

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF MARYLAND



SEMI-ANNUAL
ASSEMBLY

MAY 23, 2024
ORIENTAL ROOM
Hunt Valley, Maryland



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



**Call Letter for Semi-Annual Meetings,
and
Special Grand Assembly for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree
Annual Council of Anointed High Priests**

Companions & Sir Knights

By order of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, ME Comp. G. Andrew Martinez, Most Illustrious Grand Master, MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr, Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK Bradley D. Andrukitis, and Most Excellent President Robert B. Lumbert, an official notice is hereby given for:

**The Semi-Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland,
The Semi-Annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland,
The Semi-Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, and
The Annual Meeting Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland**

The Grand Chapter will meet in Grand Convocation on **Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm.** to conduct all business proper to the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation. The agenda includes Finance & Budget, Election of 2025 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports as necessary.

The dress is a Tuxedo with a Red Jacket, Apron, & Jewels for Officers and a Coat & Tie for all others. Please wear your Chapter Apron.

Location: Oriental Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink, Cockeysville, MD

The Grand Council will meet in Grand Assembly on **Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 7:00 pm.** to conduct all business proper to the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. The agenda includes Finance & Budget, Election of 2025 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports as necessary.

The dress is a Tuxedo, Apron & Jewels for Officers and a Coat & Tie for all others. Please wear your Council Apron.

Location: Oriental Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink, Cockeysville, MD.

The Grand Commandery will meet in Grand Conclave on **Monday, May 20, 2024, at 7:30 pm.** to conduct all business proper to the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave. The agenda includes Finance & Budget, Election of 2025 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports as necessary. The dress is Full Templar Uniform, Chapeau & Sword.

Location: Gothic Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink, Cockeysville, MD

Fraternally & Respectfully,

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

R.I.C. William C. Eppig
Grand Recorder
Grand Council of Maryland

SK Vernon H. Huebschman
Grand Recorder
Grand Commandery of K.T. in
M.D.

The Annual Meeting Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland
April 27, 2024
Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink
Cockeysville, Maryland

9:30 am - GRAND CHAPTER LAW SCHOOL for qualified MEHP's-Elect is **ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED** for the C.A.H.P. Degree. Assemble in the Main Lobby of Freemason Hall.

9:30 am – 10:30 am - Oriental Room - COUNCIL OF ANOINTED HIGH PRIESTS Set up and Rehearsal (Officers Only)

10:30 am - Oriental Room - COUNCIL OF ANOINTED HIGH PRIESTS will hold its annual meeting and confer its Degree upon qualified candidates. This meeting is restricted to PHP's, current M.E.H.P.'s, and qualified MEHP's-Elect. The Application Form is on the Grand Secretary's page of the Grand Chapter of Maryland (YORKRITEMARYLAND.ORG). No Fee is Required. The dress is a Tuxedo for Candidates and Officers.

No Aprons or jewels are required; Masonic jewels and pins are traditionally not worn at this meeting.

Chapters having candidates are especially encouraged to attend for the benefit of the candidates.

After the meeting, an Anniversary Dinner will be held at Pappas in Cockeysville at 1 pm. This Dinner will be open to all Council of Anointed High Priest members. A limited-minted Anniversary Coin will be available. More Information and costs will be published soon.

Dinner includes an appetizer, a choice of Entrees, sides, and dessert.

The Grand Council will confer the T.I.M. Degree on May 23, 2024, at 6:30 pm at Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink Cockeysville, Maryland.

Fraternally and respectfully,

M.E. Comp William C.
Eppig Grand Secretary
Grand Chapter of
Maryland

Ex Comp Dennis Ewing
Grand Lecturer

RI Comp William C, Eppig
Grand Recorder
Grand Council of Maryland

Ex Comp Vernon
Huebschman,
Grand Lecturer

Ex Comp Vernon
Huebschman
Excellent Secretary
Council of Anointed High
Priests
of Maryland

SK Vernon
Huebschman
Grand Recorder
Grand Commandery of
K.T. in M

Agenda

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland
Annual Grand Assembly
May 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Oriental Room - Hunt Valley, Maryland

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Grand Council Opening | M.I.G.M. William C. Hare, Jr |
| 2. Credential Committee/Roll Call | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 3. Reception of M.I.P.G.M.'s | M.I.G.M. William C. Hare, Jr |
| 4. Proceedings | RI Comp. William C, Eppig |
| 5. T.I.M. Proceedings | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman |
| 6. M.I.G.M. Report | M.I.G.M. William C. Hare, Jr |
| 7. Grand Recorder's Report | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 8. Grand Treasurer's Report | MI Comp. John A. Rafine |
| 9. Grand Lecturer's & Ritual Report | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman |
| 10. Accounts & Finance | RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 11. Dispensations & Charter | RI Comp. Dennis W Ewing |
| 12. C.M.M.R.F. | Comp. G. Andrew Martinez, GkCoG |
| 13. Super Excellent Master Degree | RI Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman |
| 14. Grievance | MI Comp. Gordon A. Davids |
| 15. Jurisprudence & Constitution | MI Comp. John A. Rafine |
| 16. Long-Range Planning | RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 17. Membership | RI Comp. Dennis W Ewing |
| 18. Recognition & Awards | MI Comp. Randall L Watson, P.I.G.M. |
| 19. Time & Place 2025 | R.I. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 20. Sessions 2024 | MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr |
| 21. Youth Relations | Comp. Carl Michel |
| 22. Time Capsule 2000 Report | RI Comp. John A. Rafine |
| 23. 150 th Anniversary | MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr. |
| 24. Unfinished Business | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 25. New Business | MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr |
| 26. Voluntary Remarks | Companions in attendance |
| 27. Election of 2024 Officers
P.I.G.M. | MI Comp. Richard P. Naegel. |
| 28. Closing | M.I.G.M. William C. Hare, Jr |

The M.I.G.M. may abridge or amend the order of these items at his discretion.

