

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



OCTOBER 26, 2019

Live! Lofts Hotel

Hanover Maryland



**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland
Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Maryland**

**Call Letter for Annual Meetings Location:
Live! Lofts Hotel - Hanover, MD**

Companions & Sir Knights

By order of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, ME Comp. William C. Eppig, 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 Chapter will meet in Grand Convocation, **Friday, October 25, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Convocation. Agenda to include reports as necessary and Installation of 2019 - 2020 Officers. Open Installation of Officers at 9:00 p.m.

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

The Grand Council will meet in Grand Assembly **Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Assembly. Agenda to include all Officer and Committee Reports as necessary. Open Installation of Officers to follow immediately at 11:15 a.m.

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

The Grand Commandery will meet in Grand Conclave **Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Conclave. Agenda to include all Officer and Committee Reports as necessary. Installation to follow at 3:15 p.m.

Dress is Full Templar Uniform, Chapeau & Sword.

Please see enclosed Agenda and Registration information for specifics. The meeting locations will be available with the registration packet. As of this writing there are no proposed amendment in any of the Bodies.

Fraternally & Respectfully,

ME Comp Vernon H Huebschman
Grand Secretary
Grand Chapter of Maryland

RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman
Grand Recorder
Grand Council of Maryland

SK Kris Brown, EPC
Grand Recorder
Grand Commandery of KT in MD



Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

.Annual Grand Assembly

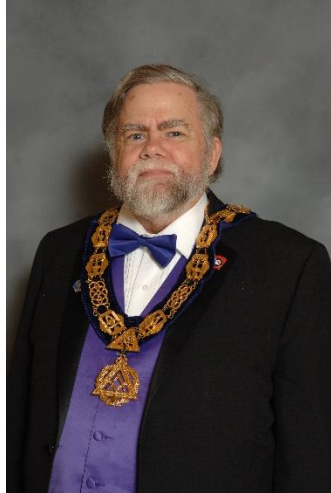
October 26, 2019

Hanover , Maryland

9:00 a.m.

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|---|---|
| 1. Grand Council Opening | MIGM Robert B. Lumbert |
| 2. Credentials Committee | Preliminary Report: William Baldwin |
| 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 | <i>Most Illustrious Grand Master:</i> Robert B. Lumbert |
| 7. Officer's Report | <i>Grand Recorder:</i> Vernon H. Huebschman |
| 8. Officer's Report | <i>Grand Treasurer:</i> John A. Rafine, MIPGM |
| 9. Officer's Report/Ritual Additions | <i>Grand Lecturer:</i> 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 2019 | TIM John P. Mitchell |
| 14. Doings of Grand Officers | MIPGM Ronald L. Aughenbaugh |
| 15. Fraternal Relations | PTIM Frederick A. Spicer |
| 16. Grievance | Grand Recorder, Vernon H. Huebschman |
| 17. Jurisprudence & Constitution | MI Comp. Stephen J. Ponzillo, III MIPGM |
| 18. Long-Range Planning | RIGPCW Randolph S. Disney |
| 19. Membership | TIM Arthur F. Hebbeler |
| 20. Recognition & Awards | PTIM Frederick A. Spicer |
| 21. Time & Place 2020 | RIDGM Randall L. Watson |
| 22. Sessions 2019 | RIDGM Randall L. Watson |
| 23. Youth Relations | RIDGM Randall L. Watson |
| 24. Unfinished Business | RIGPCW Randolph S. Disney |
| Mergers: Palestine Council & Acacia Council | |
| 25. New Business | MIGM Robert B. Lumbert |
| 26. Election of 2019 – 2020 Officers | MIGM Robert B. Lumbert or designated MIPGM |
| 27. Remarks | |
| 28. Calling Off for Installation | MIGM Robert B. Lumbert |
| 29. Installation of 2019 – 2020 Officer | Installing MIPGM |
| 30. Final Remarks & Closing | MIGM Randal L. Watson |

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



Robert Lumbert was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1949. He lived in the Boston area until graduation from high school. He received a Bachelor's degree from Dartmouth and a Master's degree from Cornell, both in mathematics. He moved to Maryland to take a job as a mathematician with the Department of Defense, a position he retired from in 2011.

His Masonic career began when he joined Battle Green Chapter, Order of DeMolay. After moving to Maryland, he became an advisor in what was then Glen Burnie Chapter. He currently serves on the State Staff as Awards Advisor. He has been awarded the Degree of Chevalier and is an active member of the Legion of Honor.

He was raised a Master Mason in Glen Burnie Lodge #213 in 1984 and served as Worshipful Master in 1991. He is currently the Secretary of the

Board of Grand Inspectors and the Grand Inspector for Ionic Lodge #145. He is also a member of Daylight Lodge #1.

He became a member of Concordia Chapter #1, RAM in 1987 as part of the Bicentennial Class. He served as High Priest in 1999-2001 and several times since. He was the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland in 2010-12 and the Ambassador to Maryland from General Grand Chapter in 2014-17. He is currently the Excellent Master of Ceremonies in Maryland's Council of Anointed High Priests. He has received the Award for Meritorious Service in Bronze, the General Grand Chapter Ritual Award and the Ephraim Kirby award. He is also a member of Adonairam RAC #21 and an honorary member of Druid RAC #28.

He is a member of Concordia Council #1, serving as Thrice Illustrious Master in 2001-2 and is currently the Recorder. He was Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Maryland in 2017-19. He is currently the Senior Warden for the TIM degree.

Knights Templar – Maryland Commandery #1, Eminent Commander for three years

Scottish Rite – Valley of Baltimore

Allied Masonic Degrees – Freestate Council #308, Past Sovereign Master (twice), current Secretary
Grand College of Rites

Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests – Emmanuel Tabernacle VIII, Past Preceptor

Knight Masons – Maryland Council #9, Past Excellent Chief, current Scribe

Knight of the York Cross of Honor – Francis Scott Key Priory #14, Past Prior

Past Commanders Association – Past President

Royal Order of Scotland - lifetime member

Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis – Maryland College

Universal Craftsmen Council of Engineers – Euclid Council #14

York Rite College – Maryland College #58, Past Governor, current Secretary, Order of the Purple Cross

1. Grand Council Opening

MIGM Robert B. Lumbert

The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by Most Illustrious Grand Master, M.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert 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. John A. Rafine, MIPGM	Grand Treasurer
Comp. Arthur Hebbeler	Grand Chaplain
Comp. William Hare	Grand Captain of the Guard
Comp. John P. Mitchell	Grand Conduction of the Council
Comp. Richard D. Smith	Grand Marshal
Comp. Christian Jensen	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.
So Mote It Be.” Amen.

2. Credentials Reports**Comp. William J. Baldwin, Gr Sentinel****Preliminary Report at the opening of the Grand Assembly**

Number of Councils Present	Eleven (11)
Number of Voting Companions	Twenty-five (25)
Number of Non-Voting Companions	Fourteen (14))

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

Final Report per Register submitted by the Grand Sentinel, per registration sheets:

Number of Councils Present	Twelve (12)
Number of Voting Companions	Thirty-one (31)
Number of Non-Voting Companions	Sixteen (16)



Final Register of attending Companions:

1. Concordia	Robert B. Lumbert, MIGM Frederick T. Rossmark, PCW	2. Jerusalem	W. Michael Boughman, PTIM Arthur M. Gordon, TIM Louis P. Romeo, Jr
5. Hiram	Jeffrey L. Dill, MIPGM William C. Eppig, PTIM Richard A. Eppler, MIPGM/CT William C. Hare, PTIM Vernon H. Huebschman, RIGRec Carl Michel, PTIM John P. Mitchell, TIM Richard P. Naegele, MIPGM John A. Rafine, MIPGM Thaddeus M. Vargo, # Randall L. Watson, RIGPCW	7. Carroll	William J Baldwin, TIM James Frock, DIM Jeffrey Disney#
8. Jeshua	None Registered	9. Zabud	Christian Jensen
10. Enoch	None Registered	11. Salem	Robert W. Hamilton, PTIM
12. Giblim	None Registered	13. King Solomon	John H. Austin, PTIM Kris Brown, PTIM Bryan Remley, DIM Raymond L. Tayse, TIM
16. Palestine	Merged into Hiram	20. Harmony	Gordon A. Davids, MIPGM Randolph S. Disney, PTIM F. Andrew Martinez, TIM Kenneth S. Wyvill, PTIM
21. Adoniram	Eugene Racz, PG Recorder	23. York	Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM
24. Acacia	Merged in Concordia	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 Right Puissant Grand Master William Snyder, and Grand Honors were rendered. Right Puissant Region Grand Master J.D. Walsh was received.

