

# Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

*2001 - 2002 Advance Reports  
for the 179<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly*



August 16 - 17, 2002  
R.I.T. Inn & Conference Center  
Rochester, New York

Deputy Grand Master  
OFFICE OR COMMITTEE

*To the Grand Council*

This last year has been characterized by very close cooperation within the Grand Council and our Sister Concordant Bodies. The MI Grand Master E. William Whittaker together with myself & the Grand PCW, R.I.: Donald Harrison, have been in almost constant contact for consultation on the issues facing our Grand Council. The name for this activity is one you will be hearing a lot of in the ensuing years. It is "TEAMWORK" ! Plans and programs do not always get done on a Cryptic Year basis and we must all work together to make things happen over what ever time frame is necessary. A decision was made coming into this year to have this not just be a theory but a fact.

During the last Cryptic year I drove over 20,000 miles on Grand Council business. My Official Visits to all of the Councils of New York having been completed, I traveled where asked & needed in the NYS Cryptic Jurisdiction. I visited 10 Sister Jurisdictions for their annual assemblies, They include Connecticut, Delaware, Eastern Canada (in Newfoundland), Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. I missed Ontario ( it overlapped with Eastern Canada), New Hampshire and New Jersey. Attended the Northeast Regional Festival held in Massachusetts and the Tri-State Festival held in New Haven, Connecticut. Together with the MIGM I attended the Organization of Triangle biennial meeting in Lake George. I attended Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery as well as the receptions for the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of New York plus that of the Right Eminent Grand Commander. Multiple visits were made within my home District and to adjacent district events including at events at Councils in Athens and Montrose Pennsylvania. I participated in the TIM degree at St Georges #74, Grand Council workshops, installation of officers of constituent Councils, degree work in my own and other constituent Councils, and committees assignments. I accompanied the Most Puissant Grand Master of General Grand Council International, Charles Van Etten, to the annual assembly of the Grand Council of Italy, at which I was a diner guest at the Grand Orient of Italy and held meetings in Greece. In addition to my Council activities I have been active in; my Symbolic Lodge ( re -sitting as Senior Warden, now Trustee ), repeat Secretary in my Chapter plus chairing the Outdoor Mark Master Mason Degree at Lake Osco, the Recorder of my Council, Generalissimo in 2 different Commanderies, Prelate (and now Warder) of Crusade Priory KYCH, Southern Tier York Right College ( was just elected to receive the Order of The Purple Cross from the SYRC-NA at the annual meeting next year).

In my travels throughout the state I found positive interest and activity in the Cryptic Rite. I deeply appreciate the many courtesies extended to me by all the Councils on my visits to the Councils within our Grand Jurisdiction..

Respectfully submitted

*Reuben E. Long*

R.I.: Reuben E Long

Deputy Grand Master

Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

July 8, 2002

*To the Grand Council*

It has been one fine Cryptic year, here in the North East and also East Canada. Where, Jeanette and I traveled some 7,660 miles in our vehicles, (car, minivan and motorcycle).

Jeanette was able to make one of the visits this year to a sister jurisdiction, and she enjoyed it as much as I did. The trip was to Newfoundland.

We met R.:I.: Rex Long and his Lady Elvina in MA, near Boston, and traveled together in their minivan, to Newfoundland. The enjoyment of great country, spectacular views and good company, on this nine-day excursion, was beyond our expectations, the Long's acted as tour guides, and Rex, who by the way, did all the driving. THANK YOU AGAIN REX AND ELVINA.

Besides Canada East, for sister jurisdictions, I traveled to Delaware, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania (with R.:I.: Long), Maryland, Connecticut and attended the North East Regional at Worcester, MA 11-03-01; the Tri-State Convention held in New Haven, CT 03-16-02. Made two rededication's, Cayuga No. 90 at Trumansburg, 08-26-01; and Doric No. 19, at Rochester, 09-22-01.

Jeanette and I attended the Grand Commandery at Suffern; the Grand Commander's Reception at Amherst; the Grand Master M.:I.: E. William Whittaker's Reception at Waterloo; the Grand Chapter at Albany and the Grand High Priest Reception at Fort Lee, NJ.

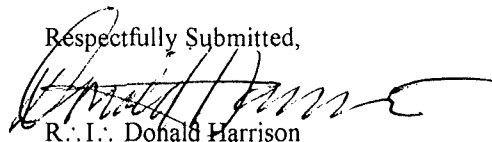
My district this past Cryptic year was the Second District, whose Deputy was R.:I.: Richard E. Suneson, and V.:I.: C.F. William Maurer, AGL, both Companions where visible and out on some of my visits. The Second District was a blessing for me as I was able to travel to each council and return the same night. On two or more of these visits I had the pleasure of R.:I.: Rafael Castro and I.: Robert P. Bukowski of Suffolk Council No. 76, travel with me.

Other companions who traveled the district and were seen at different events are R.:I.: Stephen Clark and I.: Richard Parks, of Goshen No. 93, R.:I.: Wayne Watkins and R.:I.: Paul DesAutels from King Solomon No. 31. If I missed anyone, please excuse me and THANK YOU for your continued support.

Once again being from the Long Island area and traveling the to different functions of the York Rite in New York, we have been guests at the Foglietti's, Joseph and Alice, as well as the Long's, Rex and Elvina in their fine Oasis, we thank you.

The visits and travels that I have made this year show me that the Cryptic Craft is doing well in spirit, but please keep in mind that we need to build up membership, I know you are trying so keep up the good work.

Respectfully Submitted,



R.:I.: Donald Harrison

Grand principal Conductor of the Work

## REPORT OF THE GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD

Companions:

It has been my pleasure to serve the Cryptic Masons of the State of New York for another year. My efforts have been focused on stimulating interest, activity and membership wherever my travels take me. My wife, Melissa, and I have been warmly received wherever our Masonic travels take us.

My term began last August when I received my travel orders directing me to visit the 5<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District, otherwise known as the "North Country". I was cautioned to avoid making plans for a visit during the *winter months*; therefore I arrived just ahead of the glaciers in October. A joint assembly was held with Cyrus and Northern Star Councils, and for good measure, our Grand Lecturer was there to hold a convention. A banquet was held at a very scenic area overlooking the water before we retired to the Secret Vault for the work of the evening. I learned from the companion present that in a few days they were scheduled to confer the Super Excellent Master Degree in Montreal. All is well in the "North Country".

Unfortunately, on the journey home, my wife discovered a Native American Casino that gave new meaning to the term *one-armed bandit*.