1. Grand Council Opening

MI Comp. William C. Hare

The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by Most Illustrious Grand Master, M.I. Comp. William C. Hare at 6:45 pm for the purpose of conferring the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree and for the conduct of the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly with the following Officers in their respective places and stations or excused:

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

The M.I.G.M. then invited the Officers of the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree to take their places for the opening of that Degree for Comp. Daryle Smith.

Following the conferral of the T.I.M. Degree, the M.I.G.M. resumed the labors of the Grand Council

2. Credentials Report

RI Comp. William Eppig G. Rec.

M.I.G.M.,

Number of Councils Present	Five (5)
Number of Voting Members	Twenty-two (22)
Number of Non-Voting Members	One (1)

The M.I.G.M., upon receiving this report, declared that the necessary number of Councils were represented to constitute a quorum and that the Companions in the Grand Council Assembly were properly noted in the proceedings. The Grand Recorder and Comp. Huebschman took attendance by roll call of all voting members.

This report was received and accepted by M.I.G.M. William Hare.

3. Reception of M.I.P.G.M.'s

M.I.G.M. William C. Hare

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

MIPGM Gordon A. Davids	1995
MIPGM Richard P. Naegele	2008-2009
MIPGM Ronald L. Augenbaugh	2011 – 2012
MIPGM John A. Rafine	2017
M.I.P.G.M. Robert B Lumbert	2018 -2019

M.I.P.G.M. Gordon A. Davids responded to the greetings of M.I.G.M. Hare after the extension of Grand Honors to the Corps of Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters.

4. Proceedings: Annual 2023

R.I. Comp. William Eppig

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

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

5. Proceedings: Council of T.I.M.'s

R.I. Comp. William Eppig

This Grand Assembly was Opened in Ample Form by M.I.G.M. William C. Hare at 6:45 pm for the purpose of conferring the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree. Sixteen Companions support the candidate on this date. To the best of our knowledge, the Grand Recorder confirmed that Due Notice had been sent to all qualified Companions. M.I.G.M. Hare then called off the Grand Assembly and invited the T.I.M. Degree team to retire and prepare for the ceremonies.

The officers of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Master were:

King David	M.I. Comp. Gordon A. Davids, MIPGM, No. 20
Thrice Illustrious Master	Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, RIGRec, No. 5, 21
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden	M.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, M.I.P.G.M., No. 1
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden	R.I. Comp. Dennis Ewing, P.T.I.M., No. 5
Thrice Illustrious Steward	Comp. Alexander Dean Burt III, PTIM, No. 21

The qualified candidate for the Thrice Illustrious Masters Degree was Comp. Darryl Smith.

The cast conferred the T.I.M. Degree in full costume and in excellent form. T.I.M. Vernon H. Huebschman opened the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters in Due Form and asked the candidate to be prepared and presented for their Obligation, Anointing, and Instruction.

Special commendations go to M.I.P.G.M. Gordon A. Davids for his heartfelt rendition of King David's address and to Comp. Dean Burt who stepped in to fill the T.I. Steward's part. M.I.P.G.M. Robert B. Lumbert did excellent work as our T.I. Senior Warden with the long passages and the Anointing itself.

T.I.M. Huebschman closed the Council in due form and returned the meeting to M.I.G.M. Hare, who thanked all of them for their efforts.

Respectfully submitted
William C. Eppig
Grand Recorder

M.I.G.M. Hare asked R.E.D.G.M. Treklas to preside in the East in order for the M.I.G.M. to give his report.

6. Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

M.I.G.M. William C. Hare

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, and Companions all, welcome to the May 23, 2024, Semi-Annual Session of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland. The first six months of our Cryptic Year have been slow and filled with several setbacks.

First off, our P.C.W. has moved away, leaving large shoes to fill in for the grand chapter, grand council, and grand commandery. I was a little disappointed that I had to find this out through the "Grapevine," although I wish Our Companion all the best in his future endeavors, Masonic or with Family, and I would have liked to wish him well in person like I'm doing now. He will be sorely missed by all who know him, and I look forward to conversing with him on visits back to Maryland.

Secondly, I have been working on problems with the Constitution and Resolutions and trying to clear up mistakes and admissions of text. A few of you will hear from the Committee reports tonight. In the interest of time, I will sum up My past two years in my report at the Annual in Ocean City, several issues I will address in my report tonight.

Respectfully Submitted,
William C Hare Jr M.I.G.M. Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

7. Report of the Grand Recorder

RI Comp. William Eppig, G. Rec.

M.I.G.M.,

I have a few notes in this report and will touch on them briefly, but the most important thing I need to cover is the new membership management system.

990N: A yellow banner on the gateway page of yorkritemaryland.org links to the most expeditious route to the I.R.S. 990N submission page. Though the I.R.S. requires this form to be completed every two years, The Grand Council needs them completed every year. Yearly filing helps prevent a failure to report, primarily if a change in secretaries occurs. If this happens, you may lose your tax status and E.I.N. #.

