comp. Patrick A. Curtis. Most Illustrious Grand Master, MI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, and Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK Spyridon G. Treklas, official notice is hereby given for:

**The-Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland,**

**The Annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland, and**

**The Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar**.

**The Grand Council** will meet in Grand Assembly, **Friday, October 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. .** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Assembly. Agenda to include reports as necessary and Installation of 2018 – 2019 Officers.

Dress is Tuxedo, Apron & Jewels for Officers; Coat & Tie otherwise

Location: Grand Lodge of Maryland, Freemason Hall, Oriental Room (Lower Level)

**The Grand Commandery** will meet in Grand Conclave **Saturday, October 27, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Conclave. Agenda to include all Officer and Committee Reports as necessary. Open Installation of Officers to follow immediately at 11:00 a.m.

Dress is Full Templar Uniform, Chapeau & Sword.

Location: Grand Lodge of Maryland, Freemason Hall, Gothic Room (Lower Level)

**The Grand Chapter** will meet in Grand Convocation **Monday, October 27, 2018** **at 1:00 p.m**.to conduct all business proper to the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. Agenda to include all Officer and Committee Reports as necessary.

Dress is Tuxedo, Apron & Jewels for Officers; Coat & Tie otherwise. Please wear your Chapter Apron.

Location: Grand Lodge of Maryland, Freemason Hall, Oriental Room (Lower Level)

Please see enclosed Agenda and Registration information for specifics

Fraternally & Respectfully,

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ME Comp Vernon H HuebschmanGrand Secretary Grand Chapter of Maryland | RI Comp. Vernon H. HuebschmanGrand RecorderGrand Council of Maryland | SK Thomas M. Heimiller, REPGCGrand RecorderGrand Commandery of KT in MD |

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

Annual Grand Assembly

October 26, 2018

Cockeysville, Maryland

7:30 p.m.

1. Grand Council Opening MIGM Robert B. Lumbert
2. Credentials Committee Preliminary Report: Quorum & Voting Members
3. Reception of MIPGM’s MIGM Robert B. Lumbert
4. Proceedings Grand Recorder Vernon H. Huebschman
5. TIM Degree Grand Recorder Vernon H. Huebschman
6. Officer’s Report *Most Illustrious Grand Master*: Robert B. Lumbert
7. Officer’s Report *Grand Recorder*: Vernon H. Huebschman
8. Officer’s Report *Grand Treasurer*: Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM
9. Officer’s Report *Grand Lecturer*: MIGM Robert B. Lumbert
10. Accounts & Finance RIDGM Randall L. Watson
11. Dispensations & Charters RIGPCW Randolph S. Disney
12. CMMRF RIGPCW Randolph S. Disney
13. Festive Board 2018 TIM John P. Mitchell
14. Doings of Grand Officers MIPGM Ronald L. Aughenbaugh
15. Fraternal Relations PTIM Spicer
16. Grievance RIG Recorder Vernon H. Huebschman
17. Jurisprudence & Constitution MIPGM Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
18. Long-Range Planning RIGPCW Randolph S. Disney
19. Membership TIM Hebbeler
20. Recognition & Awards PTIM Frederick A. Spicer
21. Time & Place 2019 RIDGM Randall L. Watson
22. Sessions 2018 RIDGM Randall L. Watson
23. Youth Relations RIDGM Randall L. Watson
24. Unfinished Business RIGPCW Randolph S. Disney
25. New Business MIGM Robert B. Lumbert
26. Election of 2018 – 2019 Officers None Required at Annual Grand Assembly
27. Remarks
28. Installation of Officers MIPGM Ponzillo
29. Closing MIGM Lumbert

The MIGM may alter is agenda as he sees fit and may receive reports to be printed in the Proceedings as he may direct.

**Call Letter for Annual Meetings Location:**

**Grand Lodge of Maryland, Freemason Hall, Gothic Room. 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD.**

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. Robert B. Lumbert Grand Master

R.I. Comp. Randall L. Watson Deputy Grand Master

R.I. Comp. Randolph S. Disney Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

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

M.I. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis Grand Treasurer

Comp. Arthur Hebbeler Grand Chaplain Pro Temp

Comp. William Hare Grand Captain of the Guard

Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler Grand Conduction of the Council

Comp. W. Michael Boughman Grand Marshal

Comp. Thomas Marraffa, Jr Grand Steward

Comp. William J. Baldwin, Jr. Grand Sentinel

Comp. John L. Thomas Grand Lecturer Emeritus (Absent)

Vacant Grand Lecturer

**Pledge of Allegiance lead by MI Comp. Lumbert, MIGM**

**Opening Prayer by Companion & Rev. Arthur Hebbeler,**

“Supreme Architect of the Universe, we invoke Your blessing at this time upon this Grand Assembly. Guide us in the deliberations of this Grand Council. May our work be found just and right in Your holy sight. Amen.
So Mote It Be.”