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

MIPGM Gordon A. Davids	1995
MIPGM Patrick A. Curtis	2002
MIPGM Richard P. Naegele	2008 -2009
MIPGM Jeffrey L. Dill	2015 – 2016
MIPGM John A. Rafine	2017

Grand Honors were led by MIGM Lumbert

The MIGM greeted our MIPGM's.

Later, during his Annual Report, the MIGM asked for a moment of silent reflect, as of our 2018 Annual Grand Assembly, the following MIPGM has passed to the Celestial Lodge Above:

MIPGM Royce A. Watson 2007

A moment of silence was observed for our late MIPGM



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.

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

5. TIM Degree

Canidadete: Comp. George Christoff Hiram Council No. 5 R&SM

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 Lumbert the closed the Special Grand Assembly at 11:15 a.m. in Ample Form.

Respectfully and Zealously,

R. I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

6. Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

MIGM Robert B. Lumbert

144th Annual Assembly Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master October 26, 2019

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Puissant General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, Right Puissant Deputy General Grand Master, and my Companions all,

For the fourth and final time I am reporting to you as your Most Illustrious Grand Master. I thank you for being given the privilege of serving in this office, and I hope my efforts on your behalf have been satisfying to you. I judge the Grand Council to be in about the same shape as it was when I was installed two years ago. It is true we have lost one Council and are about to lose another. But I don't feel that these losses have weakened the Grand Council. Both Councils were struggling, and had one of my predecessors been of a more dictatorial bent, they

would have been closed long ago. Even now there are other Councils that are barely surviving and could reasonably be closed by fiat. But my feeling is that as long as the Companions wish to continue as a Council, they should be allowed to do so, if possible. Sometime in the future they may be able to revitalize themselves. That has happened before in this Jurisdiction.

Normally we have a memorial service as after the introduction of our distinguished guests. Since that didn't happen this year, I will pause at this time to remember our departed Companions with a moment of silence. As most of you know we lost Most Illustrious Past Grand Master Royce Watson in January, and we remembered him at the semi-annual in May. I ask you know to stand for a moment of silence in memory of him and the other 72 Companions who advanced to the Celestial Lodge above in the past year.

What I want to spend most of my time on today is looking ahead. If this Grand Council, and indeed York Rite Masonry in this state, is to prosper in the future, some rethinking needs to be done. What I am about to say may make some people unhappy. I do not mean to offend anyone. Think of what I say as "whispering good counsel in the ear of a Brother". If you do not think that what I am about to talk about applies to you, all well and good. If you do think it applies to you, please think about how you can make changes. If you're not sure, maybe some thinking is still in order. I am not going to criticize anyone in particular. But I think the fact that we are installing new leaders in all three Bodies gives us all a new start, and we can get away from "we didn't do it that way before".

The first thing I'm going to talk about is communication, mainly communication between Grand Council leadership and the members. When someone is installed into a position like mine, he will often make some comment about just being the leader temporarily, and that it is the work of the entire body that makes things work. I wish I could make you all believe that. When I was Grand High Priest I sent out an e-mail roughly monthly keeping everyone apprised of goings-on in the Grand Chapter. It seemed to be well received. I intended to do the same as Grand Master. But when I asked for e-mail addresses to update my mailing list, I got exactly two responses. When I asked for suggestions for social events that the Grand Council might put on, I got just one response. When I offered to come for a Grand Visitation this year, only one Council asked me to come. Unfortunately, I was not able to come on the first date they suggested, and somehow the reschedule didn't take place. When I asked for the names of people who might be worthy of receiving one of the Grand Council awards, it seems that there aren't any. (Fortunately the Grand Council awards committee was able to give me some names). Companions, do you really believe that there is no one in your Council is doing good work and deserves to be recognized for it?

I realize that I share some of the responsibility for this situation. I am not a very social person, so I don't get out and talk to a lot of people as many of you do. I am not married, so I don't have a good feel for what activities might appeal to the ladies. And I am the exact opposite of a micromanager. When I ask someone

to do something, I expect it will be done without harassment from me. If the task needs to be done, I will at least remind the person about it. But if it is something more optional, like making award nominations, my feeling is that if you don't care, I can't make you. I understand the attraction of procrastination, being subject to it myself. But I do manage to get things done on time. If you are asked to make some suggestions in some area, try to do so. Even if they are not practical, they may suggest something to another person which can be done. And don't feel that if you suggest a project, you will be stuck doing it. If you have a position of responsibility, whether in Grand Council, a local Council, or any other organization, and you have a job to do, please get it done on time. Annual Reports were due to the Grand Recorder on September 30. As of that date, half the Councils had not turned them in. This is unacceptable. Our Grand Recorder has enough to do without having to contact local Recorders to find out where their report is. The majority of the report can be filled out on May 31, after your Installation. The only changes after that are deaths and perhaps NPD suspensions which occur up to August 31. This is not a hard task, but too many Recorders are not doing it. Perhaps Grand Council needs to consider some monetary penalty on late reports.

My second topic is York Rite Unity. We are fortunate in Maryland that the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery get along and work together well. This is not necessarily the case in other jurisdictions. But there are things that we should be doing together but are not. The best example of this is the arrangements for Grand Sessions. Each Presiding Officer appoints his own Sessions Committee and his own Time and Place Committee. But there is little coordination among the three Bodies, and often members serve only for a year or two. This year I understand that when one Companion went to talk to a hotel about our 2020 Sessions, he was told that someone else had already been there. This is at the very least a waste of someone's time, and it could have repercussions if two different people enter into negotiations and have different requirements. I have been advocating the establishment of a joint committee, responsible for all aspects of organizing Grand Sessions. It would have nine members, and three would rotate off each year. This would provide continuity, while limiting any one person's commitment and allowing new blood to get involved. Unfortunately, this suggestion has been ignored. It may be that some Constitutional changes are needed to establish this, but that should be easy to accomplish.

Another thing I feel needs to be done is an update of our York Rite directory. The directory produced in 2010 is very much out of date. With the information available on our web site, the new version would only need to be a listing of the addresses, phone numbers and e-mails of certain of our Companions. While it would have to be updated from time to time, an annual addendum could be produced yearly, with a full revision done say every five years. This is something we really need, but no one else seems interested.

A third thing that needs work is allowing our Bodies, both local and state, to offer on-line payments. And working on it together makes the most sense. I tried to get some interest in this two years ago. I don't have knowledge about such matters. But I'm sure someone out there does. Please step forward. I wouldn't think it would take a lot of your time to get this started.

These items are clearly ones that all three Bodies need to be involved in. Other events would work perfectly well under the sponsorship of one Body. The Grand Chapter held a bowling tournament this year. It was successful, and I believe it will continue. It is a Grand Chapter event, and it should continue that way. On the other hand, Grand Council sponsored a Festive Board in 2017 and 2018. Because it involved a cost to the Grand Council, it made sense to invite the involvement of Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery. With more money to spend, it was hoped we could make it a bigger event, with more Brothers attending. It didn't work out that way this year, but I still have hopes for the future.

I was pleased to hear the announcement that the Keystone newsletter will henceforth be a York Rite publication. This was a great idea on the part of Most Excellent Bill. It is something I would have liked to have produced if I had the necessary computer skills. But making it a York Rite newsletter is the right thing to do, in my opinion. This is a way to present a united front, especially to those Brothers who have not yet seen fit to join our ranks. I know there is confusion at times due to the different way that York Rite and Scottish Rite are set up. This will help reduce the confusion.

