

MINUTES OF THE 189TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The 189TH Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was held on Friday August 17th and Saturday August 18th, 2012 at the Dunkirk Clarion Hotel, Dunkirk 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 Dunkirk Council No. 25 on Friday August 17th at 7:30PM. The Most Illustrious George B. Whitmer, Grand Master, and the Officers of the Grand Council 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 189th 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 Grand Recorder then advised that all Councils were eligible to vote at this Assembly.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The Grand Master then appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of R.:I.: John Sundeen as Chairman, together with R.:I.: Leland Sperry, and R.:I.: Kenneth Kohlhagen.

The Grand Master appointed a Committee on the Grand Master's Address, consisting of M.:I.: David Raymond and M.:I.: Lester G. Weinheimer.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

A Motion that the minutes of the 188th Annual Assembly as distributed on the Proceedings CD be approved.

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 the 2012 Proceedings 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 18, 2012; that each officer be nominated individually; and that the nominating speeches be limited to three(3) minutes and seconding speeches be limited 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.

CONDITION AND EXTENSION OF THE RITE:

The report of the Committee on the Condition and Extension of the Rite was given by R.:I.: Richard Anderson.

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

The Grand Lecturer's Report was given by R.:I.: Curtis A. Banks

The following Assistant Grand Lecturers were recognized: R.:I.: Robert Bukowski, V.:I.: Steven P. Koch, V.:I.: H. David Strong, R.:I.: Mark Hatswell. They were each personally thanked by the Grand Master for their work in the past Cryptic Year.

REPORT ON THE WEB SITE:

His report on the Web Site was given by M.:I.: Charles Roberts, Webmaster.

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

The report was given by R.:I.: Richard Anderson.

RITUAL COMMITTEE:

The ritual Committee reports the following proposals:

No. 1 - p.47 – change to “and as an amended method of conferring the Master's Word”. The Committee recommends this be adopted. Moved, Seconded and Passed by the Companions present.

No. 2 – in the closing, change to “twenty-two from Gebal, Zabud, and our three Grand Masters.” The Committee does NOT recommend this change.

JURISPRUDENCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Chairman gave the following report:

The committee recommends approval the By-Laws changes of the following Councils; Central City No.13, Doric No. 19, Adoniram Council No. 36 and Cayuga No. 90.

A proposed addition to the General Regulation in section 14 (a) of a subpart to be 1.

1. Each Grand Line Officer will visit each Council in the district(s) assigned to him in order to receive any expense money appropriated for such in the budget.

REPORT OF THE GRAND FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT:

The report was given by R.:I.: James Keane.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TRUSTEES:

The report was given by M.:I.: Charles Roberts.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER:

The report was given by M.:I.: Donald Harrison.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

The report was read by M.:I.: Harrison.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The report was given by M.:I.: Donald Harrison.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:

The report was given by R.:I.: Richard Anderson.

CALL FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:

M.:I.: Whitmer 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 18th, 2012 for the admission of Distinguished Guests and ladies, followed by the Necrology Report, labor to resume in the Secret Vault following the Necrology.

VESPERS SERVICE:

The Vespers Service was conducted under the direction of R.:I.: and Reverend Charles Lee.

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED:

The Annual Assembly was reconvened at 8:45AM on Saturday August 18th, 2012.

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:

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

Maryland

Ohio

Pennsylvania

Province of Ontario

General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International

Additionally, the following Concordant Bodies were greeted:

Red Cross of Constantine

Grand Chapter R.A.M.

Grand Commandery KT

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, NMJ

Grand Line Officers, Grand Lodge State of New York

The Most Worshipful James Sullivan, Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York, was received under escort, invited to the East, and accorded Grand Honors.

NECROLOGY REPORT:

The Necrology Report was given under the direction of R.:I.: and Rev. Jose Valencia

LABOR RESUMED IN THE SECRET VAULT:

Following the Necrology, the ladies and non-Cryptic Masons were excused, and Labor resumed in the Secret Vault.

RECEPTION AND GREETING OF THE PAST MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS:

The Past Grand Masters were introduced, and personally thanked by M.:I.: Whitmer.

ISH-SODI AND AWARDS:

The report was given, and awards presented by R.:I.: Harley R. DeShane.

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES:

The Grand Representatives were presented in the East, and personally thanked by M.:I.: Whitmer.

RECOGNITION OF 2011-2012 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS:

The District Deputies were recognized and personally thanked by M.:I.: Whitmer.

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER:

The report was given by M.:I.: Pozefsky. Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.

REMARKS FROM VISITORS:

Remarks were received from M.:E.: Michael Dunn, Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter State of New York Royal Arch Masons.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:

M.:I.: Whitmer turned the gavel of authority over to the Deputy Grand Master, and gave his address. The Deputy Grand Master ordered the Address turned over to the Committee on the Grand Master's Address, then returned the gavel to the Grand Master.

GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY CORPORATION:

The Grand Master then declared it to be the hour for the Annual Meeting of the Charity Corporation. Report was made by M.:I.: Charles Roberts, President. Awards were then presented. The meeting was then closed.

ADDRESS OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER:

Most Worshipful James Sullivan honored us with his words.

LUNCHEON:

The Assembly was ordered at recess until 1:00PM for lunch.

RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The Annual Assembly was reconvened at 1:00PM

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

The report was given by M.:I.: Lester G. Weinheimer, who thanked M.:I.: Whitmer for his years of service to the Craft.

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE:

The time and place for the 190th Annual Assembly will be August 16-17, 2013, Clarion Hotel, Batavia NY.

CREDENTIALS:

The report of the Credentials Committee was given by R.:I.: John Sundeen:

There were 14 Illustrious Masters
 6 Deputy Masters
 4 Principal Conductors of the Work
 68 Past Illustrious Masters
 107 Select Masters
 35 Ladies

Additionally, 9 visitors and 3 lady visitors

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

All officers were "moved up" unchallenged, with the exception of Grand Recorder. Two Companions were nominated for that office, a ballot was taken, and M.:I.: Victor Versace was declared to be the new Grand Recorder. R.:I.: David Robling was elected to assume the chair of Grand Steward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

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

The tiled installation of M.:I.: Richard Anderson took place, after which the Annual Assembly was declared closed.

OPEN INSTALLATION OF ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS:

The open installation was then conducted.

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, with presentations to the Youth Groups invited to speak, together with the Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year award to R.:I.: John Sundeen, The General Grand Council Youth Leadership Award was presented to Mrs. Gretchen Tuttle, Deputy State Director of the Organization of Triangles. The General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year award will be presented to its recipient at a later date by M.:I.: Pozefsky.

Respectfully Submitted,

M.:I.: Joseph P. Pozefsky
Grand Recorder, 2009-2012