Membership Management System: After some delay and scheduling difficulties with the Membership System administrator. Comp Huebschman and I had a Zoom call with Robert Bigley, the administrator for the System, in late March. While talking with him and his assistant, he informed us the office was moving. This move would have caused a time delay for them to enter the membership data into the System, and it would not have been completed until late fall.

Due to this, we would be allowed to enter the member's data ourselves and have the System up once we were done, so we took that option. They demonstrated how to enter the names, which is somewhat simple, but a little time-consuming.

We reached out to Kris Brown to help, and he agreed. With the three of us working on it, we hoped to have everything entered within a month. After that, we will set up training for those Secretaries and Recorders unfamiliar with the System. We completed entering the data at the end of April, and I would like to thank Comp: Huebschman and Brown for their assistance in entering over a thousand names into this System.

On a good note, by entering the database, we had an adjustment to the bill. It went from over \$4100.00 to \$1500.00. The Council Cost was about \$700.00.

We entered only the current active membership. We did not enter suspensions or those who died. We will let the secretaries and recorders enter the member if he is reinstated. I will keep the current deaths in the Access file. Any future deaths will be entered into the new System. We ran the names through the G.L.M.M.S. and found several members who had passed away over the years and not been reported, as well as a few members suspended by the lodge.

We agreed on a process for entering Degree and Greeting dates if we did not have them. This mainly occurred with those members before 1995. Again, we will have the Sec. and Rec. to review and enter if they have it.

An email was sent to the Recorder to begin gaining access to the System and their Council membership. Based on the schedule and location with Wi-Fi, I plan to set up at least three training classes over the next month or two. We wanted to hold at least three classes north, south, and

west in the state, but everyone felt we should do a Zoom meeting. We will schedule a Zoom meeting After June 10th. The System will be under maintenance as they move the office. Once training is completed, the general membership will then be given access similar to the G.L. M.M.S.

With this new System, the Annual reporting process will change. Since the Secretaries will enter most of the information required on the old annual report form, we only need the tabulation page, 990n copy, and financial information. This year will be a little different than future years and will explain more to the secretaries.

As with any change like this, we expect a one-to-two-year break-in from our old Access system to this new M.M.S. The new System gives the Secretaries and Records greater flexibility and instant information at their fingertips.

Respectfully Submitted and move acceptance of this report.

William C. Eppig, Grand Recorder

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

8. Report of the Grand Treasurer

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine

Most Illustrious Grand Master William Hare,

The treasury of this Grand Council is financially sound. Fusco Associates periodically reallocates our investment accounts to react to market changes and informs me about the changes and reasons for doing so. Our 2023 operating expenses totaled \$ 24,727.31, which was \$1,766.62 under budget.

The U.S. stock market enjoyed a strong first quarter in 2024, advancing 10%. The S&P fell by - 4.08% in April, but April's decrease has been offset by May's increase as of May 15, 2024.

For the period of November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024, our investment account value increased \$29,591.95, a 16% gain. Our investment account balances for April 30, 2024, and the three previous years were:

04/30/2024	\$ 211,507.01
10/31/2023	\$ 181,915.06
10/31/2022	\$ 190,360.31
10/31/2021	\$ 195,904.32

Our M&T Bank account summaries for 2024 are:

X5570 Operating Account

Balance 11/01/2024	\$ 14,492.40
Deposits	\$ 747.30
Debits	\$ (5,617.39)
Balance 04/30/2024	\$ 9,622.31

X5361 Walk of Remembrance

Balance 11/01/2024	\$ 4,936.43
Deposits	\$ 130.00
Debits	\$ 0
Balance 04/30/2024	\$ 5,056.43

Detailed reports were submitted to and reviewed by our Accounts and Finance Committee.

Fraternally,
John Rafine, M.I.P.G.M.
Grand Treasurer

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland 2024
Semi-Annual Assembly

	5/20/2024 Final			
	Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of MD			
	Operating Account FY 2023 Final			
		2023	2023	2023
		Approved	Actuals	Difference
	DESCRIPTION/TITLE			
	INCOME			
A	Per Capita (975 @ \$11.50)	\$ 7,312.50	\$ 6,872.50	\$ 440.00
B	Greeting Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
C	Interest/Dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
D	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 51.94	\$ (51.94)
E	Transfer from Investments	\$ 15,270.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 270.00
F	Ritual	\$ -		\$ -
G	Fund Raising	\$ -		\$ -
H	SEM	\$ -		\$ -
I	Insurance	\$ -		\$ -
J	Festive Board	\$ -		\$ -
K	Time Capsule 2000	\$ 3,661.43	\$ 4,406.43	\$ (745.00)
L	CMMRF Member Donations	\$ -	\$ 760.00	\$ (760.00)
TOTAL		\$ 26,493.93	\$ 27,090.87	\$ (596.94)
	EXPENSES			
1	Grand Recorder Expenses	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
2	Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3	Grand Treasurer Expenses	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
4	Grand Sentinel Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Grand Organist Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Officers' Expense Allocation			\$ -
6.1	MIGM	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
6.2	RIDGM	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
6.3	RIGPCW	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
7	Per Capita General Grand Council (975 @ \$2.50)	\$ 2,437.50	\$ 4,485.00	\$ (2,047.50)
8	Office Expenses (includes Ritual Books)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 39.70	\$ 1,460.30
9	Annual Proceedings & Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
10	Flowers & Memorials	\$ -	\$ 54.50	\$ (54.50)
11	Sessions Expenses	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,255.48	\$ (655.48)
12	Grand Master's Apron, Jewel & Case	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
13	Triennial Expense Allocation	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,032.00	\$ 1,968.00
14	Grand Council Donations to CMMRF	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
14.2	CMMRF Fund Raising Expenses	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)
15	Printing/Dues Card	\$ 250.00	\$ 301.67	\$ (51.67)
16	Equipment & Software Purchases	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
17	Bonnie Blink Church Service	\$ -	\$ 140.00	\$ (140.00)
18	Award & Recognition	\$ 250.00	\$ 372.68	\$ (122.68)
19	Membership/Degree Teams	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00
20	Youth Group/ Hersey Trip	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
21	Web Site	\$ 250.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00
22	Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 17.18	\$ 82.82
23	SEM Degree	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
24	Insurance	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,122.67	\$ (322.67)
25	Anniversary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
26	Table Council	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
27	Transfer to Walk of Remembrance Account	\$ 4,406.43	\$ 4,406.43	\$ -
28	Fund Raising (advance-- recover from donations)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
29	MMS Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL		\$ 26,493.93	\$ 24,727.31	\$ 1,766.62

