

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



October 28, 2023

Clarion Inn & Conference Center

Frederick - Maryland



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

Companions & Sir Knights

By order of the:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, ME Comp. G. Andrew Martinez

Most Illustrious Grand Master, MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr

Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK John H. Auston

Official Notice is 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 on **Friday, October 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Convocation. Agenda to include Finance Presentations, Installation of 2024 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports, as necessary. The dress is a Tuxedo with a Red Jacket, Apron, & Jewels for Officers; all others are Tux or Coat and tie. Please wear your Chapter Apron.

Location: Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center, Frederick, MD.

**The Grand Council** will meet in Grand Assembly on **Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 9:00 am** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Assembly. Agenda to include Finance Presentations, Installation of the 2024 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports, as necessary. The dress is a Tuxedo, Apron, & Jewels for Officers; all others are Tux or Coat and tie. Please wear your Council Apron.

Location: Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center, Frederick, MD.

**The Grand Commandery** will meet in Grand Conclave on **Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 1:15 pm** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Conclave. Agenda to include Presentations, Installation of 2024 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports, as necessary. The dress is Full Templar Uniform, Chapeau & Sword.

Location: Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center, Frederick, MD.

Fraternally & respectfully,

ME Comp William C. Eppig  
Grand Secretary  
Grand Chapter of Maryland

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

SK Vernon H. Huebschman  
Grand Recorder  
Grand Commandery of  
Knights Templars in MD

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

October 28, 2023  
Frederick, Maryland  
10:00 a.m.

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Grand Council Opening          | MIGM William C. Hare, Jr        |
| 2. Credential Committee/Roll Call | MI Comp. William C. Eppig       |
| 3. Reception of MIPGM's           | MIGM William C. Hare, Jr        |
| 4. Proceedings                    | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman   |
| 5. TIM Proceedings                | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman   |
| 6. MIGM Report                    | MIGM William C. Hare, Jr        |
| 7. Grand Recorder's Report        | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman   |
| 8. Grand Treasurer's Report       | MI Comp. John A. Rafine         |
| 9. Grand Lecturer's Report        | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman   |
| 10. Accounts & Finance            | RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas    |
| 11. Dispensations & Charters      | RI Comp. Dennis W Ewing         |
| 12. CMMRF                         | Comp. G. Andrew Martinez, GkCoG |
| 13. Super Excellent Master Degree | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman   |
| 14. Grievance                     | MI Comp. Gordon A. Davids       |
| 15. Jurisprudence & Constitution  | MI Comp. John A. Rafine         |
| 16. Long-Range Planning           | RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas    |
| 17. Membership                    | RI Comp. Dennis W Ewing         |
| 18. Recognition & Awards          | MI Comp. Randall L Watson       |
| 19. Time & Place 2024             | RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas    |
| 20. Sessions 2023                 | MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr    |
| 21. Youth Relations               | Comp. Carl Michel               |
| 22. Unfinished Business           | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman   |
| 23. New Business                  | MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr    |
| 24. Voluntary Remarks             |                                 |
| 25. Installation of 2024 Officers |                                 |
| 26. Closing                       | MIGM William C. Hare, Jr        |

## 1. Grand Council Opening

MI Comp. William C. Hare

The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by Most Illustrious Grand Master, M.I. Comp. William C. Hare at 10:15 a.m. for the Annual Grand Assembly with the following Officers in their respective places and stations:

M.I. William C. Hare	Grand Master
R.I. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas	Deputy Grand Master
R.I. Comp. Dennis Ewing	Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
R.I. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman	Grand Recorder
M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine	Grand Treasurer
Comp. A. Dean Burt III	Grand Chaplain
Comp. G. Andrew Martinez	Grand Captain of the Guard
Comp. Stephen R. Twomey II	Grand Conduction of the Council
Comp. Gary Kennedy	Grand Marshall
Comp. William Wickham	Grand Steward
Comp. John Mitchell (Abs)	Grand Sentinel
R.I Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman	Grand Lecturer
Comp. John Thomas (abs)	Grand Lecturer Emeritus

### Opening Prayer:

Comp. A. Dean Burt III

### Pledge of Allegiance;

MI Comp. William C. Hare

## 2. Credentials Report

RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman RIG Rec

MIGM,

Number of Councils Present	11 Council
Number of Voting Members	3
Number of Non-Voting Members	1

The MIGM on receiving this report declared that the necessary number of Councils were represented to constitute a quorum, and that the Companions in the Grand Council Assembly were properly noted in the proceedings. Attendance was taken by Roll Call of all voting members by the Grand Recorder.

This report was received and accepted by MIGM William C. Hare Jr.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Name</b>
Concordia Council No. 1	Ronald L. Aughenbaugh MIPGM Robert B. Lumbert, MIPGM Frederick T. Rossmark Frederick A. Spicer, MIPGM, MWGM
Jerusalem Council No. 2	Dennis W. Ewing, RIGPCW William EF Miller William J Wickham
Hiram Council No. 5	George J. Christoff Jeffry L. Dill, MIPGM William C. Eppig, Asst Grand Recorder William C. Hare Jr. MIGM Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand Recorder Scott G. Lapp Christian J. Miele Richard P. Naegele, MIPGM, PGHP, REPGC, MWPGM John A Rafine, MIPGM, REPGC Spyridon G. Treklas, RIDGM, REPGC Randall L. Watson, MIPGM, MEPGH RWDM
Carroll Council No. 7	Michael R. Raab
Jeshua Council No. 8	<b>NOT REPRESENTED</b>
Enoch Council No. 10	Gary J. Kennedy Michael Shrank Robert Koons
Salem Council No. 11	Kenneth A. Robertson
Giblim Council No. 12	Michael A. Youse
King Solomon Council No. 13	Bryan L Remley Carl R. Swanson
Harmony Council No. 20	Gordon A. Davids, MIPGM G. Andrew Martinez, GCoG Rafael A. Rodriguez
Adoniram Council No. 21	A Dean Burt III, Grand Chaplain Clifton R. Friel, MIPGM John H. Myers Stephen R. Twomey II
York Council No. 23	Mark Irwin MIPGM (DE); RP General Grand Recorder John E. Morris III

### **3. Reception of MIPGM's**

MIGM William C. Hare

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 Clifton R. Friel	2003
MIPGM Richard P. Naegele	2008 - 2010
MIPGM Ronald L. Augenbaugh	2011 – 2012
MIPGM Jeffrey L. Dill	2015 - 2016
MIPGM John A. Rafine	2017
MIPGM Robert B Lumbert	2018 -2019
MIGM Randall L. Watson	2020

MIPGM Gordon A. Davids responded to the greetings of MIGM Disney and extension of Grand Honors to the corps of Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters.

### **4. Proceedings: Semi-Annual 2023**

RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

MIGM,

As the Proceedings of the 2023 Semi-Annual Grand Assembly are posted to the Grand Council Website and are there for general review and information, I move that they be accepted as posted, subject to correction for typographical errors which do not bear on the content or meaning of any passage; or corrections of a substantive nature or omissions upon review by the MIGM.

Motion by the Grand Recorder; Seconded by MIPGM Randall L. Watson; PASSED unanimously.

### **5. Proceedings: Council of TIM's**

RI Grand Recorder Vernon Huebschman

There were no actions take by the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters since those reported in the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. There is no action herein required

## **6. Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master**

**MIGM William C. Hare**

Most Worshipful Grand Master Spicer

Right Puissant General Grand Recorder Irwin

Right Puissant Regional Deputy Grand Master McNorton

Most Illustrious Guests

Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters of Maryland

Companions All

Welcome to the annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland. Since last October I have been busy traveling in and out of Our great state representing Our Grand Council making many Masonic friends along the way.

In November I visited the following Council's , Salem Council #1 , Harmony Council #20 , and Carroll Council #7 . I ended the month attending the Grand Lodge of Maryland's Annual .

The month of December I visited the Civil War Lodge of Research 1865 of Virginia and was recognized as Most illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland. Later in the month the Grand Council of Maryland conducted the Christmas Observance at the Masonic Homes Of Maryland , Grand Chaplin Dean Burt did an excellent job of conducting the service. The Grand Commandry of Maryland will conduct the services this year.

During the month of January I presented the York Rite Masters pins first at Lebanon Lodge #175 and then at Prince Frederick Lodge #142 . I also attended Monumental-Crusade's 12<sup>th</sup> night Celebration.

