

*Grand Council of Cryptic Masons  
Of the State of New York  
2014-2015*

*192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly*



*M.: J.: Harley R. DeShane  
Most Illustrious Grand Master  
2014-2015*

*August 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015*

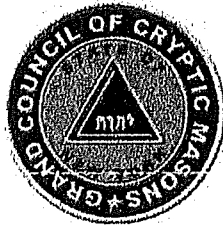
*Treadway Inn and Conference Center  
Owego, New York*

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



## THE CALL TO THE 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly

APRIL 2015

Official Notice is hereby given that the One Hundred Ninety-Second Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York will be held on **Friday Evening, August 21, 2015** at the **Owego Treadway Inn & Conference Center**, 1100 State Route 17C, Owego, NY, continuing through **Saturday, August 22, 2015**.

The Grand Council extends a cordial invitation to all Grand Council Officers, Past Grand Masters, Permanent Members of this Grand Council, Grand Representatives of other Grand Councils and all Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Work and Select Masters of the constituent Councils of this jurisdiction to attend.

**HEADQUARTERS:** Owego Treadway Inn and Conference Center, 1100 State Route 17C, Owego, NY 13827 (607) 687-4500

**REGISTRATION:** Friday, August 21, 2015: Noon to 6:00 PM and Saturday, August 22, 2015:

7:30 – 10:00 AM in the Main Lobby. Registration and Credentials will close at 10:00 AM on Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Certificates of Appointment as Proxies for the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work, bearing the Council Seal, should be presented to the Credentials Desk before the Opening of the Grand Council. **Aprons are worn in Tiled Sessions.**

**RESERVATIONS:** Hotel and Meal Reservation Form is enclosed or you can go to the website: [www.nycryptic.org](http://www.nycryptic.org) and download a copy.

### THE SCHEDULE OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015

10:00 AM	Conference: Directors of the Grand Council Charity Corp.	New Bedford Room
1:00 – 2:00 PM	York Rite Meeting	New Bedford Room
2:00 – 3:30 PM	Conference: Grand Council Line Officers, Past Grand Masters, District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lecturer	New Bedford Room
3:30 - 5:00 PM	New District Deputies to meet with Deputy Grand Master	Conference Room
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Hospitality Suite will be open	Owego Room
5:00 PM	Gather for Social Time prior to Welcome Buffet	Patio
6:00 PM	Welcome Buffet - Informal; All are Welcome. Reservations required.	Williamsburg Room
7:30 PM	Opening of the 192 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly by Cayuga Council No. 90 (Dress Code: Elected Grand Council Officers & Past MIGMs: White Jacket & Purple Tie; Appointed Officers & DDGMs: Tuxedo & Purple/Black Tie; Companions: Jacket and Tie. All Wear Aprons!)	Starfire Room
	<b>Business Conducted:</b> Reception of Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council Officers; Roll Call of Councils; Previous Minutes; Appointment of Committees; Resolutions; Roll Call & Recognition of DDGMs; Roll Call of AGLs; <u>Reports of Committees</u> : Website; Masonic Education and Communications; Membership; Library & Museum; Ritual; Grand Lecturer and Awards; Condition & Extension of the Rite; Grand Historian; Jurisprudence & By-Laws Committee; Grand Trustees; Grand Treasurer; Grand Fraternal Correspondent; Audit; Budget; Deputy Grand Master.	
9:15 PM	Vesper Service	Starfire Room
9:45 PM	Recess. Hospitality Suite will be open to 11:30 PM.	Owego Room

#### Saturday, August 22, 2015

(Dress Code: Elected Grand Council Officers & Past MIGMs: Morning Suits; Appointed Officers & DDGMs: Tuxedo/Black Tie; Companions: Jacket & Tie; All Wear Aprons)

#### Breakfast on Your Own

8:15 AM	Assembling of Distinguished Guests	Starfire Lobby
8:30 AM	RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (Open Assembly- Ladies invited) <b>Business Conducted:</b> Reception of Distinguished Guests; Necrology; Presentation of Honorary Memberships; Remarks from Visitors	Starfire Room

