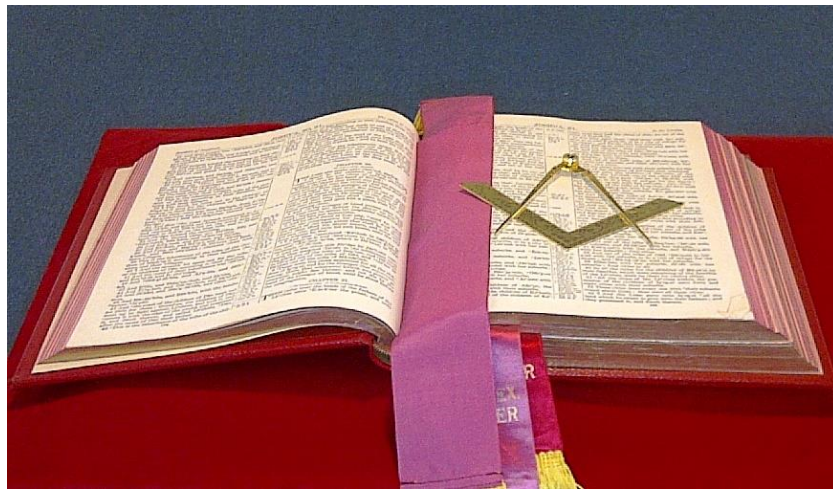




Proceedings of the
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of
Maryland

Semi-annual Grand Convocation
Held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

AGENDA

Monday, May 26, 2015, Odenton, Maryland

1. 7:30 P.M. – Opening of Grand Chapter
2. Preliminary Report from the Conference Committee
3. Reception of Past Grand High Priests
4. Reading of Proceedings – REGSecty Huebschman (Available on website)
5. Report of the Grand Secretary – REGSecty Huebschman
6. Report of the Grand Treasurer – REGTreas Lister
7. Report of the Committee on Accounts and Finance – REGK Pat Curtis
8. Report of the Grand High Priest- MEGHP Randall L. Watson
9. Report of the Committee on Conference- PHP Austin*
10. Nominations & Election of 2014 – 2015 Officers- PGHP Friel*
11. Report of the Grand Lecturer / Committee on Work – PGHP Huebschman
12. Report of the Committee on Youth Relations & Scholarship – PHP Dill
13. Report of the Committee on Royal Arch Research Assistance – REGS Eppig
14. Report of the Committee on Time and Place – REGK Curtis
15. Report of the Committee on the Triennium – REGS Curtis*
16. Report of the Committee on the Multi-Jurisdictional Festival – REGS Curtis*
17. Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence/Constitution – PGHP Ponzillo*
18. Reports from Committees not listed will be reported in the Proceedings
19. Report of the Long Range Planning Committee – PGHP Richard P. Naegele
20. Report of the Membership Committee – PGHP Richard P. Naegele
21. Unfinished Business – PGPH Richard P. Naegele
22. New Business (if any)
23. Remarks by the RE Grand King
24. Presentation of Awards
25. MEGHP Closing Remarks
26. Closing of Grand Chapter

MEGHP reserves the right to alter this Agenda.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF SEMI-ANNUAL CONVOCATION – MAY 26, 2015

The Grand Chapter of Maryland was opened in Ample Form by M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, MEGHP

The Proceedings of the 2014 Grand Convocation were approved as published.

The Report of the Grand Treasurer for the Year Ending 10/31/2014 was received and approved.

The Grand High Priest delivered his Semi-Annual Address.

The Grand Treasurer presented the 2015 -2016 Budget which was approved.

The Grand Treasurer stated the value of the Investment fund to \$301,795.79

The Grand Lecturer's Report & Committee on Work reported two new MEHP's for this year. Comp Dirk Wiker of Mt. Vernon RAC No. 25, and Comp. William Grubb of Piscataway RAC No. 46. The MEGHP's requirement for Certification of a Lodge for 2015 – 2016 will be BOTH the Mark Master and Past Master Degree.

Youth Relations reported eleven applicants for the D Ross Vansant Scholarship, selections to be made at a later time. The Grand Chapter voted to incorporate two additional guidelines for selection:

Minimum GPA of 2.8, based on a 4.0 scale; and action Royal Arch Masons who maintain a full time schedule may apply up to and including their 25th year of age.

RARA certificates were presented.

Time & Place: A presentation was made on two Hotels. The Grand Hotel was selected as the 2016 Annual Grand York Rites Sessions site. The other hotel was the Ramada in Hagerstown.

The Multi-Jurisdictional Festival Committee will be held in Fredericksburg, VA this year. Maryland will be conferring the PM. Date: September 26, 2015 Time: 9:00 a.m.

The Credential Committee final Report: 30 Voting Companions; 5 Non-Voting Companions, 16 of 19 Chapters (Later amended to 6 Non-voting upon inspection of the sign in sheets.)

Election of Officers for 2015 -2016:

MEGHP	Comp. Randall L. Watson
REGK	Comp. Patrick A. Curtis
REGS	Comp. William C. Eppig
REGTreas	Comp. John M. Lister
REGSecty	Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman
Trustee:	Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, 2015 – 2017

A motion passed to take a full page add in the DeMolay Conclave book for \$75.00

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons | 2015 Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

A Proposed Amendment to set the number of Companions necessary to transact business in subordinate Degrees passed unanimously. The minimum number is now set by law at five (5). The Chapter must also have the required number for the Degree as stated in the Degree opening. Both conditions must be met.

Comp. Ron Block presented a proposal for a Liability Insurance policy for the Grand Chapter and each of the subordinate Chapters was made. R.E. Comp. John Lister chairs a special committee to evaluate and report at the Annual Convocation.

Proceedings and Forms are available on the GGRAM/MD website on the Grand Secty's page.

Unfinished Business:

The recommendations of PGHP Naegle contained in his 2014 Address have been referred to the appropriated Committee for study, recommendations, or action.

The following recommendations from the Grand Lecturer, were referred to the Committee on Work, and are now in effect, all of which are subject to the discretion of the MEHP of each Chapter:

- A. Cabletows and Hoodwinks are optional. Must be in GOOD CONDITION to be used. The MEHP is responsible for the safety of every candidate.
- B. Use of swords is optional...again based on consideration of safety, and the space within the Veils.
- C. The General Grand Chapter Apron Lecture may be inserted immediately following the investing of the Aprons.
- D. Allow one circuit around the Obstacles in the RA Degree but the entire PS part must be done.

The MEGHP will issue an edict which will parallel the practice of the Grand Lodge of assuming the Attitude of Reverence (Right hand over heart) during all prayers.

The Apron Lecture: (may be presented by the CoH, MEHP, EK, ES, PHP's)

I now present you with the Apron of a Royal Arch Mason.

Its color is white, embroidered in red, symbolizing the purity of your intentions and the fervency and zeal that should actuate you in the performance of every duty in promoting the noble and glorious work of building the Temple of your life, and in your labors for all Mankind.

The Triple Tau in a triangle, within a circle, is the emblem of emblems of a Royal Arch Mason, typifying the Sacred Name, the Author of Eternal Life. It is worn as mark of distinction, separating us who know and worship the true Name from those who are ignorant of this august mystery.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

May you wear it as one who, knowing and believing, may find in it the highest hope and faith ever given to man.

End/VHH

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Odenton Masonic Lodge

Odenton , Maryland

May 26, 2015

7:30 p.m.

1 The Grand Chapter was opened in Ample Form by Most Excellent Grand High Priest, M. E. Companion, Randall L. Watson with the following officers in their respective places and stations or excused;

M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson	Grand High Priest
R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis	Grand King
R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig	Grand Scribe
R.E. Comp. John M. Lister	Grand Treasurer
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP	Grand Secretary
E. Comp. & Rev. Arthur F. Hebbeler	Grand Chaplain
E. Comp. John Austin, GRAC	Grand Captain of the Host (acting)
E. Comp. Jeffrey L. Dill	Grand Principal Sojourner (acting)
E. Comp. Frederick A. Spicer	Grand Royal Arch Captain (acting)
E. Comp. Robert M. Penny	Grand Master of the Third Veil
E. Comp. W. Michael Boughman	Grand Master of the Second Veil
E. Comp. Richard Reccardi	Grand Master of the First Veil
Comp. James Kinnear	Grand Sentinel (acting)
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP	Grand Lecturer
E. Comp. Robert E. Young	Grand Organist (Absent)

The MEGHP opened using the full form adopted in 2012.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Full Report of the Committee on Conference: Complete Attendance

Concordia Royal Arch Chapter No.1	Robert B. Lumbert, PGHP James J. Morgan, Jr. PHP Frederick A. Spicer, PHP (Richard Smith)	Phoenix Royal Arch Chapter No. 7	Michael G. Faby, MEHP
Chesapeake Royal Arch Chapter No. 17	James A. Massey, EK (Glynn Bridle)	Salem Royal Arch Chapter No. 18	Not Represented
St. Johns Royal Arch Chapter No. 19	James B. Coker PHP Vernon Huebschman, PGHP John A. Rafine PHP (Charles Smith)	Adoniram Royal Arch Chapter No. 21	Dennis Ewing, EK
Talbot Royal Arch Chapter No. 22	Robert M. Penny, GM3V	Enoch Royal Arch Chapter No. 23	James M. King, MEHP
Mt. Vernon Royal Arch Chapter No. 25	Randolph S. Disney, MEHP & REGC John M. Lister, REGTreas (Ronald Block)	Ithiel Royal Arch Chapter No. 27	Not Represented
Druid Royal Arch Chapter No. 28	Randall L. Watson, MEGHP William E. Eppig REGS Henry C. McDonald, PHP. Pres- Bd of GI's Richard Reccardi GM1V Richard P. Naegele, PGHP Jeffrey L. Dill MIGM	Hayward Royal Arch Chapter No. 29	Christopher Jensen MEHP
Carroll Royal Arch Chapter No. 31	Not Represented	James F. Allen Royal Arch Chapter No. 33	John Austin GRAC James Kinnear, ES
Edenton Royal Arch Chapter No. 36	Clifton R. Friel, PGHP	Baltimore Royal Arch Chapter No. 40	Ronald L. Aughenbaugh MEHP
Tuscan Royal Arch Chapter No. 42	John B. Maclay Jr. PGHP W. Michael Boughman, GM2V	York Royal Arch Chapter No. 44	Patrick A. Curtis, REGK (Rabbi Randy Schoch)
	Piscataway Royal Arch Chapter, No. 46	Arthur F. Hebbeler III MEHP William Grubb, EK (Thomas Binaut, Secty)	<i>(xxx)= Non-voting Comp's.</i>

Pledge of Allegiance

The Grand High Priest then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Opening Prayer by the Grand Chaplain:

Ex. Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, Grand Chaplain

"Supreme Architect of the Universe, we invoke Thy blessing at this time. Bless the work of this Grand Convocation that our deliberations may be fruitful, and advance the work of this Fraternity. May this Grand Convocation, thus begun in order, be conducted in peace, and closed in harmony. Amen.
So mote it be!"

