

# **MINUTES OF THE 188<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

The 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was held on Friday August 19 and Saturday August 20, 2011 at the Treadway Inn, Owego 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 Cayuga Council No. 90 on Friday August 19, 2011 at 7:30PM. The Most Illustrious David H. Raymond, Grand Master, and the officers of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York were received, and by order of the Grand Master, assumed the stations and places.

## OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF GRAND COUNCIL:

A constitutional quorum of constituent Councils was determined to be present, and the Grand Master declared the 188<sup>th</sup> 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.

## COUNCILS INELIGIBLE TO VOTE:

It was determined that Peekskill Council No. 55 was ineligible to vote, as their Annual Return was not submitted until August 19<sup>th</sup>, just prior to the opening of the Annual Assembly, in violation of Article 24 of the General Regulations.

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The Grand Master appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of: R.:I.: James Hemstrought Jr., James Zearfoss,

The Grand Master appointed a Committee on the Grand Master's Address, consisting of M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Harvey Payne, and Richard Hadley

## RESOLUTIONS:

The following standard Resolutions were duly proposed, seconded, and approved by vote of the Companions:

A Motion that the minutes of the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly be approved as printed in the handout.

A Motion that all the reports of the elected Grand Line Officers, from Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to Grand Steward inclusive, as will be published on CD, be approved.

A Motion that all Companion Select Masters in good standing be invited to remain as visitors to this Annual Assembly, except at such time as provided by the Constitution.

A Motion that the Election of Officers be the Order of Business at 1:45PM on Saturday August 20, 2011: that each officer be nominated individually; and that the nominating speeches be limited to three (3) minutes and seconding speeches to two (2) minutes.

A Motion that our visiting Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters who are not already Honorary Members of this Grand Council be made so.

## REPORT OF THE GRAND LECTURER:

The Grand Master noted that the report be distributed in the CD to be created, and commented on the excellent work of our Grand Lecturer. R□I□ Companion Banks was accorded a round of applause by the Companions present.

RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS:

The Grand Master recognized by name and thanked those Companions who served as Assistant Grand Lecturers during the past Cryptic Masonic year. Those present were called to the East: First District, V.:I.: Richard Schultz, Second District, V.:I.: Mark Fytros, Sixth District, V.:I.: Stuart Card, Eighth District, V.:I.: David Hardy, Ninth District, V.:I.: Jeffrey Williamson. They were accorded a round of applause at the direction of the Grand Master.

MOTION CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDINGS ON CD/DVD:

A motion was made, duly seconded, and after discussion, was approved by the Companions present and voting, to henceforth distribute the Proceedings of the Annual Assemblies on CD/DVD, commencing with the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly.

A further motion was made, seconded and passed to have the past Proceedings, which have been saved by various individuals, to be compiled, digitized, and saved on CD/DVD, and to be made available to those who wish to have them, at a cost to be determined.

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

The report was given by R.:I.: Leonard Mason.

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM COMMITTEE:

The report was given by M.:I.: Harvey Payne.

REPORT OF THE RITUAL COMMITTEE:

The report was given by R.:I.: Curtis A. Banks.

REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN:

Due to the recent sudden passing of R.:I.: Paul Edwards, there was no report. A moment of silence was observed in his honor.

COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE AND BY-LAWS REVIEW:

The report was given by M.:I.: E. William Whittaker.

GRAND FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT:

The report was given by M.:I.: Francis I. Karwowski.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TRUSTEES:

The report is printed and distributed, and remarks on it were given by M.:I.: E. William Whittaker.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER:

Synopsis was given by M.:I.: Donald Harrison, is also printed and distributed in the handout.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Was presented on behalf of the Audit Committee by M.:I.: Donald Harrison.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Was submitted by M.:I.: Donald Harrison.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:

The report was given by R.:I.: David H. Raymond.

RECOGNITION OF LIVING PAST GRAND MASTERS:

The Grand Master ordered the Grand Recorder to call the roll of living Past Grand Masters of our Grand Council. The Grand Recorder noted those who were unable to attend, due to the length of their cable tow, and health not permitting. Those present were asked to assemble in the East, before the Companions, where they were recognized and accorded Grand Honors.

