

**MINUTES OF THE 191st ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

The 191st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was held on Friday, August 22nd and Saturday, August 23rd, 2014 at the Clarion Hotel, Batavia, NY.

**OPENING AND RECEPTION OF GRAND MASTER AND OFFICERS OF GRAND COUNCIL:**

A Council of Select Masters was opened by the Illustrious Master and Officers of Nun Da Waga Council No. 92 on Friday August 22nd at 8:00 PM. The Officers of Grand Council were received into the Council and formed lines for the reception of the Most Illustrious Leonard Mason, Grand Master. MIGM Mason was greeted with Private Grand Honors he ordered all Grand Line Officers to assumed their stations and places in the Council.

M.:I.:G.:M.: Leonard Mason then called the Grand Council to order.

**ENTERED:** The Deputy Grand Marshal of Grand Lodge entered the Council and announced that R.:W.: Jeffery Williamson, Deputy Grand Master was about to enter... he entered and was greeted by M.:I.:G.:M.: Leonard Mason and was given Grand Honors and was seated in the East. The Grand Marshal entered the Council and announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master William J. Thomas, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York State was about to enter... he entered the Council was greeted in the East by M.:I.:G.:M.: Leonard Mason and was given Grand Honors and was seated in the East.

**OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF GRAND COUNCIL:**

A constitutional quorum of constituent Councils was determined to be present, and the Grand Master Mason declared the 191st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York opened in ample form. In accordance with New York State Fire Laws, he then advised the Companions of the exits in case of emergency. The M.:I.:G.:M.: Leonard Mason Advised all Companions present that they must register with the Credentials & Registration Committee in order to vote... he advised all present that the Registration desk was located in the main lobby. M.:I.:G.:M.: Leonard Mason then had the names of delinquent Councils not entitled to vote at the 191st Annual Assembly Councils Flatbush #80, and Adoniram # 36 for failing to submit Annual Returns or Election forms by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

The Grand Master then appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of R.:I.: Kenneth E. Kohlhagen as Chairman, together with R.:I.: Jerold A. Brade, and R.:I.: Vern Rupert. Ill. Robert G. Ball, R.:I.: Michael Rhodes.

The Grand Master appointed a Committee to reply to the Grand Master's Address, consisting of M.:I.: Lester G. Weinheimer, M.:I.:E. William Whittaker, and M.:I.: Richard C. Anderson, Chairman

**RESOLUTIONS:**

- 1] A Motion that the minutes of the 190<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly as distributed on the Proceedings CD be approved
- 2] The reports of the Elected Grand Line Officers, from Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to Grand Steward inclusive, as will be published on the 2013 Proceedings CD, be approved.
- 3] A Motion that all Companion Select Masters in good standing be invited to remain as visitors to this Annual Assembly, except are such time as provided by the Constitutions.
- 4] A motion that the Election of Officers be the Order of Business at 1:45 PM on Saturday, August 17, 2013; and that nominating speeches be limited to three [3] minutes and that seconding speeches to two [2] minutes.
- 5] A Motion that our visiting Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters who are not already Honorary Members of this Grand Council be made so.

All Motions were made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Copies of all Reports can be found in the hand out packet at the Registration desk.

**CONDITION AND EXTENSION OF THE RITE REPORT:**

The report of the Committee on the Condition and Extension will be included in the Grand Master's address given by M.:I.:G.:M.: Leonard W. Mason.

**GRAND LECTURER'S REPORT AND RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS:**

The Grand Lecturer's Report was given by R.:I.: Stewart W. Card. A motion was made seconded and passed unanimously to accept the report and spread upon the minutes.

The following Assistant Grand Lecturers were recognized: V.:I.: Arthur Fisch, V.:I.: Michael Quigley, and V.:I.:Dennis S. Davis, and V.:I.:Edward Powley and V.:I.:Marty DeVault. They were each personal thanked by the Grand Master for their work in the past Cryptic Year, and Given Grand Honors.