I was able to attend the Grand Commandery of NY in Suffern in September. My wife and I were at the Grand Chapter of NY on Thursday but unable to stay for the Annual Convocation.

During the year, I have faithfully attended Nundawaga Council, hopefully making positive contribution to its continuing success. I have been very active in Capitular Masonry, promoting and maintaining the source of ALL CRYPTIC MASONS.

Melissa and I were present at the Grand Council of Canada in the Province of Ontario, renewing old friendships and meeting new companions. The purpose of my attendance was to talk with the companions of ALL stations and titles and LEARN from their experiences. I listened as they identified strengths and weaknesses and what solutions they had found to address problems in their Cryptic Rite. I heard their complaints and their successes, what worked and what did not. I feel that my attendance at foreign jurisdictions may best serve the companions of New York, whom I was elected to serve, if I am able to return with ideas and plans to preserve and promote Cryptic Masonry.

At the St. John's Day festivities at the Masonic Home, I participated in the Annual Parade with members of the Grand Council. Several times enroute, the clouds saw fit to open up but fortunately, this year, Utica weather was cooperative.

It has been a busy year and those who have had occasion to interact with me can well attest to this. As an active worker in Masonry, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed what I have done and regret what I have left undone thus far.

Zealously,

R.:I.: Stephen A. Licht

**GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL'S REPORT**

Office or Committee

**June 10, 2002**

Date

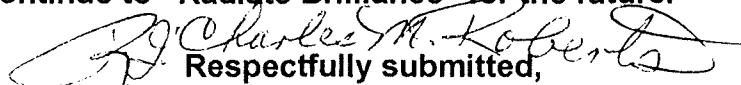
To the Grand Council:

Well another year has come and gone. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve this Grand Council. The Cryptic Districts assigned to me to visit this year were Districts 4 and 6. It has been a pleasure to have worked with R.: I.: Joseph P. Pozefsky, D.D.G.M. for the 4<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District and R.: I.: Burtiss V. Goodnough, D.D.G.M. for the 6<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District. I have found both Districts to be in very capable hands and that all Companions in each District have rallied to promote Cryptic Masonry in their respective areas. Councils in both Districts are actively preparing to better perform ritualistic work and making a concerted effort to increase membership. Many Companions in each District showed and expressed interest for their work and fellowship. I believe the Councils have attempted to fulfill the Grand Master's directives, hopes and aspirations of this past year. They all have worked to make an effort to support the Charity Corporation Campaign this year as well. I would like to personally express my sincere thanks to each Council for their generous hospitality to me.

I had the opportunity to be present at two Rededication Ceremonies this past year, that of Cayuga Council No. 90 commemorating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and my own home Council of Doric No. 19 in celebration of its 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Other visits that I made this year included being present at the Grand Council Assembly and its summer and fall workshops. I was unable to attend the spring workshop due to a conflict in the schedule. I had the opportunity, along with other Grand Council Officers, to attend Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery. I was able to be present at the Grand Reception for our own Grand Master M.: I.: E. William Whittaker and Grand Commander, R.: E.: Kenneth Perry, my schedule would not permit my attendance at the reception for M.: E.: Edmund Harrison's, Grand High Priest. I was part of the Grand Council Officers Team for the installation of Officers at Nundawaga Council No. 92 in May.

Well, this year I logged on my car, some 6,148 miles for the business of our Grand Council. It has been a fun-filled year, with many laughs and great friendships made or renewed. I thank you all for the memories and encourage you to continue to "Radiate Brilliance" for the future.



Respectfully submitted,

R.: I.: Charles M. Roberts

Grand Conductor of the Council

**Grand Marshal**

OFFICE or COMMITTEE

1 June 2002

DATE

*To the Grand Council:* I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Companions of the Grand Council for electing me to the Office of Grand Marshal at the 178<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly held in Fishkill, NY, in August 2001. It has been a great privilege to represent the Grand Council and you my Companions on my visitations throughout the State.

My area of visitation for this past year was the eighth cryptic district. I was able to visit all the Councils in the area except one. The Companions of the Councils greeted me warmly...invited me to dine with them and then we proceeded to have very enjoyable meetings. I would like to thank RI Daniel N. Evans, Sr., DDGM for assisting me in my visits and for being in attendance.

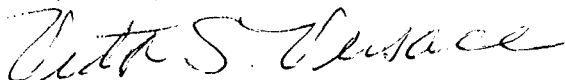
I would like to thank the Companions especially MI Douglas Swan, PGM for assisting me in having a three Council meeting of Bath, Corning and Hornesville this past October 2001. To Nun Da Waga Council for doing a very well done Royal Master Degree. To Doric Council for inviting me to their first ever Ladies Night Table Council {and you will like the food...the cook said}. I would also like to thank my fellow member of the Grand Line who came to my council visits and supported me.

In my capacity as Grand Marshal, I attended the Grand Conclave of Knights Templar in Suffern, NY in September 2001. I attended the MIGM E. William Whittaker's reception in Waterloo, NY in October 2001. I attended the Grand Chapter of RAM in Albany in March 2002. I attended Officer's Workshop in Waterloo, NY in October 2001 & Owego, NY in April 2002. I also attended King Solomon's Council #31 and Peekskill Council #55 to present Grand Representative Commissions to RI Z. Mavodones Grand Rep. to New Jersey and RI John Montross Grand Rep. to Florida respectively.

I would like to thank MI Paul B. Matthews, PGM and RI Paul C. Edwards for being my traveling companions during the past year.

It was an extreme pleasure for me to meet and greet the Companions throughout our State. I deeply appreciate the many courtesies and well wishes extended to me during my year as Grand Marshal.

Respectfully submitted,



R. I. Victor S. Versace,  
Grand Marshal

OFFICIAL  
COMMITTEE REPORT SHEET

Please send Original not  
copy to Grand Recorder

ALL COMMITTEES: Kindly submit Annual Reports using this form.  
Submit report in duplicate: Both copies officially signed by Chairman.  
Submit one copy to Grand Master and one copy to Grand Recorder.

## GRAND STANDARD BEARER

May 17, 2002

To the Grand Council:

First let me start out by apologizing for not having a report in Grand Council my year as Grand Steward. So I will give a very short one now. My year as Grand Steward I visited the 2<sup>nd</sup> Capitulator District and was greeted very warmly by all of the Council's as was my wife Alice. We also visited the State of Massachusetts and Maine. Massachusetts was an experience because we had a snow storm all the way there, but we made it OK and were received very warmly. We also attended the Grand Convocations of New York Royal Arch and Commandery.