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIRING DISTRICT DEPUTIES GRAND MASTER:

The Grand Master then recognized the retiring District Deputies, noting that a couple of them would continue to serve the next Grand Master, and thanked them for their service to Cryptic Masonry.

LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:

The Grand Master ordered the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to call the Grand Council from labor to refreshment, to reconvene at 8:45AM Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> for the reception of our distinguished visitors, followed by our Necrology. Labor will resume in the Secret Vault following the Necrology.

VESPERS SERVICE:

The service was conducted under the direction of R.:I.: and Rev. Jose Valencia, with the assistance of R.:I.: and Rev. Charles Lee and R.:I.: and Rev. Mark Isaacs.

LABOR RESUMED:

The Grand Master ordered the Assembly reconvened at 8:45AM on Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>.

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:

A Delegation of Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters of New York was received.

Our Distinguished Visitors were received under escort and greeted by the Most Illustrious Grand Master. Delegations were greeted and acknowledged from the following:

Massachusetts

Michigan

New Jersey

Vermont

The Province of Ontario, Canada

Additionally, representatives from the following Masonic Grand Bodies were received:

Knights of the York Cross of Honor

Grand Commandery Knights Templar

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, NMJ

General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International

R.:W.: Charles Uhle, Junior Grand Warden, representing M.:W.: Vincent Libone, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York.

Our ladies were also invited to partake in the morning's ceremonies.

NECROLOGY REPORT:

The report was given by the Grand Chaplains. A Memorial Service was then conducted by the Grand Chaplains.

LABOR RESUMED:

The ladies were then excused, and Labor resumed in the Secret Vault.

RECOGNITION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES:

The Roll Call of Grand Representatives of Grand Councils near the Grand Council of New York was read, and those present were asked to assemble in the East, where they were thanked and recognized by the Grand Master, and accorded a round of applause by the Companions.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS:

The Grand Master presented Honorary Memberships to the visiting Grand Masters in attendance.

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER:

The Report was given by M.:I.: Joseph P. Pozefsky.

REMARKS FROM THE VISITING DIGNITARIES:

Remarks on behalf of our visitors were made by M.:I.: John Barnes, NJ, who also presented M.:I.: David Raymond with a memento of New Jersey's Grand Council's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Remarks from the Concordant Bodies were made by R.:E.: James MacConnell, Grand Commander KT.

Remarks from General Grand Council were made by R.:P.: Frederick I. Waldron, Regional DDGGM.

ADDRESS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER:

M.:I.: Arnold Palmer relinquished the gavel to the Deputy Grand Master and presented the Grand Master's Address to the Companions, following which R.:I.: David H. Raymond made a motion that the Grand Master's Address be referred to the Committee on the Grand Master's Address. The motion was seconded and approved by vote of the Companions. The Deputy Grand Master then returned the gavel to the Grand Master.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY CORPORATION:

The Grand Master declared this to be the appointed hour for the Annual Meeting of the Grand Council Charity Corporation. The Grand Master turned the gavel over to the President, M.:I.: Donald Harrison, who conducted the meeting. M.:I.: Harrison acknowledged all Directors of the Corporation, and then turned over the meeting to M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Treasurer, for his report. Motion made, seconded and approved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Audit Committee, consisting of Comp. Eric Benson, K. Ciatyk, and R.:I.: Alan C. Lewis, reported that the Audit has been completed, and the books found in order. Life Member Certificates were presented to a number of Companions of various Councils throughout the jurisdiction by M.:I.: Companion Whittaker. Motion was then made by M.:I.: E. William Whittaker that the minutes of this meeting be approved and published, which was seconded and approved by vote of the Companions. M.:I.: Harrison then declared the Annual Meeting of the Grand Council Charity Fund ended.

REMARKS FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GRAND MASTER:

R.:W.: Charles Uhle conveyed the regrets of both the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, and thanked the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the Companions for all the courtesies extended to him.

CALL FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:

M.:I.: Raymond then ordered the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to call the Craft from Labor to Refreshment, to resume Labor at 1:00PM, after lunch..

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The Grand Master called the Craft from Refreshment to Labor at 1:00PM on Saturday August 20, 2011.

REPORT OF ISH SODI AND AWARDS COMMITTEE:

The report was given by R.:I.: Harley DeShane, Grand Captain of the Guard. He announced that the Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year Award, and the General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year Award, together with the General Grand Council Youth Leadership Award, would be presented at the banquet this evening.