**2. Credentials Reports Comp. William J. Baldwin, Gr Sentinel**

**Preliminary Report at the opening of the Grand Assembly**

Number of Councils Present Twelve (12)

Number of Voting Companions Thirty-four (34)

Number of Non-Voting Companions Eleven (11)

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

**Final Report per Register submitted by the Grand Sentinel:**

Number of Councils Present Twelve (12)

Number of Voting Companions Thirty-six (36)

Number of Non-Voting Companions Twelve (12)

Final Register of attending Companions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Concordia
 | Robert B. Lumbert, MIGMFrederick T. Rossmark, PCWRichard D. Smith, TIM | 1. Jerusalem
 | W. Michael Boughman, PTIMArthur M. Gordon, TIMThomas G. Heimiller #Destin R. Strader, PCWWilliam J. Wicham, DIM |
| 5. Hiram | George J. Christoff, PCWJeffrey L. Dill, MIPGMWilliam C. Eppig, PTIMRichard A. Eppler, MIPGM/CTWilliam C. Hare, PTIMVernon H. Huebschman, RIGRecCarl Michel, PTIMJohn P. Mitchell, TIMRichard P. Naegele, MIPGMStephen J. Ponzillo, III, MIPGMJohn A. Rafine, MIPGMThaddeus M. Vargo, DIMCharles Warns, III #Randall L. Watson, RIGPCW | 7. Carroll | William J Baldwin, TIMG. Michael Robbins, DIM |
| 8. Jeshua | None Registered | 9. Zabud | None Registered |
| 10. Enoch | Gary J. Kennedy, TIM | 11. Salem | Robert W. Hamilton, PTIM |
| 12. Giblum | Robert M. Caldwell, TIMFranklin H. Williams, Rec# | 13. King Solomon | Jeffery Alderice, Rec#John H. Austin, PTIMThomas A. Marraffa, PTIMRaymond L. Tayse, TIM |
| 16. Palestine | None Registered | 20. Harmony | Randolph S. Disney, PTIMF. Andrew Martinez, TIM |
| 21. Adoniram | Clifton R. Friel, MIPGM | 23. York | Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGMMark Irwin, PTIM |
| 24. Acacia | Ronald L. Aughenbaugh, MIPGM | 25. Samuel L. Clemens | Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, TIM |
|  | # Non-Voting Companion |  |  |

**3. Reception of MIPGM’s** MIGM Robert B. Lumbert

The MIGM received and greeted the Most Puissant Grand Master David Grindle, and Grand Honors were rendered.

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 Clifton R. Friel 2003

MIPGM Richard P. Naegele 2008 -2009

MIPGM Ronald L. Aughenbaugh 2010 – 2011

MIPGM Jeffrey L. Dill 2015 – 2016

MIPGM John A. Rafine 2017

Grand Honors were led by MIGM Lumbert

The MIGM greeted our MIPGM’s.

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

**MIPGM Bennie G. Owens 1989**

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.

MIGM and distinguished Companions, I have the great pleasure of expressing the gratitude of your MIPGM’s present for Grand Honors. We are indeed fortunate to have the service of our MIGM and wish him continued success in his duties as the leader of this Grand Council. On a personal note, I note that we have left an opening in the Line of MIPGM’s on this occasion to mark the absence of MIPGM Bennie G. Owens from our ranks. Companion Bennie was a constant force in Masonry in all its various components from Grand Lodge, to Scottish Rite, York Rite, and all the appendant bodies. While he had physical challenges in his later days, his wit and wisdom were unmarked by the passage of time. As he was ever present in the affairs of Freemasonry, so his memory will be ever green for all who knew him and had the pleasure of his association. Thank you, MIGM, for this opportunity to honor MIPGM Owens’ memory.

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

As the Grand Council website is now available, the Semi-annual Proceedings and the Special Grand Assembly for the conferral of the TIM Degree have been available on the Grand Recorder’s page since a week following that Grand Assembly, I move that the Proceedings be accepted as published on the website, subject to any further question or comment accepted by the MIGM. Seconded by MIPGM Curtis and passed unanimously.

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. TIM Degree See the 2018 Semi-Annual Report**

**6. Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master MIGM Robert B. Lumbert**

143rd Annual Assembly Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master October 26, 2018

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Puissant General Grand Master, and my Companions all,

Welcome to the 139th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Maryland. I hope you will all enjoy yourselves this weekend. I know this takes time out of everyone’s busy schedule, but it is important that we get the business of the three York Rite bodies taken care of. And it gives us an opportunity to gather together with Companions from around the state.

I would particularly like to thank General Grand Master Dave Grindle for attending. I have encountered Companion Grindle on several of my out of state visitations. It is good to see him out and about, showing that the General Grand Council does indeed care about individual Grand Councils, something that has not necessarily been obvious in the past. This has also given me an idea of what he has to communicate to our Grand Council, and so lets me cover a few topics more briefly.

Not a lot has changed since we met in May. I still feel that our Grand Council is in good shape, but it has a lot of room to get better. I, along with the Grand Council officers, will help in that process. But ultimately it is up to the Companions of the Councils to make it happen.

I cannot emphasize that last point too much. There have been occasions over the past months when I was very unhappy with the cooperation I have gotten from the Companions and Councils of Maryland. I have asked people to do a job, or for information, or for feedback on an idea I have had. And there has been no response. I must stress that this is not universal. I do usually get a response, but not always. I am not going to go into specifics, because it would probably cause more harm than good. (But you may be able to figure out some instances from what I say later in this report.) If I ask you to do something, you are free to say “no”, however non-Masonic you may consider that word. If I ask you for information, and you don’t have it, tell me that. If I propose some idea that you think is completely crazy, I won’t be offended if you tell me so, as long as you can give me some idea of why you think that way. And this doesn’t just apply to me. It applies to everyone you come into contact with. We emphasize over and over that the Grand Council is there for the Companions, not the Grand Master or other Officers. Please remember and believe that.

And while I’m on the subject of unhappy topics, it appears that two mergers are in our not too distant future. With the death of Terry Smith, Joe White has decided that the Hagerstown bodies are no longer viable. So he is working on mergers. We will be going out there in about a week to help in the process. It should be finished in time for the semi-annual. And MIPGM Ron Aughenbaugh has decided to merge Acacia Council. That one still has work to be done. Mergers are never a happy event. There are those who would look at a Council and say that there are not enough members and that the Council should be closed by the Grand Council. I don’t feel that way. We have had too many examples in this state of Chapters, Councils or Commanderies coming back from the dead. If the Companions feel there is no hope, then I will work with them to accomplish a merger. But I won’t force the issue.