**REPORT ON THE WEB SITE:**

A report on the Web Site was given by R.:I.: John Gallant, Webmaster; a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the report and spread upon the minutes.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION, MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

The report was given by R.:I.: Curtis Banks; he advised all to attend the Grand Lecturer's convention for more Cryptic Light. He also stated that all the past proceedings have been digitized and copies will be sent to all Councils and a donation fee will be asked for to defray the cost of coping the CDs. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the report.

**LIBRARY AND MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT:**

R.:I.:Richard Fowler reported that nothing new has been added to the collection this year. Motion to accept the report as spoken was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

**RITUAL COMMITTEE:**

R.:I.:William G. Vassily gave a short talk on pronunciation of several words used in our ritual, the Ritual Committee report was printed in the hand out packet, A motion was made, seconded and to accept the report as given and to spread it upon the minutes. Passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTOTIAN:**

R.:I.:James Reichman was absent and no report either oral or written was given.

**JURISPRUDENCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:**

M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Chairman gave the following report: The committee recommends the approval of the By-Laws changes for the following Councils: Adelpic #7, Buffalo-Keystone #17, King Hiram #18, Ahwaga #30, King Solomon #31, Hornellsville #35, and Adoniram #36. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the report.

Item #1: A proposed change to the General Regulation in Article 1 section 3 pertaining to the selecting Grand Council officers how selected was read motion was made to accept the motion as presented orally and printed in the hand out was seconded and passed unanimously.

Item #2: Article I Section 6 [Grand Master] subsection (i) Change the pertaining to Grand Representatives was read and a very long discussion was held. The judge Advocate explained the reason for the change and went over the subject at length. After a long discussion a motion was made, seconded and pass unanimously to with draw Item #2. The motion was seconded a voice vote was taken and passed with two ays.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT:**

The report of R.:I.: Mark Adler will be found in the hand out packet due to his death a motion was made that it was spread upon the minutes as written... it passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND TRUSTEES:** (was tabled till and given Saturday 8/23)

The report was presented by M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts he gave an oral presentation on the finances of the Grand Council and the reason why the per capita tax has to be increased by \$5.50 to \$20.50 per Companion the increase will take effect in 2016 as no increase has been in the past seven [7] years... he then made a motion to accept the per capita increase as presented, it was seconded and it was unanimously accepted. He also reported that General Grand Council International at its upcoming Triennial in Buffalo, NY would be approving and additional \$1.50 increase in its per capita bringing its per capita to \$2.50 per companion. The report was printed in the handed out packet M.: I.: Charles M. Roberts asked that the report be spread upon the minutes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. It was reported that M.:I.: David Raymond would not seek reelection as a Trustee and he was accorded a round of applause for his service.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER:** (was tabled till and given Saturday 8/23)

An oral report was given by M.:I.: Don Harrison on the budget and his new accounting system, the full report was printed in the hand out packet. M.:I.: Harrison made a motion that the reports be accepted and spread upon the minutes as printed in the hand out, was seconded and passed unanimously. M.:I.: Harrison spoke on the Escrow Fund and the Operating Budget.

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:** (was tabled till and given Saturday 8/23)

The report was printed in the hand out and M.:I.: Harrison asked that it be spread upon the minutes as printed, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**THE BUDGET COMMITTEE REORT:** (was tabled till and given Saturday 8/23)

The report was printed in the hand out and M.:I.: Harrison asked that the proposed 2014-15 Budget be accepted and spread upon the minutes as printed, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE CONCORDANT BODIES AND YOUTH COMMITTEES:** (tabled till Sat 8/23)

The report was given orally by M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts that there is a new effort with Grand Lodge and all the Concordant Bodies to have one universal calendar for all groups to follow so as not to have overlapping affairs or conflicting dates. He also reported that a new Order of Deborah for our two girls youth group will be starting up... and he asked that all York Rite groups assist in helping it get started both financially and with gifts. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the oral and written report in the hand out.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING REPORT:**

No report was given.