I suppose this report can't be considered as official unless I say something about membership. We all know it is a problem. At this point I am not going to be able to solve it. But we all need to do what we can to help alleviate it, by recruiting members for Lodge and Chapter, as well as Council.

Lest you think that all I am going to do is voice some frustrations, I assure you that there are many areas in which the Grand Council, and Maryland York Rite Masonry in general, are doing a very good job. I have spoken a number of times about how well our ritual is done. In so many Jurisdictions doing ritual is more a job for the state officers, not the local ones. While we may do some courtesy work, many of our Councils can confer the degrees without help.

Our state finances are in good shape. We stay within our budget for the most part, and we watch our expenses. In many Jurisdictions, one of the questions at Grand Sessions is always "how much are we going to increase the assessments?" And it is often at least \$1 or \$2 every year. We have not had a per capita increase for a few years, except to compensate for what the National Bodies charge us, and to pay for insurance. I don't know how long that can last, but let us hope any increase is still a few years off.

I also think our website is very good, and I thank Dan Brewer and those assisting him for keeping it that way. He too needs your help to keep things up to date, and I hope you will give it to him. Since I do a lot of travelling, I depend on

the websites of other Jurisdictions for dates and costs. This is not always easy to find, especially in a timely manner. Sometimes I can't find it all, or what I do find is last year's information. Our information is normally posted about three months before the Sessions, available to our members as well as those from out of state. Let me now mention a few subjects for future action. The first is education. I think you are all familiar with the Grand Lodge's education program. It is unlikely we could create something that elaborate for Grand Council (or Grand Chapter or Grand Commandery), but we can and should work harder within our local Councils to educate our Companions. A few years ago the "Capitular Masonry Education Course" was published as a means to educate Chapter members. There is now a similar volume for Cryptic Masonry. These books are not very expensive, and I would urge each Chapter or Council to purchase one. Even devoting just one or two meetings a year to education will help your members and might even increase your attendance.

I have done a lot of travelling representing both Grand Council and Grand Chapter. But I can't seem to convince other Grand Officers of the importance of doing so. In the past year only once was I at an out of state Grand Sessions where that another Grand Council officer attended and only once where a Grand Chapter officer attended. I'm not sure what the situation was with Grand Commandery, because their meetings don't always align with Chapter and Council meetings. Getting to know the people leading our sister Jurisdictions, hearing their problems and solutions, and sharing ours should be an important part of the job. I understand that jobs make travel difficult for some, but the Delaware Sessions, for example, are only about an hour's drive from Grand Lodge, and they do both Chapter and Council on the same Saturday.

We are still waiting to hear if General Grand Council and General Grand Chapter will be creating a "mid-Atlantic" region at the Triennium next year. If they do, it will mean that there will be a York Rite Regional Conference much closer to us. In recent years these sessions have become very interesting and useful. But they have usually been in Albany. Attendance is not restricted to Grand Officers. Anyone can attend, and I think almost anyone would benefit. This year I learned that in Indiana they did a festival in which they conferred all the York Rite degrees, from Lodge to Commandery, in chronological order. There are a lot of connections among the degrees that we don't notice when they are conferred in the official order. I would have loved to have been at that festival. I don't know if we could do it in Maryland. Conferring all the degrees would be difficult, but exemplifying them, so that things could be shortened by say, leaving out the lectures, might be feasible. If you think about this some, you will realize that putting things in chronological order is not a simple task, and that some of the degrees would have to be broken into parts. In Indiana they also made some modifications to tie degrees together. For example, in the Royal Master degree, during the Soliloquy, the candidate sees someone lurking in the shadows. Then as he is going out the door, he hears "Ah Grand Master Hiram Abif, I am pleased to

meet you thus alone”, and the door is shut.

I would like to call your attention to some awards available from General Grand Council. They haven’t seemed to have gotten enough publicity in Maryland. First is the Lady of the Council award. This can be requested by any Companion, for the special lady in his life or to a lady who has been supportive of his Council in some way. This can be presented at some special event that your Council holds or at some bigger event like the Grand Sessions banquet. I know most of you know someone who is deserving of this award. Its cost is \$125.

Also available from General Grand are a Veteran’s Medal and a First Responder’s Award. The Veteran’s Medal serves a similar purpose to the one available from General Grand Chapter, and is available at a cost of \$25. The First Responder’s Award can be presented to any first responder, even if he or she is not a Mason. A Mason receives a medal, while a non-Mason receives a lapel pin. The respective costs are \$25 and \$15. This is something you can consider if you are involved in a community outreach program. All these awards can be ordered through your Council Recorder. But you can also order them directly through the General Grand Councils website (crypticmasons.org).

And if you’re looking for something that’s free, General Grand Council publishes a “weekly” newsletter, called the “Weekly Decryption”. It doesn’t actually come out every week, but they are doing their best. It has some interesting articles, even ones about Maryland occasionally. You can sign up for it on the General Grand Council website. And please let your new members know about it.

As I mentioned, this is my last report to you as Most Illustrious Grand Master. I am not going into retirement, but I do not anticipate taking on any major jobs in the future. I do have a number of Secretarial positions to occupy me, and I intend to be involved in ritual as long as I am able. One project I have set for myself is an examination of the Grand Council Constitution. If you read it, it is very out of date in many areas and needs some revision in others. My intention is to have something ready for the semi-annual, but I’m not going to guarantee that. As a first step, I have drawn up a list of areas I think need to be changed and how they should be changed. I have copies available for anyone who is interested, and I would welcome comments. Of course ultimately it is you who will decide how the Constitution should be changed, not me.

Again I thank you for being allowed to serve as your Most Illustrious Grand Master. I pledge my support to Randy, Randy and Bill, as well as their successors, as they lead this Grand Council into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Comp. Robert Lumbert
Most Illustrious Grand Master of Maryland, 2017-2019

7. Report of the Grand Recorder

RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

Most illustrious Grand Master Lumbert,

1. **Membership** - The Summary Report which is provided on the reverse of the Agenda shows the data supplied by the Recorders of each of our constituent Councils. I will leave to others to tease out the nuances that hide in the data points.
2. **Mergers** - The Summary Report deals with the mergers of Palestine Council No. in Hiram Council No. 5, We are indebted to those who worked on these transitions that they went as well as they did.
3. **Recorders** - I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Council Recorders who labored for the good management of their respective Councils. One Companion in each Council bears the responsibility for Membership management, communications, billing, history, record keeping, and coordination with the Grand Council. The Recorder must understand the Constitution of the Grand Council and the Bylaws of his own Council. Each year he must adapt to the programs of a new Thrice Illustrious Master or buttress the efforts of a TIM who is serving multiple terms. Our Recorders have a partner on the opposite side of the room in the Treasurer. It is his duty to keep a spotless record of the transactions of the Council and be sure the honor of the Council is pristine. I don't know of a single man who is a Recorder or Treasurer by birth, and few who have the specific training in management to hold these positions. They accept election because they know the life of their beloved Council depends on having someone in the Southeast Corner of the Council Room. No Recorder is perfect. Each Companion has his own set of skills, and an allowance of time and energy to devote to this position. This means performance among our Councils varies. Each Recorder does what he can with his talent and time. Please be grateful for his service and assist where you can. The greatest help is to respond quickly to dues notices, and requests for information...give timely responses so issues can be expeditiously resolved. Respect your Recorder's time. I have often heard it said that being a Recorder is a thankless job. Well, it should not be so.
4. **School for Secretaries, Recorders, and Treasurers** - The third such School is scheduled for February 15, 2020...the third Saturday in February. This date is selected to coordinate with the Grand Masters Conference of North America which causes a lull in the Grand Master's regional Meetings. Comp. Charles Matulewicz, the appointed Asst Grand Secretary, is tasked with organization this school for 2020. Requests for honing specific skills and practices will narrow the scope of some of the topics we have covered in the past. Please mark your calendars and cooperate with Companion Matulewicz in his first major effort.