March I visited Adoniram Council # 21 , King Solomon Council # 13 , and Concordia Council # 1; helping out with degree conferrals where needed. On March 24<sup>th</sup> I attended the Grand Assembly of Rainbow Girls of Maryland. On March 25<sup>th</sup> I attended Maryland's York Rite College , where I became the Past Governor . March 11<sup>th</sup> I attended Delaware's Grand Council Annual. March 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> I attended North Carolina's Grand Council Annual.

April I attended Jerusalem Council # 2 and then I attended Past Grand Master Jack Young's Memorial Service. I then attended Pennsylvania's Grand Council Annual and in the afternoon Attended Pennsylvania's Council of Anointed Kings and witnessed an impressive version of the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree. On April 21-23 I attended the Grand Council of Maine's Annual .

In May and June I installed the Officers of the following Councils, Adoniram # 21 , Concordia # 1, Harmony # 20, Hiram # 5, and Jerusalem # 2. The other Councils installed their Officers in House. On May 13<sup>th</sup> the Grand Council held it's Semi-Annual with Law School and TIM Degree preceding Semi-Annual Meeting . I along with the other members of the Grand Council were very Disappointed with Our Companions poor ATTENDANCE. This prompted me to send letters to all Councils Reminding them of their responsibilities to attend or send a proxy, this letter is attached to this report for all to hopefully view. After the Semi-Annual I attended PMIGM Randy Disney's Memorial Service at Door to Virtue Lodge in Westminster Maryland , All the leaders in the York Rite made comment's about our fallen Companion who's presence will be greatly missed by all Maryland Masons and beyond .

June I visited 2 Grand Council's , first on June 2-3 was Connecticut's Grand Council's Annual and then on June 10-11 Vermont's Grand Council's Annual.

August I attended the General Grand Council's 48<sup>th</sup> Triennial in Branson Missouri, where I was Honored to carry Maryland's flag in for the opening ceremony. Bill Snyder was installed Most Puissant General Grand Master, Thomas Taylor was installed Deputy General Grand Master, and Mark Irwin was installed General Grand Recorder. Sean McNorton of New Jersey was appointed Regional Deputy Grand

Master of newly formed Mid-Atlantic Region. I have not heard who will be appointed General Grand Ambassador to Maryland. Finally I attended Maryland's York Rite College Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

September I Represented the Grand Council at Pentalpha's Festive Board. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> I attended New York Grand Council's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

Here in October I attended Harvest Home Day, which brings me to our Grand Council of Maryland,s Annual,

This past year we lost two Past Most Illustrious Masters Urban Peters and Randy Disney, we also lost one Thrice Illustrious Master Destin Strader. The Grand Council will miss our beloved Companions and sends our heartfelt condolences to their family's . Companion's rise and Join me in a moment of silent reflection for our lost Companions... ( We will cherish their memory Forever AMEN ) .

Attached to this report is a letter to all Council's concerning the merger of Zabud Council # 9 into Jeshua Council # 8 , which process started under PMIGM Disney during 2022 (attached to this report is page 11 of Semi-Annual May 2022 and page 9 of Annual 2022 where MIGM Disney mentions the merger has started) . The Recorder of Jeshua Council # 8 Robert Penny needs to complete the steps stated in the Grand Council of Marylands Constitution Article XIII sections 1-4 for the merger to be finalized with the Grand Council of Maryland. If Companion Penny needs help completing these steps ,please contact me and I will help you.

Attached to this report is a list of all Companions who will receive Awards this weekend, I will not read them out until they are given out tonight. List is intended to be included in the Grand Proceedings for a recorded record of awards. Any Companion who has received any Council Awards in the past please send the information to the Grand Recorder , we do not know who has received what and I would correct this and have all recipients Honored by being recorded in Grand Proceedings for all to remember. Companions when you go back to your Council survey your membership to find all who have received Thank You For this Effort

Companions I now want to address a matter of great importance for OUR Grand Council. Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Lumbert in his Report October 2019 stated Quote "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 1or2 dollars every year. We have not had a per capita increase for a few years, I don't know how long that can last, but let us hope any increase is still a few years off". Let me tell you the time has gone past , how true his concerns have become. We need to seriously consider will this Grand Council survive the next 5 years ? or not. Rising costs to operate this Grand Council are going beyond our budget every year, our investments are going up and down and the profit earned can't pay for our expenses. This means that we have to draw money from our investments to keep the Council operating, we might not last 5 more years at this rate. What do we do to correct this downfall, do we increase the per capita every year to an amount that keeps us even with the current expenses and saving our investments? Do we stop having The Annual Event saving the expense of hotel's and Food, just having bi-annual meetings for members only one day and no food? Do we rotate to each Council to hold our mtgs. At their building .? To this end I am tasking the Accounts and Finance committee to come up with a long range plan to create a method to stay financially sound. I personally would rather pay a greater per capita fee to keep things running smoothly ( this year the Grand Council of North Carolina who has more members than we do voted on and increased their per capita to \$30.00 ) they had to do this to keep up with rising costs. I think having a Grand event is important to keep. I don't mean to upset anyone but the reality of the fact is we have to act now. We can not survive keeping things Status Quo To quote PMIGM



Lumbert “Think of what I say as Whispering Good Council in the Ear of A Brother”. Attached to this report is the Grand Masters expense Report for Oct.2022 thru Oct.2023 the report shows that my budget went over by \$766.53 which came out my pocket which I am happy to pay to support this Grand Council.

Looking Forward here is my plans for 2024

The Oldest Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in the world is the Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Connecticut Organized on May 18, 1819. Here in Maryland our Grand Council was formed on May 12, 1874. Until November 19,1872 the Cryptic Degrees were conferred in Chapters, on this date Concordia Council which was attached to Concordia Chapter # 1 received a circular from Companion William A Wentz Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland certifying that a resolution was passed that prohibited the conferring of Royal and Select Master Degrees in a Royal arch Chapter. Thus was the origin of Concordia Council # 1 and Cryptic Masonry in Maryland.

Concordia #1 , Jerusalem #2, and Druid #5 ( Druids name changed to Hiram on November 10,1880 ) together as the Tri-Council became Charter members creating the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland on May 12,1874. On May 12, 2024 The Grand Council of Maryland will celebrate it's Sesquicentennial.

I have contacted Members from these Charter Councils and with the Grand Council I plan to Celebrate this event during the upcoming year of 2024 and will have more information coming about a celebration later in the year 2024. Anyone who has more information about this please contact me to share the information and hopefully come and join the committee .

Finally as I continue my Cryptic Journey into 2024 I would like to thank you for the confidence you have given in me to elect me to a second year. I look forward to visiting every Council and help in any way that I can. During this past year some suggestions given to me on Visitations was to help in schooling young Companions to train them to replace those in charge now. In years past we held an event called the August Scene maybe we can revive this. Our new Grand Lecturer Huebschman will be coming up with a lot of idea's to help and I have all the confidence that he will do a fantastic job Thank you Vern for all you do in Masonry. I Look forward to greeting every Companion at Masonic events thru out the coming year, May we meet upon the square and be level as we go forward in Masonry.

Faternally

William C. Hare Jr. MIGM of Maryland

Motion to accept this report by MIPGM Naegele, seconded by MIPGM Augenbaugh, and passed unanimously.

## **7. Report of the Grand Recorder**

RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

MIGM,

1. The Reports from all the constituent Councils were received and processed by October 21, 2023

Some Councils will require some effort to update their membership information as there are inconsistencies between their membership count and the YR Database.

I was able this year to use the information in the GE MMS to back check the Council information in those locations where the membership among all three YR Bodies is much the same. I will be happy to work with the local recorders to cross check with the Commandery records and the GLMMS files.

2. In my capacity as the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery, I attended the Department Conference for the Grand Encampment. There was an extensive exposition of the GE Membership Management System. I was deeply impressed by the power of this database system. It is not pretty. It is not very user-friendly...but it is powerful and comprehensive. I was also impressed by the number of YR Grand Jurisdictions that had adopted the GE MMS for the management of their membership information. Later today will hear a motion to migrate the York Rite database for the Grand Council to the GE MMS...which the Grand Chapter has already agreed to previously in this weekend's work. I earnestly recommend it to your consideration.
3. The time has come for me to retire my role as Grand Recorder. I though I had do so once before when MI Comp Richard Naegele succeeded me and I moved to Grand Treasurer for five years. The Comp. Richard was elected Deputy Grand Master, and like Michael Corleone I got pulled back in. I have deeply enjoy working with each of the Councils, their Thrice Illustrious Masters and especially the Recorders along those years.
4. I am especially pleased that MI Comp William C. Eppig will take on the work of Grand Recorder. He has done a great job in Grand Chapter in a similar situation. I trust he will bring a new energy, valuable experiences in management, and a creative vision to the office of Grand Recorder. I deeply respect Comp Bill and leave this office in full confidence that this Grand Council will be better served and in the best of hands.