The District Deputy from the 6<sup>th</sup> District R.'I.'. George Hunter accompanied me to the Tri-state Festival in Poughkeepsie, New York and witnessed some very fine Ritual.

For my year as Grand Standard Bearer my Wife and I started out by attending Grand Commandery and the Grand Commanders Reception. We also attended Grand Chapter and I find it a very humbling experience every time that I am received at a Grand Convocation as an Elected Member of our Great Grand Council.

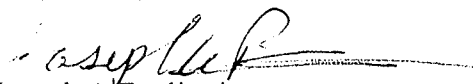
The First and Seventh District were the Districts that were my assignment to visit this year and I just completed that task on May 15, 2002. My visits to the 1<sup>st</sup> District was in conjunction with R.'I.'. Hilsenbeck the District Deputy in the District. I was received most graciously by all of the Council's in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. My wife and I would like to thank R.'I.'. Harrison and his lovely Wife Jeanette for there gracious hospitality for we stayed with them on two different occasions while we were in the First District. A little note when I went out on Long Island the only way to go is to Bridgeport Connecticut and ride the Ferry over> "It's just Great way to go"

In the Seventh District the Council's in that District did Table Council's with the Ladies present and each one was different and interesting and I believe more Council's should do the table Council with the Ladies or at least include the Ladies as much as possible. They are a very important part of our involvement in the Masonic Fraternity. We need their continued SUPPORT.

I traveled to Worcester, Massachusetts for the North East Festival and once again R.'I.'. Hunter traveled with me and I would like to thank him at this time. My wife and I also went to Rhode Island this year for their Grand Convocation.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my Wife Alice for all of her support in the past two years for without it I would not be able to accomplish all that I have and have yet to do.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Joseph A Foglietti  
Grand Standard Bearer



# Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

R. I. Joseph S. Caruso Grand Steward  
1014 Ovington Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11219-6024  
Phone: (718) 491-1301  
E-Mail agds647@aol.com

## Grand Steward's Report

Dear Grand Master,

This is my report on the Grand Steward's Concert Tour, which encompassed the 9<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District for 2001-2002.

The very first council I'd ever visit was Dunkirk #25 (a joint visitation with Salamanca #82) in October '01. And what a treat they had installed for me! Not only did they performed the Royal Master's degree upon 12 candidates (10 from Dunkirk #25 and 2 from Temple #79), but the Most Puissant Charles Van Ettan, Grand Master of General Grand Council, R. W.: Reinhold Nelson, Grand Senior Warden of Grand Lodge, Sir Knight Lawrence Hood, Grand Rep to Ohio of NY Grand Commandery, R. I.: Keith Dasher, DDGM of 9<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District, and R. I.: David Barwell, Grand Lecturer, were all in attendance. In all 40 companions were present! WOW! All these dignitaries and a degree on my very first visit! Then the DD busted my bubble by informing me that this is the MP Charles Van Ettan Class. D'UH!

The very next night I visited Bruce Council #15. I liked to thank them for their very generous donation to the Grand Council Charities Fund. I'm pretty sure even the Grand Treasurer smiled after seeing that check!

My next round of visitations was supposed to be in March '02, but my recently purchased Pre-Owned Certified Dodge Neon had its own agenda. After 2 (TWO) trips to the Service Department the problem was rectified and I had to rescheduled my visits until April '02.

Then I got to visit Temple #79 which became Niagara Chapter #209, RAM. I'd also had the honor to be present when MP Charles Van Ettan presented Hamburg #91 an award, from General Grand Council, for its contributions to General Grand Council Charities. The tour ended with my visit to Buffalo-Keystone #17.

During the year I was able to attend one Rededication (Doric #19) and attended Grand Commandery as a Grand Line Officer.

I like to thank the 9<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District for their hospitality, the dinners (I gained 20 lbs. – thanks guys!) and their enthusiastic purchases of the Grand Council Lapel Pins.

Also, special thanks to R. I.: David Barwell who acted as my assistant (aka chauffeur) and got me to the various Councils on time.

The 9<sup>th</sup> District was fortunate to have R. I.: Keith Dasher as their DD. He showed a lot of compassion in his office and has a lot of ideas to help improve Cryptic Masonry. He'll do just as a great job as GM1st Veil in Grand Chapter.

Even though this was my very first year in Grand Council and I had a wonderful time I need to put an asterisk (\*) next to it because of 9/11. We all have our stories about this terrorist attack. For me, as most of the companions know, my passion is doing standup comedy. After that day I just didn't want to perform at all because 'I just didn't feel funny.' After months of reflecting I'm happy to say I'm performing again – I feel funny again!

RI Joe Caruso

*Joe Caruso*



OPERATING FUND

BALANCE August 1, 2001

15,574.24

INCOME

R-1 Dues	16,710.00	
R-2 Fees	490.00	
R-3 Permanent Fund	5,050.00	
R-4 Miscellaneous	0	22,250.00
		<hr/>
		37,824.24

DISBURSEMENTS

A-1 Annual Assembly	3,255.00	
A-2 Annual Proceedings	1,551.60	
B-1 Grand Master's Expense	3,200.00	
B-2 Grand Master's Apron & Jewel	322.50	
B-3 Triennial Fund	100.00	
C-1 Grand Recorder's Salary	1,900.00	
C-2 Grand Treasurer's Salary	1,000.00	
C-3 Office Expense	4,000.00	
C-4 Taxes	397.80	
C-5 Supplies	359.05	
C-6 Printing	44.20	
C-7 Postage	537.73	
C-8 Telephone	516.38	
C-9 Equipment Purchase & Repair	200.00	
C-10 Mileage & Travel	813.26	
C-11 Insurance & Bonding	214.82	
D-1 Grand Lecturer's Expense	0	
D-2 Grand Officers' Expense	1,200.00	
E-1 General Grand Council Per Capita	643.90	
E-2 Regalia	300.00	
E-3 Finance Committee	300.00	
E-4 History Fund	50.00	
E-5 Miscellaneous	0	20,906.24
		<hr/>

BALANCE July 31, 2002

16,918.00

  
Raymond R. Beardsley  
Grand Treasurer

ESCROW ACCOUNTS

S-1 Rituals-Constitutions-Guides-Ish Sodi-Silver Trowel Fund  
 S-2 Regalia Fund  
 S-3 Triennial Fund  
 S-4 Equipment Purchase & Repair Fund  
 S-5 History Fund