**MASONIC EDUCATION**

No report was given.

**REPORT BY THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:**

No Report Was Given.

**CALL FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:**

M.:I.: Leonard Mason ordered the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to call the Craft from Labor to Refreshment, for the purposes of conducting the Vespers Service. The Assembly will reconvene at 8:45AM Saturday, August 23, 2014 for the reception of Distinguished Guests and Ladies, followed by the Necrology Report and remaining business of the Grand Council.

The Annual Assembly was then called from Labor to refreshment, to resume labor at the sound of the gavel in the East on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014 at 8:45 AM.

**VESPERS SERVICE:**

The Vespers Service was conducted under the direction of all Grand Chaplains.

The Annual Assembly of the Grand Council was reconvened in open session by M.:I.: Leonard Mason on Saturday, August 23, 2014.

### RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The following delegations were received and greeted personally in the East by Grand Master Mason:

Connecticut  
District of Columbia  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
Ohio  
Ontario, Canada  
Pennsylvania  
Steven Wing Personal Representative of Grand Master General K. Y. C. H  
Bert Larson, Governor General of NY for the York Rite Sovereign College of North America  
Prince S. Selvaraj Most Venerable Grand Master Grand Council AMD Canada  
Rt. Puissant Charles Wagner Regional Deputy Grand Master General Grand Council International, representing Most Puissant Grand Master Lawrence O. Weaver  
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of New York State, M.:Ex.: Piers A. Vaughan,  
Grand High Priest and his Grand Line Officers  
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of New York State, R.:Em.: Kenneth I. Sussman,  
Grand Commander and his Grand Line Officers  
Grand Master and Grand Line Officers, Grand Lodge of the State of New York

The Most Worshipful William J. Thomas, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York, was received under escort, in the East by Grand Master Mason, and accorded Grand Honors.

### NECROLOGY REPORT:

The Necrology Report was given under the direction of R.:I.: and Rev. Jose Valencia, Jr. M.:I.: David Raymond, PGM gave a eulogy for M.:I.: Harvey Payne, PGM. M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts gave a eulogy for M.:I.: George Whitmer who both past during this Cryptic year. The program closed with the singing of "Abide With Me" followed by a Benediction. See the written Necrology Service for details.

### ASSEMBLY RECONVENED TO LABOR:

The MIGM Leonard Mason excused all non-Cryptic Masons, Ladies and guests from the Assembly room and then gaveled the 191st Annual Assembly to order and it was reconvened at 9:45AM on Saturday, August 23, 2014.

### RECOGNITION OF 2013-2014 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS:

The District Deputies Grand Masters were recognized and personally thanked by M.:I.: Mason for their service this past Cryptic year. He greeted all in the East and they were given Grand Honors.

### RECEPTION AND GREETING OF THE PAST MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS:

The Past Grand Masters were introduced and asked to rise to be recognized personally and thanked by M.:I.: G.: M.: Leonard Mason... they were then given Grand Honors.

### ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES:

MIGM Mason presented Grand Representative Commissions to eight companions who have received their Commissions or are about to receive their Commissions as new Grand Representatives. Kenneth E. Kohlhagen, Kenneth Sussman, Earl Tuttle, Richard Kessler, Frederick Beitter, Norman Moon, Victor S. Versace. All were accorded Grand Honors.

The Roll Call of Grand Representatives was called... those present were presented in the East, and personally

thanked by M.:I.: Mason. There were 22 Grand Representatives present, 24 were either excused or did not attend and there were 17 vacant positions. All who were present were accorded Grand Honors.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER:**

The Annual Report of the Grand Recorder was given by M.:I.: Victor S. Versace. He also gave the Annual Report on the Membership of the Grand Council for the previous year. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the reports as read and spread upon the minutes.