MIGM, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and I wish you the best of fortunes in your second term.

Respectfully submitted...and I move this report be spread upon the Proceedings.

R I Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman.

Seconded by MIPGM Randall L. Watson and passed unanimously.

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland  
Summary Report of Membership Status as submitted in Annual Council Reports

2022 - 2023

Council Number	Council Name	IRS 990-N	8/31/2022 Membership	Greetings	Re-instatement & Dual	Merger	Subtotal	Deaths	Suspended by Council 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	84	2	0	0	86	3	3	0	3	0	77	4	\$10.00	\$567.50	\$20.00	\$587.50	\$205.00	
2	Jerusalem	Y	66	0	0	0	66	3	0	0	1		62	0	\$0.00	\$465.00	\$-	\$465.00	\$-	
5	Hiram	N	268	0	0	0	268	20	6	3	2		237	0	\$0.00	\$1,777.50	\$-	\$1,777.50	\$240.00	
7	Carroll	N	63	0	0	0	63	3	0	0	1	0	59	0	\$0.00	\$442.50	\$-	\$442.50	\$-	
8	Jeshua	Y	41	1	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	42	3	\$7.50	\$317.50	\$10.00	\$327.50	\$35.00	
9.00	Zabud	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10	Enoch	N	80	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$-	\$600.00	\$250.00	
11	Salem	N	61	0	0	0	61	4	1	0	3	0	53	0	\$0.00	\$397.50	\$-	\$397.50	\$-	
12	Giblim	Y	50	4	2	0	56	0	0	2	1	0	53	0	\$0.00	\$382.50	\$40.00	\$422.50	\$-	
13	King Solomon	N	37	7	0	0	44	2	0	0	2	0	40	0	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$70.00	\$370.00	\$-	
20	Harmony	Y	93	0	0	0	93	5	0	1	2	0	85	0	\$0.00	\$637.50	\$-	\$637.50	\$-	
21	Adoniram	Y	64	4	0	0	68	1	0	0	0	0	67	0	\$0.00	\$502.50	\$40.00	\$542.50	\$150.00	
23	York	Y	45	0	1	0	46	1	2	0	1		42	1	\$2.50	\$312.50	\$-	\$312.50	\$105.00	
													0							
TOTAL			952	18	3	0	973	0	42	12	6	16	0	897	8	\$20.00	\$6,702.50	\$180.00	\$6,882.50	\$985.00

## 8. Report of the Grand Treasurer

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine

Most Illustrious Grand Master,

The treasury of this Grand Council is financially sound. Summaries of our account balances at the beginning and end of this reporting period is as follows:

	10/31/2022	10/15/2023
Morgan Stanley Investment Account	\$ 190,360.31	\$ 0
M&T Bank Operating account x5570	\$ 11,928.10	\$ 5,746.00
M&T Walk of Remembrance Account x 5361	\$ 3,661.43	\$ 5,123.43

### 9/30/2023

Raymond James Investment account x Y841	\$ 0	\$ 192,708.08
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As of 09/30/2023

A “Walk of Remembrance” checking account was opened with M&T Bank on November 15, 2022 by transferring \$3661.43 from our operating account. Income during this period totaled \$2,465; expenses totaled \$1935, and an additional \$745 accumulated pending the account opening was transferred to this account. We experienced challenges with the sporadic appearance of service charges totaling \$12, but all charges were credited back into this account.

As of 10/15/2023, all brick purchases and engraving have been completed as of this reporting period.

Now that this account is functional, we should begin advertising brick purchases. The total cost per brick is \$55, of which \$45 is the engraving cost per brick, and the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the Grand Council each receive \$5 per brick for charitable when the account is at a sufficient balance to do so. Brick forms are available on the Grand Lodge of Maryland website.

Our Operating account activity is detailed in the Operating Account attachment of this report. As of 10/15/2023, 30 checks have been disbursed and voucher numbers 2023.10 and 2023.11 were assigned and subsequently voided.

Our Morgan Stanley investments increased in value from \$181,446.28 on Jan 1, 2023, to \$196,304.49 as of June 30, 2023, an increase of approximately 8 %. These investments were transferred to Raymond James on July 31, 2023, but Savings and Time Deposits were not transferred until Sept. 21, 2023. The July and September Raymond James activity is shown on the attached Morgan Stanley report to include all Morgan Stanley activity on one report.

Fusco Associates reinvested our MS investments on August 11, 2023 and is rebalancing our portfolio to react to market changes. It is likely that we will see more frequent holdings changes within this account and a more detailed report will be presented at our 2024 Semi-Annual Grand Assembly.

I spoke with our Fusco Account rep, David Matthews. Although the S&P rose by appr. 12% through June of this year, most of that increase resulted from 10 companies. The vast majority rose by appr. 2%. Since July 2023, the S&P has fallen -7% while our account is down -5.8%. Additionally, market value declined after our investments were transferred. He believes we are well-positioned with bond holdings ranging from 3.74% to 6.5 % and our large cap value investment dividends are expected to outperform growth-oriented holdings while interest rates are expected to decline.

While this Grand Council is financially sound, we have continued at a point where annual expenses equal its investment gains. Delayed receipt of per capita from our Councils further impact our ability to maintain our investment account balances. If necessary, a proposal for a per capita increase will be submitted at our May semi-annual to keep up with increasing expenses.

Companion William Eppig requested and received an ATM card to use for Grand Council purchases and has been added to our checking accounts. He will be added to our investment accounts after today's installation. Illustrious Companion Vernon Huebschman has agreed to serve as trustee for our Grand Council.

As this is the last assembly with Illustrious Companion Huebschman as our Grand Recorder, I wish him well on his future endeavors. It has been a pleasure working with him and I appreciate his willingness to discuss things whenever needed and his continued friendship.

Faternally,

John Rafine, MIGM  
Grand Treasurer

Motion to accept this report by RI.Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, Seconded by MIPGM Randall Watson and Passed unanimously.

Attachments:

M&T Checking Account Summaries;      Morgan Stanley Investment Account Summary;  
Raymond James Investment Account Summary; Operating Account Statement  
2022-2023 Warrant List

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland					
M&T Checking Accounts					
11/1/2022 through 10/15/23					
<b>Walk of Remembrance x 5361</b>					
Opening Balance 11/1/22	\$ -				
transfer from x5570	\$ 4,406.43				
Income	\$ 2,465.00				
Service Charges	\$ (12.00)				
refund of service charges	\$ 12.00				
debits	\$ (1,935.00)				
Balance 10/15/23	\$ 4,936.43				
<b>Operating Account X 5570</b>					
Balance 11/1/22	\$ 11,928.10				
total income thru 9/30/23	\$ 16,758.37				
debits and transfers	\$ (19,754.76)				
Balance 09/30/23	\$ 13,515.85				
deposits 10-1-15/23	\$ 2,080.00				
debits 10/1-15/23	\$ (9,849.85)				
Total	\$ 14,677.71				
projected balance 10/15/23	\$ 5,746.00				