<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>RECONVENE TILED MEETING</b> (Ladies and non-Cryptic Masons excused) <b>Business Conducted:</b> Recognition of Past Grand Masters; Roll Call & Recognition of Grand Representatives; Report of: Grand Recorder; Most Illustrious Grand Master's Address.	
<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Annual Meeting of the Charity Corporation</b>	
<b>11:45 AM</b>	<b>Address</b> of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York	
<b>NOON</b>	<b>LUNCHEON</b> (Reservations required)	<b>Williamsburg Room</b>
<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY</b> <b>Business Conducted:</b> <u>Reports of:</u> Committee on the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Address; Time & Place Committee; Ish Sodi & Awards; Credentials; Election of Officers; Unfinished Business; Tiled Installation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master-Elect; Closing of the 192 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly.	<b>Starfire Room</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>PUBLIC INSTALLATION</b> of Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council Officers & District Deputy Grand Masters	<b>Starfire Room</b>
<b>4:15 PM</b>	<b>Conferral Of The Thrice Illustrious Master Degree</b> (Per Article 11, Section 41(a) of the General Regulations of this Grand Council, ALL newly elected Illustrious Masters are required to receive this degree Prior to presiding in his elected office.)	<b>New Bedford Room</b>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Social Hour For The Most Illustrious Grand Master</b>	<b>Starfire Lobby</b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET</b> (With Remarks and Presentation of Awards - Reservations required) <b>{Dress Code: Elected Grand Council Officers &amp; Past MIGMs: White Jacket and Purple Tie; Appointed Officers &amp; DDGMs: White Jacket or Tuxedo &amp; Purple Tie; Companions: Tuxedo or Dark Suit &amp; Tie; Ladies: Semi-Formal}</b>	<b>Starfire Room</b>
<b>9:30 PM</b>	Hospitality Suite will be open until Midnight. <b><u>LADIES PROGRAM</u></b>	<b>Owego Room</b>

**Saturday, August 20, 2011**

**Breakfast On Your Own**

<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Open Assembly (Ladies Invited)</b>	<b>Starfire Room</b>
<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Ladies Program</b>	<b>Patio</b>
<b>NOON</b>	<b>Ladies Luncheon</b>	<b>Patio</b>
<b>1:00 – 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Hospitality Suite is Open or Free Time</b>	<b>Owego Room</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Public Installation</b> of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, of the Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Masters	<b>Starfire Room</b>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Social Time For The Most Illustrious Grand Master</b>	<b>Starfire Lobby</b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Grand Master's Banquet</b> w/remarks and presentation of awards (Reservations required. Dress Code: Ladies – Semi-Formal)	<b>Starfire Room</b>
<b>9:30 PM – Midnight</b>	<b>Hospitality Suite will be open</b>	<b>Owego Room</b>

*Fraternally yours,*

**M.:I.: Harley R. DeShane,**  
**Grand Master**

**Attest:**

**R.:I.: F. Edward Powley,**  
**Grand Recorder**

②

# **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 nays.

### **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. Kohlhausen, 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

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK  
2014 – 2015**

I attended the NY Grand Council Annual Assembly in August of 2014 and performed my duties as assigned.

In September of 2014 I represented the Grand Council of New York at the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of NY, Knights Templar at Lake George, New York.

In September, I represented the Grand Council of NY at the Triennial of the General Grand Council International and worked at the Royal Arch Triennial in Buffalo, NY.

I represented the Grand Council at the Grand Chapter of NY, RAM in Albany in March of this year.

I visited in my district all the Councils in my area and of which I was involved with degree work.

I visited Ahwaga Council No. 30 and met the Grand Master of Pennsylvania of which we put on the State of Pennsylvania Ritual of the Cryptic degrees.

I did all my visitations of District 8, which were Doric, Hornellsville, Palmyra, Nundawaga, Skoi-Yase and King David Councils.

I represented the Most Illustrious Grand Master at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication Ceremony for the Laying of the Cornerstone at the Knights Templar Building on the Masonic Campus at Utica on May 23, 2015.

I attended other functions throughout the year as the Grand PCW of the Grand Council and presided over our Spring Grand Line Officers Workshop and enjoyed my time at these other functions.