	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5	TOTAL
BALANCE August 1, 2001	4,604.89	777.58	1,230.51	1,026.48	1,216.59	8,856.05
Income	515.00	300.00	100.00	200.00	50.00	1,165.00
Interest	88.51	16.20	24.09	21.74	23.11	173.65
	5,208.40	1,093.78	1,354.60	1,248.22	1,289.70	10,194.70
Disbursements	-	309.75	-	-	-	309.75
BALANCE July 31, 2002	5,208.40	784.03	1,354.60	1,248.22	1,289.70	9,884.95

*Raymond R. Beardsley*  
 Raymond R. Beardsley  
 Grand Treasurer

GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS  
STATE OF NEW YORK

To the Grand Council:

August 16, 2002

The Grand Trustees submit the following report of the Permanent Fund, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution

PERMANANT FUND AS OF AUGUST 1, 2001

Balance August 1, 2001		78,525.96
INCOME:		
Corporate Bonds	3,082.88	
Putnam Fund	4,779.40	
Savings Account	27.67	
American Fund	615.29	
Capital Gains/(Losses)	(12,125.56)	( 3,620.32)
		74,905.64
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Operating Fund	5,050.00	
Grand Master's Pictures	2,400.00	
Fund Management	500.00	
Fund expenses	114.72	
Travel	61.75	
Taxes	28.30	
Miscellaneous	13.07	8,167.84
BALANCE August 1, 2002		66,737.80*

* Mutual Fund	46,403.69**
Corporate Bonds	18,737.50***
Savings Account	<u>1,596.61</u>
	66,737.80

\*\* Mutual Funds:

Putnam High Yield Advantage Fund	40,791.38
American Hugh Interest Trust Fund	<u>5,612.31</u>
	46,403.69

<u>***Corporate Bonds</u>	<u>Dividend #</u>	<u>Par Value</u>	<u>Original Cost</u>	<u>Current Market</u>
Bethlehem Steel	8.450(8.224)	2,000.00	2,055.00	2,000.00
Borden	8.375(8.679)	5,000.00	4,825.00	3,512.50
Kaiser Aluminum	9.875(9.777)	5,000.00	5,050.00	3,550.00
RJR Nabisco	9.250(8.675)	5,000.00	5,331.25	5,175.00
Waste Management	8.750(8.838)	5,000.00	4,950.00	4,500.00
		22,000.00	22,211.25	18,737.50

# % in ( ) is dividend rate based on Original cost

The overall income received from the Grand Council Permanent Fund averages out to a dividend return of 11.71% for the 2001-2002 Cryptic year.

M. I. Oliver D. Mereness  
M. I. Richard C. Hadley  
M. I. Wayne E. Carrington, Sr.

GRAND COUNCIL OPERATING BUDGET 2002-2003

<u>INCOME</u>	BUDGET 01-02	ACTUAL 01-02	BUDGET 02-03
R-1 Dues	18,750	16,170 ✓	18,750
R-2 Fees	300	490 ✓	350
R-3 Permanent Fund	5,050	5,050 -	5,000
R-4 Miscellaneous	100	0 ✓	100
	<u>24,200</u>	<u>22,250 ✓</u>	<u>24,200</u>
 <u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
A-1 Annual Assembly	3,750	3,255 ✓	3,600
A-2 Annual Proceedings	1,500	1,552 ✓	1,500
B-1 Grand Master's Expense	3,200	3,200 -	3,200
B-2 Grand Master's Apron & Jewel	750	323 ✓	750
B-3 General Grand Triennial Fund	100	100 -	200
C-1 Grand Recorder's Salary	1,900	1,900 -	1,900
C-2 Grand Treasurer's Salary	1,000	1,000 -	1,000
C-3 Office Expense	4,000	4,000 -	4,000
C-4 Taxes	425	398 ✓	425
C-5 Supplies	600	359 ✓	600
C-6 Printing	200	44 ✓	200
C-7 Postage	1,000	538 ✓	1,000
C-8 Telephone	600	516 ✓	600
C-9 Equipment Purchase & Repair	200	200 -	200
C-10 Mileage & Travel	1,000	813 ✓	1,000
C-11 Insurance & Bonding	125	215 ✓	225
D-1 Grand Lecturer's Expense	1,000	0 ✓	1,000
D-2 Grand Officers' Expense	1,400	1,200 ✓	1,400
E-1 General Grand Council Per Capita	650	644 ✓	625
E-2 Regalia	300	300 -	300
E-3 Finance Committee	300	300 -	300
E-4 History Fund	50	50 -	50
E-5 Miscellaneous	150	0 ✓	125
	<u>24,200</u>	<u>20,907</u>	<u>24,200</u>
TOTALS	24,200	20,907	24,200

To the Grand Council:

The Committee on Finance & Accounts has held its required meeting to complete the Budget and review the accounts. We find that all is in order.

Respectively submitted,

*Hugh R Price*  
 R.'I.'.Hugh R. Price, Chairman  
 M.'I.'.Raymond R. Beardsley  
 R.'I.'.Donald Harrison  
 R.'I.'.Reuben E. Long  
 M.'I.'.John P. Nosal

# FINANCIAL REPORT OF CHARITY FUND

## PERMANENT FUNDS

Balance August 1, 2001		293,503.50
Income: Contributions	2,338.50	
Sponser-Patron-Grand Master Levels	9,695.10	
Bequests	0	12,033.60
Capital Gains/(Losses)		( 22,020.49)
Balance July 1, 2002		283,516.61

## INVESTMENTS

Corporate Bonds	Dividend(%)*	Par Value	Original Cost	Current Market
Aetna Insurance	7.875( 7.702)	5,000.00	5,112.50	5,150.00
American Tel. & Tel..	8.350( 7.896)	5,000.00	5,287.60	4,100.00
Bethlehem Steel	8.450( 9.657)	5,000.00	4,375.00	5,000.00
Borden Corp.	8.375( 8.827)	5,000.00	4,743.75	3,512.50
City Corp.	8.015( 7.433)	5,000.00	5,391.55	5,195.00
McDonnell-Douglas	9.750(10.169)	5,000.00	4,793.75	6,400.00
Public Service Elec. & Gas	8.000( 9.040)	5,000.00	4,425.00	5,200.00
Time Warner	9.750( 9.242)	5,000.00	5,275.00	5,000.00
Weirton Steel	11.375(12.415)	5,000.00	4,581.25	5,000.00
		45,000.00	43,985.40	44,557.50

Per cent in ( ) is the dividend rate based on original cost.