The Grand Chapter was then declared open in Ample Form.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

2 Interim Report of the Committee on Conference Ex. Comp. John Austin

MEGHP,

The Register shows that there are 35 Companions present. Among them, there are 30 Companions eligible to vote and cast a ballot. 16 of 19 Chapters represented. Report by Acting Grand Tiler James Kinnear. (This report is amended to be 36 Companions, with 30 voting members present.)

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

3 Reception of The Past Grand Officers present;

M.E. Comp. Clifton R. Friel	Past Grand High Priest 1996
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman	Past Grand High Priest 2004
M.E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert	Past Grand High Priest 2010 - 2011
M.E. Comp. John B. Maclay, Jr.	Past Grand High Priest 2012
M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegle	Past Grand High Priest 2013

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

MEGHP,

It is a pleasure to speak for the PGH's present and those that are absent...their numbers are missed with Carl Wisner and Bennie G. Owens at this end of the line. We wish for you and your Line great success. We regret not being with you more often, but our hearts are with you.

VHH reported that PGHP Bandell sends his regrets, and that he was home tending to responsibilities there. REGK Curtis report PGHP Owens regrets owing to a conflict in his schedule.

At the closing of the Grand Chapter....

Presentation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland, M.I. Illustrious Comp. Jeffrey L. Dill.

Introduction of Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Maryland, R.E. Sir Knight Randolph S. Disney.

4 Reading of the Proceedings

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand Secretary

MEGHP,

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

The Proceedings of the 2014 Annual Proceeding are available to be read at this Convocation. The Grand Secretary reports that the Annual Proceeding were available on the Grand Chapter web site.

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

5 Report of the Grand Secretary

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand Secretary

Most Excellent Grand High Priest Watson,

ANNUAL REPORTS-

All Annual Reports and Assessment due to the Grand Chapter for 2014 were received. Mt. Vernon a Chesapeake Chapters suffered the loss of their respective Secretaries, so their reports were abridged and lacking some of the usual detail, as dedicated Companions stepped in to fill some very big shoes on short notice. Both Chapter have now elected and will install new permanent Secretaries after a time of temporary substitutes. The Grand Secretary will work with both Chapters to verify the rolls of members and confirm all membership change of status.

ROYAL ARCH MASON MAGAZINE-

After intensive scrutiny and repairs to the Royal Arch Mason Magazine mailing list at our end, I am getting more comments about failure to receive current mailings. In February 1015, I requested the current mailing list used by RAMMag, which is a Excel spreadsheet kept by Chapter numbers, but to date I have not received this information. There are approximately 1600 names and addresses which must be verified on two different lists. It is very difficult to provide corrections and then back check the RAM Mag mailing list to see if all information has been added and deleted as directed. The struggle goes on. If this is considered a very sensitive issue, I would recommend that a RAMMag committee be establish with the sole purpose of maintaining current information in their Mailing list, which the Grand Secretary will be happy to provide change of status information.

IRS-

A reminder has been sent to every Chapter that as of March 2015, it is their responsibility to file their IRS Form 990-N. Seven of our Chapters have confirmed to the Grand Secretary this duty has been performed. Failure to do so can result in the loss of Tax Exempt Status. This is time consuming and expensive to correct. This loss requires that any such Chapter file appropriate IRS forms as a small business. The IRS 990-N for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons has been filed for 2014. The confirmation of filing is still required to be attached to the Annual Reports of the Chapters due as of September 1 of each year.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons | 2015 Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Waivers of Territorial Jurisdiction-

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia has requested three waivers, which having met the requirement of Lodge membership in that jurisdiction, were granted. The requirement for Lodge Memberships carries the implied status of having secured waivers from the Grand Lodges involved. The Grand Secretary received a request to assist with waivers on Brothers from Delaware and Pennsylvania who desired membership in Phoenix Chapter No. 7 in Aberdeen. The matter was referred to the MEGHP for further study. It was determined that neither of the two Brothers held membership in a Maryland Lodge, nor did they meet the condition of living closer to Phoenix Chapter than any Chapter in their own state. The Chapter was directed to return the petitions and fees until circumstances made membership possible. It should be noted that these Brothers would be free to visit any Maryland Chapter if they would be welcomed.

Grand Chapter Website-

The Website continues to be a ready source of operational information for the Grand Chapter. Our Grand Officers, Committees, Constituent Chapter Locations and contacts, and forms useful for members and Chapter Secretaries are posted to the four pages of our website. There are links to similar websites for the Grand Council and Grand Commanderies, and to our General Grand Bodies, Grand Encampment, and our Grand Lodge. Most questions I received are answered with a referral to the Grand Chapter website. Please refer any corrections to the Grand Secretary or the MEGHP, who will refer such information to our Web Master, MEHP Art Hebbeler, Grand Chaplain.

Annual Grand Convocation-

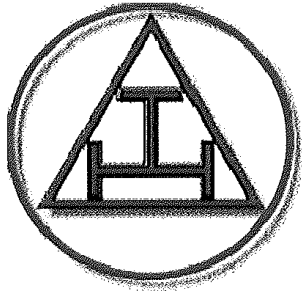
The Call Letter and Registration Information for the Annual Grand Convocation to be held at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland will be mailed in August of this year. Record attendance is anticipated among both our Maryland York Rite Members, and the visiting dignitaries from our Sister Jurisdictions. These meetings and other festivities are open to all Companions of Maryland. Early Registration is strongly advised for this Ocean-front event. Late October in Ocean City is a great place to experience the Land of Pleasant Living with our Masonic friends.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Motion to accept this report by the Grand Secretary, Seconded by REGS Curtis, and passed unanimously.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons 2015 Semi-Annual Grand Convocation



Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland

John Lister, Grand Treasurer
42 Quarter Horse Dr.
Capon Bridge, WV 26711

May 25, 2015

Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Randall L. Watson

MEGHP,

The report of the Grand Treasurer is that the Grand Chapter is in good financial condition. The Treasurers Final Report for 2014, as of October 31, 2014, is attached.

A couple of notes, although the budgeted income collected fell short of the budget the Total Expenditures for all categories did not exceed the budgeted amount and generated \$1,347.95 to offset some of that short fall.

Also attached is the Semi-Annual Report for the Grand Chapter, the D Ross VanSant Fund, and the Trustees Reserve Fund. The Grand Chapter and the VanSant reports show little activity as most of the income and expenses occur in the second half of the capitular year. The transfer income from the reserve fund has been made this month.

The Trustees report attached shows the status of the account as of April 30, 2015. The value of the account and its investments as of that date was \$301,795.79.

Fraternally,
John M. Lister
Grand Treasurer

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Final Report - 2014 11/1/2013 through 10/31/2014 Using 2014 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME			
Exaltations	\$ 710.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (290.00)
Other Inc	\$ 220.00	\$ -	\$ 220.00
Per Capita	\$ 12,667.00	\$ 15,300.00	\$ (2,633.00)
Transfer Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)
_DivInc	\$ 1,314.07	\$ 3,300.00	\$ (1,985.93)
_IntInc	\$ 264.97	\$ 200.00	\$ 64.97
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 23,176.04	\$ 28,800.00	\$ (5,623.96)
EXPENSES			
1 - Grand Officers and Related Items			
1.1 - Grand Secretary	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ -
1.2 - Grand Lecturer	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
1.3 - Grand Treasurer	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -
TOTAL 1 - Grand Officers and Related Items	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -
2 - Personal Expenses			
2.1 - Expenses In Out State			
2.1.1 - GHP Personal Expenses	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
2.1.2 - Grand King Personal Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
2.1.3 - Grand Scribe Personal Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
2.1 - Expenses In Out State	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
2.2 - Expenses N. E. Region	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 750.00
2.4 - Degree Team Expenses	\$ 140.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 110.00
TOTAL 2 - Personal Expenses	\$ 4,640.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 860.00
3 - General Grand Chapter			
3.1 - Dues General Grand Chapter	\$ 1,590.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 210.00
3.2 - Royal Arch Magazine for Members	\$ 3,032.51	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,467.49
3.3 - RAM Editor Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
3.4 - Triennial Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL 3 - General Grand Chapter	\$ 7,722.51	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 1,677.49
4 - Office Expenses			
4.01 - Office Supplies	\$ 445.80	\$ 450.00	\$ 4.20
4.02 - Printing Visitation Booklet	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
4.03 - Printing Annual Proceedings	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.04 - Postage and Delivery Expense	\$ 182.52	\$ 400.00	\$ 217.48
4.05 - Past GHP Jewel and Engraving	\$ 1,261.40	\$ 800.00	\$ (461.40)
4.06 - GHP Apron & Case	\$ 293.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 207.00
4.07 - Memorials	\$ 151.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (51.00)
4.08 - Membership Program	\$ 377.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 122.50
4.10 - Equipment Fund	\$ 3,637.20	\$ 700.00	\$ (2,937.20)
4.11 - Dues Cards	\$ 328.67	\$ 400.00	\$ 71.33
4.12 - Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 333.33	\$ 100.00	\$ (233.33)
4.13 - Awards	\$ 871.40	\$ 700.00	\$ (171.40)
TOTAL 4 - Office Expenses	\$ 7,881.82	\$ 5,900.00	\$ (1,981.82)