It came to the attention of the three Grand Presiding Officers recently that a Chapter, Council and Commandery who were meeting together were sharing a checking account. This is not a good idea, and we do not want it happening. Steps are being taken to change things in the case we know about. We hope that it is the only one. But if you operate like that, please take steps immediately to stop it. Expect some communication in the next year to verify that you are not operating this way. Now on to happier things. We held our second annual Grand Council Festive Board in July. Once again it was a big success. I must thank MIPGM John Rafine and John Mitchell for everything they did to

make it so. We will do it again next year. There has been a proposal that we join with the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery to make it a joint event, holding it somewhere that will allow more people to attend. I am in favor of this idea. I am hoping that the MEGHP and REGC will appoint some people to work with John and John on this project.

The other big event of the last few months was the Carl Wisner Memorial York Rite class. Normally in Maryland we have avoided statewide classes, feeling it was more important for the individual bodies to confer the degree work. But we made an exception in this case, because we wanted to honor a man who gave so much to the York Rite and Masonry in general in Maryland. I was very pleased with the conferral of the two Council degrees, mainly by the officers of Hiram Council. And I thank John Mitchell again for organizing the teams. I also was happy to see that they incorporated the new optional additions to the Select Master ritual. I believe we greeted 32 Companions that day.

Speaking of ritual, a subject near and dear to my heart, I am always impressed by the quality of the ritual in this state. Starting with the youth groups, who consistently win national awards for their work, through the Lodges and other bodies, we believe in doing the work right and impressing the candidates. This is not always the case in other jurisdictions. On one out of state visitation, I overheard one Brother stating that he was the only one in his Lodge who could do the third degree lecture, and that he wished someone else would come forward to relieve him. I am sure you could imagine what the reaction of the Grand Master or the Grand Lecturer would be if they heard a Maryland Past Master make such a statement.

But I feel some of the Councils are not living up to this standard. The point has been made many times that Candidates go through their Blue Lodge degrees and see the officers conferring them from memory. Then they take their York Rite degrees and see people reading their parts. I realize that when we play “pick up Masonry”, this may be necessary. But we really need to work harder to learn the ritual and do the degrees right. Our two Council degrees are not long degrees. Most Councils should be able to at least confer the floorwork part from memory. I call upon all the Councils to make an effort to do this. The TIMs have already learned their parts, and that is a good start.

One of the benefits of visiting other jurisdictions is the ability to see how they work and how they do their ritual. Some of it has been excellent, but some I would not recommend to anyone. But what I want to talk briefly about is some proposals that were made in New York this year. While I did not see a conferral, it became clear to me that New York degrees are quite a bit different from ours. So I didn’t see what all the proposed changes meant. But I can comment on two. If you read my article in the Spring Royal Arch Mason Magazine, I told you that there is something called Ahishar’s Soliloquy mentioned in the requirements for the Grand Council ritual award. I didn’t know then what it was, but now I do. It occurs in the Select Master degree previous to when our degree starts, and basically, he talks about the way he is treated within the work force and lets you see that he is not quite as irresponsible as our degree depicts him. It is an interesting speech, but I don’t see how we could incorporate it in our degree. Secondly, in our Royal Master degree, after Hiram Abif does the Soliloquy, he returns to his station, and the degree continues. Another proposal in New York was to at that point jump to the actions in the Master Mason degree immediately following the grasshopper. There were to be no words, just pantomiming of the actions. The New York Companions voted down the idea, based on the argument that the Candidates would be distracted from the ideas given in the Soliloquy. I like the idea and feel that the change would actually serve to emphasize those ideas.

When I mentioned these proposals to Vern, he suggested that we should think about doing a major revision of our degrees. While I think that idea has merit, I think it would get a lot of negative reaction from the Companions. They might be OK with adding a few lines of ritual, but would not want

to learn a whole new degree. What I would suggest would be to create a new “long form” version, which would include more pieces of the General Grand Council ritual, like the meeting between Zabud and King Solomon, which we hear about only indirectly. This version would be performed on special occasions, like a statewide class, and by a special degree team. Unfortunately, I don’t know if we can find people to work on such a project. I have been unable to find anyone who is interested in chairing a committee to revise our current ritual in the style of the new Grand Chapter ritual, and that is a much smaller task.

For those of you who are not aware of it, Lou Romeo resigned as the CMMRF chairman. I thank him for all the work he has done over the past several years for CMMRF. I have appointed Randy Disney in his place. You will be hearing from him later, and he will be working with the Councils in support of this great charity. We will be doing something a little special after he gives he report, so don’t go to sleep yet. Also, thanks go to Pat Curtis, who while wearing his Grand Council Ambassador hat, received a lot of money for CMMRF during our joint Visitations. You may not be aware that General Grand Council has designated a day in March as CMMRF Day and asks for donations to be made at that time. Unfortunately, with our schedule, most of the donations from the Councils come in during October. The money Pat received served as a CMMRF Day donation, so General Grand could see that we are supporting this idea, even if we can’t do it to the extent they would like.

Speaking of Grand Visitations, I told you in May that I had visited all the Councils, except for Palestine in Hagerstown. This year I will only be visiting the Councils that invite me. But so far, no one has taken me up on the offer. (I will go to Concordia next fall. They’re not getting a choice.) But one reason I don’t want to just pick a Visitation on my own is that I don’t want to run afoul of the “Chapter time” vs “Council time” issue for those bodies that meet jointly.