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

Semi-Annual Assembly

2024

5/28/2024	Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of MD					
	Operating Account FY 2024 with 2025 Approved Budget					
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2025
		Approved	Amended	Actuals	Difference	Approved
	DESCRIPTION/TITLE					
	INCOME					
A	Per Capita (975 850 @ \$11.50)	\$ 11,213.00	\$ 9,775.00	\$ -		\$ 9,775.00
B	Greeting Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -		\$ 250.00
C	Interest/Dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
D	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
E	Transfer from Investments	\$ 7,775.00	\$ 10,100.00			\$ 9,390.00
F	Ritual	\$ -	\$ -			
G	Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -			
H	SEM	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 950.00
I	Insurance	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
J	Festive Board	\$ -	\$ -			
K	Time Capsule 2000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
L	CMMRF Member Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
TOTAL		\$ 19,238.00	\$ 20,125.00	\$ -		\$ 20,365.00
	EXPENSES					
1	Grand Recorder Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
2	Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 10.20	\$ 389.80	\$ 400.00
3	Grand Treasurer Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
4	Grand Sentinel Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
5	Grand Organist Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
6	Officers' Expense Allocation				\$ -	
6.1	MIGM	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,012.00	\$ 1,488.00	\$ 3,000.00
6.2	RIDGM	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
6.3	RIGPCW	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
7	Per Capita General Grand Council (975 850@ \$2.50)	\$ 2,438.00	\$ 2,125.00		\$ 2,438.00	\$ 2,125.00
8	Office Expenses (includes Ritual Books)	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
9	Annual Proceedings & Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.72	\$ 149.28	\$ 200.00
10	Flowers & Memorials	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
11	Sessions Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
12	Grand Master's Apron, Jewel & Case	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
13	Triennial Expense Allocation	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
14	Grand Council Donations to CMMRF	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00	\$ 500.00
14.2	CMMRF Fund Raising Expenses		\$ 700.00		\$ -	\$ 500.00
15	Printing/Dues Card	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
16	Equipment & Software Purchases	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
17	Bonnie Blink Church Service	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 140.00
18	Award & Recognition	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
19	Membership/Degree Teams	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00	\$ 250.00
20	Youth Group/ Hersey Trip	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
21	Web Site	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
22	Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	
23	SEM Degree	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
24	Insurance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
25	Anniversary	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
26	Table Council	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
27	Transfer to Walk of Remembrance Account	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
28	Fund Raising (advance-- recover from donations)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
29	MMS Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 775.00	\$ (775.00)	\$ 500.00
TOTAL		\$ 19,238.00	\$ 20,125.00	\$ 4,347.92	\$ 14,890.08	\$ 20,365.00
	2024 Approved Amendments					
	Income					
	Line item A reduced membership to 850					
	increased E by \$2325 to balance budget					
	Expenses					
	Moved \$262 pin purchase from line item 14.2 to 6.1					
	Reduced Line item 7 to adjust current membership					
	Added \$700 to line item 14.2 for coins					
	Added \$500 to line item 8 to print 100 ritual books					