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons 2015

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Final Report - 2014

11/1/2013 through 10/31/2014 Using 2014 Grand Chapter

5 - Service Contracts				
5.1 - Office Rent	\$	-	\$	400.00 \$ 400.00
5.3 - Insurance	\$	250.00	\$	300.00 \$ 50.00
5.4 - Web Site	\$	200.00	\$	100.00 \$ (100.00)
TOTAL 5 - Service Contracts	\$	450.00	\$	800.00 \$ 350.00
6 - Grand Sessions				
6.1 - Hotel Guest Rooms & Svcs	\$	-	\$	700.00 \$ 700.00
6.3 - Distinguished Guests Meals & Enter	\$	753.00	\$	3,000.00 \$ 2,731.28
TOTAL 6 - Grand Sessions	\$	753.00	\$	3,700.00 \$ 3,431.28
7 - Charity				
7.1 - Masonic Youth	\$	2,589.00	\$	500.00 \$ (2,089.00)
7.2 - RARA	\$	100.00	\$	100.00 \$ -
7.3 - Grand Lodge	\$	1,000.00	\$	100.00 \$ (900.00)
TOTAL 7 - Charity	\$	3,689.00	\$	700.00 \$ (2,989.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	27,936.33	\$	28,800.00 \$ 1,347.95
OVERALL TOTAL	\$	(4,760.29)	\$	- \$ (4,276.01)

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons D Ross VanSant Fund Final Report 2014

11/1/2013 through 10/31/2014 Using 2014 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME			
Donations Received	\$ 1,505.00	\$ -	\$ 1,505.00
_DivInc	\$ 3,288.12	\$ 3,300.00	\$ (11.88)
_IntInc	\$ 0.40	\$ 200.00	\$ (199.60)
_LT CapGnDst	\$ 2,641.91	\$ -	\$ 2,641.91
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,435.43	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,935.43
EXPENSES			
7 - Charity			
7 - Charity:7.4 - Scholarships	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ (7,000.00)
TOTAL 7 - Charity	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ (7,000.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ (7,000.00)

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Report - 2015 11/1/2014 through 5/20/2015 Using 2015 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
Exaltations	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)
Invest Inc	\$ 809.41	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (2,690.59)
Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 14,300.00	\$ (14,300.00)
Transfer Income	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
INCOME	\$ 7,809.41	\$ 25,800.00	\$ (17,990.59)
1 - Grand Officers	\$ 875.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,925.00
1.1 - Grand Secre	\$ 475.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,275.00
1.2 - Grand Lectu	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
1.3 - Grand Treas	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00
2 - Personal Exper	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
2.1 - Expenses In	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
2.1.1 - GHP Pers	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
2.1.2 - Grand Kl	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
2.1.3 - Grand Sc	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
2.2 - Expenses N.	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
2.4 - Degree Tear	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
3 - General Grand	\$ 4,480.26	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 1,919.74
3.1 - Dues Gener	\$ 1,459.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 341.00
3.2 - Royal Arch M	\$ 3,021.26	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,478.74
3.3 - RAM Editor	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
4 - Office Expense	\$ 103.19	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 5,796.81
4.01 - Office Sup	\$ 103.19	\$ 450.00	\$ 346.81
4.02 - Printing Vi	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
4.03 - Printing An	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.04 - Postage an	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
4.05 - Past GHP J	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
4.06 - GHP Apron	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.07 - Memorials	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
4.08 - Membersh	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.10 - Equipment	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
4.11 - Dues Cards	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
4.12 - Miscelanec	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
4.13 - Awards	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
5 - Service Contra	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
5.1 - Office Rent	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
5.3 - Insurance	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
5.4 - Web Site	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
6 - Grand Sessions	\$ -	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,700.00
6.1 - Hotel Guest	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
6.3 - Distinguishe	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
7 - Charity	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
7.1 - Masonic Yo	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
7.2 - RARA	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Report - 2015

11/1/2014 through 5/20/2015 Using 2015 Grand Chapter

7.3 - Grand Lodge	\$	-	\$	100.00	\$	100.00
EXPENSES	\$	978.19	\$	25,800.00	\$	21,621.81

Net Difference: \$ 6,831.22 \$ - \$ (39,612.40)

Grand Chapter RAM D Ross VanSant Fund Semi-Annual Report 2015

11/1/2014 through 5/25/2015 Using 2015 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME	\$ 2,728.01	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (771.99)
Invest Inc	\$ 2,728.01	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (771.99)
EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Maryland
“Trustees Committee”

May 25, 2015

Since the report at the Annual Convocation in October the Reserve Fund exceeded \$300,000 in value but, due to market volatility was up and down in value twice and as of April 30, 2015 settled at the value shown below.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, “Reserve Account” (633-115782-529) balance as of 30 April 2015 was \$301,795.79. Breakdown of funds:

Cash	\$ 10,456.99
Common Stocks	\$191,831.80
Closed End Funds	\$ 25,593.00
Corporate Fixed Income	\$ 29,503.00
Mutual Funds	\$ 44,299.22

For the Committee,

Stephen J Ponzillo III, PGHP

Robert Lumbert, PGHP

James B Coker, PHP

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Page 1

Proposed Grand Chapter Budget 2015-2016

Grand Chapter of Royal ArchMasons in Maryland				
2016 BUDGET PREPARATION				
Acct #	Description	Approved Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2014-2015		Suggested Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2015-2016
1.0	Grand Officers Expenses & Related Items			
1.1	Grand Secretary	1750		1750
1.2	Grand Lecturer	250		250
1.3	Grand Treasurer	800		800
1.4	Grand Sentinel	0		0
1/5	Grand Organist	0		0
	Sub-Total	2800		2800
2.0	Personal Expenses			
2.1	Expenses GHP I/O State	3500		3500
	Expenses Grand King	250		250
	Expenses Grand Scribe	250		250
2.2	Expenses N.E. Region	1250		1250
2.3	Regional Meetings			
2.4	Degree Team Expenses	250		250
	sub-Total	5500		5500
3.0	General Grand Chapter			
3.1	Dues General Grand Chapter (PC)	1800		1800
3.2	Royal Arch Mag for Members	4500		4500
3.3	RAM Editor Expense	100		100
3.4	Triennial Expenses	0		0
	Sub Total	6400		6400
4.0	Office Expenses			
4.1	Office Supplies	450		450
4.2	Printing: Visitation Booklet	750		750
4.3	Printing: Annual Proceedings	500		500
4.4	Postage	400		400
4.5	Past GHP Jewel & Engraving	800		800
4.6	GHP Apron & Case	500		500
4.7	Memorials	100		100
4.8	Membership Program	500		500
4.9	Anniversary Fund			
4.10	Equipment Fund	700		700
4.11	Dues Cards	400		400
4.12	Miscellaneous	100		100
4.13	Awards	700		700
	SubTotal	5900		5900
5.0	Service Contracts			
5.1	Office Rent	400		400
5.2	Telephones			
5.3	Insurance	300		300
5.4	Web Site	100		100
	Sub-Total	800		800
6.0	Grand Sessions			

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Page 2

Proposed Grand Chapter Budget 2015-2016

6.1	Hotel: Guest Rooms & Svcs	700		700
6.2	Luncheons	0		0
6.3	Distinguished Guests:Meals & Entertainment	3000		3000
	Sub-Total	3700		3700
7.0	Charity			
7.1	Masonic Youth	500		500
7.2	RARA	100		100
7.3	Grand Lodge	100		100
	Sub-Total	700		700
	Grand Total	25800		25800
8.0	Northeast Conference			
	Meals			
	Income			
	Per Capita	14300		14300
	Investments	3500		3500
	Transfers	7000		7000
	Exaltations	1000		1000
	Total Income	25800		25800

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

7 Committee on Finance

R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REGK

The Finance Committee did not have a formal report for the Semi-Annual Convocation, but would deliver its report at the Annual Convocation in October. The Chairman did make a motion to accept the proposed budget presented by the Grand Treasurer for the operation of the Grand Chapter in the 2015 – 2015 fiscal year. Seconded by PGHP Naegele, and passed unanimously.

8 Report of the Grand High Priest

M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, MEGHP

Companions,

I will start my comments by thanking you for your trust and the opportunity to serve you and this Grand Chapter for the 2015 term of office. It's been quite busy – in the 30 weeks, I have attended 57 functions on behalf of the Grand Chapter. REGK Curtis and REGS Eppig have represented the Grand Chapter at numerous other functions including Lodge Installations and presentations of Master's Pins, Grand Sessions of other jurisdictions, and Masonic Youth sessions.

Grand Visitations

The Grand Line and I have attended scheduled Grand Visitations to 16 of the 19 Chapters. The three remaining are scheduled:

- May 27th – James F. Allen #33
- June 12th – York #44
- September 14th – Enoch #23

Two of the scheduled Grand Visitations were unsuccessful – the Grand Line was there, but the chapter membership wasn't:

- December 23rd – Chesapeake #17 – We were there to distribute 2015 Masters' Pins for the Lower Shore, but they had called off their meeting without requesting dispensation. A make-up visitation is tentatively planned for Tuesday, September 22nd; and
- February 23rd – Carroll #31 – Due to a family issue the MEHP put out an email earlier in the day that he would not be able to attend that evening; unfortunately most of the membership interpreted it as meaning that the meeting had been canceled; only the Secretary (also the E. Grand Sentinel) showed up with the Grand Line. A make-up visitation is tentatively planned for Monday, September 28th.

2015 Master's Pins

January was the usual busy installation season for Maryland Masonic Lodges. The Grand Chapter presented Master's Square pins to the incoming Worshipful Masters. This practice was started in 2006 by MEGHP Stephen J. Ponzillo, III. In addition to giving the opportunity for the

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

York Rite to be seen by the Lodge members, these pins are treasured by many of the incoming Worshipful Masters.

The 102 Maryland Lodge installations were crammed into the 31 days of the month. Due to weather problems, a few were canceled and delayed into February. The MEGHP presented 20 WM Pins at the installations. He also attended a 21st installation (Tuscan #202) where MEPGHP Richard Naegele and PHP Jack Grieve made the Master's Pin presentation.