Mutual Resorts				
AARP Scudder Fund	4.56	90,000.00	90,000.00	90,685.60
American Fund	10.64	60,000.00	60,000.00	41,041.27
Oppenheimer Fund	9.32	50,000.00	50,000.00	37,221.87
Putnam Fund	9.83	100,000.00	100,000.00	55,447.80
		300,000.00	300,000.00	224,396.54

Savings Funds				
Charter One Bank	4.00	14,562.57	14,562.57	14,562.57

TOTAL PERMANENT FUNDS		359,257.57	358,282.97	283,516.61
-----------------------	--	------------	------------	------------

FINANCIAL REPORT OF CHARITY FUND

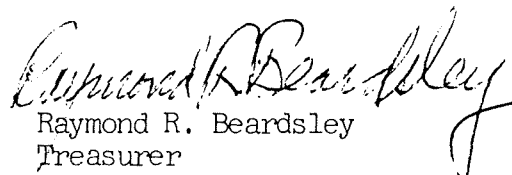
AVAILABLE FUNDS

Balance August 1, 2001		1,780.30
Income: Mutual Funds	17,616.62	
Corporate Bonds	3,678.19	
Savings Fund	373.53	
Miscellaneous	45.70	
		<u>21,714.04</u>
		23,494.34
Disbursements		
<u>Bequests</u>		
Parkinson's Disease Foundation		9,500.00
<u>Expenses</u>		
Fund Management	7,485.12	
Trustee's Expenses	2,859.68	
Office Expense	1,500.00	
Investment Expenses	765.00	
Taxes	429.16	
Copier Maint. & Warranty	258.99	
Telephone	221.43	
Postage	143.33	
Insurance & Bonding	114.82	
Supplies	62.58	
Miscellaneous	1.00	
		<u>13,841.11</u>
		23,341.11
Balance July 31, 2002		153.23

TOTAL FUNDS

Permanent Funds	283,516.61
Available Funds	<u>153.23</u>
	283,669.84

Although the overall loss in Permanent Fund assets dropped by 3.40%, the total income received from the Charity Permanent Funds averages out to a dividend of 7.53% for the 2001-2002 Cryptic Year.

  
Raymond R. Beardsley  
Treasurer

CHARITY FUND CONTRIBUTIONS  
2001-2002

---

<u>COUNCIL &amp; NO.</u>	<u>GIFT LEVEL</u>	<u>S-P-GM LEVELS*</u>	<u>COUNCIL TOTALS</u>
Columbian-1	60.00	50.00	110.00
Phoeniz-2	40.00		40.00
Adelphic-7	118.00		118.00
Rotica-12	55.00	550.00	605.00
Central City-13	40.00	117.00	157.00
Bloss-14			
Bruce-15			
Southern Tier-16	10.00		10.00
Buffalo-Keystone-17			
King Hiram-18	10.00		10.00
Doric-19	200.00	1,582.10	1,782.10
DeWitt Clinton-22		150.00	150.00
Dunkirk-25	96.50		96.50
Palmyra-26			
Ahwaga-30	160.00	175.00	335.00
King Solomon-31	103.00		103.00
Northern Star-34	40.00		40.00
Hornellsville-35	10.00	250.00	260.00
Adoniram-36			
Joseph Warren-Cryptic-37			
Bath-40	15.00		15.00
Fulton-50		71.00	71.00
Corning-53	10.00		10.00
Peekskill-55	135.00	400.00	535.00
Hudson-62		100.00	100.00
St. George's-74	160.00	5,100.00	5,260.00
SkoI Yase-75	20.00	150.00	170.00
Suffolk-76	105.00	120.00	225.00
Catskill-78	50.00	50.00	100.00
Temple-79	76.00	50.00	126.00
Flatbush-80	25.00		25.00
Salamanca-82	140.00		140.00
LaFayette-86	5.00	100.00	105.00
Oneonta-87	100.00	250.00	350.00
North Shore-88	110.00	50.00	160.00
Cyrus-89	20.00		20.00
Cayuga-90	35.00	50.00	85.00
Hamburg-91		60.00	60.00
NunDaWaGa-92	126.00	320.00	446.00
Goshen-93	50.00		50.00
King David-97	86.00		86.00
Vesper Service	143.00		143.00
TOTALS	2,353.50	9,745.10	12,098.60

Gift Level - Up to \$50.00  
 \*Sponser Level - \$50.01 - 100.00  
 Patron Level - \$100.01 - 499.99  
 Grand Master Level - \$500.00 & over

SPONSER-PATRON-GRAND MASTER LEVELS  
1966 TO 2002

---

<u>COUNCIL &amp; NO.</u>	<u>1966-2001</u>	<u>2002-2002</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Columbian-1	40	1	41
Phoenix-2	38	0	38
Adelphic-7	26	0	26
Rotica-12	115	11	126
Central City-13	58	2	60
Bloss-14	8	0	8
Bruce-15	5	0	5
Southern Tier-16	3	0	3
Buffalo-Keystone-17	11	0	11
King Hiram-18	2	0	2
Doric-19	151	11	162
DeWitt Clinton-22	38	2	40
Dunkirk-25	8	0	8
Palmyra-26	4	0	4
Ahwaga-30	50	3	53
King Solomon-31	58	0	58
Northern Star-34	3	0	3
Hornellsville-35	3	2	5
Adoniram-36	82	0	82
Joseph Warren-Cryptic-37	17	0	17
Bath-40	4	0	4
Fulton-50	18	1	19
Corning-53	11	0	11
Peekskill-55	40	8	48
Hudson-62	9	1	10
St. George's-74	54	3	57
Skoi Yase-75	36	1	37
Suffolk-76	41	2	43
Catskill-78	14	1	15
Temple-79	1	1	2
Flatbush-80	30	0	30
Salamanca-82	6	0	6
LaFayette-86	9	1	10
Oneonta-87	85	4	89
North Shore-88	45	1	46
Cyrus-89	1	0	1
Cayuga-90	6	1	7
Hamburg-91	8	1	9
NunDaWaGa-92	23	5	28
Goshen-93	4	0	4
King David-97	1	0	1
Other	56	0	56
TOTALS	1,222	63	1,285

Sponser Level - Up to \$50.00  
Patron Level - \$50.01-100.00  
Grand Master Level - \$500.00 & over



# REPORT of the GRAND RECORDER

August 12, 2002

*To the Grand Council:*

During this past year the change to a computerized office is about 75 per cent complete. This has taken much longer than I hope. However, with the conversion going much better and with the help of the Grand Line Officers the coming year will be much better. I am sure we can complete and mail the 179<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly Proceedings before the first of the year. Who knows they might even be a Christmas present.