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland Grand Treasurer's Report									
10/9/2023 Morgan Stanley Investment Account Nov 1, 2022 through Sep 21, 2023									
	% of Holding	Cost (6/30/23)	11/1/2022	6/30/2023	7/31/2023	9/21/2023	Raymond James 7/31/2023	Unrealized Gain (Loss) 6/30/2023	
Cash, Bank Deposit Prog. & Money Market Funds									
Morgan Stanley Bank	8.61%		\$ 23,082.99	\$ 16,903.82	\$ (16,688.22)		\$ 16,688.33		
Savings and Time Deposits									
MSBNA Preferred Savings	0.91%		\$ -	\$ 1,784.82	\$ 1,792.05	\$ (1,799.37)			
Fees									
Cash, BDP, Savings and Time Deposits and Money Mkt Funds	9.52%	-	\$ 23,082.99	\$ 18,688.64	\$ 1,792.05	\$ -			
Stocks									
Common Stocks									
Constellation Energy Corp			\$ 9,454.00	\$ 9,155.00	\$ (9,665.00)	\$ -	\$ 9,665.00	N/A	
Exelon Corp			\$ 11,577.00	\$ 12,222.00	\$ (12,558.00)	\$ -	\$ 12,558.00	N/A	
Magellan Midstream Partners		\$ 12,263.85	\$ 32,370.00	\$ 37,392.00	\$ (39,762.00)	\$ -	\$ 39,762.00	\$ 25,128.15	
Omega Healthcare Inv Inc.		\$ 7,841.58	\$ 20,657.00	\$ 19,948.50	\$ (20,735.00)	\$ -	\$ 20,735.00	\$ 12,106.92	
Pembina Pipeline Corp.		\$ 5,091.86	\$ 8,417.55	\$ 8,017.20	\$ (8,078.40)	\$ -	\$ 8,078.40	\$ 2,925.34	
Preferred Stocks									
J PMorgan Chase & Co		\$ 10,564.00	\$ 7,352.00	\$ 8,104.00	\$ (8,204.00)	\$ -	\$ 8,196.00	\$ (2,460.00)	
The Hartford Fin Ser		\$ 14,931.30	\$ 13,392.50	\$ 13,879.25	\$ (13,607.00)	\$ -	\$ 13,607.00	\$ (1,052.05)	
Total Stocks	55.38%	\$ 50,692.59	\$ 103,220.05	\$ 108,717.95	\$ (112,609.40)	\$ -		\$ 36,648.36	
Exchange Traded and Closed End Funds									
PIMCO Corporate and Income Opportunity		8485.63	\$ 6,045.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (7,415.00)	\$ -	\$ 7,415.00	\$ (1,485.63)	
Total Exchange Traded and Closed End Funds	3.57%	\$ 8,485.63	\$ 6,045.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ (7,415.00)	\$ -		\$ (1,485.63)	
Corporate Fixed Income									
Bonds									
Spectra Energy Partners		\$ 10,004.43	\$ -	\$ 9,917.35	\$ (9,936.00)	\$ -	\$ 9,927.20	\$ (87.08)	
interest			\$ 46.64	\$ 138.54		\$ -			
Total Corporate Fixed Income	5.12%	\$ 10,004.43	\$ 10,002.84	\$ 10,055.89	\$ (9,936.00)	\$ -		\$ (87.08)	
Mutual Funds									
American BD FD of America		15918.01	\$ 13,444.17	\$ 14,024.98	\$ (14,006.68)	\$ -	\$ 14,019.09	\$ (1,893.03)	
American CAP INC Builder		35153.08	\$ 34,565.26	\$ 37,817.03	\$ (38,610.64)	\$ -	\$ 38,598.89	\$ 2,663.95	
Total Mutual Funds	26.41%	\$ 51,071.09	\$ 48,009.43	\$ 51,842.01	\$ (52,617.32)			\$ 770.92	
Morgan Stanley Total Value	100.00%	\$ 120,253.74	\$ 190,360.31	\$ 196,304.49	\$ 1,792.05	\$ -	\$ 199,249.91	\$ 35,846.57	
Raymond James Accrued Interest Total							\$ 178.13		
Raymond James Total Value With Accrued Interest							\$ 199,428.04		
End of Fiscal Year Account Values	6/30/23 *	10/31/2022	10/31/2021	10/31/2019	10/31/2018				
	\$ 196,304.49	\$ 190,360.31	\$ 195,904.32	\$ 192,863.90	\$ 174,947.49				

## Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland Grand Treasurer's Report

Raymond James Investment Account 10/9/2023

\* Morgan Stanley's portfolio excluding its Time Deposits were transferred "In kind" to Raymond James and held through August 10, 2023. Raymond James sold these assets and purchased the assets listed in the 8/31/23 report column on August 11, 2023.

## Raymond James Investment Account

	7/31/2023	8/31/2023	9/29/2023
Beginning Balance	\$ -	\$ 199,249.91	\$ 197,228.35
Deposits	\$ 198,480.18	\$ 97.80	\$ 1,803.70
Income	\$ 0.11	\$ 1,277.52	\$ 768.83
Withdraws	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ (370.45)	\$ 2.49
Change in Value This Statement	\$ 769.62	\$ (3,026.43)	\$ (7,095.29)
Change in Value YTD		\$ (2,256.81)	\$ (9,352.10)
Ending Balance	\$ 199,249.91	\$ 197,228.35	\$ 192,708.08
Time Weighted Performance YTD	0.61%	-0.52%	-3.67%
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>			
<b>Cash and Cash Alternatives</b>	\$ 16,688.33	\$ 6,346.98	\$ 8,922.00
<b>Exchange-Traded Programs</b>	*	\$ 180,944.67	\$ 173,848.38
<b>FIXED INCOME</b>	*	\$ 9,936.70	\$ 9,937.70
PORTFOLIO TOTAL VALUE	\$ 199,249.91	\$ 197,228.35	\$ 192,708.08
ACCRUED INTEREST TOTAL	\$ 178.13	\$ 217.71	\$ 19.79
<b>PORTFOLIO TOTAL WITH ACCRUED INTEREST</b>	<b>\$ 199,428.04</b>	<b>\$ 197,446.06</b>	<b>\$ 192,727.87</b>



	<b>Grand Council Royal &amp; Select Masters of MD Operating Account as of 10/15/23</b>			
		<b>2022-2023 Approved</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actuals</b>	<b>Difference</b>
	<b>DESCRIPTION/TITLE</b>			
	<b>INCOME</b>			
A	Per Capita (based on 975@\$7.50)	\$ 7,312.50	\$ 3,045.00	\$ (4,267.50)
B	Greeting Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ (250.00)
C	Interest/Dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 51.94	\$ 51.94
E	Transfer from Investments	\$ 15,270.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (5,270.00)
F	Ritual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
G	Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
H	SEM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
I	Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
J	Festive Board	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
K	Time Capsule 2000	\$ 3,661.43	\$ 4,406.43	\$ 745.00
L	CMMRF Member Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -
TOTAL		\$ 26,493.93	\$ 17,503.37	\$ (8,990.56)
	<b>EXPENSES</b>			
1	Grand Recorder Expenses	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
2	Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3	Grand Treasurer Expenses	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
4	Grand Sentinel Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Grand Organist Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Officers' Travel Expenses			\$ -
6.1	MIGM (\$3,000)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
6.2	RIDGM (\$250)	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
6.3	RIGPCW (\$250)	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ (250.00)
7	Per Capita General Grand (based on 975@\$2.50)	\$ 2,437.50	\$ 2,262.50	\$ (175.00)
8	Office Expenses (includes Ritual Books)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 39.70	\$ (1,460.30)
9	Annual Proceedings & Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ (200.00)
10	Flowers & Memorials	\$ -	\$ 54.50	\$ 54.50
11	Sessions Expenses	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 185.50	\$ (1,414.50)
12	Grand Master's Apron & Case	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ (800.00)
13	Triennial Expenses (\$2000 for MIGM, balance for other)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,032.00	\$ (1,968.00)
14	CMMRF	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
14.2	CMMRF Expenses	\$ -	\$ 469.93	\$ 469.93
15	Printing/Dues Card	\$ 250.00	\$ 301.67	\$ 51.67
16	Equipment & Software Purchases	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ (250.00)
17	Bonnie Blink Church Service	\$ -	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00
18	Award & Recognition	\$ 250.00	\$ 172.68	\$ (77.32)
19	Membership/Degree Teams	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ (350.00)
20	Youth Group/ Hersey Trip	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ (500.00)
21	Web Site	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ (250.00)
22	Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 17.18	\$ (82.82)
23	SEM Degree	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
24	Insurance	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,122.67	\$ 322.67
25	Anniversary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
26	Table Council	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
27	Transfer to Walk of Remembrance Account	\$ 4,406.43	\$ 4,406.43	\$ -
28	Fund Raising (advance-- recover from donations)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL		\$ 26,493.93	\$ 19,754.76	\$ (6,739.17)