Unfortunately, there were a few Lodges who had their installations in the beginning of the month before we were able to get a presenter lined up for them, and then there were some presenter illness issues. Therefore some of the pins got presented at a meeting after their installation. If by chance a WM indicates that he was missed, please let the MEGHP know so we can make a belated presentation.

Other Functions Attended

- 5 Grand Lodge functions, including the presentation of a 60-Year Masonic Service Award to Comp. Harvey Yale; and the Service Award Presentations at the Charlotte Hall Veterans' Home.
- 2 other Masonic functions: response to the toast to other bodies at the Scottish Rite Feast of Tishri; and a Royal Arch (York Rite) presentation to Camp Springs #227.
- Maryland DeMolay's Semi-Annual Session at Congress and Job's Daughters' Grand Bethel Session. REGK Curtis represented the Grand Chapter at Rainbow's Grand Assembly.
- 2 other Grand Chapter's sessions: Most Excellent Hiram Holy Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons (Prince Hall Affiliate) of Maryland in December (where MEPGHP Richard P. Naegele was made an Honorary Member); and New Jersey in March.
- 11 other York Rite functions
- A copy of the full list of events is attached to the formal report.

Chapter Ritual Certification Requirement

Last year MEGHP Richard Naegele set a requirement that each Chapter must demonstrate proficiency in conferring or exemplifying the Mark Master Degree. For 2015, this requirement is repeated to make sure that now that the Chapters have demonstrated the ability to confer the Mark Master Degree; that they don't lose it. In going forward, the recommendation for 2016 is that the Chapters will again certify on the Mark Master, but also add the Past Master Degree.

Membership Recruitment – Lodge Presentations

"The Peculiar Stone" and *"Fervency & Zeal"* membership and informational programs are now available for viewing or download from a link on the Grand Secretary's page:
<http://www.yorkritemd.org/gcram/grandsec.html>

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

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

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

This term, we’re going back to active management of these programs – I’ve asked PGHP Naegele to coordinate the recruitment of Companions to learn the various parts of both programs, with the hope that we will be at least two or three deep on each part – that way we should be able to put together a team when needed despite the casts’ conflicting schedules. We will also actively approach Masters and other groups about the possibility of presenting one of these programs instead of waiting for them to ask us.

Please look through both presentations and contact PGHP Naegele if you’d like to do one or more parts. If you would like to get a team together for a presentation, please notify him with the location and possible dates, so he can try to assemble a team.

Dispensations

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

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

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons | 2015 Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

- Resides closer to the petitioned Chapter in the other jurisdiction than he does to the nearest Chapter in Maryland; or
- Has a family connection to the petitioned Chapter.

Two non-routine dispensation requests were received; both for requests of non-residents to petition a Maryland Chapter – one resided in Pennsylvania, the other in Delaware. Neither had an existing Masonic membership in Maryland, or outside of his home state. Both lived significantly closer to a Chapter in his home state than to the petitioned Maryland Chapter. Neither candidate had a family relationship to the Maryland Chapter. In broadening the consideration of their requests, I also considered the criteria of “exceptional friendship” which is considered by the Grand Lodge; but neither claimed such – both started their reason was that they had a mutual friend who was joining the Maryland Chapter, and they wanted to go through the Degrees with him. Since they could petition the Chapter closest to their homes and request to get the Degrees conferred by courtesy in the Maryland Chapter, they could accomplish their desire without a Waiver of Territorial Jurisdiction. Since I would deny their request if they were Maryland residents, I directed the Grand Secretary to advise the Chapter of this decision and not submit the request to the other Grand Chapters. But, the Chapter was advised that if either or both petitioners should desire to provide additional information that he did have a tie that would meet the criteria of “exceptional friendship”, that I would reconsider his request. The Chapter has not submitted a follow-up request for either petitioner.

Edict – 2015 Installation Date

Since the Annual Convocation in October, I have issued one edict. Because we scheduled the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation so late in the month, I issued an edict to permit Chapters to hold their Installation of Officers in May before the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation without the need for a dispensation to the requirement in Article XII, Section 5 of the Grand Chapter Constitution; however their High Priest-elect must still have been Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood prior to the installation. This year the Council of Anointed High Priests met on Saturday, April 25th and Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood two new High Priests-elect: S. Dirk Wiker of Mt. Vernon #25 and William Grubb from Piscataway #46.

Proposal for Consideration

The Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests is governed by its own By-Laws, presided over by its Most Excellent President, and operated with the consent of its members, and is not a member body of this Grand Chapter; nor is it or its members entitled to a Representative vote in the Grand Chapter. However, no High Priest-elect can be installed to that office until after he has been Anointed, Consecrated and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood in Maryland.

The Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests is the oldest Council in existence. The Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests currently charges a life membership fee of \$100 for each new High Priest-elect.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons | 2015

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

This year, only two Chapters elected Companions who were not Past High Priests. All Chapters should support the operation of the Council, not just those who elect new Companions to be their High Priest in a particular year. Therefore, I recommend that the Grand Chapter consider offering a different structure for funding the Council, as long as the Council changes its By-Laws to conform. The recommended structure would be for the Council to eliminate the life membership fee it currently charges to Anoint, Consecrate and Set Apart to the Order of High Priesthood the High Priests-elect of the Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter; and replace it with the Grand Chapter collecting a set fee from each Chapter as part of the annual returns payments.

The Maryland Council of Anointed High Priests indicated tentative approval of such a structure at the April 25th meeting. If the discussion at this session warrants it, I will request the Jurisprudence Committee to review a draft amendment to the Grand Chapter's Constitution to be considered and voted on at the Annual Session in October.

Miscellaneous

Due to a mix-up at the printer, the Maryland Royal Arch Masons received the New York *Supplement* in the Winter edition of the Royal Arch Magazine. We haven't found out who the "lucky" companions are who got the Maryland Supplement instead of their own jurisdictions.

I wish to express my gratitude to the support and efforts of the Grand Chapter Officers and Past Grand High Priests who have accompanied me on many of the outings, as well as providing guidance and good counsel in addition to their own labors in the quarries.

Finally, I wish to express thank each of you for all your support and service for York Rite Masonry.

Fraternally yours in fervency and zeal,

Randy Watson

M.E. Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons 2015

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Grand Chapter

October 2014

Fri 24th to Sun 26th - Grand Sessions in Cockeysville

Wed 29th - Toast to Grand Bodies at SR Feast of Tishri

November 2014

Sat 8th - PHA Grand Chapter 10:00am - Naegele; Curtis & Austin - Made comments for distinguished guests- Naegele made Honorary Member

Sat 15th - Grand Lodge

Wed 19th - GV to St. Johns #19 7:30 - PM Lecture; Obligated 2 in MEM (1 from Enoch); Lumbert; Huebschman; Foreman; Dill; Lautenschlager; Coker

Thu 20th - Grand Lodge Visitation to Centennial Lodge #174 6:00 - Naegele; Curtis; Eppig; Owens; Ponzillo; Lumbert

December 2014

Wed 10th - GV to Piscataway #46 - 6:30 dinner \$10 - Chapter Opens at 7:30

Fri 19th - Druid-Hiram-Monumental Holiday Party

Sun 21st - YR Religious Service at MMH - Hosted by Council - 3:00 - Did one reading

Sun 21st - Balto Commandery X-mas Observance - Respond to Toast to Capitular Masonry

Tue 23rd - GV Chesapeake #17 - 7:30 - REGK Curtis & GM3V Penny

January 2015

Sat 3rd - Annapolis #89 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Sat 3rd - Patuxent #218 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Mon 5th - Tuscan #202 Lodge Installation; WM Pin Presented by Naegele & Grieve

Tue 6th - Hagerstown #217 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Fri 9th - Ionic #145 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Fri 9th - Sharon #182 WM Pin Presented at Ionic #145

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons 2015

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Sat 10th - Potomac #100 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Sat 10th - Queen City #131 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Tue 13th - Millington #166 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Wed 14th - Highland #184 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Wed 14th - Monocacy #203 WM Pin Presented at Highland #184

Thu 15th - Sincerity #181 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Sat 17th - Silver Spring #215 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Sat 17th - Collington #230 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Sun 18th - Ancient Baltimore #234 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Tue 20th - Jephthah #222 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Sat 24th - Odenton #209 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Sat 24th - Montgomery-Cornerstone #195 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Tue 27th - Kensington #198 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Thu 29th - Perry Hall #235 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

February 2015

Mon 2nd -Liberty-Pickering #219 Lodge Installation & WM Pin

Tue 3rd - GV Baltimore #40 - 7:30 - PM Degree walk-through; GCoH Colburn; GSent Baldwin

Wed 4th - GV Ithiel #27 - 7:30 - T. Smith only - REGK Curtis; GSent Baldwin

Thu 12th - GV Druid #28 - 7:30 - RA - Did EK - GGamb Lumbert; PGHP Bandell & Naegele; REGS Eppig; GRAC Austin; GM2V Boughman; GSent Baldwin; GOrg Young

Mon 23rd - GV Carroll #31 - 7:30

March 2015

Fri 6th - Sat 7th - New Jersey Grand Sessions - MIGM Dill; MEPGHP Lumbert

Sun 15th - DeMolay Semi-Annual Session at Congress

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons 2015

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Tue 17th - GV Salem #18 - 7:30 - REGK Curtis; EGPS Hamilton & MIGM Dill; 15 Salem Comp's; Invested EGPS since he missed the Installation at the Annual Session

Tue 24th - GV Concordia #1 - 7:30 - REGK Curtis; MEPGHP Lumbert; GCoH Colburn; EGM2V Boughman; EGRAC Austin; EGM1V Reccardi

Wed 25th - Piscataway #46 - Regular Convocation

April 2015

Sat 4th - SEM Degree by Grand Council

Tue 7th - GV Tuscan #42 - 7:30 - REGK Curtis; REGS Eppig; MEPGHP Maclay; MIGM Dill; EGRAC Austin

Thu 9th - Druid #28 Festive Board - 7:30 - MEPGGHP Harrison, MWGM Wyvill, REGK Curtis; REGS Eppig; MEPGHP Maclay; MEPGHP Huebschman; MEPGHP Naegele; MEPGHP Bandell; MEPGHP Lumbert; MIGM Dill; EGRAC Austin; EGM2V Boughman; EGM1V Reccardi; GrCh Hebbeler; GCoH Colburn;