The report of business in the Grand Recorder's Office for the Cryptic Year ending July 31, 2002 is as follows:

## GENERAL ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

BALANCE - August 1, 2001 .....	\$ 15, 574.24
RECEIVED in DUES: .....	\$ 16, 710.00
RECEIVED in FEES: .....	\$ 490.00
RECEIVED from the PERMANENT FUND .....	\$ 5, 050.00
MISCELLANEOUS: .....	\$ - 0 -
TOTAL INCOME: .....	\$ 37, 824.24

## ESCROW ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

BALANCE - August 1, 2001: .....	\$ 8, 856.05
INCOME: .....	\$ 1, 165.00
INTEREST: .....	\$ 173.65
TOTAL INCOME: .....	\$ 10, 194.70
DISBURSEMENTS: .....	\$ 309.75
BALANCE - July 31, 2002 .....	\$ 8, 856.05

The Report package was available at the Registration Desk. Once again I must ask those who know that they must submit a report prior to the Annual Assembly to have that report to the Grand Recorder's Office no later than July 15, 2003. With the cost increase of mail I hope that a reminder will not be necessary. You may even E - Mail your report.

Once again our numbers have declined. The number of demits and suspensions have increased from last year. The deaths reported was 39. However, I must request the recorders to send me a notice just as soon as you hear. Once again an E - Mail with the information will be the best way. This year I am asking the Recorders to include the birthday of any Companion who has past away. This year the Most Illustrious Grand Master received more than 50 cards with wrong addresses or no forwarding address. He also received a letter from a daughter of a deceased Companion from over two years ago and the letter stated that her mother was very upset receiving a birthday card.

## MEMBERSHIP RECORDS for the CRYPTIC YEAR 2001-2002

Membership July 31, 2001: ..... 1802

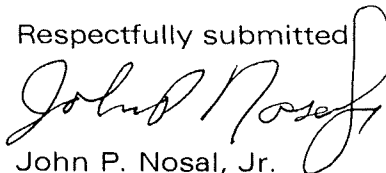
Greeted: .....	45	Loss by Death: .....	39
Affiliated: .....	7	Loss by Demit: .....	19
Restored: .....	3	Loss by Council Suspension: .....	38
		Loss by other Suspension: .....	3
Total Gains:	55	Total Losses: .....	99

GRAND RECORDER'S REPORT for the CRYPTIC YEAR 2001 - 2002 (continued)

Net Loss for 2001 - 2002 Cryptic Year - 44    Membership July 31, 2002 ..... 1758

There are 3 delinquent Councils as of the time of this report. One of those is Corning who has voted to merge with Bath Council No. 40 and will be still known as Bath Council No. 40. An other Council who did send in their returns with a note stating that they will be holding a meeting in September to turn in their Charter. Salamanca Council No. 82 has stated that they can not meet and that the Chapter and Commandery has the same problem. I hope this is not what we have to look forward too. Companions Cryptic Masonry in New York State is up to you.

Respectfully submitted



John P. Nosal, Jr.  
Grand Recorder

GRAND COUNCIL  
CRYPTIC MASONS  
of the State of New York

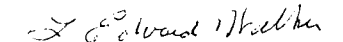
Finance and Accounts - Audits Committee

7 August 2002


To the Grand Council:

The Committee on Audits has reviewed the accounts and records kept by the Grand Treasurer, M.:I.: Raymond R. Beardsley. We have found them to be in good order and declare them approved.

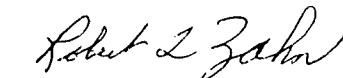
Respectfully submitted,



R.:I.: L. Edward Walker



R.:I.: David W. Taber



I.: Robert L. Zahn

## ISH SODI & AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

August 9, 2002

All records, award endorsements and the announcement outlining the awards program continue to be available via electronic as well as by U.S. mail. Each constituent Council once again has received a printed copy of the Grand Council's Award Program for their reference and use. Please retain this document. Additionally, this is available by email from [slicht@2ki.net](mailto:slicht@2ki.net), and from our Grand Recorder in print form. The various award criteria will be made available through our web site.

Council recognition awards are presented in three areas: membership gain, best attendance at Grand Council and support of the Grand Council Charity Fund.

Individual Companions are recognized with by the General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year Award and the General Grand Council Adult Leadership Award. The Grand Council of NY also presents a Cryptic Mason of the Year Award. The criteria for all awards has been provided to each Council.

Individual companions are recognized for their efforts in securing the petitions of new companions by the Ish Sodi Award, recommending five petitioners who receive their Cryptic degrees within twelve months. The Meritorious Ish Sodi Award is presented to a companion presenting the petitions of 25 new companions with no time limit. Recommendations for changes to the Ish Sodi and Meritorious Ish Sodi Awards have been proposed to the Grand Master.

In the preceding, year the committee has received two applications for the Ish Sodi Award :

**I ∴ John Siggins of Dunkirk #25 and Comp. Curtis Alan Banks of Columbian #1**

No application for the Meritorious Ish Sodi Award was received.

The Award for Most Greetings in the Cryptic Year is presented jointly to

**Columbian Council #1 and St. George's #74** , both greeted 8 new Companions.

Greeting 5 or More Companions if the Cryptic Year-

**Columbian #1 (8), St. George's #74 (8), Dunkirk #25 (7) , North Shore #88 (5)**

Membership increase of 10% or more in the Cryptic Year: 3 councils showed a net gain,

**Columbian #1, Dunkirk #25 and St. George's #74** but did not achieve a 10 increase.

Best Attendance at the Annual Assembly , other than the host Council -

---

## SUPPORT OF THE GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY FUND

Greatest dollar amount contributed in the Cryptic Year - **St. George's #74** ,(\$5,260), thus qualifying them as the recipient of the Kreason Memorial Bible for the ensuing year..

Average contribution per companion of \$5.00 or more - **Rotica #12, Doric #19, Ahwaga #30, Hornellsville #35,**

**Peekskill #55, Hudson #62, St. George's #74, Catskill #78, Temple #79, Salamanca #82, and Nundawaga #92**

**SIX COUNCILS** neglected to make **ANY CONTRIBUTION** to the Charity Fund in the past Cryptic Year (July 1 – June 30) !

***Bloss #14, Bruce # 15, Palmyra #26, Buffalo-Keystone #17,***

***Adoniram #36, Joseph Warren-Cryptic #37***

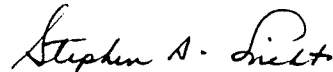
Upon learning of several councils making NO Contribution, I made contact with them and their DDGMs to encourage participation. Two councils had appropriated funds and neglected to forward them to the Grand Treasurer. I was assured a third Council was making a donation at the Annual Assembly. All of which will be credited towards the following Cryptic Year. Support of the Charity Foundation is an integral part of every Grand Line Officer's speech and every District Deputy's message from the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

At the Saturday evening banquet, the Most Illustrious Grand Master presented the Cryptic Mason of the Year Award to \_\_\_\_\_.

