

# **General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International**

## **Benefits of Membership In General Grand Council**

What does General Grand Council do for my Council or Grand Council? This is a question that is sometimes not answered directly or properly. We will attempt to answer that question and clarify the many aspects of the accolades of General Grand Council. Everything that it does, has the individual Cryptic Mason in mind. It surely makes his membership more valuable by improving the status of all Cryptic masons anywhere in the world.

There are presently over 1,100 Councils in the continental United States, Europe, Central and South America, and in the Pacific Theatre, who are members of the General Grand Council. One important concept it lives by is; the Grand Council's would not permit the General Grand Council to exercise any authority over their Council's. This would be an infringement of their sovereign right to govern the Councils in their jurisdictions.

First and foremost, Freemasonry needs: cooperation, coordination, and unity on all levels. We do not believe there has ever been a time in our history when this meant so much as they do today! Although the tangible reasons may appear small, we believe collectively they mean a great deal.

We operate the General Grand Council on a Per Capita assessment of \$1.00 and \$1.50 for International Counties, which is small indeed when you look at the fees charged by other National and International Masonic Bodies. But the Per Capita enables us to do so many things. Look at what is being accomplished:

1. We support and maintain the Cryptic Room at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. It is a showcase of the Cryptic World for all to witness, including non-Masonic visitors. This is a worthwhile program to support. All of us gain notoriety and stature from our presence with other Masonic organizations of the world.
2. General Grand Council has an extensive Awards program:
  - a. Medal of Honor Award given to one outstanding individual per Triennial.
  - b. The Mordhurst Medal given to any Grand Recorder who has served fifteen years or longer.
  - c. A Columbian Medal given to an outstanding Companion in each of the ten

- (10) Regions, plus three (3) given at large per Triennial.
- d. An Adult Leadership Award, given one per jurisdiction per year.
  - e. The Cryptic Mason of the Year Award, given one each year, per jurisdiction, for an outstanding member.
  - f. A Lady of the Council Award, to recognize our ladies for their support and involvement in Cryptic Masonry.
  - g. The Most Illustrious Grand Masters Award, given each year to a retiring Grand Master of the Council. This includes a plaque, certificate, lapel pin and Permanent Membership Card in General Grand Council. Also, a Representative of General Grand Council is always in attendance at each Annual Assembly to assist in presenting the awards and make suitable remarks.
3. General Grand Council sponsors ten (10) Regional Conferences each year in conjunction with the other York Rite Bodies, so that the entire Rite may be presented for all to review. These conferences present interesting programs and appear to be growing in interest and enthusiasm. These Regional meetings have many advantages, both for the membership and for General Grand Council.
  4. The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation is one of the best charitable programs of nay Masonic Organization. Research into Vascular Biology and Medicine. This is an internationally recognized program at the Indiana University School of Medicine, working to combat a wide range of diseases. As of this date the Companions have donated and invested principal of over \$2.5 million dollars to assist Researches at the University of Indiana. Just a note, a special program in access of \$68,000. This program has many coin collectors requesting the specially designed coin. This has provided interest and enthusiasm from the Grand Councils.
  5. The Cryptic Freemason Magazine and future Web page. The magazine is published with timely Masonic information to members who subscribe. In its formative stage, is a new Web site that will provide an extensive educational program, Cryptic events and related material for all its members.
  6. The Awards presented by the General Grand Council takes a greater presence over that of a local award. It generates a good feeling to be recognized and receive the award from the International officer.
  7. The General Grand Council poses no threat to the Sovereignty of any Grand Council. We impose no requirements related to the: Constitution, By-laws, Ritual, Charity or other activities.
  8. General Grand Council promotes spreading Masonry globally; Membership in General Grand Council promotes the fraternal cause of spreading the light of Masonry worldwide. A stronger effort will cover North America and the International Masonic markets, which are not members of the General Grand Council. The world is growing smaller and we need to be a cohesive group, speaking one mind. Your membership contributes to the growth of the Cryptic Rite, and contributes to the growth of Freemasonry worldwide.
  9. We provide educational material, which is unique to the Cryptic Rite. We act as a "Center" in collecting outstanding publicized material that can't be obtained from other sources.
  10. A new Cryptic Library has been initiated for Cryptic Masons. It is housed at the General Grand Recorder's office.

11. A Life Membership Program. A pre-paid program so that the membership would not have to pay Per Capita to the General Grand Council in the future. It can be applied for individually or collectively by jurisdiction.

12. Additional Programs:

- a. "The Cryptic History", from 1931 to present. Eighty (80) years of history needs to be compiled and made available in the near future.
- b. The Historical Committee is in the formative stages on this project.
- c. The "Jeremy L. Cross" story. A Cryptic ProPh. et of the eighteenth century. This writing is in rough draft and should be available at the end of the year.
- d. To copyright all the Cryptic Degrees for preservation and protection, including the SEM.
- e. The General Grand Recorder Office is in constant progress to modernize; from electronic and manual filing, to creating new and vibrant Web material.
- f. Encourage leadership and administrative candidates for General Grand Council.
- g. Establish a sound Membership Program.
- h. Encourage jurisdictions to build a Cryptic Marker.
- i. Promote the love of Country and support patriotism.
- j. We are in the process of establishing a sound financial base.
- k. We are generating additional funds through outreach programs to assist in bring up dated educational material to the membership.

We hope this information helps to answer the question of "What are the Benefits of General Grand Council".

## **Basic Human Rights**

**(From a Self Assertive Training Course)**

I have the right to be the ultimate judge of all I am and all I do.

I have the right to refuse requests without having to feel guilty or selfish.

I have the right to offer no reason or excuses for justifying my behavior.

I have the right to feel and express anger.

I have the right to feel and express a healthy competitiveness and achievement drive.

I have the right to strive for self-actualization through whatever ethical channels my talents and interests find natural.

I have a right to use my judgment in deciding which needs are the most important to me to meet.

I have the right to change my mind.

I have the right to make mistakes... and be responsible for them.

I have the right to say, "I don't understand."

I have the right to have my opinion given the same respect and consideration that other people's opinions are given.

I have the right to say, "I don't know."

I have the right to be treated as a capable human adult and not to be patronized.

I have the right to be independent of the goodwill of others before coping with them.

I have the right to have my needs be as important as the needs of others.

I have the right to say, "I don't care."

I have the right to be illogical in making decisions.

I have the right to be independent.

I have the right to judge if I am responsible for finding solutions to other people's problems.

I have the right to know its time to quit. Amen.



*Refreshed with angel food we go,  
To serve thee in thy work below.  
Trusting, when Sabbath rest is given,  
To share thy richer joys in Heaven.*

*Then, bind our willing souls in one;  
Confirm the covenants here begun;  
Each day those vows more sacred be,  
Cemented in eternity.*