Mon 13th - GV Mt. Vernon #25 - 7:30 - REGK Curtis; EGRAC Austin; REGC Disney

Tue 14th - 60-Year GL Service Award for Harvey Yale - MWGM Wyvill; REGK Curtis; MEPGHP's Bandell; Lumbert & Naegele

Wed 22nd- GV Phoenix #7 - 7:30 - REGK Curtis; MEPGHP's Bandell & Naegele - MEM conferral

Sat 25th - Council of AHPs - 2:00 - Cockeysville

May 2015

Tue 5th - GV Edenton #36, Hayward #29 & Talbot #22 - 7:30 - MEPGHP Friel; EGM3V Bob Penny

Fri 8th - Job's Daughters Grand Session - Ocean City

Mon 11th - Grand Council - Frederick

Tue 12th - Royal Arch (York Rite) Presentation at Camp Springs Lodge #227

Wed 13th - Grand Commandery - Annapolis

Thu 14th - Masonic Service Awards Presentation at Charlotte Hall Veterans' Home

Thu 14th - Druid #28 Installation

Sat 16th - Grand Lodge

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Wed 20th - GV Adoniram #21 - 10:30am - Installation - REGK Curtis; EGSent Baldwin; MEPGHPs Bandell; Lumbert; Maclay; Foreman

Tue 26th - Semi-Annual Grand Convocation at Concordia #1 - 7:30

9 Committee on Conference

Ex. Comp. John Austin, GRAC

MEGHP,

The Report of the Committee on Conference is unchanged. (and amended on review of the sign-in sheets)

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

10 Nominations and Elections

M.E. Comp. Clifton R. Friel

M. E. Comp. Robert B Lumbert was asked to preside during elections.

M.E. Comp. Clifton R. Friel nominated the following:

Grand High Priest	M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, MEGHP
Grand King	R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REGK
Grand Scribe	R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, REGS
Grand Treasurer	R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, REGTreas
Grand Secretary	M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, REGSecty
Trustee, 2015 - 2017	M.E. Comp. Robert B Lumbert, PGHP

M.E. Comp Friel presided during the election of the Trustees, as M.E. Comp Lumbert was the sole nominee. All nominated were elected by unanimous acclamation.

11 Report of the Grand Lecturer; Committee on Work M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP

Report on the Committee on Work

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

A new version of the Grand Chapter Ritual is now being drafted. It will included:

- The Full Form and Short Form openings of the Mark, Past Master, Most Excellent Master Degrees.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

- The Opening and Closings for Grand Chapter.
- The Installation of Officers.
- The Chapter Memorial Service.
- Expanded directions and comments on floorwork and paraphernalia.
- Prologues for the four Degrees of the Royal Arch Chapter.

This new Ritual is being prepared to be printed in roughly the same format as the current books.

The text will be reviewed thoroughly to avoid typographical errors and use of incorrect wording. Also, during this review, awkward phrases and difficult passages will be considered for amendment. One of the topics to be considered will be whether to have Chapter Ritual wording and floorwork conform to the standards for Grand Lodge work...thus avoiding the constant complaint that Chapter works conflicts with Blue Lodge work, making it difficult to advance in Lodge and Chapter at the same time.

The reviews will be one Degree at a time, likely at the Grand Lodge, with a walk-through to double-check floorwork instructions, while verifying the actual text of each Degree.

I would like to thank all who have offered suggestions for this project.

Respectfully,

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman PGHP,
Grand Lecturer, Chairman

Report on the Grand Lecturer.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest,

Two new Companions, S. Dirk Wiker of Mt. Vernon RAC No. 25 in Annapolis; and William Grubb of Piscataway RAC No. 46 in Catonsville, have met the qualification in Ritual for election as MEHP's of their Respective Chapters.

Both completed a course of instruction in the Law, conducted by the Grand Lecturer on May 25, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Later that day, each was Anointed, Consecrated, and Set Apart in the Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland in the Oriental Room, Free Mason Hall, Cockeysville, MD.

Each is now fully qualified for installation by their respective Chapters.

To this writing only six Chapters have exemplified the Mark Master Degree before the Grand Lecture, or the two Deputy Grand Lectures, or the MEGHP. Chapters are reminded to invite the Grand Lecturer to conferrals or rehearsals of the Mark Master before the end of this Capitular year to meet the MEGHP's requirement.

Please note that the MEGHP has mentioned that the requirements for Chapter Certification for the next year will include the Mark Master Degree and the Past Master Degree.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

At present, all of the Chapters in Maryland are actively conferring Degrees, and becoming more proficient each year. Not all can confer all four degrees, but there are more Companions in Maryland who have successfully conferred the Royal Arch that in decades past. The Eastern Shore Chapter continue to work together, demonstrating amazing cooperation for Masons, Exalting more and more new Companions, and training a growing corps of ritual workers.

Each Chapter is invited to contact the Grand Lecturer, any Past Grand Lecturer, or our two Deputies to assist with any rehearsal or conferral opportunities.

Respectfully,

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

12 Youth Relations & D Ross Vansant Scholarship Ex. Comp. Jeffrey L. Dill, Chairman

The applications for 2015 have been received and reviewed. Currently there are 11 applicants. The committee, with the help of the Grand Treasurer and Secretary, has not determined how the funds for this year will be distributed. This is due to not having a specific requirement for a GPA average. This year's GPA's run from 4.0 to 2.5. We are trying to determine if all will receive some funds or just those that out-performed the others. Also, this year for the first time we have had a member from Hayward Chapter #29 apply for the scholarship. And once again, there is nothing stating that he would not be eligible for the funding. With younger Masons joining the York Rite at an earlier age, this may happen again in the future.

The applicants for this year are:

Bradley	Erin
Andrukitis	Bryce re-app
Bandell	Sarah
Penny	Ashley
Michel	Tiffany
Michel	Lauren
Pearlstein	Rachel JDI
Lawson	Madison re-app
White	Jason re-app
Michel	Kiersten re-app
Tolley	Aaron member

Recommendations:

A minimum GPA be established for consideration, and instituted in 2016. Requirements add as to whether or not current RAM's can apply. (Both recommendations are addressed in New Business)

Fraternally and Respectfully,
Jeffrey L. Dill GI, PHP #28

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

13 Royal Arch Research Assistance

R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, REGS

MEGHP,

Current update by the General Grand Chapter:

- Dr. Frank Muziek is now heading central auditory processing disorder (CAPD) efforts at the University of Arizona. He completed his move in October 2014 and will now have more PhD researchers than at his previous location at the University of Connecticut.
- Dr. Muziek has sponsored international symposiums on CAPD and has put increased emphasis on trying to determine its Cause. RARA has continued to assist the Hearing Health Foundation by sponsoring four researchers in central auditory processing disorder (CAPD).
- RAR has also committed to \$1,000,000 with Autism Speaks in an effort to correlate signs of CAPD in Toddlers (ages 12 – 36 months) who have Autism.

New handouts have been prepared by the General Grand Chapter and are available tonight. If your Chapter has not received them, please pick up a pack before you leave. A copy will be posted on Face Book and our website.

We continue to ask our Chapters to support this program and I am currently looking at possible fundraising ideas on the state level to help raise funds (i.e. Raffle, pen, or pin sale).

I do not have current donation totals for Maryland and will update at our Annual in October.

Fraternally,
William C. Eppig, PHP
Chairman

14 Time & Place

R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REGK

Informal report with chart for two proposed locations:

Location	Grand Hotel, Ocean City, MD	Ramada Plaza, Hagerstown, MD
Room Nights	35 + 40 = 75	35 + 40 = 75
Cost of Rooms	\$84.00 + 10.5% tax = \$92.92 (PV) 104.00 + 10.5% tax = \$114.00 (DO)	\$75.00 + 12% tax = \$ 84.00
Hospitality Room	Free – equal 75 room night	Free – equal 75 room nights
Meeting Rooms	In Restaurant – Free	\$400 + \$200 + \$600
Luncheons	In Restaurant	In Restaurant – Buffet (can separate off)
Banquet	Ballroom (3 Sections) As needed	Ballroom (2 Sections) as needed
Food	Can bring food for Hospitality	Can bring food for Hospitality
Beverages	Can bring our own in	Free in Hospitality, cash bar for Banquet

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

The MEGHP requested views for and against each location, and then conducted a vote. A show of hands was requested, and being a tie, the MEGHP was left to decide the issue in favor of The Grand Hotel. The Chairman said he would proceed with this decision of the Grand Chapter.

15 Triennium

R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REGK

Informal Report: The Triennial General Grand Convocation will be held in 2017, in Oregon. There are no more particulars at this time.

16 Multi-Jurisdictional Festival

R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REGK

Howard F. Coleman
Virginia Chairman for Multi-Jurisdictional Festival

May 27, 2015

Dear Companions,

The 2015 Multi-Jurisdictional Festival will be held at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 located at 803 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia on September 26, 2015. There will be coffee and donuts available at 8:00 a.m.. The Chapter will open at 8:30 a.m. and take care of any business that needs to be handled prior to the conferral of the degrees beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be no balloting an proposed candidates that morning. We will have lunch around noon. The cost for morning refreshments and lunch will be \$20.00. In order that necessary food preparation can be accomplished and able to serve everyone, reservation must be made on or before September 21, 2015.

Please send me your dispensation to allow your degree to confer their degree in Virginia as well as to allow any candidates that you might have for the festival. It would be helpful if I could have the dispensations by September 20, 2015. If you could supply me with any candidates that you might have at the festival would be appreciated.

The degrees will be conferred by the following jurisdictions as listed below:

Mark Master Degree will be conferred by the District of Columbia

Past Master Degree will be conferred by Maryland

Most Excellent Degree will be conferred by Delaware

Royal Arch Degree will be conferred by Virginia

If you have any questions, please let me know and I will try to have the answer for you. If your jurisdiction might need any special equipment, please let me know.

I will be sending areas for parking at a later date.

Fraternally,

Howard F. Coleman
Virginia Chairman

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

17 Jurisprudence

M.E. Comp. Stephen J. Ponzillo, III

MEGHP,

Jurisprudence should be ok with Constitution. (one or two spelling / grammar issues excepted) . The amendments are in good form if you wish to go ahead and vote on the same today.