Awards and recognitions were presented to the Illustrious Masters or representatives of the following Councils:

Ish Sodi Award:

Philip Chandler and Dennis Davis, from Rotica Council

Eric Benson, Bloss DeWitt Clinton Council

Stephen Lovasz, North Shore Council

Most Companions Greeted in this Cryptic Year

Columbian Council, 27 new Companions

Greeting five or more Companions in this Cryptic Year

Columbian, Rotica, Bloss-DeWitt Clinton and Ahwaga Councils all received certificates.

Best Attendance at this Annual Assembly

Nun-Da-Waga Council No. 92

Cayuga Council No. 90 was awarded the Kreason Memorial Bible for the greatest contribution to the Charity Fund.

Councils contributing more than \$5.00 per Companion to the Charity Fund:

Cayuga Council No. 90, \$69.23 per companion.

Doric Council No. 19, \$30.88  
Skoi-Yase Council No. 75, \$21.76  
Rotica Council No. 12, \$13.88  
Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council No. 14, \$10.41  
Nun-Da-Waga Council No. 92, \$7.50  
Oneonta Council No. 87, \$6.38  
King Hiram Council No. 18, \$6.25  
Goshen Council No. 93, \$6.03  
Peekskill Council No. 55, \$6.00  
King Solomon Council No. 31, \$5.88

It was noted that ten Councils did not make contributions to the Charity Fund this year.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:

The report was presented by M.:I.: Donald Harrison, following which he made a motion to approve and accept the report. The motion was seconded and approved by vote of the Companions.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE OF THE 189<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The report of the Committee was given. The 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly will be held on August 16 and 17, 2012 at the Dunkirk Clarion Hotel, Dunkirk NY.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

The report was given.

There were twenty-four Councils represented,  
Eighteen Illustrious Masters,  
Seven Deputy Masters,  
Six Principal Conductors of the Work,  
Sixty-One Past Masters,  
24 Other Companions,  
33 Ladies.

Twenty-one Visitors and three ladies.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE 175.

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the Committee's report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Grand Master then called the Assembly to order for the purposes of conducting the Election of Officers. Tellers appointed were: M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Harvey Payne, and John P. Nosal Jr. PMIGM Donald Harrison nominated Deputy Grand Master George Whitmer for the position of Grand Master. Nomination seconded by Stuart Card. Grand Master Raymond, after proper question, declared the nominations closed. DGM Whitmer accepted the office of Grand Master. PMIGM Richard Hadley made a motion that all officers be advanced one position, and the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer succeed themselves. The motion was seconded by multitudinous companions, and the officers were elected. PMIGM Raymond was nominated for the position of Grand Trustee for three years and was elected by acclamation. The Grand Lecturer, Curtis A. Banks, was nominated for the position of Grand Steward. Nomination was seconded by R.:I.: Stuart Card. After proper questioning, PMIGM Raymond declared the nominations closed, and Curtis A. Banks was declared elected to the position.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Grand Master asked if there was any unfinished business to be transacted. None being reported, the Grand Council began the process of the Private Installation of the Grand Master-elect. MIGM Raymond then symbolically retired, receiving private Grand Honors, and with a round of applause from the Companions.

INSTALLATION OF GRAND MASTER-ELECT:

The Grand Master-Elect, M.:I.: George Whitmer, was duly obligated and installed by M.:I.: David Raymond, Installing Officer, assisted by M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Installing Marshal.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Grand Master determined that there was no further business to be brought before the Grand Council at this time.

CLOSING THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The Grand Master closed the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly in due form. Benediction offered by R.:I.: and Reverend Jose Valencia.

PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

The Elected and Appointed officers of the Grand Council were installed in a Public Ceremony of Installation by M.:I.: David Raymond, Installing Officer, assisted by M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Installing Marshal, and R.:I.: and Reverend Charles Lee, Installing Chaplain.

THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER DEGREE:

The Degree of Thrice Illustrious Master was conferred by St. George Council, Order of Anointed Kings, on all Illustrious Masters-Elect in attendance.

GRAND COUNCIL BANQUET:

The Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, August 20, 2011. At that time further awards and recognitions were presented,