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland Grand Treasurer's Report			
Raymond James Investment Account FY 2023 final	and FY 2024 to date		
Raymond James Investment Account			
	10/31/2023	11/30/2023	12/29/2023
Beginning Balance	\$ 192,708.08	\$ 181,855.68	\$ 195,634.06
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Income	\$ 405.90	\$ 152.26	\$ 793.79
Withdraws	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ (534.28)	\$ -	\$ -
Change in Value This Statement	\$ (5,724.02)	\$ 13,626.12	\$ 9,995.22
Change in Value YTD	\$ (15,076.12)	\$ (1,450.00)	\$ 8,545.22
Ending Balance	\$ 181,855.68	\$ 195,634.06	\$ 206,423.07
Time Weighted Performance YTD	-6.69%	0.40%	6.05%
PORTFOLIO			
Cash and Cash Alternatives	\$ 114.87	\$ 267.13	\$ 1,671.91
Exchange-Traded Programs	\$ 171,788.51	\$ 185,398.33	\$ 194,770.86
FIXED INCOME	\$ 9,952.30	\$ 9,968.60	\$ 9,980.30
PORTFOLIO TOTAL VALUE	\$ 181,855.68	\$ 195,634.06	\$ 206,423.07
ACCRUED INTEREST TOTAL	\$ 59.38	\$ 98.96	\$ 138.54
PORTFOLIO TOTAL WITH ACCRUED INTEREST	\$ 181,915.06	\$ 195,733.02	\$ 206,561.61
Raymond James Investment Account	1/31/2024	2/29/2024	3/28/2024
Beginning Balance	\$ 206,423.07	\$ 206,762.73	\$ 213,940.00
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Income	\$ 258.24	\$ 164.22	\$ 811.49
Withdraws	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ (564.54)	\$ -	\$ -
Change in Value This Statement	\$ 645.96	\$ 7,013.05	\$ 6,126.53
Change in Value YTD	\$ 645.96	\$ 7,659.01	\$ 13,785.54
Ending Balance	\$ 206,762.73	\$ 213,940.00	\$ 220,878.02
Time Weighted Performance YTD	0.07%	3.56%	6.81%
PORTFOLIO			
Cash and Cash Alternatives	\$ 5,924.36	\$ 6,088.58	\$ 16,845.34
Exchange-Traded Programs	\$ 190,847.57	\$ 197,859.42	\$ 204,032.68
FIXED INCOME	\$ 9,990.80	\$ 9,992.00	\$ -
PORTFOLIO TOTAL VALUE	\$ 206,762.73	\$ 213,940.00	\$ 220,878.02
ACCRUED INTEREST TOTAL	\$ 178.13	\$ 217.71	\$ -
PORTFOLIO TOTAL WITH ACCRUED INTEREST	\$ 206,940.86	\$ 214,157.71	\$ 220,878.02

9. Report of the Grand Lecturer

M.I Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman

Most Illustrious Grand Master

One Companion has qualified to stand for election for T.I.M. of their respective Councils, has passed a satisfactory examination in the Law, and has received the Thrice Illustrious Masters Degree this evening.

There is a small supply of Council Ritual Books. They are available in lots of up to 10 at one time for \$10 each plus postage, which runs about \$16 for express mail.

There was little interest in participating in the Super Excellent Master Degree because of the very successful recent conferral under M.I.P.G.M. Disney and then the death of candidates for the Council due to Covid and the general slowdown in those who would be eligible.

Now is the time for those who wish to rise to work on their exemplifications for that they can be properly qualified come next March. The requirements are still the Full Form Opening and both the Degrees. The M.I.G.M. does maintain the prerogative to alter the requirements if he feels that the circumstances in any given Council or for any individual merit a dispensation from the law.

I will not continue as the Grand Lecturer for the state past the Grand Sessions in October. I am willing to assist the Councils in my immediate area as an instructor or a Deputy Grand Lecturer.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Grand Council as your Grand Lecturer following the untimely passing of our beloved Companion, Randy Disney, who held this position.

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

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

Comp Huebschman moved that the Grand Council inquire about the reprinting cost of 100 Ritual Books and move forward with having them printed before the end of the Cryptic year.

The motion was seconded and, after discussion, passed unanimously.

10. Accounts & Finance

RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas

The Finance Committee met and reviewed the Grand Treasurer's records. The Committee found that the records are squared. The Grand Recorder's records are presented in his report.

Including a spreadsheet that contains the proposed budget for the 2024 -2025 operating year (November 1, 2024 - October 31, 2025), which was prepared based on previous actuals and the Most Illustrious Grand Master's plans for the year.

In addition, as we have just raised the per capita dues, the Finance Committee decided not to ask for a raise this year. However, in the financial interest of the Grand Council, the Finance Committee will propose a raise of per capita dues for our 2026 Capitar Year during our semiannual 2025 meeting.

I move that this report and the 2024-2025 budget be accepted and included in the Grand Council's minutes.

Fraternally Submitted,
R.I.D.G.M. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas
Chairman

Comp Hubschman offered a friendly amendment that the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer review the new and corrected membership data to adjust the membership numbers in the 2024-2025 budget to ensure the per capital fee receipts are in line to ensure a balanced budget.

The friendly amendment to the budget was seconded and, after discussion, passed.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and amended budget, which was passed.

12. C.M.M.R.F.

Com G. Andrew Martinez

While I do not have the full reporting numbers for C.M.M.R.F. for this Cryptic year to date, I have seen donations from Concordia Council #1 and Jeshua Council #8 come through my email. Thank you to both of those Councils. I know there are Companions who donate religiously to this worthy charity that does medical research to combat Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms, Cancer, Diabetes, Heart failure, Stroke, Arthritis, Pancreatitis, and many others. C.M.M.R.F. is developing many new approaches to address these medical issues, and the research C.M.M.R.F. does is amazing! If you visit www.cmmrf.org, you will see many testimonials about the medical advances this organization has provided. To all those who donate to C.M.M.R.F., my hearty thanks!

My goal for this year is to double Maryland's donations, and I implore each Council to make at least a \$100 (or more) donation to C.M.M.R.F. I know that sounds like a lot (well, maybe not in 2024), but the research that goes into finding a cure for the disorders C.M.M.R.F. addresses is priceless. Every dollar donated is an opportunity to change a life forever, the chance to give another human being the gift of life and improved health.

To that effect, this year's program is called "Rocks for Love," and each colored, polished rock is only \$1. Just pick a rock that appeals to you (which is yours to keep), and hopefully, it will bring good luck to you and to someone who is in dire need of the work C.M.M.R.F. does. All proceeds from this program will go to C.M.M.R.F., as every dollar makes a difference.