Fraternally Yours,

R.:I.: Garry Hutchurson  
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

## 2014-2015 Grand Captain of the Guard Annual Report

July 10, 2015

Greetings & Salutations Companions All,

My Cryptic travels took me all around our Grand Jurisdiction. I was happy to make "good" on my promise by completing my owed visits to District 4 (Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council 14 [05/08/15] & Joseph Warren Cryptic Council 37 [05/15/15]). St. Georges Council 74 greeted me last year on 04/17/14 and I came with a similar message to their sister councils of the District as well as my planned Districts for the ensuing year:

*"I think it's important to emphasize that each companion going up the grand line SHOULD and OUGHT to make it their best to try to visit EACH of the companions in and throughout the state that will, in hopes, one day oblige him with the election and title of Most Illustrious Grand Master!"*

*I seek to come to your council not on anything more then to come and "break bread" and make up for the time I did not come to meet and greet with you last year or the years prior. Some of you may remember me as Grand Lecturer but I want to make sure that the protocols established for moving up the line is kept."*

I thank these three councils for continuing to believe in the work that Cryptic Masonry offers. Personal thanks to Companion Michael Hernandez who provided me with the "Masonic Tour" of his vocation in Albany! Companion Russell Lehr and the companions of Joseph Warren had a wonderful turnout meeting that consisted of burgers and refreshments! My children chauffeured me on this trip and enjoyed themselves. While my youngest (Koren) is not even 10 yet – she summed up best:

*"Daddy, if all of your meetings are like this – I can see why you are always out with your brothers".*

Kudos to you companions for making THAT type of impact noticeable to young non masonic eyes! Your doing something RIGHT!

District 7 visit with Cayuga 90 was a pleasure to be with M.:I. Dave Raymond as recorder and to be in the presence of our current Grand Master M.:I. Harley DeShane.

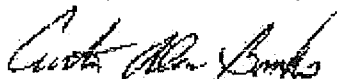
The only council I was able to visit in District 6 was Central City 13. I had the honor of being allowed to install our past M.:W. Bruce Widger as Trustee of the council, while R.:I. Harvey Eysman conducted and ran elections & installations.

I made contact with Rotica 12 to visit with them on 08/17 which will be complete by the time this report is read and published at Grand Council...but will be reported in 2016.

Oneonta 87 (District 4), Ahwaga 30 (District 7) & King Hiram 18, King David 97, Fulton 50 (all District 6) – I promise to visit you this 2015-2016 year. Cabletow issues with work and travelling to Fairbanks, AK prevented me from travelling the last week in the month for most of 2014-2015.

I look forward to continuing to spread the light of Cryptic Masonry throughout my travels in the 2015-2016 administration should you companions continue to want me to advance in the line to the next station of elected choice.

*Zealously & Fraternally*



R.:I. Curtis Alan Banks

Grand Captain of the Guard (2014-2015)

## **Grand Conductor of the Council 2014-2015**

This past Masonic year I visited the four Councils in Region Four; Bloss-DeWitt Clinton No. 14, Joseph Warren-Cryptic No. 37, St. Georges No. 74 and Oneonta No. 87. My plan was to complete my visits as soon in the Masonic year as possible. This idea was complicated my getting a new part-time job in retail. Despite having to juggle schedules, and thanks to the cooperation of my new employer, I was able to visit all four Councils by February. Yes, I took the chance of scheduling two of the visits in January and one in February. I was fortunate that none had to be cancelled due to weather. I drove through light snow on only one visit - however, it was very cold.

The first visit was to St. George's Council No. 74 on November 20, 2014. This was a special night as the Companions made their annual pilgrimage to Northville where we met in Rotterdam Lodge. This visit has a long tradition and acknowledges the long commute the Northville Companions make in order to attend meetings in Schenectady. I appreciated hitching a ride with District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master, RI Ralph Rosenthal, who gave me a broad picture of the District. I was so privileged to attend this meeting which illustrated Brotherly Love at its best. This is a strong Council that has a good base and many dedicated Companions from which to draw additional membership. What a great way to begin my official visits.

A spattering of snowfall and cold temperatures was on hand for my next visit on January 16, 2015, to Joseph Warren-Cryptic Council No. 37. Unfortunately, there were not enough Companions in attendance to open, but we were able to enjoy a meal and talk about Masonry in general and their area in particular. This Council meets in a wonderful old historic building and as a history buff, I appreciated a tour of the old house. That being said, the question was raised about moving the Council to an area nearer to a Royal Arch Chapter meeting location. They currently appear to be in a "dead zone" which is mutually inconvenient for all current and potential members. It would be a shame to leave this terrific building, but something needs to be done to help this Council survive.