When I was Grand High Priest I emphasized communication, and I got a lot of positive feedback from it. I have not been quite so active in this area as Grand Master, but part of the reason is that we have a wonderful new website that fills much of that purpose. One problem now is to get people to use it more. The three Grand Presiding Officers and Grand Recorders are trying hard to keep the website up to date. So if you need to know where a Council meets or what the schedule is for Grand Sessions, look on the website first. It will likely be faster than e-mailing one of the Officers and waiting for a reply. And if there is something you think should be on the website and isn’t, let one of us know.

As I did when I was Grand High Priest, I will confer most of my personal awards at the conclusion of my term. But I need your help, because I am not always familiar with who has been doing something special for his Council, especially if it is behind the scenes. We almost didn’t give out a Youth Advisor award this year, because the one suggestion I received came in very late. I thank General Grand Council for understanding and taking the steps to get the award here on time. I only received one nomination for the Ish Sodi. I will try to remember to remind the Recorders next spring to solicit suggestions. But you are free to talk to me about it at any time. [Ish Sodi presentation if Companion is present]

I will also save most of my recommendations for next year, but I will offer two now. Our York Rite directory is now about 7 years old. I still refer to it, but it is definitely out of date. We really need a new one. Much of the material in it concerns lists of officers (Grand and otherwise) and information about when and where bodies meet. This is on the website and can easily be updated there when needed. What is not on the website is contact information for our various Companions, and we wouldn’t want it there. So any new directory would just have this contact information. I doubt that either of our Grand Recorders would be willing to take on the task of gathering this information. But maybe there are a few of you who would like to do it. You would just have to contact the secretaries of the various

bodies and get names, addresses (both kinds) and phone numbers. This could be done from home. Once we have the directory, we should be able to update it on an annual basis say. Please think about it.

One of the committees each Grand Body has is the Sessions Committee, which is responsible for making the arrangements for our Grand Sessions. Sometimes this committee does its work well, and sometimes it doesn’t. One of the problems is continuity in membership. A proposal has been made to make this a joint committee of the three Bodies. It would have nine members, each serving a three year term, with the terms staggered so that each year three members would go off. But to make it work we would have to have people willing to serve on it, and some of these would have to be Companions who are not Grand Officers. If you are interested, you can talk to me. Setting it up would take some work, possibly some Constitutional changes. But I think it would be a benefit to the York Rite, once it is established.

Finally, I want to let you know about some important upcoming dates. December 16 will be the York Rite Church service at Bonnie Blink at 3 PM. I hope you will try to attend. And the 2019 Grand Council semi-annual Assembly will be on Monday, May 13 in Frederick. The set-up will be like what the Grand Chapter did this year, with the meeting at 7:30 PM and a meal available beforehand. More information will be forthcoming. But save the date.

Companions, I thank you for your attention and for your confidence in electing me to this office.

Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, I move that this report be accepted and spread upon the minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

 Robert Lumbert

 Most Illustrious Grand Master

Seconded by MI Comp. Curtis; passed unanimously.

**7. Report of the Grand Recorder** RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

Most Illustrious Grand Master,

**Annual Reports.**

As of this writing, all Maryland Councils but one has now submitted their Annual Reports to the Grand Council. I have hypothecated a Report based on verbal information supplied by Council Recorder, indicating no changes from the prior year’s report. This year the Report Forms were developed by a professional firm and supplied online with an ADOBE utility for direct entry of all data. Five of the reports were down-loaded and filled by hand. I am grateful for the 10 of 16 Councils which completed their returns and had them to the Grand Recorder prior to September 30th.

**Grand Lodge Members Management System**

If any council wishes to confirm the contact information of any Maryland Mason, the Grand Recorder has access to the Grand Lodge’s GLLMS…database of Brothers who are members within our Grand Lodge.

**The Thrice Illustrious Master Degree**

The Grand Council will hold a Special Grand Assembly Saturday April 27, 2019 immediately prior to the Grand Chapter Law School and the Conferral of the Anointed High Priest Degree. All Candidates for the TIM Degree, having been properly qualified & elected as TIM-Elect, must present themselves for the Grand Council Law School. Law School will be conducted by the Grand Lecturer at 9:00 a.m. The Degree will follow immediately.

**School for Secretaries & Recorders**

On February 17, 2018 a School for Secretaries & Recorders was held at the Grand Lodge Building at Bonnie Blink. The attendance was heartening, though those most in need of instruction did not attend. It is my intention to attempt another school on a similar weekend in February 2019. The topic will be narrower, dealing with the use of technology in managing our local and statewide Chapters and Council. We will deal with the purchasing and maintenance of Computers, recommended types of software for word processing, Record keeping, bookkeeping, electronic communicating. If you find you are uncomfortable with this topic, you are exactly the one who should attend.

**York Rite Office**

In early August I was called to a meeting at the Grand Lodge Building with the Grand Recorder and Assistant Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery to discuss the conditions in the York Rite Offices. Let me state that I have never had a key to this office in my entire tenure and have entered only with those who did have their own access. When I arrived, I found that the office was being abated for mold by the application of an encapsulating paint, and several overcoats of a high quality latex paint. The conditions of the stored material were discussed among those present, and it was agreed to develop a plan to provide new metal shelving to encircle the office and the closet area. We took dimensions and observed the best depths for each section of shelving. I worked through that night to develop a chart of 72” metal shelving units all of the same construction but to differing depths and widths to accommodate the wall sections available and the architecture of the room. I also provided information on AMAZON part numbers and prices for the exact units which could be ordered and delivered to the Grand Lodge Building without shipping costs in AMAZON PRIME which I was told was available for the purpose. The estimate for the total number of all shelves and one similar cart unit was $1,570. 00 which was to be divided evenly among the three Grand Bodies. All materials for other organizations was to be removed, and to the best of my knowledge has been. Most of the existing furniture was no long functional, so it was to be disposed of…except a large table which could function as a conference table and work surface for those wishing to work in the office, which the incoming Grand Recorder of Commandery indicated he intended. I have followed up on this project, but I have no information as of this writing to indicate that any action has been taken. As this report is written prior to the Report of the Grand Recorder in the Grand Commandery there may be new information from the Grand Conclave held earlier today.