The General Grand Council International Cryptic Mason of the Year Award was presented to \_\_\_\_\_.

The Adult Leadership Award was presented to \_\_\_\_\_.

Zealously,



R .A. I .: Stephen A. Licht, Chairman, for

M .A. I .: John P. Nosal

M .A. I .: Raymond Beardsley

R .A. I .: Joseph Foglietti

## MASONIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Office or Committee

June 10, 2002

Date

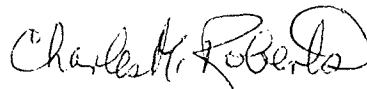
To the Grand Council:

The Masonic Education Committee of Grand Council continued to work diligently in resourcing the Cryptic Rite in New York State this past year. We continued to seek out good and worthy resources to be used by the companions. We encourage all companions to seek out the known resources that are at the Robert R. Livingston Library. The Library has a list for Cryptic Rite reading. The Committee would also recommend that the companions receive if they do not already, The Cryptic Freemason, a quarterly publication of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International. The Editor is Larry Offenbecker, 621 W. Park Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007, email: larryo@smig.net. A Subscription can be made with the General Grand Recorder Ronald E. Fullerlove. This publication is a very good instrument to enrich your understanding on Masonry in general and the Cryptic Rite in particular.

The Masonic Education Committee applauds MI Raymond R. Beardsley, Past Grand Master and Grand Treasurer of this Grand Council for updating the Ceremony of Installation of Council Officers this past year and commends its use to all Councils. Just request a copy of this from our Grand Recorder.

The Masonic Education Committee is in the process of adding to our website a Masonic Education home button, we are in hopes that this will be up and running by the time Grand Council is in session. We encourage companions to visit our website in the future to review the educational articles that will be posted there periodically. The Committee wishes to inform the Grand Council that MI Paul B. Matthews, a member of this committee has prepared and submitted to the Grand Council Officers a first draft of the new fervency and zeal program for our Grand Council. It is our hope that the Grand Council can implement this as soon as possible upon review. Well done MI Matthews, we appreciate your efforts and Masonic insight.

If any companion of this Grand Council needs assistance in educational materials or programs please be in contact with your committee. This concludes our report for the 2001-2002 Cryptic Year.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Charles M. Roberts, Chairman  
Paul B. Matthews  
Jay Kosseff  
Jerry F. Tryon  
Keith E. Dash

## REPORT OF THE WEB SITE COMMITTEE

Companions:

This marks the second year of the Grand Council of NY operating a web site for the Cryptic Masonic Community. Our sincere appreciation is extended to the companion behind the scenes of the web site, Paul McCullough. A computer professional, employed by the government, he brings to us vast knowledge base that is constantly being expanded upon. We have had over 4,500 visitors to the site that he designed since March, 2001.

Our web site may well be the only Masonic Site where documents may be downloaded to facilitate reservations or receive the Schedule of events for the Annual Convocation. By using the web site, you may contact the members of the Grand Line and nearly every council in New York. Questions may be sent to the Grand Lecturer, inquiries made of the Grand Recorder and the possibilities are limitless for the uses of the Cryptic Web Site.

There is a down side to all of this wonderful ability, and a solution is available. Any web site is only as good as the information it presents. To maintain a useful and interesting site, we need INPUT from the companions and Councils. Your upcoming events will be posted, DDGM visits, dates of degrees, table councils and other special events will be given immediate posting that the companions may know what is going on in the NY Cryptic World. It all reverts back to the old lecture we have all heard about Masons NOT COMMUNICATING – here is an opportunity to help eliminate that time-worn criticism.

All that we ask is that you forward the information to [slicht@2ki.net](mailto:slicht@2ki.net). All info will be reviewed and posted, generally on a Sunday evening. Outdated events are deleted the last day of each month. Email address changes are also very important to keep us updated on. Our primary contact with the Council is the recorder and in the event he is not online, the Illustrious Master, or other willing companion. These companions have agreed to accept emails on behalf of their Councils and communicate the information to their respective Councils. **Please keep your email addresses current!** Personal addresses and phone numbers will NOT be on the web site, as a matter of privacy.

We are more than happy to post digital photos taken at your events with short captions to share with others. Plans are being made to expand the site with listings of the Grand Representatives, adding links of Cryptic interest.

It is imperative that those wishing to utilize the forms and documents on the site realize that Adobe Acrobat is required to open and print from these links. We write in MS Word format. Acrobat is easily obtained and installed via the link icon on our site. All postings are tested from at least two sites to verify accessibility.

The web site committee earnestly solicits input from the companions; what do you want the site to be and present? What features do you want to have available? This was not intended to be the product of a small group, but to represent the interests and needs of the entire jurisdiction of NY.

Zealously,

R.:I.: Stephen A. Licht, Chmn.  
Comp. Paul E. McCullough

**Visit <http://www2.2ki.net/slicht>**

BY-LAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

OFFICE or COMMITTEE

19 July 2002

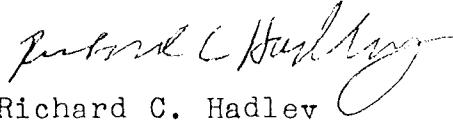
DATE

*To the Grand Council:*

This past Croptio year I have reviewed By-Laws changes for the following Councils:

DeWitt Clinton Council # 22 (Assembly night change, dues change and  
minor changes to conform with the General Regulations)  
Fulton Council # 50 (Assemblies location change)  
Cavuga Council # 90 (Assemblies location change)

Respectfully submitted



Richard C. Hadley  
By-Laws Review and  
Jurisprudence Committees

Ritual Committee

OFFICE OR COMMITTEE

*To the Grand Council*

Various house keeping changes have been discussed by the Ritual Commiitee and agreed upon . These do not change the Ritual and will be incorporated in the next printing of the Ritual.