2022 - 2023 Warrants						
Grand Council of R&SM of Maryland						
Operating Account - M&T Bank						
				Expense		
Date	Sequence Number	Payee	Amount	Account	Memo	Paid
11/29/2022	2023.01	General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International PO Box 365 Estancia, NM 87016- 0365	\$ 2,262.50	7	Annual Assessment to General Grand Council based on the Annual Report to the same.	11/30/2022
12/9/2022	Transfer Voucher #	Operating Accoun from Investment Account	\$10,000	E	Funds transfer to maintain minimal balance	12/12/2022
11/15/2022	2023.02	Time Capsule 2000 Transfer	\$ 3,661.43	27	Advance from Operating Acct to establish TC2000 Account at M&T Bank.	11/15/2022
12/9/2022	2023.03	Time Capsule 2000 Transfer	\$ 745.00	27	Transfer from Operating Acct to TC2000 for donations received 2021 - 2022, held in the Operating Acct pending establishment of the separate TC2000 Acct.	12/23/2022
12/9/2022	2023.04	Vernon H. Huebschman 22238 Tolchester Beach Rd Chestertown MD 21620-4253	\$63.54	11	12 pair of Purple Socks for SOCK's program. Reimbursement of Amazon purchase 10/19/2022	12/21/2022
12/9/2022	2023.05	Vernon H. Huebschman 22238 Tolchester Beach Rd Chestertown MD 21620-4253	\$ 20.76	15	Reimbursement of Amazon purchase 10/18/2022 for 100 Poly shipping envelopes for Dues Cards distribution	12/21/2022
12/30/2023	2023.06	Grand Lodge of MD 304 International Circle Cockeysville, MD 21030	\$ 140.00	17	Invoice 23210. Masonic Home Chapel 12/18/22: Pianist \$100 Flowers \$40	1/2/2023
1/3/2023	2023.07	Andrew Martinez 307 Candlewood Ct Millersville, MD 21108-2415	\$ 469.93	14.2	Reimbursement for purchase of 36 Travel Mugs for fundraising for CMMRF. 4Imprint Order #24104479	1/4/2023
1/17/2023	2023.08	Minuteman Press 8201 Philadelphia Road Rosedale, MD 21235	\$ 77.09	15	Imprinting our card stock with Reverse image of Grand Council authorization, cost is imprint + shipping.	1/30/2023
5/13/2023	2023.09	William C. Hare	\$ 1,500.00	6	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses	5/21/2023
5/13/2023	2023.10	Spyridon G. Treklas	\$ 125.00	6	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses	void
5/13/2023	2023.11	Dennis Ewing	\$ 125.00	6	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses	void
5/13/2023	2023.12	John A. Rafine	\$ 300.00	3	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses	5/21/2023
5/13/2023	2023.13	Vernon H. Huebschman	\$ 600.00	1	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses	5/21/2023
5/13/2023	2023.14	Vernon H. Huebschman	\$ 12.72	11	Printing Agenda/Proposed Budget- UPS Store	5/32/23
07/04/23	2023.15	Grand RAC of MD	\$ 57.30		Call Letter: Production and mailing costs.	
07/04/23	2023.16	Grand RAC of MD	\$ 17.18		Refreshments: School for Secretaries (10) Ish Sodie Awards for inventory. Ordered from Pinworld,	
08/27/23	2023.17	Vernon Huebschman	\$ 172.68		1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses Second payment	
08/27/23	2023.18	John A. Rafine	\$ 300.00	3	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses Second payment	
08/27/23	2023.19	Vernon Huebschman	\$ 600.00	1	Two packs Card Stock for dues cards; Two #63XL Black HP Inkjet \$192.28 + \$11.54 tax	
08/28/23	2023.20	Vernon Huebschman	\$203.82	15	printing 2022 sessions reports	9/6/2023
09/06/23	2023.21	Vernon Huebschman	\$51.94			
09/06/23	2023.22			14	CMMRF contribution	
10/04/23	2023.23	William Hare	\$ 2,032.00	13	Triennium expense reimbursement	
10/04/23	2023.24	Spyridon Treklas	\$ 2,000.00	13	Triennium expense reimbursement	
10/04/23	2023.25	William Hare	\$ 1,500.00	6	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses	
10/04/23	2023.26	Spyridon Treklas	\$ 250.00	6	1/2 Annual Allotment for travel and other expenses	
10/4/2023	2023.27	John Rafine	\$ 39.70		binders for Grand Treasurer	
10/04/23	2023.28	Merkle Monuments	\$ 1,395.00	29	inv #23-0078	
10/04/23	2023.29	Grand Lodge of Maryland	\$ 540.00	29	inv # 23-0043	
10/06/23	2023.3	Kandi Austin	\$ 54.50	10	flower arrangement	
10/31/23	2023.30	Vernon Huebschman		11	Grand Sessions expenses	
10/31/23	2023.31	Grand Commandery of MD		11	Grand Sessions expenses	

## 9. Report of the Grand Lecturer

RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

MIGM,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this Grand Council in a new capacity as your Grand Lecturer.

There are Companions in Maryland who know the work better than I, but are not at present available to serve in this role. I take on this assignment until the next Companion up comes along.

1. The Constitution calls for the Candidates for the office of Thrice Illustrious Master to exemplify the TIM's role in the Royal Master and the Select Master Degrees. These are not huge parts. I have always thought of them as equivalent to that of the Worshipful Master in the Fellow Craft Degree in Lodge. These are two very different degrees in style...enough to be interesting and challenging to those seeking to advance. I will happily assist all those who wish to exemplify for consideration in our elections. For any Companion who wishes to exemplify, I will coordinate to be present or have a well qualified Companion to hear that exemplification all around Maryland.
2. I believe that the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree is a wonderful degree for those who are qualified and elected to be Thrice Illustrious Masters. The quality of the work by those who have conferred this degree in the recent past has been excellent. I look forward to seeing that work continued by new members when the opportunities arise for another generation of excellent ritualists take on the work.
3. For many years a project to convert the Grand Council Ritual to a format similar to the Grand Chapter' book was lingered due shifting circumstances. My plan is to begin this project anew using the same style that I used when attacking the Grand Chapter's ritual book. Once the basic transcription is complete...which should not take long as I have the original script provided to me by MIPGM Gordon A. Davids more than two decades ago...I plan to use a team of proof readers and co-editors to scrub out the typo's (which never go away completely no matter how hard one tries), and capture a fairly universal set of floor directions that will work in most Council setting throughout the Jurisdiction. This effort should take most of 2024 to clean up, and there will be budget presentation for the 2024 -2025 Cryptic Year for printing the recommended number of booklets.
4. If there is a call for the Super Excellent Master Degree, I will assist in finding a site for this epic Degree, and will welcome taking a part. We do have some legendary Companions who have made their mark in this spectacular Degree. Given the number of Companions who have received the Chapter Degrees in their local bodies and in the recent MJF...I believe that an effort should be made to schedule the next SEM Degree

Respectfully submitted

Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman  
Grand Lecturer

I move this report be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings, seconded by MIPGM Richard P. Naegele, and passed unanimously.

## **10. Accounts & Finance**

**RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas**

This Committee has reviewed the reports of the Grand Treasurer and have found them to be in good order. The Annual Budget for 2023 – 2024 was approved at the May Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. The Grand Council is properly prepared to proceed into the 2024 Cryptic Year.

I mover this report be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings; Second by the Grand Recorder.  
Passed unanimously.

## **11. Dispensations & Charters**

**RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas**

MIGM,

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Spyridon G. Treklas RIGPCW

By order the MIGM, this report was accepted as submitted, to be spread upon the Proceedings.

## **12. CMMRF**

**Comp. G. Andrew Martinez**

This year the CMMRF Committee launched a marketing campaign to get more visibility for the Grand Council by selling travel mugs. Each tumbler had “Royal and Select Masters of Maryland” on the front and back as well as the logo for Cryptic masons. All have been sold for a total \$760 being raised for this worthy cause. All proceeds from these tumblers will be sent to CMMRF.

Another \$1,244.33 was raised by 6 of our Councils and it is hoped that all 14 of our Councils can contribute to CMMRF, no matter how small in the upcoming year.

A new unique campaign will launch shortly to help raise more funds for CMMRF and to celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> Grand Council anniversary in 2024. The Committee wishes to thank all those Companions who purchased a mug. You have helped make a BIG difference.

Last, the Committee wishes to thank MIGM Hare for his advocacy of CMMRF at each of the Grand Visitations and Council Installations this year. If anyone wishes more information on CMMRF, you can go to [www.CMMRF.org](http://www.CMMRF.org) or just contact me.