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, PGHP

The MEGHP has updated the Convocation with prior changes.

One Proposed

Please note that the most current edition of the GRAC/MD Constitution is posted to the Grand Secretary's page on the Grand Chapter website.

18 Other Committees: None offered

19 Long Range Planning

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, PGHP

Informal report: All Chapters have received the Long Range Plan from then MEGHP Naegele. This year PGHP Naegele will send out a questionnaire about how Chapters are responding to this plan, to see what is working and not. Additional copies of the LRP are available following the Convocation.

20 Membership

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, PGHP

No formal report at this time. Two Lodge presentation are available. Cast members are needed. See the Appendices for the scripts for each: The Peculiar Stone; and the Fervency & Zeal program.

A York Rite Presentation at Perry Hall Lodge last week, and a scheduled presentation to St. Johns Lodge.

21 Unfinished Business

M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, PGHP

Grand Chapter of Maryland
May 26, 2015
Unfinished Business Report

MEGHP,

After reviewing the 2014 Annual proceedings, your Unfinished Business committee finds the following item that require action.

1. The following recommendations by the MEGHP

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons | 2015

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

- A. That all incoming Grand High Priests present a written plan prior to installation of their program and goals for the year. This should be presented to an assemblage of Past Grand High Priests prior to installation for guidance they may offer.
 - B. That each local Chapter formulate a strategic or long range plan to focus the chapter for the future.
 - C. The Grand Chapter adopted the leadership program developed by the Grand Chapter of New York and have a leadership training session next summer.
 - D. The Long Range planning committee meets at least semi-annually to review progress and recommend changes as needed. Also to have the Grand Council and Grand Commandery to share in this plan and adopted it at their respective sessions.
 - E. Recently it was brought to my attention that we no longer have festivals in the state to allow those with time constraints the opportunity to join the York Rite. While this is a plus for the local body's ability to confer the degrees, it does disenfranchise those brethren who would like to take the next steps but are unable to do so because of time commitments. This should be looked into for future planning by local bodies or the Grand Bodies.
- 2. The recommendations by the Grand Lecturer concerning
 - A. Making cable tows and Hoodwinks optional
 - B. Use of swords during the opening of MEM and RA optional under given circumstances
 - C. Add the Apron lecture from the General Grand Chapter as part of the RA degree
 - D. Allow one circuit around obstacles in RA degree but still doing entire PS part
 - E. Adopting the attitude of Reverence for prayers, scripture readings, attending the altar
 - 3. Amendment concerning number of members needed to allow opening in subordinate degrees.

Fraternally,
Richard P. Naegele, MEPGHP, Chairman
John B. Maclay, MEGHP
Vernon H. Huebschman, MEPGHP, REGSec

A motion was made and seconded to amend the Constitution to resolve item # 3.
See Appendix, Five members required to conduct business in any Degree other than the Royal Arch Degree.
Motion made the Grand Secretary, second by the REGK. Passed unanimously

Item #2 E will be resolved by an Edict of the MEGHP.
Item #1A- E were referred to the respective committees for development into proposals or actions plans.
Item #2 A-D were referred to the Committee were referred to the Committee on Works which will adopt all items immediately, with the understanding that each can be implemented or not by the sole discretion of each Chapter's MEHP.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

22 New Business

A motion was made by the Grand Secretary to set a Grade Point Average of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale as the minimum for consideration for a D. Ross Vansant Scholarship Application, Seconded by the REGK, and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by the Grand Secretary to accept applications for D. Ross Vansant Scholarships from active Royal Arch Companions up to and including age 25, provided they are enrolled as full time students in their respective institutions; Seconded by the REGS, and passed unanimously.

Comp. Ronald Block, Mt. Vernon RAC No. 25, presented information on a comprehensive Liability Insurance program to cover the exposures of the Grand Chapter and each of its subordinate Chapters. The MEGHP established an ad hoc committee to study the recommendations in the presentation, and the opinions raised by the Companions present. A report is to be ready for the Annual Grand Convocation in October. The Ad Hoc Insurance Committee will be chaired by R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, Grand Treasurer, Comp. Ron Block, and Comp. Thomas Binaut.

Discussion was held on creating a mechanism for funding the Council of Anointed High Priest, based upon some assessment to all Chapters versus continuing the present model of a fee per applicant. There was sufficient interest to bring forth a proposal for consideration in October.

Motion was made by the REGS to fund the DeMolay Conclave Program with a \$75 donation, Seconded by Comp. Dill, Passed unanimously.

The Grand Chapter was reminded of the passing of two Ladies of PGHP's, Patricia Ponzillo and Lillian Cicchetti.

23 Remarks of the Grand King

R.E. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis, REGK

R.E. Comp. Curtis thanks the Grand Chapter for his election for a second term as Grand King.

24 Presentation of Awards:

PGHP Naegele presented the MEGHP Award to Comp. Robert M. Penny of Talbot Chapter.

25 MEGHP Closing Remarks

M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, MEGHP

The MEGHP thanked all for their attendance and participation in this productive meeting. He wished all a good evening and a safe journey home.

The Ambassador brought the greetings of the MEGGHP Louis Bartrand, and wished all a good evening.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

26 Closing of the Grand Chapter

M.E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, MEGHP

There being no further business coming before this Semi-Annual Grand Convocation, the MEGHP proceeded to Close in Ample Form.

Closing Prayer

Ex. Comp. Arthur F. Hebbeler, Grand Chaplain

Supreme Architect of the Universe, we give you thanks for the work of this Grand Convocation, to give glory to You and honor to our fraternity. Watch over us on our journeys home. Protect us and allow use to come together again in October. May the blessing of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons. May brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement. Amen. So mote it be!

Appendix I

“Fervency and Zeal” Royal Arch Program for Symbolic Lodges

1 *DEVELOPED BY THE THIRTY-FIRST CAPITULAR DISTRICT, ROYAL ARCH MASONS, STATE OF NEW YORK*

"I will dispense true Masonic Light and Knowledge"

Adapted for use by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland (May 2015)

Participants are: **Director** – Tux, gloves & RA apron giving the Prologue and Conclusion
Monitor – Tux with Gloves – Chapter officer Apron
Mark Master Mason – Craftsman clothing as Fellowcraft
Past Master – Tux with Gloves and Master's Top Hat
Most Excellent Master – garbed as King Solomon
Holy Royal Arch – garbed as High Priest, including Breastplate

Senior Warden or PM of the Lodge who is not a Royal Arch Mason

PROLOGUE

Director: *(On the Level in the East)*

With this program, we go forward to dispense true Masonic Light and Knowledge to you, our Symbolic Lodge Brethren; and express the vital, important, and necessary value that the Holy Royal Arch has in relationship to the Symbolic Lodge. Royal Arch Masonry provides the only legal, true and Historical completion of the Third Degree.

Let us begin with a brief review of the Third Degree Legend. You may remember that after the Craftsmen who conducted the search, deliver the Jewel they found to King Solomon, he studies it momentarily and then says that the jewel is, indeed, that of a particular person; and because of the circumstances, something of great value to the Craft is now lost ***(in a closed session working in the 3rd Degree, the proper wording from the Md. Ritual should be used instead of the underlined passage)***. After directing that Hiram, King of Tyre, should order a procession of the Craft to be formed to proceed to the location, he also states that he is making a decree that because of the loss of these valuable items, he will order certain substitutes to be used to govern

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

all Master Mason Lodges until, at some time in the future, the Brethren shall find out the correct and original ones that were lost (*in a closed session working in the 3rd Degree, the proper wording from the Md. Ritual should be used instead of the underlined passage*). Not only does King Solomon take precautions to ensure a substitute for that which was lost is put in place, but he promises that future generations of Masons shall recover what was lost and that they shall find out what is right. Remember that the Capitular Degrees take place chronologically after the Third Degree.

2 WILL THE WARDENS PLEASE RETIRE FROM YOUR STATIONS FOR THIS PART OF THE WORK?

3 THE CAST WILL ASSUME THEIR PLACES.

OPENING

Monitor: (*On the Level in the East*)

My Brothers, our program tonight is one of Masonic education and is intended to dispense True Masonic Light and Knowledge to our Blue Lodge Brethren. We will endeavor to show the connection that exists between the Master Mason Degree and the Holy Royal Arch.

On December 27, 1813, when the two Grand Lodges in England – the “Ancients” and the “Moderns” – united to form the United Grand Lodge of England, the first and last authority, and that from which all Speculative Masonry derives, a firm and solid landmark was adopted, incorporated and placed into the Articles of Union and General Regulations and Laws to forever guide Freemasonry throughout the World.

That firm and solid landmark declares that **“Pure Craft Masonry shall consist of three Degrees and no more, that is: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.”**

When you were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, you were informed that the Master’s word was lost and the word that was communicated was, in effect, a substituted word. The Third Degree therefore, remains incomplete. The true word and secrets are given in the Holy Royal Arch and in that Degree only.

The Symbolic Lodge constitutes the foundation and framework of Ancient Craft Masonry. The Holy Royal Arch is the cementing factor to that foundation. It offers to the Master Mason the only legally recognized, and historically true, completion of the Third Degree.

The Royal Arch Degree is conferred in a chapter of Royal Arch Masons as a Summit or Climax of a series of four degrees. In this series are the degrees of Mark Master Mason, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master, all of which precede the Royal Arch, in that order.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

[Note: the SW or other non RA Brother needs to be prompted prior to the start of the program about the questions and responses in this exchange.]

Brother Senior Warden (*or a non RA Brother*) will you please assist me in the next phase of our program? Please join me in the NE corner, where you received your first Masonic Instructions.

My Brother, what induced you to become a Master Mason? (*His answer is given.*)

Where were you made a Master Mason? (*His answer is given.*)

My Brother, have you, within the structure of Pure Ancient Craft Masonry seen the Temple completed? (*His answer is given: "No."*)

In the opening and closing of every Lodge meeting, what does the SW say his duties are, in addition to assisting the WM in opening, governing and closing the Lodge? (*His answer is given.*)

As SW, have you ever paid anyone their wages in the Lodge, or seen anyone else pay the Craft their wages? (*His answer is given: "No."*)

Have you ever been paid wages in the Lodge? (*His answer is given: "No."*)

This carryover in the Lodge Work of the SW's duties is explained in the Mark Master Degree, so please proceed with me to the Craftsman representing that Degree.