Again, I encourage not just every Companion, but every Freemason to visit www.cmmrf.org to see the incredible work this outstanding medical research organization performs. If you feel like donating on your own, please visit www.cmmrf.org/donate/

I also have the honor to present two General Grand Master's Plaques: one for Companion Joel Todd and one for Giblim Council #12. In addition, I am also pleased to present three plaque extender bars: two for Hiram Council #5 and one for Harmony Council #20. These plaques are for donations of \$1,000.00, and the extender bars are for \$2,000.00 donations. Companion Todd and Councils, thank you for your generous donations!

As always, feel free to reach out to me if you need materials or information for C.M.M.R.F.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Andrew Martinez, GCoG
C.M.M.R.F., Maryland Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

13. Super Excellent Master Degree

Comp Vernon H. Huebschman

There is no S.E.M. Degree scheduled for 2024.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

14. Committee on Grievance

M.I.P.G.M. Gordon A. Davids

No information was submitted to this committee for report to the Grand Council.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

15. Jurisprudence and Constitution

MIPGM John A. Rafine

The Jurisprudence Committee appreciates the opportunity to serve the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland. One item was assigned to this committee for review. In 2017, a resolution was approved to allow Maryland Councils to open and conduct business with 5 Council members present. Proceedings for 2017 were not available on the website and the adopted standing resolution was not added to our Grand Constitution. To remedy this situation, the approved 2017 standing resolution is being added to our Grand Constitution as Standing Resolution 18. Existing Standing Resolution 18 was renumbered to Standing Resolution 19 to maintain continuity with our existing Resolution date adopted numbering sequence.

Standing Resolution 18 reads as follows:

RESOLVED, "That a constituent Maryland Council may assemble on the occasion of a Stated Assembly with five or more Companions of that Council, and with that as a sufficient number, conduct any normal business relevant to that Council.

If dispensation is granted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master which includes language to permit conduct of business at a Special Assembly, a Council may also conduct its normal business at a Special Assembly, as above, provided due notice is provided for the Special Assembly.

Normal business shall include election of candidates, reading and approving minutes, reception and payment of bills." - May 16, 2017

Standing Resolution 18 does not alter the requirement of having nine council members in attendance to confer the degrees. The Most Illustrious Grand Master along with the Ritual Committee will determine what, if any, changes are required to our existing Ritual for opening a Council.

During our Grand Council Semi-Annual Assembly on May 23, 2024, the following actions were motioned, voted and unanimously approved.

- Created an ad-hoc "History Committee" with M.I.G.M. William Hare appointed Grand Historian.
- Reprint 100 rituals – cost to be determined
- Amend the 2024 budget to our current membership number (to be provided) for income line number A "Per Capita" and expense line item 7, "Per Capita General Grand" and make the necessary adjustment in Income Line item E (Transfer from Investments) to balance the budget
- Approval to spend up to \$700 to purchase 100 coins commemorating our 150th anniversary and making the necessary adjustment to our 2024 budget

Fraternally,

John Rafine, M.I.P.G.M., Chairman
Randall Watson, M.I.P.G.M.
Christian Miele, T.I.M.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

16. Long Range Planning

RI Spyridon G. Treklas

At this time, this committee has nothing to report. However, there is a movement in the York Rite as a whole for the three heads of the bodies to get together and discuss the future of the York Rite.

Fraternally Submitted,
R.I.D.G.M. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

17. Membership

RI Dennis W. Ewing

This report will be given at the Annual Assembly in October.

18. Recognition and Awards

MI Randal Watson

This report will be given at the Annual Assembly in October.

19. Fraternal Relations

MI Comp. William C. Hare

So far, I have visited the Grand York Rite Annuals in Delaware, Maine, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire. Our Companions from other jurisdictions have received us well and look forward to our Annual this fall. On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, we attended a Corner Stone Laying by the Grand Lodge in Frederick at this Historic Event. I also attended The Grand Assembly of Maryland International Order of the Rainbow for Girls on March 22, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
William C Hare Jr M.I.G.M. Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

20. Grand Council History

MI Comp. Willaim C. Hare

I created this Committee to repair a problem I found with Our history being lost in the shuffle of life. What I mean is, for example, that we have a very incomplete list of all those Companions and Councils who have received Awards from This Grand Council or The General Grand Council. Another example is that since 2015, we have not updated the list of all Grand Council Officers since the Date of Organization. This list should be included in the Annual proceedings, which have shrunk to listing only the living P.M.I.G.M.s. I think all Officers deserve to have their contributions to this Grand Council recorded in the Archives forever. Attached to this report is a complete list of all Grand Council Officers since this Grand Council was formed. This list was always included in the Grand Council Proceeding until recent Years, stopping in 2015.

As Grand Master, I am creating the office of Grand Council Historian to serve until this Grand Council deems it necessary to replace him. To this end, I am appointing myself, William C. Hare Jr., the first Grand Historian. I plan on cleaning up our history and Library as I continue my Cryptic journey.

Respectfully Submitted,
William C Hare Jr M.I.G.M. Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

20. Time & Place 2025

MI Comp. William C. Hare

M.I.G.M., P.M.I.G.M.'s, Companions All,

Attached is an Email from SK Vernon H Huebschman K.C.T. Grand Recorder Grand Commandry of Knight Templar of Maryland sums up Time and Place 2025. I will read what he wrote

Past Grand Commander Warns spoke on the venue and stated meeting rooms are larger than last time in Ocean City, and there are a lot of rooms on the same floor, eliminating elevator rides up and down during the weekend. He seemed impressed with the Holiday Inn overall. I stood up and spoke about not putting off the decision until later like we did last year due to rooms being booked farther in advance in Ocean City than in Frederick. If we wait, we might not be able to get the same weekend in 2025. The Grand Commandry agreed and motioned past to use the Holiday Inn for 2025. I urge this Grand Council to vote the same so we can get this venue booked for 2025.