5. **IRS 990 N Reports** - Several of our Councils are recovering from the loss of their Not for Profit Status. This happens when a Recorder loses his focus on his obligations. This process costs \$600 and many hours of effort. These reports are due after March 31st each year. They take 15 minutes to do, and it is 100% done on the internet. Each Council must make sure their officers are seeing to this obligation because the cost of reinstatement is significant when seen as a cost per member. Any officer can do this report. Maintaining the Not for Profit status is necessary to have an Employer Identification Number or EIN. Without the EIN, banks and financial institutions will not do business or establish accounts to serve your Council.
6. **Retirement** – It is still my intention to retire from the offices of Grand Secretary and Grand Recorder in October 2020. I have been sharing my experiences with the elected grand officers and the designated Assistant Grand Recorder. My main concern is the preservation of a unified York Rite Database. This body of facts provides an invaluable tool for the care of the memberships of our Companions. The GLMMS is a wonderful asset to assist in the maintenance of this information but I cannot see that the GLMMS has the capacity of doing the same things that the YR Database does at this point. The Grand Encampment's membership information provides me no comfort in data integrity and the sovereignty of each of the other two Grand Bodies. Somehow the YR Database must remain one unified body of information for Council and Council. As an example of its utility, the Grand Commandery has to back feed information concerning its past officers and current dais officers to make possible the cost savings in unified mailings for our annual and semi-annual grand meetings. I urge our leadership to take great care with this imperfect but priceless tool that Companion Gene Racz, Past Grand Recorder, built a quarter of a century ago from index cards and scraps of paper.

Thank you, MIGM Lumbert, for the honor of serving you a second time as you have presided in the Grand East. Thank you for your service and your guidance when issues were sticky. I wish you the very best in you future endeavors in the Halls of Freemasonry where others will be calling for your leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

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



Grand Council of R&SM of Maryland																				
2017 - 2018													Submitted: October 26, 2019							
Summary Report of Membership Status as submitted in Annual Council Reports																				
Council Number	Council Name	IRS 990-N	8/31/2018 Membership	Greetings	Re-instatement	Merger	Subtotal		Deaths	Suspended by Chapter Action	Suspensions by Lodge Action	Demit	Correction	Ending 8/31/18	General Grand Council Life Memberships	Gen Grd Council Life Memberships (- \$2.50)	Assessment less Life memberships	Greeting Fee (\$10.00 per Candidate)	Total Assessment	CMMRF Donation
1	Concordia	Y	90	2	1	0	93		2	2	1	1	0	87	5	(\$7.50)	\$ 640.00	\$ 20.00	\$660.00	\$ 277.50
2	Jerusalem	N	67	2	0	0	69		0	0	0	0	20	89	0	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
5	Hiram	Y	256	10	0	0	266		7	32	0	5	0	222	0	\$0.00	\$ 1,665.00	\$ 100.00	\$1,765.00	\$ 155.00
7	Carroll	Y	57	7	1	0	65		2	1	0	1	0	61	0	\$0.00	\$ 457.50	\$ 70.00	\$527.50	\$ 28.00
8	Jeshua	Y	30	3	0	0	33		1	0	0	1	0	31	4	\$10.00	\$ 232.50	\$ 30.00	\$252.50	\$ 25.00
9	Zabud	Y	19	0	0	0	19		0	0	0	0	0	19	0	\$0.00	\$ 142.50	\$ -	\$143.50	\$ 50.00
10	Enoch	P	79	3	1	2	85		2	4	0	0	0	79	2	(\$5.00)	\$ 587.50	\$ 30.00	\$617.50	\$ 200.00
11	Salem	N	88	0	0	0	88		1	0	0	0	0	87	0	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
12	Giblim	Y	58	0	0	0	58		0	1	0	3	0	54	0	\$0.00	\$ 405.00	\$ -	\$405.00	\$ -
13	King Solomon	N	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
16	Palestine	N	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
20	Harmony	Y	85	5	1	0	91		0	0	0	2	0	89	0	\$0.00	\$ 667.50	\$ 50.00	\$717.50	\$ -
21	Adoniram *	Y	74	0	0	0	74		2	1	0	1	1	70	1	(\$2.50)	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$500.00	\$ 188.00
23	York	Y	67	0	1	0	68		3	0	0	1	0	64	4	(\$10.00)	\$ 480.00	\$ -	\$470.00	\$ 64.00
24	Acacia	Y	17	0	0	0	17		1	0	0	0	0	16	2	(\$5.00)	\$ 115.00	\$ -	\$115.00	\$ 200.00
25	Samuel Clemens	N	10	0	0	0	10		0	0	0	0	0	10	0	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	\$ -
	TOTAL		997	32	5	2	1036	0	21	41	1	15	21	978	18	-\$20.00	\$5,892.50	\$300.00	\$6,173.50	\$1,187.50

Seconded by: _____

The Grand Recorder Reported that as of 9/30/2019 the Reconciled Balance of the Operating Account was \$5153.31. There have been deposits of Assessment Checks during the month of October. There have been checks written to clear the Financial Expense Accounts per the approved 2018 – 2019 Budget. The full end of year statement of the Operating Account will be presented to the Grand Assembly in May 2020.

Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

Grand Recorder.

8. Report of the Grand Treasurer

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine

Grand Treasurer's Report for 2019 Annual Grand Assembly
October 26, 2019

Most Illustrious Grand Master Robert Lumbert,

This report covers the period from May 1 through September 30, 2019. Our account value on May 1, 2019 was \$188,026.00. As of September 30, 2019, our net account value was \$194,210.87, an increase of \$6,184.87.

During this reporting period, no monies were received in the name of the Grand Council except dividends and interest. Transfer Warrant # 1 was received, and check number 0899, dated June 5, 2019 in the amount of \$5,825.00 was mailed to our Grand Recorder. On June 15, 2019 our account was debited \$175 for the Morgan Stanley annual service charge.

Our Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor, Holly Tilford, asked if some of our cash can be used to purchase additional investments and recommended changes to our investments at this time.

A spreadsheet comparing our April 30, 2019 account values to our September 30, 2019 account values and detailing our financial positions are attached as part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

John Rafine, MIPGM
Grand Treasurer,
Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland Grand Treasurer's Report			
FOR PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER, 2019			
Morgan Stanley Investment Account 1036 (per statement)	4/30/2019	9/30/2019	Change
Total Cash, Bank Deposit Program and Money Market Funds	\$ 7,344.97	\$ 5,241.78	\$ (2,103.19)
Stocks			
<u>Common Stocks</u>			
Excelon Corp	\$ 15,285.00	\$ 14,493.00	\$ (792.00)
Magellan Midstream Partners	\$ 37,206.00	\$ 39,762.00	\$ 2,556.00
Omega Healthcare Inv Inc.	\$ 23,003.50	\$ 27,163.50	\$ 4,160.00
Pembina Pipeline Corp.	\$ 9,118.80	\$ 9,452.85	\$ 334.05
<u>Preferred Stocks</u>			
Capital One Financial Corp	\$ 10,412.00	\$ 10,376.00	\$ (36.00)
Total Stocks	\$ 95,025.30	\$ 101,247.35	\$ 6,222.05
Exchange Traded and Closed End Funds			
PIMCO Corporate and Income Opportunity	\$ 8,970.00	\$ 9,070.00	\$ 100.00
Total Exchange Traded and Closed End Funds	\$ 8,970.00	\$ 9,070.00	\$ 100.00
Corporate Fixed Income			
<u>Bonds</u>			
Royal Bank of Scotland	\$ 14,245.50	\$ 14,225.25	\$ (20.25)
<u>Fixed Rate Capital Securities</u>			
Hartford RNL SVC GRP	\$ 6,912.50	\$ 7,290.00	\$ 377.50
Legg Mason inc	\$ 10,720.00	\$ 11,136.00	\$ 416.00
accrued interest	\$ 61.51	\$ 174.36	\$ 112.85
Total Corporate Fixed Income	\$ 31,939.51	\$ 32,825.61	\$ 886.10
Mutual Funds			
American BD FD of America	\$ 13,817.17	\$ 14,422.80	\$ 605.63
American CAP INC Builder	\$ 30,929.05	\$ 31,403.33	\$ 474.28
Total Mutual Funds	\$ 44,746.22	\$ 45,826.13	\$ 1,079.91
Total Value	\$ 188,026.00	\$ 194,210.87	\$ 6,184.87
Asset Allocation (includes accrued int. as of 30 Sept., 2019)	Market Value		Percentage
Cash	\$ 5,241.78		2.7
Equities	\$ 37,445.69		19.28
Fixed Income and Preferreds	\$ 75,145.05		38.69
Alternatives	\$ 76,378.35		39.33
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 194,210.87		100%
	2019 YTD		
Dollar Weighted Return % (net of fees)	16.26%		