I move this report be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings; second by MIPGM Rafine and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
G. Andrew Martinez, Chairman

## **13. Super Excellent Master Degree**

**MI Comp. William C. Hare**

There is no SEM Degree scheduled for 2023

#### **14. Grievance Committee**

**MI Comp. Gordon Davids**

MIGM,

The Committee reports that all issues which were open previously have been resolved without the necessity of action by this Grand Council. There were no new issues that have arisen since the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. I move this report be accepted and spread upon the Proceeding. Seconded by MIPGM Dill and passed unanimously.

#### **15. Jurisprudence Committee**

**MI Comp. John A. Rafine**

Most Illustrious Grand Master Hare and Companions,

There are three issues possibly requiring attention at this Grand Assembly.

1. The merger of Zabud Council # 9 to merge into Jeshua Council # 8.
2. A proposed amendment to our Grand Constitution requiring our Councils to submit financial information to the Grand Council.
3. Standing Regulations of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland Article I – Fees, Assessments and Compensation

Section 2 Change Section 2 (2021 – Present Per Capita Tax is \$7.50 per Companion not otherwise exempted)

Change to Section 2 (2024 – Present Per Capita Assessment is \$11.50 per Companion not otherwise exempted)

Item 1 – The merger of these Councils was approved pending the transfer of all furnishings and financials to Jeshua. If this has been accomplished, the merger is complete.

Item 2 – Proposed Standing Resolution

“Each Council shall report on its annual report every year the location of its financial assets by providing, for each account and any safety deposit box: (1) the type of account, (2) the institution at which the account is held, (3) the name on the account, and (4) the names of the Companions having access to the account (at least two). No account will be held in the name of an individual. No Council funds will be co-mingled with the funds of another organization.”

This resolution is not in conflict with our Constitution, Standing Regulations & Standing Resolutions of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland. This resolution was provided to the membership in accordance with Article XXVII – Amendment. The Most Illustrious Master shall call for discussion and vote at this Grand Assembly.

“Article XXVII - Amendment

This Constitution, Standing Regulations and Standing Resolutions may be amended at any Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly of this Grand Council by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that: (1) the proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing at least ninety days prior to the Annual or Semi-Assembly; or (2) the proposed amendments have laid over from a previous Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly. Any amendment proposed at an Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly is adopted by unanimous approval, otherwise it shall lay over to the next Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly. “.

Item 3 – This is mostly a procedural requirement resulting from changes to our fees and assessments and require amendment whenever changes to our fees and assessments are required. “Assessment” is a better choice as masonic organizations are not entitled to levy taxes.

The Grand Council convened a Grand Assembly on Saturday, October 28, 2023 and there were \_\_\_\_voting members and \_\_\_\_Grand Officers present. Our Most Illustrious Grand Master Hare called for a motion and discussion on all three items. All items were duly motioned and seconded, and the Grand Council voted unanimously in favor to approve all three items.

It has been our privilege to serve on this committee.

Fraternally,

John Rafine, MIPGM, Chairman

Stephen.Twomey@zeusllc.net

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Most Illustrious Grand Master Hare and Companions,

*As issues or concerns may become evident during the Grand Assembly, this preliminary report may be modified or rewritten.*

No issues or proposed revisions to subordinate council’s By-Laws were submitted to this committee for review, nor does our website contain any edicts from the MIGM.

I was made aware that a proposed amendment to the Grand Chapter constitution may be presented at this Grand Assembly. Should this be the case, Article XXVII of our Constitution, Standing Regulations and Standing Resolutions of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland reads as follows:

“Article XXVII - Amendment

This Constitution, Standing Regulations and Standing Resolutions may be amended at any Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly of this Grand Council by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that: (1) the proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing at least ninety days prior to the Annual or Semi-Assembly; or (2) the proposed amendments have laid over from a previous Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly. Any amendment proposed at an Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly is adopted by unanimous approval, otherwise it shall lay over to the next Annual or Semi-Annual Assembly. “

Should this amendment be presented and passed, it should be included in our Grand Constitution as Standing Resolution number 19.

Respectfully,

John Rafine, MIPGM, Chairman

Stephen.Twomey@zeusllc.net

**16. Long Range Planning Committee**

RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas

MIGM,

The committee was unable to get together. However, it would be highly recommended that each of the three York Rite Bodies assign three members (total of nine companions) to create a uniform long range committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Spyridon G. Treklas RIGPCW

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**17 Membership Committee**

RI Comp Dennis W Ewing

There was no report submitted to this Grand Assembly. Please take note of the Grand Recorders Summary Report of the Council Annual Report in the

**18 Recognition and Awards**

MI Comp Randall L. Watson

The Awards presented during this Grand Assembly are as follows:

- The Cryptic Mason of the Year: Comp. G. Andrew Martinez

- The Youth Leadership Award:   Comp. Scott Gordon Lapp
- The Order of the Secret Vault               RI Comp Vernon H. Huebschman
- There were no nominations for the Companion of the Council for 2023
- The Ish Sodi Awards were presented to the following Companions by the MIGM:
  - Comp. Paul Shircliff               Salem Council No. 11
  - Comp. James Simmons           Salem Council No. 11
  - Comp. Jeffrey Disney           Carroll Council No. 7
  - Comp. William Miller           Jerusalem Council No. 2
  - Comp. Daniel Brewer           York Council No. 23
  - Comp. Bryan Remley           King Solomon No. 13
  - Comp. Stephen Twomey II       Adoniram No. 21
  - Comp. Franklin Williams       Giblim Council No. 12

#### **19. Time & Place Committee 2024**

**RI Comp Spyridon G. Treklas**

This report was received, accepted and moved to be approved by the Grand Chapter earlier in these Grand Sessions. I move this report also be received, accepted, and approved by the Grand Council, Seconded by MIPGM Rafine and passed unanimously.



This report is for the annual York Rite Grand Sessions location for Autumn 2024

Negotiations have been completed and deposit paid to the Hotel to secure the location.

The location for 2024 is to be the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Ocean City Md. on October 25-26, 2024

Address: Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842 Ph. 410-524-1600

Room rates:

DATE	QUANTITY	ROOM TYPE	GROUP RATE
Thursday, 10/24/24	8	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$84 or \$89
Friday, 10/25/24	50	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$139 or \$149
Saturday, 10/26/24	50	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$139 or \$149
Sunday, 10/27/24	8	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$84 or \$89

This report submitted by John H. Austin, Chair Time and Place Committee,

Submitted,

R.I.D.G.M. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas

**20. Sessions 2023**

MI Comp. William C. Hare

In his extemporaneous remarks, the MIGM thanked the Ladies of Beauseant for their assistance in organizing the registration, and assisting with the Hospitality. The York Rite College was thanked for their participation in the organization and funding of the general Sessions expenses and for providing some special treats for our members.

The reckoning of the shared costs and cost to each Grand Body will be completed as all the bills and requests for reimbursements are all received. Special thanks were offered to MIGPM Randy Watkins for organizing then reception of all the registration information, coordinating all the meal tallies, and wisely dividing the costs of this great weekend for the three Grand Bodies to share.

## **21. Youth Relations**

Comp. Carl Michel

MIGM,

Your Youth Committee thanks you for the opportunity to serve this august body by working with our Masonic Youth. They young men and women will be part of our future either through joining the fraternity or encouraging their spouses to join. Their successes today will only afford greater good for our communities in the future with our support.

I asked DelMar Job's Daughters and Maryland Rainbow to provide us with information directly from them this year.

### **Maryland Rainbow:**

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls was founded in 1922 in McAlester, Oklahoma by the Rev. W. Mark Sexson a 33rd degree Mason, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma and a Past Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma, Order of the Eastern Star.

Maryland Rainbow has eight assemblies located throughout the state. World-wide, Rainbow is located in 45 states and 7 countries.

Rainbow is open to girls between the ages of 10-21. Its lessons are based on the seven colors of the Rainbow represented by Love (red), Religion (orange), Nature (yellow), Immortality (green), Fidelity (blue), Patriotism (indigo), and Service (violet). Rainbow also is anchored in the lessons of Faith, Hope and Charity. Rainbow offers a character building foundation, leadership opportunities, a chance to develop organizational skills, participation in service and charity projects, a chance to meet girls from throughout the world, meetings and activities planned and managed by girls, adult advisors and assistance for all activities and lasting friendships. Rainbow also has Pledges which is for younger girls between the ages of 5-9. These younger girls have the opportunity to come together to work on their own service and charity projects and practice basics like public speaking and other activities. They also have the opportunity to work with the Rainbow girls Together, Rainbow and its various programs including Pledges Gets Girls Ready For Life!