The Annual Report on the membership of the Grand Council could only be given as a partial report as two Councils have failed to submit Annual Returns... a motion was made to accept the report as given and printed in the hand out, motion passed unanimously.

**REMARKS FROM OUR VISITORS:**

MIGM Donald J. Emerick of Ontario on behalf of all our Visiting Grand Masters or visiting Officers thanked the Most Illustrious Grand Master Mason and the Grand Council of New York for the courtesies extended to all the visitors.

**PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO OUR VISITORS:**

MIGM Mason presented honorary membership certificates to all our Visiting Grand Masters from our Sister Jurisdictions.

**MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:**

M.:I.: Leonard Mason turned the gavel of authority over to the Deputy Grand Master DeShane, and he gave his Grand Master's Address. The Deputy Grand Master ordered the Address turned over to the Committee on the Grand Master's Address, for report upon later. The gavel was returned to the Grand Master for presiding.

**GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY CORPORATION:**

The hour being 11:00 AM the Grand Council Charity Corporation was called to order for its Annual Meeting of the Charity Corporation. M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts, President presided for the meeting. See attached written report for details. Certificate & Solomon Arch Awards were then presented. The Corporate meeting was adjourned upon motion at 11:28 AM.

**ADDRESS OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER:**

Most Worshipful William Thomas honored us with his words of Wisdom. MW Thomas spoke to all present that all Masonic groups are struggling with the need to have per capita increases, as costs continue to go up in the running of all our groups. He felt that Masonic Bodies are suffering from lack of membership and the rising costs to keep our organizations running. He also feels that our Ritual work is our greatest selling asset. He spoke about the meaningfulness of the Clique of the Royal Master degree... while perambulating around the Temple. MW Thomas thank MIGM Mason for all the courtesies that had been extended to him and his Grand line for the weekend.

**LUNCHEON:**

MIGM Mason ordered the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to call The Assembly to recess until 1:00PM for lunch. The Grand Chaplain gave a blessing for lunch.

**RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:**

The Annual Assembly was reconvened by MIGM Mason at 1:00PM in the Assembly room.

**ISH-SODI AND AWARDS:**

The report was given, and awards presented by M.:I.:Richard C. Anderson with M.:I.:G.:M Leonard Mason assisting.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:**

M.:I.:Richard C. Anderson reporting for the Committee on the Grand Master's address made a motion to

accept MIGM Mason's Grand Master Address, it was seconded and passed unanimously to spread the Grand Master's message upon the minutes as received.

**TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE:**

The time and place for the 192nd Annual Assembly will be August 21-22, 2015, at the Treadway Inn Owego, NY.

**CREDENTIALS:**

The report of the Credentials Committee was given by R.:I.: Kenneth E. Kohlhagen:

There were 13 Illustrious Masters  
8 Deputy Masters  
5 Principal Conductors of the Work  
72 Past Illustrious Masters  
16 Select Masters  
36 Ladies  
TOTAL 145 PRESENT  
Total 117 voting Companions

Seven [7] Councils had no representation at the Assembly.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The following Companions were appointed tellers for the elections: Dean Lewis, Leon Weinstein, and R.I. Roche. The Companions were reminded to the time limitations on nominating and seconding speeches by MIGM Mason.

The gavel was turned over to M.:I.:E. William Whittaker to conduct the election of Officers for the 2014-2015 Cryptic Year.

A motion was made and seconded that all elected Grand Line Officers be "moved up" or advanced one position in line order as they were unchallenged. The Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for the slate of Grand Line Officers. All accepted to serve in their new office.

R.:I.:John Gallant was elected to the Grand Steward position as he ran unopposed. One ballot was cast by the Grand Recorder in favor of his election. He agreed to serve.

M.:I.:Donald Harrison ran unopposed for Grand Treasurer and was duly elected unanimously. The Grand recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for M.:I.:Harrison.