9. Grand Lecturer's Report:

M.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

The MIGM, in the absence of an appointed Grand Lecturer, moved that the additional ritual material:

- The Council Apron Lecture
- The two variant prayers at the Altar by PCW

Be adopted as optional forms to the present Maryland Council Ritual, and be incorporated into the new Ritual Book which is planned to begin preparation in the next Cryptic Year.

Seconded by RIDGM Watson, and passed unanimously.

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 were no Charters or Dispensation issued during the past year which require the action of this Grand Assembly.

12. CMMRF

R.I. Comp. Randolph S. Disne

Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions assembled:

CMMRF was founded in 1986 and funds research at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. Initial research focused on the causes and cures for atherosclerosis, the development of plaque on arteries. This can lead to angina, heart attacks, strokes and clots.

Currently, research efforts continue to have an emphasis on heart and circulatory maladies and have extended into the following areas:

- Stroke
- Heart Failure
- COPD
- Juvenile (Type 1) Diabetes
- Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Abnormal Aortic Aneurisms

To assist in funding this work, Maryland Councils contributed the following:

Council Contributions:	\$1,187.50
Individual Contributions	\$ 100.00
Crab Mallet Sales	\$ <u>80.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,367.50

It is the pleasure of the Grand Council to recognize Enoch Council #10 with another bar for their continued support of CMMRF.

Respectfully submitted,

Randolph S. Disney, RIGPCW

Chairman

13. Festive Board 2019

Comp. John P. Mitchell

To: William C. Eppig, MEGHP, Robert B. Lumbert, MIGM, Spyros G. Treklas, REGC

The First Grand York Rite Festive Board was held on Monday September 30, 2019 in the Grand Lodge of Maryland ballroom at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker was Companion Charles Matulewicz who gave a nice presentation on "The building and rebuilding of the Temple as a Masonic Metaphor".

The food, soft drinks, and table ware were provided by Atlantic Caterers. A total of 7 honorary tickets were provided for the MWGM, RWDGM/SGIG, MEGHP, MIGM, REGC, Guest Speaker and the Photographer. There were a total of 43 tickets sold plus the seven honorary tickets for a projected attendance of 50 people. The Total Income generated from ticket sales at \$30.00 each was \$1,290.00, the Total Expenses including the Ballroom rental was \$1,867.33. This left a total contribution of \$577.33 to be shared by the three Grand York Rite bodies which comes out to \$192.44 for each of the Grand bodies.

The Event was not as well attended as we had hoped; the original plan was to try and sell 100 plus tickets which is why the event was held in a section of the Grand Lodge Ballroom which added \$450.00 to the expenses. It's possible the attendance was adversely affected because there were something like 5 other similar events within a two week window of our event which we were not aware of when the event was scheduled back in the Spring Time. Or perhaps the market has become too saturated recently with these types of events.

A more detailed report is attached.

Fraternally,

John Mitchell, Chairman

John Rafine, MIPGM

2019 Grand York Rite Festive Board Financial Summary	
INCOME	
\$1,290.00)	43 tickets @ \$30 each
\$1,290.00)	TOTAL INCOME
EXPENSES	
(\$303.58)	glasses, stationary, postage, and printing)
(\$906.58)	Atlantic Caterers
(\$207.17)	wine and grape juice
(\$450.00)	1/4 ballroom rental plus table setup/breakdown
(\$1,867.33)	TOTAL EXPENSES
(\$577.33)	Income Less Expenses
\$192.44)	Grand Commandery Contribution
\$192.45)	Grand Council Contribution
\$192.44)	Total Contributions
0	ending balance



14. Doings of Grand Officers

RI Comp. Ronald Aughenbaugh, MIPGM

Most Illustrious Grand Master,

Again, congregations goes to our MIGM Robert B Lumbert for keeping Maryland's customs by making nine Grand out of state visitations to date (NJ, DE, NC, RI, PA, FL, CT, VT, NY). As noted, Maryland has a long history of supporting our sister states in their Grand Sessions. Thus keeping Maryland's companions abreast of what is happening in the NE Region and around the USA.

In support of our youth, MIGM attended the Rainbow Grand Assembly and Maryland DeMolay Conclave Banquet, as well as DeMolay Honors Day.

He has represented the Grand Council at a number of Masonic Installation where he was recognized as MIGM.

Attached is his list of travels and visitations to date.

MIGM,s Grand Officer Randolph Disney, attended with Bob, Pennsylvania's version of the TIM Degree. Randy thought it was very fine ritual work and the morning well spent.

Ronald L Aughenbaugh, MIPGM

Chairman

Doings of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

Date	Event
October 26-27, 2018	Maryland Grand Sessions
November 5, 2018	Meeting in Hagerstown to discuss future of YR Bodies there
November 17, 2018	Maryland Grand Lodge Annual
December 1, 2018	Montgomery County Festive Board (presented CMotY award to Tom Marraffa)
December 15, 2018	Annapolis Commandery Christmas Observance
December 16, 2017	York Rite Joint Christmas service
	Baltimore area Commandery Christmas Observance
January 3, 2019	Glen Burnie Lodge Installation



January 8, 2019	Warren Lodge Installation
January 22, 2019	King David Lodge Installation
February 16, 2019	York Rite Secretaries seminar
February 27, 2019	Piscataway Chapter (and Grand Chapter Grand Visitation) to discuss future of Chapter and Council in Catonsville
March 1-2, 2019	New Jersey Grand Council (and Chapter)
March 8-9, 2019	Delaware Grand Council (and Chapter)
March 15, 2019	Rainbow Grand Assembly (presented Youth Advisor Award)
March 18 -19, 2019	North Carolina York Rite Grand Sessions
April 5-6, 2019	Rhode Island Grand Council (and Chapter)
April 12, 2019	York Rite presentation – Ionic Lodge
April 27, 2019	TIM degree (served as TISW)
April 29-30, 2019	Pennsylvania Grand Council
May 6-7, 2019	Florida Grand Council (and Chapter)
May 10, 2019	Maryland Grand Commandery semi-annual
May 13, 2019	Maryland Grand Council semi-annual
May 18, 2019	Maryland Grand Lodge semi-annual
May 19, 2019	Lunch/planning session for Grand Sessions
May 22, 2019	Maryland Grand Chapter semi-annual
May 28, 2019	Installation – Concordia Council
May 31 – June 1, 2019	Connecticut Grand Council (and Chapter)
June 6, 2019	Installation – Hiram Council
June 9-10, 2019	Vermont York Rite Grand Sessions
June 20, 2019	Druid-Hiram Festive Board
July 14, 2019	Maryland DeMolay Conclave Banquet
August 16-17, 2019	New York Grand Council
September 6, 2019	Northeast York Rite Conference



September 26, 2019	Joint Blue Lodge – York Rite Festive Board, Pentalpha Lodge
September 30, 2019	York Rite Festive Board
October 6, 2019	DeMolay Honors Day (presented Youth Advisor Award)
October 18, 2019	Grand Visitation – Concordia Council #1
October 25-26, 2019	Maryland Grand Sessions

I have only listed events where I attended as MIGM. There are many more where I was really doing Chapter or Lodge work (degree work, etc.) In a few of those cases I was recognized as the MIGM. The Lodge Installations listed are those the Grand Line did and I was recognized as MIGM.