Thank you to the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland for your interest.

### **DelMar Job's Daughters:**

Founded in 1920 by Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick, Job's Daughters International is an organization of young women with members in the United States, Canada, Australia, the Philippines, and Brazil.

Members have fun together at activities such as swimming parties, dances, family picnics, slumber parties, miniature golf, marching in parades, and so much more. In Job's Daughters you will make new friends that will last a lifetime.

Job's Daughters perform service projects to help their community and the less fortunate. We actively support the Hearing Improvement Kids Endowment (HIKE) Fund, which purchases hearing assistive devices for hearing impaired children.

Job's Daughters can qualify for various scholarships that are offered on a state and national level. We also gain valuable leadership experience, serve as part of a team, and learn democratic principles as they run their own meetings, decide our own activities, and plan our own events.

In short, Job's Daughters International offers the qualities that today's young women want and need from organizations that earn their commitment: fun, friendship, helping others, and the chance to learn organizational and leadership skills.

For more information regarding Job's Daughters International please visit Supreme Bethel here:  
[HTTPS://JOBSDAUGHTERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/](https://jobstdaughtersinternational.org/)

The HIKE Fund Inc. is a non-profit charity incorporated under the laws of the state of Nebraska and registered with the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt charity. It is administered by a Board of Directors composed of individuals in the fields of audiology, business, education, labor, law and medicine. The HIKE Fund Inc. has awarded many types of devices for the hearing impaired including: Hearing Aids, FM Systems, Closed Caption Converters, Tactile Units, Alerting Systems, and Specialized Sports Equipment.

Through HIKE, Job's Daughters International has embraced the needs of hearing impaired children. The HIKE Fund, Inc. has provided children with hearing assistive devices since 1986. If you know of a child who needs a hearing assistive device and is financially unable to obtain assistance, please contact us by emailing: [johnhauser11@gmail.com](mailto:johnhauser11@gmail.com).

DelMar has 10 working Bethels with a Grand Bethel. We are always working on promoting our organization through our Masonic Family.

We have annual events such as Daughter Leadership, HIKE, Pageant, our Founder Month and banquet with choral competitions.

We are very proud this year the Supreme Guardian is from our jurisdiction Mom Barbara Von Leinen PGG Maryland.

Our daughters enjoy travel and just returned from Supreme Session in Middleton Wisconsin. Next year will be in our founders home state of Nebraska.

We also have Dad Ken Bright who was Installed as Supreme Inner Guard on the road to Associate Supreme guardian. We are also proud of Mom Cathy Feyen Supreme Chaplain and deputy to DelMar and Dad Guy Feyen appointed Associate Supreme Bethel Guardian.

**Maryland DeMolay:**

Maryland DeMolay has been blessed by the support from the entire Masonic family. The generosity and welcoming attitude we receive is without a doubt the best support any organization can have.

We have 10 Chapters throughout the Jurisdiction. As with most organizations, some are stronger than others. We see the ups and downs of membership in all chapters as with any of our organizations currently. While there are challenges, our jurisdiction has seen positive growth and year over year growth for 3 straight years and we are well on our way this year. Cumberland Chapter continues to be the leader of the pack this year. In two years they have grown their chapter from 3 active members to 31 Active members and 4 Squires. They are to be commended on their efforts and Dad Brett Bean of Hiram Council is to be commended on his work with the Chapter since moving to Cumberland and assuming the Chapter Advisor Roll. The other Advisors of the Chapter are to be commended as well.

We extend an invitation to all York Rite Masons to visit a Youth Meeting or activity during the next year to experience what we offer our members and to see the good works our members perform throughout the year for their respective groups, the community and those in need.

Fraternally,

Companion Carl A. Michel, Jr., PHP, PTI

**22. Unfinished Business**

RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas

The merger of the Council at Cambridge into the Council at Easton was declared final. Comp. Robert Penny was directed to secure all the York Rite paraphernalia from Salisbury, and confirm all financial accounts have been closed or transferred per the merger agreement.

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## **23. New Business**

M.I. Comp. William C. Hare

Per the report of the Jurisprudence Committee, an amendment proposed by MIPGM Robert B. Lumbert had been properly presented, due notice provided in the Call Letter, and was consistent with the existing Constitution of this Grand Council was therefore proper to consider and bring to a vote in this Grand Assembly.

Be it resolved that the following proposal be adopted:

*. "Each Council shall report on its annual report every year the location of its financial assets by providing, for each account and any safety deposit box: (1) the type of account, (2) the institution at which the account is held, (3) the name on the account, and (4) the names of the Companions having access to the account (at least two). No account will be held in the name of an individual. No Council funds will be co-mingled with the funds of another organization."*

On calling for discussion, MIPGM Lumbert rose to clarify the final sentence of the proposal. He stated that the issue of comingling of funds dealt only with operational accounts, but excluded financial accounts which were used for the reception of revenue in the form of dues payments, petition fees, event payments or any other income to what is commonly called a Receiving Account

Grand Recorder's Note...Receiving Accounts are used for the convenience of the membership to provide a single payment to the local York Rite Bodies. The collected receipt of these Receiving are later reconciled and distributed to the respective York Rite Bodies for which payments were received. This type of account is commonly used in locations where two or three York Rite Bodies exist, and where a unified York Rite Dues Bill is mailed to the members of the each of the Bodies.

There being no further comments, the MIGM called for a vote which was unanimously approved.

## **24. Voluntary Remarks**

MI Comp. William C. Hare

Right Puissant General Grand Recorder, RP Comp. Mark Irwin brought the greeting of the Most Puissant General Grand William Snyder. RP Comp. Irwin congratulated MI Comp Hare on an excellent Grand Assembly. He also took note of the active support of Cryptic Masons Medical Research Fund, and gave some examples of its excellent work. Comp Irwin also explained the transition of the General Grand Offices following the recent Triennial General Grand Assembly. Also that the General Grand Council had entered into an agreement with the International Order of the DeMolay to handle the fulfillment orders for items distributed by the General Grand Council.

MWGM Frederick A. Spicer offered his greetings to the Grand Assembly and reserved his extended remarks to the Grand Commandery's Grand Conclave.

## **25 Installation of Officers for 2024**

**MI Comp. Richard P. Naegele**

The following Companions were assembled and installed as officers for this Grand Council for 2024:

Most Illustrious Grand Master	MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr.
Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master	RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas
Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work:	RI Comp. Dennis W. Ewing
Right Illustrious Grand Recorder	RI Comp. William C. Eppig
Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer	MI Comp. John A. Rafine, MIPGM
Grand Captain of the Guard	Comp. G. Andrew Martinez
Grand Conductor of the Council	Comp. Stephen J. Twomey II
Grand Marshall	Comp. Dirk Wiker
Grand Steward	Comp. William J. Wickham
Grand Sentinel	Comp. Christian J. Miele
Grand Chaplain	Comp. A. Dean Burt

## **29. Closing**

**MI Comp. William C. Hare**

After a closing prayer, the MIGM declared the Grand Council closed by the authority in him vested by the Grand Council.

Following the Closing, MIPGM Richard P. Naegele opened the College of Preservation and proceedings for the induction of a 2023 candidate for the Order of the Secret Vault. Those who had previously received this honor were called to west of the Altar, with RP Comp. Mark Irwin and RP Comp Sean McNorton to welcome RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman.