**Expenses of the 2017 Grand Session**

The Shared and special expenses of the 2017 Grand Sessions for the Grand Chapter and the Grand Council invited guests for meals, and the shared expenses for the accommodations were not produced in time to close out the 2017 Budget Year for the Semi-Annual Convocation in May 2018. This information has still not been received by the Grand Chapter or Grand Council. The Grand Commandery has had the management responsibilities for the Grand Sessions. This issue was discussed in late September of 2018 but given the preparations for this year’s York Rite Sessions the reckoning of these costs were to be dealt with after the 2018 Sessions. This is reported here to inform the membership that because ours is a Cash Accounting system, we will incur a double expenditure for this line item in the 2018 -2019 budget.

**Report on the Operating Account managed by the Grand Recorder.**

The report of the 2016 -2017 Finances were given and accepted at the Semi-annual Grand Assembly in May. Since that time there have been deposits made, and special projects funded, and the budgeted business of the Grand Council completed.

Attached is a list of all transactions from November 1, 2017 to October 24, 2018, including deposits and withdrawals in the form of checks written.

**Hanover Liability Insurance**

Having not received the usual invoice for the annual insurance premium at the beginning of October, our agent Comp. Ron Block was contact. He replied with the email attached to this report indicating that the invoice had not been issued but that the Grand Council was still responsible for payment by November 1, 2018. The premium has increased without explanation by 10%, while the number of insured Companions has declined by 10%.

The formula for the funding of the Hanover Liability policy is that the Grand Council pays 50%, while the balance of 50% is allocated on a per Capita basis to each Maryland Council. This is a weighed assignment based solely on membership and no other basis. A worksheet of this calculation is included with the Agenda and Summary Report of Annual Council Reports.

MIGM, thank you for your guidance and direction when contacted for assistance. I would like to congratulate you for your many travels in state and out of state.

2018 Grand Council Summary Report

Submitted respectfully

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

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

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Report of the Grand Treasurer** M.I. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis

Report of Grand Treasurer

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

Active Assets Account (Morgan Stanley) as of 30 September 2018

Asset Allocation Market Value Percentage

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cash | $ 6,240.87 | 3.45 |
| Equities | $ 40,148.20 | 27.15 |
| Fixed Income & Preferreds | $ 55,048.90 | 30.41 |
| Alternatives | $ 70,559.95 | 39.00 |

Total Value $ 181,037.92 100.00%

Balance Sheet (includes accrued interest) Sep 8/31/18 Sep 9/30/18

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cash, BDP, MMF’s | $ 5,673.32 | $ 6,419.29 |
| Stocks | $ 108,097.38 | $ 107,331.17 |
| Corporate Fixed Income  | $ 14,250.85 | $ 14,339.03 |
| Mutual Funds  | $ 53,103.06 | $ 53,126.85 |

Total Value $ 181,124,61 $ 181,037.92

Income & Distribution Summary Jan 1 – 30 Sep 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Qualified Dividends | $ 1,349.61 |
| Other Dividends | $ 2,859.82 |
| Interest | $ 4.39 |
| Partner Distributions | $ 1,689.00 |

Total Income and Distributions $ 5,902.82

On 25 October 2018, John Rafine and myself meet with our Financial Advisor to discuss our account with Morgan Stanley. After reviewing the account, we were advised to consider moving some funds around in order to have a better diversification of our funds, particularly in our common stocks.

Fraternally and Respectively

Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM (Grand Treasurer)

9. Grand Lecturer’s Report: Vacant – No Report

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

As the Budget was approved at the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly, there is no report at this time.

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

There are no issues to be considered at this time.

**12. CMMRF** R.I. Comp. Randolph S. Disney

No written report. The CMMRF Committee will attempt a new and more enjoyable item for sale.

The MIGM presented a Grand Council Crab Mallet to kick of the new program.

**13. Festive Board 2018 Comp. John P. Mitchell**

2018 Grand Council Festive Board Report

To: Robert B. Lumbert, MIGM

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland held their second annual Festive Board on Thursday July 26, 2018 at 7:30 PM in the Gothic Room at Grand Lodge. Our guest speaker was Craig Gotschall who gave a nice presentation on George Washington. The event was well attended.

The food was provided by Hunt Valley Catering at a cost of $13.50 per person plus tax. Honorary tickets were provided for MWGM Gus Vourvoulas, MIGM Bob Lumbert, MEGHP Pat Curtis, REGC Spyros Treklas, and our guest speaker Craig Gotschall. This year we were able to utilize some of the supplies that were left over from last year’s event which helped to keep the cost down. The total income generated from ticket sales at $25 each was $1,400.00 and the total expenses were $1,755.63. This left only $355.63 to be covered by the Grand Council out of the $750.00 budgeted for the event. We would like to thank Hiram Council, No. 5 for hosting the event again this year and John Rafine and John Mitchell for planning and arranging it.

A more detailed listing of the Income and Expenses is attached.