Two weeks later, on January 28th, 2015, I visited Oneonta Council No. 87. This was the farthest drive for the year and the only trip in which I did not use the thruway. Fortunately, the weather held up and the deer stayed away. Once again, I enjoyed the fellowship of my Council Companions and was treated to a fine opening and meeting. This Council has a strong Royal Arch base and will continue to tap their new Chapter Companions to encourage them to learn the rest of the story of King Solomon's Temple.

My final visit was to Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council No. 14 in Albany on February 13th. In addition to the fine fellowship I was treated to the conferral of the Select Master Degree as the meeting. It was my privilege to address our new Companions and welcome them to Cryptic Masonry. This is a strong Council.

In addition to my visits, I attended Grand Chapter in March, 2015; attended and participated in the Tri-State Festival in Feeding Hills Massachusetts on March 21st. King Solomon Council conferred the Select Degree.

As I stated last year, communication is the key to our Growth. There is no requirement for any Brother or Companion to join a Council of Royal and Select Masters. Therefore we need to show the VALUE of such membership. Many Councils meet six times or less during the Masonic year. It is vital that we make those meetings count and give our Companions something they won't get anywhere else. Not just Masonry, but the lessons we learn in our Royal and Select Master Degrees.

Respectfully submitted,

R. I. Steven P. Koch  
Grand Conductor of the Council  
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons  
In the State of New York

## **Report of the Grand Marshal 2015**

Your Grand Marshal this year traveled 2147.6 miles visiting Councils in the western part of New York State, attending Grand Chapter of NYRAM, our Grand Master's reception, Grand Assembly and St. John's Day parade. It was very enjoyable to visit with the companions around the state and partake of their hospitality.

On my visit to Hamburg Council I was able to watch them perform the Select Master degree in fine form. It is always a pleasure to welcome new Select Masters into the Cryptic ranks. One of the highlights of the evening was the honor of being escorted into the meeting room by the Deputy Grand Master of Masons, Right Worshipful Jeffery Williamson.

When I visited Buffalo-Keystone Council in April they too were performing the Select Master degree. I must say that the first arch was of peculiar construction but performed the duty admirably. The companions also introduced me to the observation of "Dingus Day". Quite a celebration takes place on that day in the Buffalo area.

My last visit was to Dunkirk Council in Fredonia. I expressed my surprise that they were not doing any degree as the previous visits seemed to have one scheduled on the night of my visit. The Illustrious Master said that they had something else for me to do after the meeting. I assisted the Illustrious Master in installing a glass enclosed shadow box containing the Apron and other mementos honoring Past Most Illustrious George Whitmer. It was an honor to be a part of this celebration of remembrance of M.: I.: Whitmer.

On the third Tuesday of May in Gananoque, Ontario, Canada members of your Grand Council Line performed many of the portions of the Royal Ark Mariner degree on candidates from the U. S. and Canada. The Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in Ontario was there and performed the parts that we were not allowed to as per their by-laws. The evening was a success and comments were made that this might have started having us do parts of the degree from now on. It is always a pleasure to be with the companions of Ontario.

I wish to thank the companions of this Grand Council for allowing me to represent them on my visits around the state and over the border.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Fowler, Grand Marshal

## **Grand Steward Report for 2014-2015**

To: The Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Most Illustrious Harley R DeShane and the Officers of our Grand Line who all extended words of encouragement, brotherly advice and best wishes. With their help, I have had a successful and memorable year as Grand Steward.

Overall I was able to visit two of the four councils in District 2. I had a wonderful time at Goshen Council #93 and King Solomon Council #31. Both councils were able to open and close their meetings with "open book" assistance. I did notice that the Companions were very knowledgeable and presented the ritual very well. It is my opinion that the Companions do know the ritual and with a bit more practice they can perform their duties without assistance. I recommend that both Councils make it a tradition to hold a meal before the meetings to extend their fellowship and increase attendance of their members.