15. Fraternal Relations Committee

Comp. Frederick A. Spicer

No written Report submitted as no action was required.

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. See Old Business .The issues involving mergers of Palestine Council and Acacia are in the hands of the MIGM for his resolution.

18. Long Range Planning Committee

RI Comp. Randolph S. Disney, GPCW

MIGM,

The objectives of the Committee have not changed since the Semi-Annual Assembly in May 2019. Companions are urged to participate in the General Grand Council Ritual Program.

Respectfully submitted,

R.I. Comp. Randolph S. Disney, GPCW

19. Membership

TIM Arthur Hebbeler

The information in the Grand Recorders

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

Presentation of an Ish Sodi Award to Comp. Robert England for Meritorious Service to the Grand Council for his service on the Sessions Committee.

Youth Advisor Award for 2019: DeMolay Honors Day – Brent Bean of Hiram Council No. 3

21. Time & Place 2018

RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

Fourth Friday and following Saturday of October of 2020. To be held at the Dunes Manor Hotel. It was noted that this IS NOT the last weekend of October but the fourth Friday and Fourth Saturday due to an odd alignment of the calendar in 2020.

22. Sessions 2018

RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

Financial report will be reckoned and reported to the 2020

23. Youth Relations

RI Comp. Randall L. Watson

Supported the Hershey Park trip...held on July 24th. Scheduled for the Fourth Thursday in June henceforth.

24. Unfinished Business

RI Comp. Robert B. Lumbert

Distribution of dues cards to each council was made by the Grand Recorder.

Report of the Grand Chapter/Council Committee for the Proposed Hagerstown Mergers:
Ithiel Royal Arch Chapter No. 27 with Druid Royal Arch Chapter No. 28
Palestine Council No. 16 R&SM with Hiram Council No. 5 R&SM

The untimely death of beloved Secretary/Recorder Terry Smith on August 25, 2018, left Comp. R. Joseph White (MEHP of Ithiel Chapter No. 27 and TIM of Palestine Council No. 16) as the only regularly active member of these two Hagerstown bodies. Comp. White had sought assistance from the membership (of about 38) and found little interest in supporting either body. He then made known his intention to seek a merger with Druid RAC No. 28 and Hiram Council No. 5 R&SM in Cockeysville, MD.

Agreeably to their respective Constitutions MEGHP Eppig and MIGM Lumbert appointed a Dual Committee to respond to the intended merger and supervise the details of transition. The Hagerstown Merger Committee consists of PGHP/MIPGM Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, PGHP/RIDGM Randall L. Watson, and MIPGM/RIG Treasurer John A. Rafine.

Notice was made to the membership and a Joint Convocation/Assembly of Ithiel Royal Arch Chapter No. 27 and Palestine Council No. 16 R&SM was held Monday, November 5, 2018 with the following attending: MEHP/TIM R. Joseph White; MEGHP William C. Eppig; REGK Bruce G. Colburn; MIGM Robert B. Lumbert, PGHP; RIDGM Randall L. Watson, PGHP; TIM/EK John P. Mitchell; PTIM/ES William C. Hare; and Grand Secretary/Grand Recorder Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP.

After some discussion describing the intended action, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved for a merger under the following terms:

1. Ithiel Chapter No. 27 desired to cease operation, and merge into Druid Chapter No. 28.
2. Palestine Council No. 16 desired to cease operation, and merge into Hiram Council No. 5.
3. Each body would surrender all its respective assets, property, and paraphernalia to the target body.
4. Each Hagerstown body was current on all its financial responsibilities and would continue to meet all its obligations until the merger is agreed upon by the target bodies.
5. A second opportunity for the Ithiel/Palestine members to consider this action would be available at the stated Convocation/Assembly on December 3, 2018, if a voting quorum was present. If no quorum was available at that meeting, the decision on the motion at the November 5, 2018 Convocation/Assembly would stand as their final decision.
6. That Druid and Hiram would respectively accept and honor the dues remissions status (and Life Memberships) of current Hagerstown members as permanent, should the merger proposals be ratified.
7. Upon the approval to merge by Druid/Hiram, the operation of Ithiel and Palestine would be immediately suspended pending confirmation by the MEGHP & MIGM and the voice of their Grand Bodies.

8. Upon merger ratification, all Hagerstown members would be transferred into Druid Chapter and Hiram Council.
9. Dues paid by Hagerstown members to the Hagerstown Bodies before the vote to approve the merger by Druid and Hiram would be deemed as paid in their new bodies for 2019.
10. A window of six months would be open to allow Hagerstown members who wished to belong elsewhere to transfer to other Maryland Chapters and Councils; if those bodies will not accept the transfers without affiliation fees, such fees would be paid by the appropriate Hagerstown body for the transferring members.
11. The physical properties of the Hagerstown bodies were in long term storage, and would become available when Friendship Lodge secured its permanent home, and emptied the storage unit.

The proposed merger was announced to the members of Druid Royal Arch Chapter No. 28 and Hiram Council No. 5 R&SM and scheduled for a vote on February 28, 2019. Hiram Council opened at 7:00 pm on that date and approved the merger and terms as proposed by Palestine Council. Druid Chapter opened at 7:30 pm and approved the merger and terms as proposed by Ithiel Chapter. This was reported at the May 2019 Semi-Annual Grand Convocation and Grand Assembly.

The Grand Secretary / Grand Recorder has transferred the 38 Ithiel/Palestine members into Druid/Hiram. He has been informed that three of the Hagerstown members have approached Enoch RAC No. 23 (and Enoch Council No. 10 R&SM) in Frederick, and Salem RAC No. 18 (and Salem Council No. 11 R&SM in Cumberland) about seeking a more convenient Mother Chapter. If they are accepted, their transfers will be made to the new Chapter/Council.

The Hagerstown bodies' financial accounts will be closed and the funds will be transmitted to Druid/Hiram in the near future.

Fraternally submitted:

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, PGHP/MIPGM
Randall L. Watson, PGHP/RIDGM
John A. Rafine, MIPGM/RIG Treasurer

25. New Business

MI Comp. Robert Lumbert

- See above in Grand Lecturer's Report concerning additional material approved.
- PTIM Carl Michael, State Executive Officer for DeMolay, presented 60 Year Pin to PTIM Louis P. Romeo, Jr.

26. Election of Officers

MI Comp. Robert Lumbert

No Vacancies required election at this Grand Assembly.



Remarks:

MIPGM Patrick A. Curtis, Ambassador to Maryland, offers his help to the Councils and to the Grand Council. Please share information and strengthen our participation in CMMRF.

RPGGRGM JD Walsh offered his thanks for the hospitality.

RPGGPCW William Snyder: Preaching about IRS 990N's compliance. Spoke on a united York Rite labor. Spoke on the lost history of ancient Freemasonry. Cryptic Masons are the custodians of Masonic History.

RP Francois Dansi, RPPCW of the Grand Council of Gabon, founded in 2017 in Oregon. There was a presentation of a small banner. Remarks were in French translated by REGG Scribe Teko Foly. Sent to the United States to learn from Masons from around the world.

MWGM Richard P. Naegele congratulated MIGM Lumbert on his service to the Grand Council of Maryland. He also noted that many of the points and problems in this year's Annual Report of the MIGM existed in his own remarks many years ago. MWGM noted that communication is a two way street. There was a concerted effort to reach out to our local leaders and membership but there was not always a corresponding return of ideas.