Fraternally,

John Mitchell, Chairman

John Rafine, MIPGM

2018 Grand Council Festive Board

**Income Proposed Actual Difference**

Ticket Sales @$25.00 (60) $1,500.00 **(56) $1,400.00** **(-4) -$100.00**

Grand Council Contribution $750.00 **$355.63 -$394.37**

 **TOTAL INCOME**  **$2,250.00 $1,755.63 (-$494.37)**

 **Expenses Proposed Actual Difference**

Meals Ordered\*\* (66) $1,155.00 (61) $872.91 (-5) -$282.09

\*\* Meals Ordered includes complimentary meals (6 Proposed but only 5 Actually needed)

Dinnerware \*\*\* $210.00 $125.78 -$84.22

\*\*\* Dinnerware includes: plates, cups, utensils, steam racks and trays, sterno, table cloths, take home containers, etc…

Wine $245.00 $287.06 (14 bottles) +$42.06

Shot Glasses $225.00 $182.30 -$42.70

Flyers/Program Printing $100.00 $47.64 -$52.36

Postage and Envelopes $65.00 $5.00 -$60.00

Soft Drinks / Iced Tea $30.00 $26.36 -$3.64

Grape Juice $20.00 $8.58 -$11.42

Contribution to GWMNM $200.00 $200.00 $0

 **TOTAL EXPENSES $2,250.00 $1,755.63 (-$494.37)**

**14. Doings of Grand Officers RI Comp. Ronald Aughenbaugh, MIPGM**

 **15. Fraternal Relations Committee** Comp. Frederick A. Spicer

Most Illustrious Grand Master,

It is with pleasure I report that there is perfect harmony throughout the jurisdiction between the Grand Bodies of Masonry and with our sister jurisdictions.

Fraternally Submitted,

Fred Spicer

**16. Committee on Grievance** MIPGM Stephen J. Ponzillo III

There was no written report received. There are no issues claiming the attention of this body.

**17. Jurisprudence and Constitution** MIPGM Edward A. Foreman Jr.

.No written report submitted. The most pressing issue facing the Grand Council is the merger of the Hagerstown York Rite Bodies, which is entrusted to the hands of the MIGM.

**18. Long Range Planning Committee** RI Comp. Randal Watson

**19. Membership** TIM Arthur Hebbeler

No written offered.

**20. Recognition and Awards** Comp. Frederick A. Spicer

Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons in Maryland,

The awards this Committee is responsible for receiving names and resumes from the Councils of R&S Masters are:

Lady of the Council Award

Ronald L. Thomas General Grand Council Ritualist Award

General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year

General Grand Council International Adult Leadership Award

Ish-Sodi Award – First Line Signer on 5 Petitions

This year, we have not received any names for consideration from the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of R&S Masters of Maryland.

Sincerely & fraternally,

Fred Spicer

**21. Time & Place 2018** RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

Decisions take at the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly

**22. Sessions 2017** RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

Our Hotel is the Red Lion Hotel in Timonium.

Grand Commandery will meet in the Gothic Room; The Grand Chapter will meet in the Oriental Room.

The banquet will be held at the Red Lion Hotel

**23. Youth Relations** MI Comp. John A. Rafine

No written Report was prepared.

**24. Unfinished Business** RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

Distribution of dues cards to each council.

Presentation of Honorary Membership to visiting dignitaries including MP Comp David Grindle

**25. New Business** MI Comp. Robert Lumbert

The Grand Recorder moved that the Grand Council continue the insurance with the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery of Maryland. Seconded by TIM Hebbeler. Passed

**26. Election of Officers** MI Comp. Robert Lumbert

No Vacancies required election at this Grand Assembly.

**27. Closing Remarks**

**28.Installation MI Comp. Stephen . Ponzillo, III**

**The officers were installed again into their respective stations and places.**

**29 Closing** MI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

The MIGM closed this Annual Grand Assembly in Ample Form.

The Grand Assembly was declared closed at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PTIM

Grand Recorder.

**APPENDIXES**

Appendix 1: Summary of Council Reports

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| **Concordia Council R&SM No.1** | 1206 Stehlik DriveOdenton, MD 21113 | Meets: 3rd Fridays 7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Richard D. Smith | DIM: Frederick T. Rossmark, Jr. | PCW: Vacant |
| Recorder: Robert B. Lumbert | **Membership: 90** |  |
| Thrice Illustrious Masters | James B. Coker, MIPGMEdward A. Foreman, Jr. MIPGMHoward CulverCharles E. McLaughlinJames J. Morgan, Jr. | Robert B. LumbertRichard D. SmithFrederick A. SpicerCharles W. Wagner, Jr. |
| **Greetings:**William Patrick SchatzmanGordon Allen MunhollandDonald Edward Norris**Reinstated:**None | **Deaths:****Glen Batten**Richard LeedsWerner RugWallace Walker**Demit:****Robert Moore****Reed Cole****Michael Cursick****William Fogle****Thomas Hoffman****John Parks****John Rafine****George Struck****Scott Thomas** | **Suspended:**Robert MooreAnthony Paoli\* |

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| **Jerusalem Council R&SM No. 2** | 140 Orville RoadEssex, MD 21221 | Meets: 4th Tuesdays7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Arthur M. Gordon | DIM: William J. Wickham, Jr. | PCW: Destin R. Strader, |
| Recorder: Thomas Heimiller | **Membership: 67** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Master | Jeffrey AmentW. Michael BoughmanRobert C. HeinzeWilliam E. LautenschlagerLouis H. Ortt | Alex A. RodriguezLouis P. Romeo, Jr.Richard F. SeimRichard H. Westermyer, Jr. |
| **Greetings:**Adam Gregory Stoddard**Reinstated:** | **Deaths: Horace R. Fyle, Jr.****Demit:** Howard Earl Roe | **Suspended:** |