ASAR: Accordingly, I make the Motion that we Choose the Holiday Inn of Ocean City, MD., for the 2025 Sessions and partner with the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandry to negotiate the best, most agreeable conclusion.

Respectfully Submitted William Hare Jr M.I.G.M.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and the location for the 2025 Session and passed unanimously.

20. Sessions 2024

MI Comp. William C. Hare

Sessions 2024 will be at the Holiday Inn of Ocean City, Md. Starting on Friday, October 25, through Sunday Morning, October 26, 2024, Friday's schedule has two new meetings,
H.R.A.K.T.P. - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
A.P.C. - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Registration opens from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Those Companions who are members of these bodies might want to check in on Thursday, October 24, 2024

Respectfully Submitted William C. Hare Jr M.I.G.M.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report. During the discussion, Comp Lumbert requested that the schedule for next year allow time to check between meetings and other scheduled items. After no other discussion, it passed unanimously.

21. Youth Relations

Comp. Carl A. Michel, Jr.

Most Illustrious Grand Master,

As several of us wear different hats or chapeaus throughout Maryland Masonry, and we are often on the same types of committees for different bodies, we are able to share information across our respective bodies and work together for the betterment of all. As such, the Grand Lodge Committee on Youth asked the Maryland Masonic Youth Groups to send them information on several fronts. This information has been shared with us. We were very happy to hear that all three groups continue to initiate members and keep them active. The youth groups are working on their plans for membership incentives, masonic and public outreach, as well as continuing time-honored traditional events. It is hoped that the Grand Lodge Committee on Youth can begin to have the groups meet and share their calendars of events so that scheduling conflicts can be minimized, allowing for more joint activities to be held. If asked, we will be ready to assist them with this effort.

This committee member recommends the Grand Council investigate creating an award for new Royal and Select Masters, similar to the Grand Lodge Zerubbabel Award Program for new members. Not only does the program encourage new members to become active in all aspects of the lodge, but it requires the participant to visit at least one youth group meeting. I have witnessed firsthand how impressed these masons are with our masonic youth and have had conversations with them when they visited. I can only imagine how active our new Royal and Select Masters would be if they had an award to strive for right after becoming a member, which would in turn benefit their Council with attendance and help with degrees and activities.

We continue to encourage all members of our Grand Council to schedule time to go to a youth function or meeting to see them in action. Your attendance at their functions means a great deal to these young people. They are encouraged to work harder and do better when they see the support, in person, from the members of our Grand Lodge. Should you be connected to any relatives, friends or neighbors who have young ladies and men who may be interested in seeing what these groups have to offer, please reach out to them through the website links below for further information on their requirements for membership.

We often talk about “THOSE KIDS” when looking in our communities regarding how disrespectful or mean or leud they are. What would our communities look like if we were to take the initiative to reach out and guide them to organizations whose mission is to create and foster leadership, mentorship and positive influences for our youth. If we were to start moving “THOSE KIDS” to a better path, how much better our future would look. Remember my Companions, even you were once one of “THOSE KIDS” in someone’s view. How much better would your life have been if you had the support of Masons, Business Leaders, Entrepreneurs, who could have guided you and saved you from some decisions you made as you worked your way through life.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the Grand Council of Maryland in this most important function. Each of these organizations represents a substantial investment in the future of Masonry and we sincerely appreciate your support of our activities.

Please visit each website <https://www.mddemolay.org>, <http://www.gomarylandrainbow.org/>, and <https://delmarjdi.org/>.

Fraternally submitted,
Comp. Carl A. Michel, Jr., P.T.I.M.
Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

22. Walk of Remembrance Report

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine

Finances for this committee during this reporting period are as follows:

Balance 11/01/2024	\$4,936.43
Deposits through April 30, 2024	\$120

Debits	\$0
Ending Balance	\$5,056.43

Merkle Monuments informed us that after holding its engraving costs for many years, it had to increase its engraving cost from \$45 to \$50 per brick. Revisions were made to the Walk of Remembrance Brick Order form and a fillable form was posted to the Grand Lodge website.

For 2023, the Grand Lodge ordered 27 bricks for its Grand Line Officers, and the Order of the Eastern Star recently ordered 8 bricks. Brick engraving for these bricks will be completed after Memorial Day, and the Grand Lodge of Maryland will be invoiced after the engraving is completed.

We need to do a better job announcing the availability of bricks for Masons in Maryland. Many Blue Lodges are visited each January, and we request that those presenting Worshipful Master pins mention the availability of bricks during their visit.

Bricks are available for many occasions such as recognition of outgoing Worshipful Masters, York Rite and Scottish Rite officers and members, deceased members, etc. Each brick currently costs \$60, and checks should be made payable to the Grand Council R.S.M. of Maryland and annotating the memo field Walk of Remembrance.

We recommend adding the brick order to our YorkRiteMaryland website.

We receive \$10 per brick designated for charitable purposes, which is equally divided between Grand Lodge and the Grand Council. We have not withdrawn any funds for the past several years and hope to generate sufficient sales to warrant a withdrawal.