27 . Installation

MWGM Richard P. Naegele, MEPGHP, MIPGM, REPGC

Installing Most Illustrious Grand Master
Installing Grand Marshal
Installing Grand Chaplain

MIPGM Richard P. Naegele
MIPGM Gordon A. Davids
PTIM Arthur G. Hebbeler

The following Officers were installed in their respective stations'

Grand Council Officers for 2020

M.I. Grand Master:	Randall L. Watson	Hiram	#05
R.I. Deputy Grand Master:	Randolph S. Disney	Harmony	#20
R.I. Grand Principal Conductor of the Work:	William C. Hare, Jr.	Hiram	#05
R.I. Grand Treasurer:	John A. Rafine, MIPGM	Hiram	#05
R.I. Grand Recorder:	Vernon H. Huebschman	Hiram	#05
Grand Captain of the Guard:	Spyridon G. Treklas	Hiram	#05
Grand Conductor of the Council:	Raymond L. Tayse	King Solomon	#13
Grand Marshal:	G. Andrew Martinez	Harmony	#20
Grand Steward:	Gary J. Kennedy*	Enoch	#10
Grand Sentinel:	William A. Baldwin, Jr.	Carroll Samuel	#07
Grand Chaplain:	Arthur F. Hebbeler, III	Clemens	#25
Grand Lecturer:	John L. Thomas	Hiram	#05

CMMRF Chairman:	Louis P. Romeo, Jr.	Jerusalem	#02
General Grand Council Ambassador:	Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM	York	#23

*Absent due conflicting Scottish Rite Degree conferral.

29 Closing

MI Comp. Randall L. Watson



Companions and friends,

Thank you for your trust and the opportunity to serve you and this Grand Council for the upcoming term.

I'd like to start by commenting on something that many of you have heard before, but want to point it out to those who haven't previously attended a function where I have been installed as the presiding officer. On October 8, 1979, just a bit over 40 years ago, the night I was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Nanticoke Lodge #172 over on the Eastern Shore, the Worshipful Master stated that it was the Lodge's custom to present a Masonic bible to their newly raised members. He told me that the bible on the altar was mine, and that I could take it after the meeting closed. He also informed me that since I had come through as a single candidate and not

part of a class, that they had used that bible on the altar at both of the previous meetings when I had been initiated as an Entered Apprentice and passed to the degree of Fellowcraft; and so, I had taken all three Obligations of Masonry on that bible. Since that time, I have used this bible to take the oath of office every time I have been installed as the presiding officer of a Masonic or Masonic-related body, starting with Grand Commander of the Maryland DeMolay Court of Chevaliers, and including Patron of my Eastern Star Chapter. This has a great deal of significance and meaning for me, and I just wanted to share it with the Companions and guests.

Moving beyond my personal focus, I'd like to share some of the things that the Companions can expect in the upcoming term.

Ritual: Companion John Thomas has agreed to come back on board as Grand Lecturer to head up a major project to revise the Ritual. We currently have the white and purple books, which have the same issuance, but different content. I'd like the update to be in similar format to that done by Grand Chapter



and Grand Lodge for the Past Masters' Associations – and to include room diagrams & detailed floor movements; as well as full instructions on how to give signs & grips; and other actions such as sitting & standing.

Super Excellent Master conferral will be at the Scottish Rite on Saturday, April 4th. We'll look into obtaining the SEM Yarmulkes like MIPGM Coker obtained, and have them available for sale. The schedule for the day will most likely include conferring the Royal Master and Select Master Degrees in the morning; break for lunch; and begin conferral of the SEM at 1:00 pm. We'll ask the 32 cast members who last conferred it in 2017 to see if they can reprise their roles, but we could use some additional help in both speaking and nonspeaking parts. There are seven scenes in the SEM, and only 11 cast members were in only one scene – the other 21 were in two or more scenes. Please contact me if you are interested in assisting with this impressive Degree.

The Grand Visitation schedule is in the Fall Magazine's Maryland Supplement. At the request of the Councils, Jeshua #8, Zabud #9, Giblim #12, & Adoniram #21 will have a joint visitation hosted in Denton along with the Eastern Shore Royal Arch Chapters (Chesapeake #17, Talbot #22, Hayward #29 & Edenton #36). At the magazine submission deadline in August, the date hadn't been set. It will be Tuesday, March 3rd in Denton.

CMMRF: Companion Louis Romeo has agreed to come back as CMMRF Chairman. This year's major fund raiser is a raffle – tickets are \$5 each, and there will be two \$100 prize drawings done at our Semi-Annual in May. We've made up envelopes for each of the Grand Officers with 20 raffle tickets to sell. Please make sure you see me after the meeting to get your envelope.

Flyers are out for the York Rite Cruise, which will be aboard the Carnival Pride out of the Port of Baltimore departing Sunday, August 30th for 7-Nights to the Eastern Caribbean. Not only are you able to get a cabin at our Group Rate that is lower than you can get from the cruise line outside of our group, but a part of each ticket price goes to the three York Rite charities: RARA, CMMRF and KTEF. How often can you have fun, save money and donate to charity all at the same time? The current version of the flyer doesn't mention that the Group Block is only valid through April 1, 2020.

Finally, I wish to express thanks to each of you for being here with us today, and for all your support and service for York Rite Masonry.

(Attach Biography)

The MIGM closed this Annual Grand Assembly in Ample Form.



The Grand Assembly was declared closed at 11:45 p.m

Respectfully Submitted,

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



APPENDIXES

Appendix 1: Summary of Council Reports

Concordia Council R&SM No.1	1206 Stehlik Drive Odenton, MD 21113	Meets: 3 rd Fridays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : Richard D. Smith	DIM: Frederick T. Rossmark, Jr.	PCW: Andrew N. Wilson
Recorder: Robert B. Lumbert	Membership: 87	
Thrice Illustrious Masters	James B. Coker, MIPGM Edward A. Foreman, Jr. MIPGM Howard Culver Charles E. McLaughlin James J. Morgan, Jr.	Robert B. Lumbert Richard D. Smith Frederick A. Spicer Charles W. Wagner, Jr.
Greetings: Lawrence Grim Ricky Dean Smith Reinstated: Peter Nielsen	Deaths: Grafton Aleshire William Brunner Demit: Craig Gotschall	Suspended: Edward Garrant Jeffrey Geisbert William Schatzman

Jerusalem Council R&SM No. 2	140 Orville Road Essex, MD 21221	Meets: 4 th Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : Arthur M. Gordon	DIM: William J. Wickham, Jr.	PCW: Destin R. Strader,
Recorder: Jeffrey C. Ament	Membership: 6	
Past Thrice Illustrious Master	Jeffrey Ament W. Michael Boughman Robert C. Heinze William E. Lautenschlager Louis H. Ortt	Alex A. Rodriguez Louis P. Romeo, Jr. Richard F. Seim Richard H. Westermeyer, Jr.
Greetings: James Edward Shenton Daniel Edward Sowders Reinstated:	Deaths: None Reported Demit: None Report	Suspended: None Reported

Hiram Council R&SM No. 5	304 International Circle Cockeysville, MD 2103	Meets: Irregular Schedule
TIM : George James Christoff	DIM: John Patrick Mitchell	PCW: Dennis Ewing
Recorder: Thaddeus M. Vargo	Membership: 222	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters	Jeffrey L. Dill William C. Eppig Richard A. Eppler, MIGPM/CT William C. Hare	Richard P. Naegele, MIPGM Stephen J. Ponzillo III, MIPGM Alex A. Rodriguez Howard E. Roe



	Vernon H. Huebschman, REGRC Millard W. Keller, Jr. Carl A. Michel, Jr. W. Calvin Gray	John L. Thomas Spyridon G. Treklas Randall L. Watson, RIDGM Robert E. Young John P. Mitchell
Greetings: John Braddock Romer Donato Macelino Baal Albert Casas Richard Mainley, Jr. Mark Rauen James Baugher Robert Hunter III Blaine Vance Joseph Tunno Reinstated: NONE Plural: None	The membership of Palestine Council of Hagerstown will be merged into Hiram Council in the next report. Deaths: John McPherson Leroy Fothergill Thomas Clyde John Winebrenner William Fletcher Conly Register John Grieve Suspended: Charles O. Wagner Ian Berkley Charles Crossett Allan Dale III George Dowell Robert Elkner Englebert Gepilano Robert Grannas Joshua Jakobi Walter Weiss, Jr. Dino Zamora	Suspended (continued) Charles Hanes Thomas Hendricks Jeffrey Herman Herbert Holcomb Michael Hughes Harold Jolle Steven Kovacci Kevin Keller Charles Leppert Kurickas Mavroukas William Metcalf Wesley Shearer William Tierney Eugene Van Pelt Darwin Villangea Thomas Bakie Seth Blanken Oliver Branan Devin Collins Demitted: Howard Beardsley Morris Bohlayer Herbert Glasby Paul Lloyd Gerald Piepiora