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| **Hiram Council R&SM No. 5** | 304 International CircleCockeysville, MD 2103 | Meets: Irregular Schedule |
| TIM : John P. Mitchell | DIM: Thaddeus M. Vargo | PCW: George J. Christoff |
| Recorder: Cameron B. Newman | **Membership: 244** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters | Jeffrey L. DillWilliam C. EppigRichard A. Eppler, MIGPM/CTWilliam C. HareVernon H. Huebschman, REGRcMillard W. Keller, Jr.Carl A. Michel, Jr.W. Calvin Gray | Richard P. Naegele, MIPGMStephen J. Ponzillo III, MIPGMAlex A. RodriguezHoward E. RoeJohn L. ThomasSpyridon G. TreklasRandall L. Watson, RIDGMRobert E. Young |
| **Greetings:****Reinstated:****Plural:****Robert Joseph White** | **Dual Members:**Thaddeus M. Vargo**Deaths:**John William AdamsAlbert R. AnglinErnest F. ClarkRichard N. DaddsLouis N. DawsonGary Lee FairbankMelvin R. KenneyTerrance Brent MatternJoseph T. Merson, Jr.Thomas Elmer MeyersFrederick W. MuellerRobert Stephen NovakPhillip E. Plitt | **Suspended:**H. Kemp MacDanielHebert Harsey  |

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| **Carroll Council R&SM No. 7** | 46 Monroe Street | Meets: 4th Monday 7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : William J. Baldwin, Jr. | DIM: G. Michael Robbins | PCW: Jeffrey L. Disney |
| Recorder: William J. Baldwin, Jr | **Membership: 57** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | William J. Baldwin, Jr. |  |
| **Greetings:****Affiliated:****Howard Roe** | **Deaths:****Robert M Bare****Russell J. Gosnell****Kenneth W. Knouse****Ralph W. Tieman****Carl J. Wisner, MIPGM** | **Demit:****Timothy E. Bennett****John A. Layman****Philip Lindemeyr****Kenneth E. Pickett****Jeffrey N. Zumbrun****Suspended:****Eric L. Woolman** |

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| Jeshua Council No. 8 R&SM | 114 N. Washington StEaston, MD 21601 | 2nd Thursday of Jan. Apr, June Oct. |
| TIM; Darryl w. McCaslin | DIM: Robert M. Penney | PCW: Michael S. Bauman |
| Rec: Robert M. Penny | Membership: |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Howard Higgins  | Darryl McCaslin |
| Greeted: NoneDied:B. Hope Harrison, MWGMThomas S. KlingerDaniel F. Pritchett | Demit:Maurice E. Newman III | Suspended:Roger JohnsonLarry Allebach |

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| **Zabud Council R&SM No. 9** | 439 Race StreetCambridge, MD 21613 | Meets: 4th Mondays7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Christian Jensen | DIM: George Wittstadt | PCW: Robert Wall |
| Recorder: Wallace Dodson | **Membership: 19** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters | Wallace DodsonChristian Jensen | David TibbetsGeorge Wittstadt |
| **Greetings:****Reinstated:**None | **Deaths:****Demit:**None | **Suspended:** |
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| **Enoch Council R&SM No. 10** | 1203 N. Market StreetFrederick MD 21701 | Meets: 2nd Mondays7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Gary Kennedy | DIM: Ian Hongola | PCW: Austin Fogle II |
| Recorder: Dennis Brekhus | **Membership: 78** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Dennis A. BrekhusKenneth T. Crampton | George W. ShumardGary Kennedy |
| **Greetings:**Christopher Wayne BickelDavid Scott HahnRobert HarrodKoong Wes LamIrvin Windam RileyCharles Shaffer**Reinstated:**None | **Deaths:****Demit:****None** | **Suspended:**None |

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| **Salem Council R&SM No. 11** | 15 Greene StreetCumberland, MD 21502 | Meets: 3rd Tuesdays, 4 times/year 7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Patrick A. Stangler | DIM: Jeffrey M. Grog | Samuel J. Lane |
| Recorder: Robert W. Hamilton | **Membership: 94** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | John GreerRobert W. HamiltonKenneth A. Robertson | Patrick Stangler |
| **Greetings:**David J. CurryRaymond O’NeilJames M. SniderRev. Jack R. GeorgeAaron V. Lea**Reinstated:**None | **Deaths:**John J. Kifer**Demit:**None | **Suspended:**None |

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| **Giblim Council R&SM No. 12** | 110 S. Division StreetSalisbury, MD. 21801 | Meets: 4th Thursdays 7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Robert Caldwell | DIM: Glynn Bridge | PCW: Joel Todd |
| Recorder: Franklin Williams | **Membership: 58** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters | Norris Cartwright, Sr.Alonzo Conley, Jr.Charles Dashiell, Jr. | Arthur H. TawesJoel J. ToddDale E. Venable |
| **Greetings:****Raymond A. Dore’****David Franklin Long****Phillip Oneschuk****Reinstated:****David F. McManus, Jr.****Howard Dale Quillen****Clarence N. Tyler** | **Deaths:****Edward L. Evans****Demit:****Norris A. Cartwright, Jr.** | **Suspended:**Henry L. Guy |

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| **King Solomon Council R&SM No. 13** | 20516 Boland Farm RoadPO Box 2124Germantown, MD 20875 | Meets: 3rd Thursdays7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Raymond Lee Tayse | DIM: Bryan Remley | PCW: Skip Richard |
| Recorder: Jeffrey Alderice | **Membership: 39** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Lee BrobstKris D. BrownWalter HagenDonald Holiday, Sr.Thomas Marraffa, Jr | Richard Parker, Sr.William ParsonsArthur SellersWard TaylorRoyce Watson, MIPGMRobert E. Vitarelli, Sr. |
| **Greetings: None****Reinstated:**Jeff BodieGordon BrunnerGeorge GeralisDon HollidayGeorge Matthews | **Deaths:** **James Knight****Donald Wood****Demit:****Allen Alvarez****Charles Bradshar****Lee Brobst****Jauan Caceres****Robert Cole****Pierre Guajird****Thomas Graham****William Parson****Chris Rivera****James Rutherford****Ward Taylor****David Holland** | **Suspended:** |