M.:I.:Paul B. Matthews nominated M.:I.:Victor S. Versace for Grand Recorder, seconded by M.:I.:David Raymond. R.:I.:Cy White nominated R.:I.:Francis Edward Powley, Jr. for Grand Recorder the motion was duly seconded. There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. M.:I.:Whittker explained the balloting process and encourage all to vote by using ballot No. 1. A vote was held...results were R.:I.: Powley 34... M.:I.:Versace 24... R.:I.:Powley was declared to be duly elected. M.:I.:Versace announced he would add his votes to R.:I.:Powley's total to make the vote unanimous. A round of applause was extended.

**ELECTED GRAND LINE:**

M.:I.:G.:M Harley R. DeShane, Deputy Grand Master R.:I.: Charles V. Bunton, Grand PCW R.: I.: Gary R. Hutchurson, Grand Treasurer M.:I.: Donald Harrison, Grand Recorder R.:I.: F. Edward Powley, Grand Capt. of the Guard R.:I.: Curtis A. Banks, Grand Conductor of the Council R.:I.: Steve P. Koch, Grand Marshal R.:I.: Richard C. Fowler, Grand Standard Bearer R.:I.:Philip J. Chandler, and Grand Steward R.:I.:John Gallant. The appointed Grand Sentinel was R.:I.: James Zearfoss.

**ELECTION OF THE GRAND TRUSTEE:**

It was reported that M.:I.:David Raymond would not seek reelection as a Trustee of the Grand Council.

It was reported that M.:I.:David Raymond would not seek reelection as a Trustee of the Grand Council. M.:I.:Richard C. Anderson was nominated and duly seconded, there being no further nominations the nominations were closed and one ballot was cast to elect M.:I.:Anderson to a three year (3) term as Trustee of the Grand Council.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

It was declared that there was no unfinished business to come before this Annual Assembly.

**DEPARTURE OF THE GRAND MASTER:**

The M.:I.:G.:M.: Leonard Mason did not depart the Assembly and no Grand Honors were given.

**THE TILED INSTALLATION OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER-ELECT:**

The tiled installation of M.:I.:G.:M.:Harley DeShane took place, with M.:I.:E. William Whittaker as the Installing Master and M.:I.:David Raymond as the Installing Marshal and & R.:I.: Rev. Jose Valencia as the Installing Chaplain. There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the Annual Assembly was declared closed by M.I. G. M. DeShane.

**OPEN INSTALLATION OF ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS:**

The open installation of Grand Line Officers was then conducted by M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, M.:I.:David Raymond as the installing Marshal and R.:I.: & Rev. Jose Valencia as the Installing Chaplain. Full Ceremony was conducted. The MIGM DeShane installed his District Deputy Grand Masters for the ensuing Cryptic year. The Grand Lecturer installed his District Assistant Grand Lecturers at his convenience.

**THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER DEGREE CONFERRAL:**

The Thrice Illustrious Master Degree was conferred on all newly elected Illustrious Masters, in accordance with Article 11, Section 41(a) of the General Regulations of this Grand Council.

**THE GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET:**

Took place at 7:00PM. Where presentations and awards were presented by Grand Master Mason. Presentations were made to the Youth Group Leaders and M.:I.: Mason presented the Youth Groups monetary awards from the Grand Council. Words of wisdom were delivered by our distinguished Guests. Awards were also given to the Cryptic Mason of the Year, Adult Youth Leader, and Lady of the Council... and several special awards were given by M.:I.:Mason. M.:I.: Leonard Mason was then presented his Past Grand Master's jewel and apron and his Past Grand Master's plaque & permanent status in General Grand Council International. He gave some closing remarks of thanks and introduced the Most Worship Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. Most Worshipful Grand Master William J. Thomas spoke to all assembled, thanked the Grand Master and the Grand Council for all the courtesies that had been extended to him. He also reminded all present that our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will soon be approaching.

The benediction was given and all assembled retired in Peace and Harmony.

Respectfully submitted,

M.:I.: Victor S. Versace, PMIGM  
Grand Recorder