Fraternally submitted,

John Rafine, Chairman
Randall Watson
Albert Kaestner

23. 150th Anniversary

MI Comp. William C. Hare

On May 12, 1874, the Grand Council was Formed. This year is our 150th Anniversary. The first part of 2024 has been slow in coming up with ideas for what to do. Hiram Council #5 celebrated its 150th Anniversary on April 25, 2024, holding a Festive Board; although I would have liked to do a Festive Board for All the Councils of the Grand Council of Maryland, this Idea is now a little redundant to hold another Festive Board especially when our Calendars are filled up months ahead of time.

To this end, I plan on having a small program at the Friday night Dinner at Annual Sessions in Ocean City, Md. I also plan on producing commemorative coins to honor our Sesquicentennial.

These coins I will ask for a Donation of coins that will support C.M.M.R.F., our very important Cause that we support.

I make a motion to amend the budget to include up to \$3000.00 in the Anniversary line item for Commemoration items for our Sesquicentennial. Note that in 2015, this Grand Council Voted and Approved \$1,000 a year until 2024 for this purpose.

Respectfully Submitted William C Hare Jr M.I.G.M.

The motion in the report was seconded, and after discussion, M.I.G.M. Hare withdrew the motion. M.I.G.M. Hare then moved to budget \$700.00 to produce 100 coins for the 150th Anniversary coin. The proceeds from the coin sales will go to C.M.M.R.F. This motion was seconded and passed.

Acceptance of the amended report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

24. Unfinished Business

RI Comp. William C. Eppig

M.I.P.G.M. Augenbaugh suggested that a committee be established to decide when and plan the Super Excellent Master Degree, which should occur about every five years. The next Illustrious Grand Master will take his suggestion under advisement.

25. New Business

MI. Comp. William C. Hare

None

26. Voluntary Remarks

Companions in attendance

None

27. Election of Officers

MI Comp. Richard P. Naegel

M.I.P.G.M. Naegele presided over the nominations and Elections of the Officers of the Grand Council for the 2024 – 2025 Cryptic Year. The following were nominated.

R.I. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas - Most Illustrious Grand Master
Comp. G. Andrew Martinze - Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
Comp. Stephen Tomey, II - Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
MI Comp. John A. Rafine - Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
RI Comp. William C. Eppig - Right Illustrious Grand Recorder

There being no further nominations, the ballot was closed, and the Grand Recorder was directed to cast a unanimous ballot for the above Companions.

28. Closing Remarks

MI Comp. William C. Hare

The M.I.G.M. asked R.I. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas for remarks following his election:

I want to express my gratitude for electing me as the Most Illustrious Grand Master for the upcoming term. As I mentioned during our recent semi-annual Conclave, I am open to discussing opportunities. I believe that having no idea is a bad idea. Please feel free to reach out to me, and let's explore how we can implement your ideas. I firmly believe that there is no such thing as "we've never done that before" or "we tried that before and failed." Instead, when faced with new ideas, our response should be, "Great, let's try something new," and when revisiting past failed attempts, our response should be, "Great, let's analyze what happened and figure out how we can improve it this time."

During our official visits to your Council, I have certain expectations for the Council Officers:

1. Council Plans – I would like to see the current Thrice Illustrious Master (T.I.M.) working with the Deputy Illustrious Master (D.I.M.) and the Principal Conductor of Works (P.C.W.) to develop a three-year plan for your Council. This plan should outline the future of your Council and detail strategies to improve membership and attendance. Remember, it's better to have a plan that fails than to fail to plan.

2. Membership Companion – Every Council should have a Membership Companion. If your Council does not have one, please appoint someone to this role. Our ranks are dwindling, and it's crucial to have a plan to attract new members. The Membership Companion, in collaboration with the Council's plan, should work towards achieving positive growth for your Council. The Illustrious Principal Conductor of Works - Elect, Stephen R. Twomey II, will lead the Membership Committee at the state level.

3. C.M.M.R.F. Companion – Each Council should also have a C.M.M.R.F. Companion. If your Council does not have one, please appoint someone to this role, and it should preferably not be the same Companion as the Membership Companion. The local C.M.M.R.F. Companion will work alongside our Maryland C.M.M.R.F. Chairman, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master-Elect Andrew Martinez, to support C.M.M.R.F. initiatives at the local level. With the cooperation of the C.M.M.R.F. Chairman and the C.M.M.R.F. Companion in your Council, I believe our state can lead in this area.

4. Ritualist Companion – Every Council should designate a Ritualist Companion. If your Council does not have one, please appoint someone to this role, and it should preferably not be the same Companion as any of the above. When we visit your Council, I expect to see the Opening of the

Council performed from memory, without the assistance of the ritual book. I encourage Councils to commit the opening to memory before our visit.

5. Checking Account – Going forward, I expect every Council to have its own checking account and to manage its own expenses. Any checks received by the Grand Council from a Council should be in the name of the Council, whether it's for the Council's assessment or for any other purpose. Even though we are part of the York Rite and share the same building, each Council is an individual body, just like the Chapter and Commandery.

I want to reiterate that we are here to listen and support you as we move forward together.

Spyros Treklas – MIGM (Elect)

Email: sgt33rd@gmail.com

MI William C. Hare III congratulated the new officers and wished them a very successful year. He thanked all those in attendance tonight and wished them a safe drive home.

29. Closing

MI Comp. William C. Hare

The Grand Chaplain Burt offered a closing prayer.

The M.I.G.M. directed that the Lights be broken and declared the Semi-Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Maryland closed at 9:30 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,



William C. Eppig
Grand Recorder