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| **Palestine Council R&SM No. 16** | 11735 White Hall RoadSmithburg, MD | Meets: 2nd Tuesdays7:00 p.m. |
| TIM : R. Joseph White | DIM: Joel D. Klimoski | PCW: Terry L. Smith |
| Recorder: Terry L. Smith | **Membership: 45** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Jodie C. ArnoldRussell S. BrewerDelancey L. CatlettHarvey L. Hogamier | Joel D. KlimoskiRichard P. MarshallMarion F. Rickard, Jr.Terry L. Smith R. Joseph R. White |
| **Greetings:**None**Reinstated:**None | **Deaths:**Richard L. McDonald**Demit:****Gary W. Freeman****Thomas P. Murphy** | **Suspended:**Lance R. NightTimothy A. Snouffer |

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| **Harmony Council R&SM No. 20** | 162 Conduit StreetAnnapolis, MD 21402 | Meets: 2nd Mondays7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : G. Andrew Martinez | DIM: Valdez Jeremy Jenkins | PCW: S. Dirk Wiker |
| Recorder: Randolph S. Disney | **Membership:**  |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Robert N. BrannanJames H. ConboyHoward E. Culver, Jr.Gordon A. Davids, MIPGMRandolph S. Disney | Leland P. LinderEdward V. MatthaisMark F. OwensW. Andrew PriceSteven E. RobertsonJimmie E. TrowbridgeKenneth S. Wyvill, Jr. |
| **Exaltations:**Barry GatelyEllis Tinsley IIIJames Allen Jolley**Reinstated:**None | **Deaths:****Bennie G. Owens, MIPGM****Roy Edward Haugh****James E. McMurtry III****Demit:****Stanley Dent Smith****Suspended:**Jacob HolzenschulCharles HillRichard HallClifford FalkenmerRonald JonesMichael KerekershRobert Earl MartinWilliam MaloyDaniel Stuart MillerCharles B MorrisPrimievail Glurie | Suspended (cont)Curtis Merrill PageAlfred Carlos PhelpsWilliam Andrew PriceThomas PriesterRobert Eugene ShurrStanley Edward StepnitzRobert Walsh StevensDenny Joseph TomasWayne McNeil WilsonKeith David WilliamsRobert Harold ShifletAdam Michael LinderRussell D. MackDaniel T. Smith |

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| **Adoniram Council R&SM No. 21** | 114 Market StreetDenton MD 21628 | Meets: 1st Tuesdays 7:30 |
| TIM : Robert E. Sparks | DIM: A. Dean Burt III | PCW: None |
| RECORDER: Christian Jensen | **Membership: 74** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Burt A. Dean IIIClifton R. Friel | Eugen D. RaczRobert E. SparksWilliam Parsons |
| **Greetings:**None**Reinstated:**None | **Deaths:****Demit:**John KolditzMichael Lewis | **Suspended:**Gregory EigenbrodeEdgar R. KauffmanTheodore LandskroenerWayne WileyJames H WillamsonGeorge Wilson, Sr. |

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| **York Council R&SM No. 23** | 6311 Old Branch AvenueCamp Springs, MD 20748 | 3rd Fridays 7:30 p.m.March, June, Sept, Dec. |
| TIM : Patrick A. Curtis | DIM: William Zarychta | PCW: Kenyatta Galbreath |
| Recorder: G. Daniel Brewer | **Membership: 67** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Larry O. BowenGrover. D. BrewerPatrick A. Curtis, MIPGMMark E. IrwinCharles W. Lloyd, Jr.James Cloud | Robert B. Malwitz, MIPGMHarry Miller, Jr.S. Brent MorrisUrban T. Peters MIPGMRonald M. RhineCharles E. VannoyWilliam B. VansantDarrell T. Verner |
| **Greetings:**Stephan MinarovichMark E. Wooten**Reinstated:** | **Deaths:**Edward E HowardJames G. HowcoftRobert J. RatliffLawrence E. Stotsbury**Demit:** | **Suspended:**Brian D. CarrollBruce E. Wilson |

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| **Acacia Council R&SM No. 24** | 5585 Levering AvenueElkridge, MD 21075 | Meets: 3rd Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.Oct, Feb, Apr. |
| TIIM : Ronald L. Aughenbaugh | DIM: Donald W. Thielman | PCW: Douglas Page  |
| Recorder: Charles Malinowski | **Membership: 14** |  |
| Past Thrice Illustrious Masters: | Ronald L. Augenbaugh, MIPGM | David W. ThielmanDavid L. Sampson |
| **Greetings:****Reinstated:** | **Deaths:****Demit:** | **Suspended:** |

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| **Samuel L. Clemens Council R&SM No. 25** | 837 A Frederick RoadCatonsville, MD 21228 | Meets: 2nd Wednesdays7:30 p.m. |
| TIM : Arthur F. Hebbeler III | DIM: Vacant | PCW: Richard Bolton |
| Recorder: Vacant | **Membership: 10** |  |
| Past High Priests: | Arthur F. Hebbeler IIIFrederick A. Spicer |  |
| **Greetings:****Reinstated:** | **Deaths:****Demit:** | **Suspended:****None** |