Respectfully submitted



R.: I.: Reuben E Long  
Deputy Grand Master  
Ritual Committee Chairman

**APPOINTMENTS BY MIGM REUBEN E LONG  
2002-2003 CRYPTIC YEAR**

<b>* Douglas W Holbrook</b>	<b>Grand Sentinel</b>
<b>* Rev Robert J Cave</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain</b>
<b>* Rev Walter A Collins</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain</b>
<b>* Rev Allen C Lang</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain</b>
<b>* Rev Charles H Lee</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain</b>
<b>* Rev Don C Markham</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain</b>
<b>* Rev Herbert M Groce Jr</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain Emeritus</b>
<b>* Rev Edwin C Schumacher</b>	<b>Grand Chaplain Emeritus</b>
<b>* David P Barwell</b>	<b>Grand Lecturer</b>
<b>* William Vassily</b>	<b>Grand Lecturer Emeritus</b>
<b>*Paul C Edwards</b>	<b>Grand Historian</b>
<b>*William L Bowne</b>	<b>Grand Historian Emeritus</b>
<b>* Jack Ovitt</b>	<b>Grand Musician</b>
<b>* Francis Wilcox</b>	<b>Grand Musician</b>
<b>** Paul B Matthews</b>	<b>Grand Fraternal Correspondent</b>



## **District Deputies**

<b>District Deputy 1<sup>st</sup> Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Walter J Hilsenbeck 32 New York Ave Massapequa, NY 11758-4818</b>
<b>District Deputy 2nd Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Richard G Parks P. O. Box 676 Central Valley, NY 10917-0676</b>
<b>District Deputy 4th Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Douglas R Hull 130 Old Siek Road Troy, NY 12180-9782</b>
<b>District Deputy 5th Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Anthony J Calderisi 1657 Rue de L'Eglise Le Moyne, Quebec J4P 2C7</b>
<b>District Deputy 6th Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Burtiss V Goodnough 206 Greene Point Road Mannsville, NY 13661-9606</b>
<b>District Deputy 7th Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Theodore G Pierce Jr 426 Hickory Grove Rd Horseheads, NY 14845-1247</b>
<b>District Deputy 8th Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Cyril R White 1201 Johnson Road Palmyra, NY 14522-9761</b>
<b>District Deputy 9th Cryptic District</b>	<b>*Raymond G Barber 4846 Michigan Road Arcade, NY 14009-9787</b>

## **Assistant Grand Lecturers**

**AGL 1<sup>st</sup> Cryptic District**

**VI Houston S Powell  
31 Gianelli Ave  
Merrick, Ny 11566-2932**

**AGL 5<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District**

**VI R Stuart McConkey  
603 Fifth St East  
Cornwall. Ontario K6H 2M6**

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Ritual**

- \*\* E William Whittaker - Chairman**
- \* Stephen Licht**
- \* Rafael Castro**
- \* Keith Dash**
- \* George R Hunter**
- \* David Barwell - Grand Lecturer ex officio**
- Past Grand Lecturers - Consultants**

### **Condition and Extension of the Rite**

- \* Donald Harrison - Chairman**
- \* Stephen A Licht**
- \*\* Paul Matthews**
- \* David Barwell - Grand Lecturer**

### **Finance and Accounting - Budget**

- \*\* E. William Whittaker - Chairman**
- \* Donald Harrison**
- \* Stephen A Licht**
- \*\* Raymond R Beardsley**
- \*\* John P Nosal Jr**

### **Finance and Accounting - Audit**

- \*\* E William Whittaker - Chairman**
- \* David W Taber**
- \* L Edward Walker**

## **Jurisprudence**

- \* Harvey A Eysman - Chairman**
- \*\* Raymond R Beardsley**
- \*\* Edward Patrick Fagan**
- \*\* Richard C Hadley**
- \*\* E William Whittaker**

## **By-Laws Review**

- \*\* Richard C Hadley**

## **Libraries and Museums**

- \* Paul C Edwards - Chairman**
- \*\* Raymond R Beardsley**
- \*\* Fred G Hickein**
- \*\* John P Nosal Jr**
- \*\* Lester G Weinheimer**

## **Ish Sodi and Awards**

- \* Stephen A Licht - Chairman**
- \*\* Raymond R Beardsley**
- \*\* John P Nosal Jr**
- \* Joseph Foglietti**

## **Northeast Cryptic Festival**

- \* Donald Harrison - Chairman**
- \* Stephen A Licht**
- \* Joseph Foglietti**

## **Necrology**

- \* Robert J Cave**
- \* Rev Walter A Collins**
- \* Rev Allen C Lang**
- \* Rev Don C Markum**
- \* Rev Charles H Lee**

## **Grand Council Web Site**

**Paul McCullough - Chairman**

**\*Stephen A Licht**

## **Masonic Education - Membership - Public Relations**

**\* Charles M Roberts - Chairman**

**\*\* Paul B Matthews**

**\*\* Jay Kosseff**

**\* Victor S Versace**

**\* Joseph Caruso**

**Most Illustrious Grand Master Reuben E “Rex Long Message**  
**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons**  
**State of New York**

Companions

I have a little lecture that my children became very tired of as they grew up. Solutions to problems require going “BACK to BASICS”. They can recite the following by heart!

- What is the current Status?
- Define the problem and understand it. Are we seeing the cause or the effect?
- Set goals and or objectives. No well defined goal means no solution.
- Develop a plan or method to achieve the goals and objectives.

What are the problems? Dwindling membership and membership participation.

**These are effects not the causes!**

The 1<sup>st</sup> cause is Symbolic Lodge membership and hence the size of the base from which membership can be drawn. We are all members of the Symbolic Lodges and the existence of the Concordant bodies depends on the strength of the Symbolic Lodge.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> cause is a lack of Masonic Education. The Grand Council’s reason for being is to bring further Masonic light to ourselves, our Masonic Brethren and to the world at large. Bringing Masonic light to ourselves and Masonic Brethren is though the path of Good Ritual and understanding what it means. With the world at large we have not maintained the public image we were once blessed with. Our public relations leave much to be desired. Develop a community image - be visible - publicize events.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> cause is meetings with limited programs. A combination of having closed and open meetings with varied programs provides the opportunity to educate ourselves as well as our ladies and others. An open dinner meeting with an interesting program can work wonders.

Under the leadership of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Grand Lodge and the leaders of the Concordant bodies (Chapter, Council, Commandery and Scottish Rite have been meeting to find ways to address the membership problem. The first step is the introduction of the Remember the Blue Lodge program. This program provides the means of demonstrating to the Symbolic Lodge members that the Concordant Body members are part of them not rivals. Concordant Body members who bring in new Blue Lodge members are recognized in their own Blue Lodge by Leaders of the Concordant Bodies.

The second step is the planned Grand Masters Blue Lodge Class scheduled for next March. The planning and implementation of this event requires involvement of a large group of active Masons. Where better to find them but within the Masons who are active in all branches of Masonry.

The bottom line to all these things requires **TEAMWORK**. **TEAMWORK** between Grand Lodge and the Concordant Bodies, within each Grand Body, within each District and each local body.

**TEAMWORK is the ANSWER**