(Monitor and Brother proceed to the North Station.)

4 THE MARK MASTER DEGREE

My Brother, the Mark Master Degree is the development, elongation, and completion of the Fellowcraft degree. In its proper sequence, it should be placed between the Fellowcraft Degree and the Master Mason Degree

As a young Fellowcraft, you will be required to repair to the quarries and begin your labors. In the course of your labors you come across this piece of work (*holds up the Keystone*); and concluding it designed for some portion of the Temple, you bring it up for inspection. For certain reasons, it is rejected and cast aside by the Overseers. An important lesson then evolves,

5 “THE STONE THAT THE BUILDERS REJECTED BECAME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER!”

You then return to the quarries and resume your labors with orders to produce and exhibit a suitable specimen of your own work upon which you will be required to place your mark as a means of identification which entitles you to wages. This completes the Fellowcraft Degree.

After instructions on how to receive your wages and under orders of the Right Worshipful Master, you are conducted to the apartment of the Senior Warden, and there receive your Masonic Wage. An important lesson is then learned, “The last shall be first and the first last.”

5.1.1.1.1

5.1.1.1.2 (*Monitor is handed the Keystone and he and the Brother proceed to the West.*)

6 PAST MASTER DEGREE

My Brothers, when Royal Arch Masonry was under the government of the Symbolic Lodge, it was a regulation that no one could receive the Royal Arch Degree unless he had been duly elected to preside as Master. This regulation greatly impaired the usefulness of the Holy Royal Arch. The Grand Master often granted his dispensation to permit certain Master Masons who were well experienced and knowledgeable, but who had not served as Master of their Lodge to “Pass the Chair,” by investing them with the mysteries of the chair and entitling them to advance to the Holy Royal Arch.

With the formation of Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, this regulation continued to be observed as a law, and the regulation still exists in that the Degree of the Holy Royal Arch is restricted to Past Masters. Candidates now are permitted to “Pass the Chair” in the Past Master Degree as preparation, and to prepare and qualify them for the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

The Past Master Degree confers on the candidate no official rank outside the Chapter. Those who receive it are termed “Virtual Past Masters” and are not entitled to the rights and prerogatives of an “Actual Past Master.”

The lesson taught here is that: “To rule, one must learn to submit and obey.”

6.1.1 (*Monitor and Brother proceed to the South – Monitor gives Keystone to KS in the South.*)

6.1.2 MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE

My Brother, while laboring in the quarries as a young Fellowcraft, you came across this piece of work (*shows Keystone*), and concluding it designed for some portion of the Temple, you brought

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

it up. In the Most Excellent Master Degree, this particular piece of work is put to its intended use in completing King Solomon's Temple, where you were made a Master Mason.

Now as you behold the completed Temple, your labors are over, your apron is laid aside, and you are received and acknowledged a Most Excellent Master.

King Solomon then stands before the congregation of the children of Israel and blesses them. Then, kneeling before the altar, consecrates that magnificent edifice to the worship of God, dedicates it to his Holy Name and prays for a sign of acceptance by the Almighty.

The lesson taught here at the ceremonies for the completion and dedication of the Temple is that: "He is good and His mercy endureth forever."

6.1.3 (Monitor and Brother proceed to the East.)

6.1.4 ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

My Brothers, about 416 years after the completion of King Solomon's Temple, the Children of Israel, having done evil in the sight of the Lord, were set upon and taken captive by command of the King of Babylon. The temple of Solomon and the City of Jerusalem were destroyed. Not one stone remained upon another.

The Israelites remained captive in Babylon for about 60 years, until the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia, who was charged by the Lord God to build the second Temple in Jerusalem.

In this Degree you will represent a Most Excellent Master, a descendent of those present at the destruction of King Solomon's Temple, who travels from captivity in Babylon to Jerusalem to assist in the rebuilding of the House of the Lord – the Second Temple.

Upon arrival, you will stand before a tabernacle erected near the ruins of King Solomon's Temple, wherein the Grand Council is in session. After gaining audience with the Grand Council, you are instructed in your labors and placed at work among the ruins.

During the course of your labors, you uncover certain valuable treasures, long buried. These treasures lead you to the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry; the Completion of the Third Degree; and the recovery of the "Long Lost Master's Word".

CONCLUSION

Director: *(On the Level in the East)*

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015** Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

My Brothers, our signet is of Truth. The importance, necessity and validity of the Royal Arch Degree lie in the fundamental landmark of pure Ancient Craft Masonry, which states:

“Pure Craft Masonry shall consist of three Degrees and no more, that is: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.”

Royal Arch Masonry is not just another Masonic Body, Degree or Rite. It is the most integral part of Historical Speculative Masonry and provides those crucial elements, without which Ancient Craft Masonry, the Symbolic Lodge, and the Third Degree remain incomplete.

The central theme of Freemasonry finds its fullest and richest expression in the Holy Royal Arch; and without the Royal Arch Degree, one's Masonic Life, while deeply significant, lacks completeness.

Are you a Royal Arch Mason?

Why not?

Thank You

APPENDIX II

APOLLO TABERNACLE #2
Grand Chapter Of Royal Arch Masons Of Ohio
The Peculiar Stone

*A Newly Modified Version by Dedicated Craftsmen of the
Fourth Capital District – Last Update 05-18-2010
First Rewritten on October 22, 2006*

Cast of Characters:

Adoniram – An enlightened Mark Master. Speaks intelligently and with authority.

Reuben – A Craftsman. He is somewhat skeptical, animated and unrefined.

Enoch – A Craftsman. He is the most philosophical of the craftsmen.

Shadrack – A Craftsman. He is curious and inquisitive. Wants to learn more.

Hiram Abif – One of the three Grand Masters and chief architect of the Temple.

Candidate – A Craftsman. He acts as a devious fellow, looking for a chance to get ahead with little effort. An opportunist who quietly listens and observes carefully to what is going on around him, almost as if lurking in the shadows.

Costumes:

All cast members are clothed as working craftsmen—clothed as a Fellow Craft with brown leather aprons, hats and sandals. Varied hairpieces and beard styles. Hiram Abif wears a red or blue (not purple) king's robe and crown or turban, under which is a Fellow Craft costume with leather apron as the other cast members.

Paraphernalia:

Tables and working tools (square, chisel, mallet) for the three craftsmen and Candidate in the West; a table and same working tools on the Southeast side of the room for Adoniram, the Mark Master. Rough and Perfect Ashlars are placed on the craftsmen's tables. A Perfect Ashlar with a Mark enscribed upon it is placed on Adoniram's table. A table with a Keystone upon it is placed in the Northeast, with a chisel, mallet and compasses (no square). A

The Peculiar Stone 05-18-2010 Adapted by Dedicated Craftsmen of the 4th District

Page 2 of 8

trestleboard with a chalk drawing of the Keystone is also placed in the Northeast. The trestleboard is covered with a white sheet.

Setting:

Daytime in the stone quarries near King Solomon's Temple during its construction.

This new adaptation of *The Peculiar Stone* is designed to be presented at meetings of Master Masons as a York Rite membership recruitment tool. However, it can be used for almost any occasion: an education night, ladies night, friendship night, etc. for either Symbolic Lodge, or a York Rite or Scottish Rite body. There are no "secrets," therefore, it can be used in either a tiled or non-tiled meeting.

Hiram Abif is now a character in this dramatization. Therefore, all references to "the substitute" in the original version have been removed since Hiram Abif is still alive. This version is also more generalized for all of York Rite, rather than being Royal Arch exclusive. It includes references to the Cypriot Degrees as part of its purpose to promote the completion of Ancient Craft Masonry through the York Rite.

This version also removes the use of an actual candidate. The "Candidate" character is actually another cast member portraying a Craftsman, who is symbolically representing a candidate for the Mark Master degree.

This short skit should be followed by a brief talk by a well-versed speaker. While the topics will vary according to the audience and nature of the meeting, the talk should include the purpose and symbolism of the York Rite; how it fits into the Masonic system of degrees and directly ties into the Symbolic Degrees; how the degrees improve Masonic education, develop officer and leadership abilities thereby making better **lodge** officers and members; broadens Masonic friendships and associations; York Rite bodies meeting times & locations; upcoming degree work, festivals, etc.; York Rite philanthropies. Depending on the audience, the "interesting ending" (swapping of the stones) may be pointed out and that it is a

prelude or segue into the Mark Master degree.

This version was rewritten by Donald W. Owens and John H. Donohoo, with additional input from other members from the Fourth Capitular District.

The Peculiar Stone 05–18–2010 Adapted by Dedicated Craftsmen of the 4th District

Page 3 of 8

Act I

Three craftsmen (Reuben, Shadrack and Enoch) along with the “Candidate,” enter and go to the West side of the room where tables are set up with Ashlars (Rough and Perfect) and working tools (Square, Chisel and Mallet). They begin working on the Rough Ashlars. (They can optionally have the paraphernalia on the floor, kneeling down to perform their work, rather than providing tables.)

A few moments later, a Mark Master (Adoniram) and Hiram Abif enter and go to the East side of the room where tables are set up with ashlar, the Keystone, trestleboard and working tools. As they pass, they point to and acknowledge to each other the working craftsmen in the West. The Craftsmen don’t notice or acknowledge their entrance, but rather are busy working. As the two arrive in the East, they confer briefly and then Adoniram takes his place Southeast and Hiram Abif takes his place Northeast. Hiram Abif removes and lays aside his kingly robe and crown, revealing the Fellow Craft’s clothing and leather apron underneath. He then removes and lays aside the white sheet from the trestleboard, revealing the chalk drawing of the Keystone.

They then begin to work, separate from the others. They act very studious and meticulous in their work. During the skit, Hiram Abif occasionally takes the Keystone to the Trestleboard to compare it with the drawing, using the compasses to check dimensions, etc.