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

## APPENDIX

### 1. Annual Report Summaries

Council Information:	CONCORDIA COUNCIL NO. 1
Membership as of 8/31/23	77
Location:	11 Crain Hwy S. , Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (Glen Burnie Lodge)
Meeting Nights	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays; 7:30 p.m.
TIM	Richard D. Smith
DIM	Frederick T. Rossmark Jr.
PCW	Bruce G. Colburn
RECORDER	Robert B. Lumbert
Treasurer	Gordon Munholland
PTIMs	Ronald L. Aughenbaugh; James B. Coker; Edward A. Foreman Jr. ; Robert B. Lumbert; David Sampson; Richard D. Smith; Frederick A. Spicer
Recent Greetings	Jarrett Miller; Christopher Wertz
Affiliations	
Deaths	James J. Morgan; Robert Phillips; Frank Simmonds
Demits	Mark Belcher; Daniel Roberts
Suspensions by Council	Gaither Becker; James Bohn; Charles Malinowski; David Thielman
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	Jerusalem Council No. 2
Membership as of 8/31/23	62
Location:	140 Orville Road, Essex MD 21221 (Jephthah Lodge)
Meeting Nights	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays; 7:00 p.m.
TIM	Destin Strader (Deceased); Bill Miller (acting)
DIM	William Miller
PCW	J Bradley Thomas
RECORDER	Jeffrey Ament
Treasurer	William J. Wickham
PTIMs	William Lautenschlager; Louis P. Romeo Jr. ; Alex Rodriguez Jeffrey Ament; Arthur Gordon; W. Michael Boughman; Richard P. Naegele William Wickham
Recent Greetings	
Affiliations	
Deaths	Edmund R. Haas; Richard F. Seim; Destin R. Strader
Demits	C. Edward Poarch II
Suspensions by Council	
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	Hiram Council No. 5
Membership as of 8/31/23	237
Location:	304 International Circle, Cockeysville MD 21030 (Grand Lodge)
Meeting Nights	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
TIM	Christian J. Miele
DIM	Scott G. Lapp
PCW	Norman Henthorn
RECORDER	Frederick James
Treasurer	Randall L. Watson
PTIMs	George J. Christoff; Jeffrey L. Dill; Richard A. Eppler; W. Calvin Gray Jr; William C. Hare ; Vernon H. Huebschman; Christian Miele; Carl A. Michel Jr. John P. Mitchell; Richard P. Naegele; Alex a Rodriguez; John L. Thomas; Spyridon G. Treklas; Randall L. Watson; Robert E. Young
Recent Greetings	
Affiliations	
Deaths	William E. Gyr; Gary Harthousen; Raymond C. Krampf; Harvey Davidoff; Howard Roe; Robert Kimmons; Henry McDonald; James W. Davenport; Milland Keller; Marion Rickard; Paul Sparaco; Edsel Spellman; Don Bales; Irvin Crawl; Richard France
Demits	
Suspensions by Council	Earl K. Hamilton
Suspensions by Lodge	Lewis T. Lang; Leroy J Graefe III; Richard L Hemphill; Benjamin Saylor;

Council Information:	Carroll Council No. 7
Membership as of 8/31/23	59
Location:	46 Monroe St. Westminster, MD 21157 (Door to Virtue Lodge)
Meeting Nights	Fourth Mondays; 7:30 p.m
TIM	Jeffrey Disney
DIM	Michael Raab
PCW	Wade Cooney Jr
RECORDER	William J Baldwin
Treasurer	J Michael Robbins
PTIMs	William J. Baldwin; Jeffrey L Disney; J. Michael Robbins
Recent Greetings	
Affiliations	
Deaths	John A. Young; Howard Roe; Joseph Yelton
Demits	Roger Solarczyk;
Suspensions by Council	
Suspensions by Lodge	



Council Information:	Jeshua Council No. 8
Membership as of 8/31/23	42, after merger
Location:	114 N. Washington St. Easton MD 21601 (Coats Lodge)
Meeting Nights	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.
TIM	Darryl W. McCaslin
DIM	Robert M. Penny
PCW	Michael S. Bauman
RECORDER	Robert M. Penny
Treasurer	Benny T. Mango
PTIMs	Wallace Dodson, Darryl McCaslin, David Tibbets
Recent Greetings	Barry VanVechtin
Affiliations	Merged with Cambridge on 8/31/2023
Deaths	
Demits	
Suspensions by Council	
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	Enoch Council No. 10
Membership as of 8/31/23	80
Location:	Frederick Masonic Center, Blentlinger Road, Frederick MD
Meeting Nights	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:30 p.m.
TIM	Gary Kennedy
DIM	Michael Shrank
PCW	James Stargel
RECORDER	Daniel Powell Jr.
Treasurer	Gary Kennedy
PTIMs	Dennis Brekhuis, Gary Kennedy, George Shumard
Recent Greetings	
Affiliations	
Deaths	
Demits	
Suspensions by Council	
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	Salem Council No. 11
Membership as of 8/31/23	53
Location:	15 Green Street, Cumberland, MD
Meeting Nights	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
TIM	Kenneth Robertson
DIM	Vacant
PCW	Vacant
RECORDER	James E. Simmons
Treasurer	Paul G. Shircliff
PTIMs	John Greer, Kenneth Robertson, Robert Hamilton
Recent Greetings	
Affiliations	
Deaths	Warren Johnson, Gene Purkey, Page Shanklin, James Snider
Demits	George Widmyer, Nicholas Costello, Patrick Stangler
Suspensions by Council	O'Neil Raymond
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	Giblim Council No. 12
Membership as of 8/31/23	53
Location:	110 N. Division St. Salisbury, MD
Meeting Nights	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 7:30 p.m
TIM	Jacob Todd
DIM	Michael Youse
PCW	Arthur Tawes
RECORDER	Franklin Williams
Treasurer	David Long
PTIMs	Arthur Tawes, Jacob Todd, Dale Venable, Charles Dasheil
Recent Greetings	Robert Goldsborough, William Beattie, Phillip Adkins, Ralph Greene
Affiliations	Randall Mullen, James Walsh
Deaths	
Demits	William Carey
Suspensions by Council	Michael Farlow, Albert German
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	King Solomon Council No. 13
Membership as of 8/31/23	85
Location:	20516 Boland Farm Rd, Germantown, MD
Meeting Nights	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
TIM	Kris Brown
DIM	Bryan Remley
PCW	Adam Buffington
RECORDER	Carl Swanson
Treasurer	John Austin
PTIMs	Kris Brown, Arthur Hebbeler, Arthur Sellars, Carl Swanson, Raymond Tayse
Recent Greetings	Arison Andriamalala, Rodney Azamia, Jordan Hessman, Kenneth Grundy, Justin Sayre, Craig Lee Jones, Jacob Nunyi
Affiliations	Ian Hongola
Deaths	Ara Sahagian, Bryan Troutman
Demits	Michael Codori, Raymond Brunner
Suspensions by Council	
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	Harmony Council No. 20
Membership as of 8/31/23	85
Location:	162 Conduit St Annapolis MD 21401
Meeting Nights	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mondays, 7:30 p.m
TIM	Rafael Rodriguez
DIM	Christopher Thompson
PCW	Brian Dieterich
RECORDER	Raymond Denmark
Treasurer	Gordon Davids
PTIMs	Robert Branan, Howard Culver, Gordon Davids, Leland Linder, Edward Matthias Mark Owens William Price Stephen Robinson, Jimmie Trowbridge, Dirk Wiker, Kenneth Wyvill
Recent Greetings	
Affiliations	
Deaths	Charles Staehle, Gary Bricker, James Dixon, James Cranford, Randolph Disney
Demits	Bruce Lanier, Franklin Smith,
Suspensions by Council	Norman Briggs
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	Adoniram Council No. 21
Membership as of 8/31/23	67
Location:	112 Market St, Denton, MD (Temple Lodge)
Meeting Nights	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
TIM	Stephen Twomey
DIM	John Myers Jr
PCW	Frederick Smith
RECORDER	Vernon Huebschman
Treasurer	Eugene Racz
PTIMs	Dean Burt, Vernon Huebschman, Christian Jensen, Robert Sparks, Stephen Twomey
Recent Greetings	John Bigelow, Jonathan Alex Kennedy, Warren Neff, William Neff
Affiliations	
Deaths	Mervin Trice
Demits	
Suspensions by Council	
Suspensions by Lodge	

Council Information:	York Council No. 23
Membership as of 8/31/23	42
Location:	8311 Old Branch Ave, Camp Springs MD
Meeting Nights	1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays, 7:30 p.m
TIM	Daniel Brewer
DIM	Vacant
PCW	John Morris
RECORDER	Don Ferguson
Treasurer	Randall Schock
PTIMs	Larry Bowen, Dan Brewerm Mark Irwin, Charles Lloyd, Charles Malwitz, Brent Morris, Ronald Rhine.
Recent Greetings	
Affiliations	Bryd Raby
Deaths	
Demits	William Boswell,
Suspensions by Council	Randolph Geck, George Schlagel
Suspensions by Lodge	