Carroll Council R&SM No. 7	46 Monroe Street	Meets: 4 th Monday 7:30 p.m.
TIM : William J. Baldwin, Jr.	DIM: James Frock	PCW: Michael Raab
Recorder: William J. Baldwin, Jr	Membership: 61	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	William J. Baldwin, Jr.	
Greetings: David Creagh Ray Michael Pennington Michael M. Raab Raleigh L. Harris James Timothy Rose Richard W. Steinberg John S. Wlmmmer	Reinstated: John R. Thomas Deaths: George M. Irwin, Jr. Marlin M. Vaughn	Demit: Daniel Benton Suspended: Theodore Neil

Jeshua Council No. 8 R&SM	114 N. Washington St Easton, MD 21601	2 nd Thursday of Jan. Apr, June Oct.
TIM; Darryl w. McCaslin	DIM: Robert M. Penney	PCW: Michael S. Bauman
Rec: Robert M. Penny	Membership: 31	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	Howard Higgins	Darryl McCaslin
Greeted: David Leslie McQuay William Aaron Murphy Warren Wayne Prender	Died: Walter Robert Valliant Demit: Daniel Moreno	Suspended:

Zabud Council R&SM No. 9	439 Race Street Cambridge, MD 21613	Meets: 4 th Mondays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : Wallace Dodson	DIM: George Wittstadt	PCW: Robert Walls
Recorder: Wallace Dodson	Membership: 19	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters	Wallace Dodson Christian Jensen	David Tibbets George Wittstadt
Greetings: Reinstated: None	Deaths: Demit: None	Suspended:



Enoch Council R&SM No. 10	1203 N. Market Street Frederick MD 21701	Meets: 2 nd Mondays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : Gary Kennedy	DIM: Ian Hongola	PCW: Austin Fogle II
Recorder: Dennis Brekhus	Membership: 79	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	Dennis A. Brekhus	George W. Shumard Gary Kennedy
Greetings: Scott Michael Carstens Jack Howard Hahn Phillip Edward Reed Merged from Hagerstown Charles Richard Holder Gary Allan Putnam Charles Zeigler	Deaths: Anthony J. Malavenuda Kenneth Crampton Demit: None	Suspended: Robert Bailey, Jr. Albano DaSilva David Martin Gilbert Stroup

Salem Council R&SM No. 11	15 Greene Street Cumberland, MD 21502	Meets: 3 rd Tuesdays, times/year 7:30 p.m. 4
TIM : Patrick A. Stangler	DIM: Jeffrey M. Grog	Samuel J. Lane
Recorder: Robert W. Hamilton	Membership: 87	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	John Greer Robert W. Hamilton Kenneth A. Robertson	Patrick Stangler
Greetings: Reinstated: None	Deaths: Charles W. Kiser Demit: None	Suspended: None



Giblim Council R&SM No. 12	110 S. Division Street Salisbury, MD. 21801	Meets: 4 th Thursdays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : Joel Jacob Todd jr	DIM: Glynn R. Bridge	PCW: Arthur H . Tawes, Jr.
Recorder: Franklin H. Williams,	Membership: 54	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters	Norris Cartwright, Sr. Alonzo Conley, Jr. Charles Dashiell, Jr.	Arthur H. Tawes Joel J. Todd
Greetings: None Reinstated:	Deaths: Demit: J. Paul Adkins Roland F. Adkins John R. Grim III	Suspended: Clarence N. Tyler



King Solomon Council R&SM No. 13	20516 Boland Farm Road PO Box 2124 Germantown, MD 20875	Meets: 3 rd Thursdays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : Raymond Lee Tayse	DIM: Bryan Remley	PCW: Skip Richard
Recorder: Jason Weeks	Membership: 39	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	Lee Brobst Kris D. Brown Walter Hagen Donald Holiday, Sr. Thomas Marraffa, Jr	Richard Parker, Sr. William Parsons Arthur Sellers Ward Taylor Royce Watson, MIPGM Robert E. Vitarelli, Sr.
Greetings: Reinstated:	Deaths: Demit:	Suspended:

Palestine Council R&SM No. 16	Council is Merged int Hiram Council No. 5 R&SM	
TIM : R. Joseph White	DIM	PCW:
Recorder: Terry L. Smith	Membership: 45 at closing	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	Jodie C. Arnold Russell S. Brewer Delancey L. Catlett Harvey L. Hogamier	Joel D. Klimoski Richard P. Marshall Marion F. Rickard, Jr. Terry L. Smith R. Joseph R. White
Greetings: None Reinstated: None	Deaths: Demit:	Suspended:

Harmony Council R&SM No. 20	162 Conduit Street Annapolis, MD 21402	Meets: 2 nd Mondays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : G. Andrew Martinez	DIM: Valdez Jeremy Jenkins	PCW: S. Dirk Wiker
Recorder: Randolph S. Disney	Membership: 89	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	Robert N. Brannan James H. Conboy Howard E. Culver, Jr. Gordon A. Davids, MIPGM Randolph S. Disney	Leland P. Linder Edward V. Matthais Mark F. Owens W. Andrew Price Steven E. Robertson Jimmie E. Trowbridge Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.
Greetings: Rafael Rodriquez Scott Michael Gebauer Richard A. Wert John Robert Selby Allen Mark Bryan Rhea, Jr. Reinstated: Robert Walsh Stevens	Deaths: Michael Kerekesh Ronald Jones Stanley Stepnitz Demit: Andrew Buck Charles Carmichael Suspended:None	

Adoniram Council R&SM No. 21	114 Market Street Denton MD 21628	Meets: 1 st Tuesdays 7:30
TIM : Robert E. Sparks	DIM: A. Dean Burt III	PCW: None
RECORDER: Eugene Racz	Membership: 70	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	Burt A. Dean III Clifton R. Friel	Eugen D. Racz Robert E. Sparks William Parsons
Greetings: None Reinstated: None	Deaths: None Demit: None	Suspended: None



York Council R&SM No. 23	6311 Old Branch Avenue Camp Springs, MD 20748	3 rd Fridays 7:30 p.m. March, June, Sept, Dec.
TIM : Patrick A. Curtis	DIM: William Zarychta	PCW: Randolph F. Geck
Recorder: G. Daniel Brewer	Membership: 64	
Past Thrice Illustrious Masters:	Larry O. Bowen Grover. D. Brewer Patrick A. Curtis, MIPGM Mark E. Irwin Charles W. Lloyd, Jr. James Cloud	Robert B. Malwitz, MIPGM Harry Miller, Jr. S. Brent Morris Urban T. Peters MIPGM Ronald M. Rhine Charles E. Vannoy William B. Vansant Darrell T. Verner
Greetings: Reinstated: Brian D. Carroll	Deaths: Herman Derrington Charles E. Vannoy Donald Cheville	Demit: Frank Hampton Suspended: None

Acacia Council R&SM No. 24	Merged into Councordia Council at this Grand Assembly	
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. Thielman David L. Sampson
Greetings: Reinstated:	Deaths: Ralph Bathgate Demit:	Suspended:

Samuel L. Clemens Council R&SM No. 25	837 A Frederick Road Catonsville, MD 21228	Meets: 2 nd Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.
TIM : Arthur F. Hebbeler III	DIM: Vacant	PCW: Richard Bolton
Recorder: Vacant	Membership: 10	
Past High Priests:	Arthur F. Hebbeler III	
Greetings: Reinstated:	Deaths: Demit:	Suspended: None