After a few moments of labor, Reuben (the most animated, unrefined of the Craftsmen) stops work, wipes away the perspiration with a groan, sets his work aside and says to the other craftsmen and candidate:

Reuben:—We have been working here in the quarries for more than four years now making stones for King Solomon’s Temple. Will we ever finish this work? Shadrack, Enoch and the Candidate take the opportunity for a short rest. All set their work aside except the Candidate and assume various postures of repose. During the following conversation, Adoniram and Hiram Abif continue their work in the East end of the room.

Reuben:—(Waits a moment for the other craftsmen to stop working) Right angles! Square work! Chip, chip, chip! (If prop is available, a “trick” mallet head flies off the handle.) I’ve worn out a dozen chisels and mallets! I imagine it will be dozens more by the time our labor on the Temple is completed!

Shadrack:—(Shadrack is the most curious and inquisitive of the Craftsmen) It takes a lot of work and a lot of time to produce a Perfect Ashlar (Points to or holds one up); but it's certainly worth it! Have you seen the Temple? Every sixth day of the week when I go up to the South Gate to present my work, I observe its finished parts. It's going to be beautiful when completed! Fit for a King; or even for God to dwell in!

Enoch:—(Enoch is the most philosophical of the Craftsmen) Brother Reuben, the results of our labor will be viewed by future generations with wonder and admiration. Look, (Enoch and other craftsmen stand up and Enoch points) there are thousands of craftsmen at labor, all working toward the completion of their portion of the work. I would like to participate in other parts of the project so I can see how our work is being used in the construction of the Temple.

Reuben:—I wonder about that too, Enoch. None of us really know how our work is used in the Temple. The Masters gives us a trestleboard with designs upon it and we do our best to produce it, perfect and square. I don't know what's going on in the other parts of the quarry. (As an example of his point, he motions toward Adoniram, the Mark Master) What is that craftsman over there doing?

Shadrack:—I have no idea. Well, I know our work is good because it has never been rejected by the Overseers as unfit for use! Even so, we should always strive to learn more and do better—to improve ourselves in Masonry.

Enoch:—(Focusing in on Adoniram) I've been watching that craftsman over there for quite a while, Shadrack. He seems to be putting a mark of some sort on his stone. I've noticed he has done that with each piece of work he has wrought.

Shadrack:—I have too. (Brief pause, then points to Hiram Abif) Why is our Grand Master Hiram Abif working in the quarries? Isn't that a bit unusual? He's working on a very peculiar stone; a design of which I am unfamiliar.

Reuben:—(Nodding in agreement) I've had my eye on him too. It's not oblong or square like ours. It's a singular piece of work. Look how beautiful it is! I have never seen anything like it before! For what could it possibly be used? He must be on a special assignment from King Solomon.

During next lines, Hiram Abif gives a final check of the Keystone and the drawing on the trestleboard, nods in approval and sets down the Keystone on the table (or on the trestleboard beside the drawing). He then replaces his king's robe and crown or turban and then exits the room, leaving the Keystone behind.

Shadrack:—Seeing him here makes me wonder another thing also. When are we to receive the secret of a Master Mason?

Enoch:—I asked about that one time and was told that all those who are found worthy will receive the secret when the Temple is completed.

Shadrack:—I have also heard that King Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre and Hiram Abif must all be present to give us the secret. What would happen if something were to happen to one of the three Grand Masters?

Enoch:—I don't want to think about that. Look, Grand Master Hiram Abif is gone; and he left that peculiar stone behind! Should one of us take it up to the Temple?

Shadrack:—Not me! He will probably come back for it.

Reuben:—Yeah.

Shadrack:—Let's find out what that Craftsman is doing over there.

Enoch:—Yeah; and let us find out what that mark is all about. During Shadrack's and Enoch's following discussion, Reuben acts somewhat skeptical about the whole matter, but goes along with it nonetheless. Craftsmen and Candidate walk toward Adoniram. The Candidate, carrying his ashlar, lags slightly behind, snooping around during the discussion. Throughout the entire skit, he is a loner, present in the action, but does not participate directly in the conversations. The other Craftsman act almost as if he isn't even present.

Shadrack:—Hail, brother! We wondered if you would be so kind as to answer some questions for us. (Adoniram stops work) We've noticed that you are a very skilled craftsman and are curious about the mark you place on your work.

Enoch:—And we are curious about a peculiar stone upon which we have seen our Grand Master Hiram Abif working—a form and shape of which we are unfamiliar. We're interested in gaining additional Light in Masonry in order to be of better service in the building of the Temple. What can you tell us?

Adoniram:—I'm pleased that you're interested and will attempt to answer any questions you may have. A brother should always be eager to assist another in gaining more Light in Masonry.

Shadrack:—(Inquisitively) You appear to be a Master. Are you a Craftsman?

Adoniram:—Brethren, we are all Craftsmen laboring to complete our Temple. You saw our Grand Master Hiram Abif here earlier? Even though he is our Grand Master, he too, is still a craftsman. To answer your question, I am a Royal Arch Mason and a Royal and Select Mason.

Craftsmen look and nod at each other as if they're impressed by this.

Shadrack:—(Very fast and excited) Wow! What is a Royal Arch Mason? Can I become a Royal Arch Mason? What is a Royal and Select Mason? How do you... Other Craftsmen put hand on Shadrack's shoulder as if trying to contain him.

Adoniram:—Hold on! (Chuckles) One question at a time! First, Royal Arch Masons are a group of Master Masons who have continued their search for more Light; and through hard work and dedication to the Craft have been duly rewarded. There are four degrees conferred in a chapter of Royal Arch Masons—the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and the Royal Arch Mason degree. These degrees build upon your Masonic education and provide more Light, Knowledge and Information to the Master Mason to help him better understand and appreciate the lessons received thus far. The Mark Master degree amplifies upon the Fellow Craft Degree and teaches the importance of industry, fidelity, skill and honesty. The Past Master degree teaches that he who would rule must first learn the lesson of self-discipline and obedience; and that leadership qualities are developed through service to others. The Most Excellent Master degree teaches us how to complete the moral and spiritual edifice within the Temple of our own heart. Finally, in the Royal Arch Mason degree, out of the ruins of a destroyed Temple is found that for which we have so long wrought, symbolizing the ultimate victory over death and the rewards received from the hands of the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe, as promised to us as a right and key to it by our Most Excellent King Solomon upon the completion of the Temple—the secret of a Master Mason. The Royal Arch degrees are called Capitular Degrees, as they represent the capstone of Freemasonry. The Royal and Select Mason degrees are referred to as the Cryptic Degrees because they allude to the preservation of the secret that may be lost.

Reuben:—(Surprised) I had no idea there was so much to learn in Masonry beyond what I have already been taught.

Enoch:— (Pointing finger as if challenging Adoniram) Are you telling us that we may never receive the Secret of a Master Mason?

Adoniram:—That is correct, you may never receive it. The prophets have told us that this Temple we are now building will at some future time be destroyed. It therefore becomes necessary for us to preserve the secret of a Master Mason for future generations to rediscover and bring to light. That is what the Royal and Select Mason degrees are about—the preservation of the secret.

Shadrack:—Wow! There is so much more for us to learn! (Pointing toward the Keystone) I almost forgot. What is that peculiar stone upon which our Grand Master Hiram Abif was working? Do *you* know?

Adoniram:—What I can tell you is that stone is of great importance and is required to complete the Temple—but more than its physical necessity, it has a moral and spiritual significance.

Enoch:—We were complaining a little while ago that we didn't know what is going on with the building of the Temple. Now, we are finding out that the work of our hands is being used to safeguard a precious and important secret for future generations—a secret that we may never learn, unless we become Royal Arch Masons.

Adoniram nods in concurrence with Enoch's revelation.

Shadrack:—(Pointing toward Adoniram's ashlar) I have another question. Why do you put a mark on all your work?

Candidate looks inquisitively at Adoniram's ashlar and alternately at his own during the following line by Adoniram.

Adoniram:—When you become a Mark Master, you will be given the opportunity to choose your own personal mark to place upon your work. No one will have a mark like yours. It identifies you and relates you to your work. (Pauses and looks around for any other questions)

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons | 2015 Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Enoch:—Let's get back to work. (Pauses and states reflectively:) Brother Adoniram, we thank you for your information. (Pauses for another instance) I have just one last question. How do we become Royal Arch Masons and Royal and Select Masons?

Adoniram:—You just took the first step by asking and wanting to learn more. I have important work at the Temple tonight, so I have to go, but I will be in touch. (Pauses) Thanks for asking. We need more zealous craftsmen like yourselves.

Craftsmen begin to return to their work area in the West by way of the Northeast, passing the work area of Hiram Abif, with the Candidate again quietly lagging behind. Adoniram exits the room along the South side. The Candidate stops at Hiram Abif's work area examining the Keystone and trestleboard, while the others continue on.

Reuben:—(He's a convert now. Musing:) Just think that years from now, people will find stones in the Temple with my mark on it and they'll know that I'm the one who did the square work.

Enoch:—(Playfully pushes Reuben) Hey Reuben, you're not a Mark Master yet!

Reuben:—Maybe not, but I will be!

Shadrack:—Yeah, me too!

Shadrack playfully knocks Reuben's hat off. They both, like children, start to run out, but then Shadrack holds out his arm to stop Reuben.

Shadrack:—Hey! It's the end of the sixth day of the week! We had better get this work up to the Temple for inspection!

Everyone takes up their work and begins to exit. Shadrack and Reuben move ahead and chase each other as they playfully leave the lodge room. The Candidate remains at Hiram Abif's work station, pondering his work and the Keystone.

Enoch:—(Enoch stops, turns back, walks a few steps toward the Candidate, annoyed, says:) Hey, are you coming?

Candidate:—Yeah, I'll be right along.

Enoch turns and exits, shaking his head in disgust.

The Candidate starts to walk out, stops and returns. The candidate picks up the Keystone and compares it with his own work, indicating that he is coveting the Keystone. He deviously looks around checking that no one sees him.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons **2015**

Semi-Annual Grand Convocation

Candidate:—Hey, wait for me!

The Candidate places his ashlar where the Keystone had been. Hiding the Keystone under his arm, he runs to catch up with other craftsmen.

~~~ **Finis** ~~~