Unfortunately Mother Nature and her wintry whims caused the cancellation of the one visit to Union Council #2 that my Symbolic Lodge duties and schedule permitted. I have been in contact with DDGM R.: I.: Dan Elliot and I understand that the Council is doing well. I will endeavor to keep their meeting schedule on my calendar and hopefully next March I can make a courtesy visit and enjoy an evening with my Companions.

My biggest concern for the district is with Peekskill Council #55. Unfortunately the companions of Peekskill Council do not have a viable meeting place and have not held regular meetings during the year. If the meeting place situation is not remedied soon, I am concerned that Peekskill Council, through attrition, will end up having to either merge with a companion Council or forfeit their Charter. I highly recommend that the members of Peekskill Council work with their local Royal Arch Chapter and make finding a viable meeting place their highest priority.

My tenure as Grand Steward was filled with a number of events other than Official visits. I attended New York's Grand Encampment and Grand Chapter with my fellow Grand Line Officers. I participated in the General Grand Triennial Parade in Buffalo and the Knight Templar building re-dedication in Utica. I attended a number of Triangle and Rainbow events and had a very pleasant time helping to represent Grand Council with our youth groups. In my home Cryptic district, I had the privilege to assist with the Apron Presentation to DDGIM Dennis Parmerter. I had the unique opportunity to visit Awaga council and observe the Pennsylvania Council opening and closing done by our Pennsylvanian Companions. All in all a very exciting Cryptic year.

I wish to extend a special "Cryptic Thank You" to the Officers of District #2: DDGM R.: I.: Dan Elliot and AGL V.: I.: Michael Quigley. It has been a pleasure to work with them on both a District and Grand Council Level. These two men are dedicated Cryptic Masons and are an asset to our Grand Jurisdiction.

In conclusion, I have had a very pleasant and memorable year and would like to thank all the companions I met and had the opportunity to work with in the course of the year as Grand Steward. I look forward to continuing to serve our Grand Council.

Zealously,

R.: I.: John A. Gallant  
Grand Steward of the Grand Council of New York



## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE - 2014-2015**

Most Illustrious Grand Master, my Grand Council Companions, and all my Companions: the 2014-2015 Cryptic year, has been a quiet one. No formal legislation has been proposed (as at the date of this writing), nor were any formal opinions issued. Frequent consultations and conferences with the Grand Master were had on general matters, and as in past years, requests for informal advices and opinions were rendered to the Grand Recorder's Office and to Committees, with the permission of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

As we have experienced each year, we receive, almost on a regular basis, requests for advice on both Cryptic and general Masonic law from the membership and from Committee Chairmen, and we must emphasize that these opinions are unofficial and gratuitous, as they were not solicited by or through the Grand Master who alone functionally enjoys the prerogative of seeking counsel from the Judge Advocate.

When we receive calls from the Companions requesting legal opinions upon matters of Cryptic law, we prefer to respond to these questions, both as a courtesy to the Companions and as a matter of Masonic education, but it is clearly to be understood that these opinions do not carry the sanction of the Grand Council, and that only the Grand Master may, with any degree of authority, advise the Companions on Cryptic law.

As we have iterated in the past, the proper procedure to secure a formal opinion is to pose the question in writing to the Grand Master. If he deems it appropriate, he may seek our counsel, and we may be requested to issue either a formal, written opinion or an informal opinion. It should be understood that the Grand Master is the primary source of all Cryptic legal authority in this Grand jurisdiction and while the Grand Council itself is not in session. Where an issue involves civil law, of course, one must retain private counsel.

Most Illustrious Grand Master, we have enjoyed working with and serving you, the Grand Council, and all the Companions this year. We also extend our appreciation to our Grand Recorder, the Acting Grand Recorder, and to his Office for the input, support, and assistance, he gives, and we respectfully move that our report be entered into the proceedings of this Assembly.

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

Section 8 of the Constitution provides that a proposition to amend the Constitution may be adopted if submitted in writing at one Annual Assembly, laid-over to the next for consideration, and then consented to by a two-thirds majority vote of the Members present; the amendment, however, may be adopted at the Annual Assembly at which it was presented, if by a unanimous vote.

Section 58 of the General Regulations provides that the General Regulations may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Members present at any Annual Assembly.

### **PROPOSITIONS BEFORE THE GRAND COUNCIL**

The following Sections of the Constitution of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, will be submitted in writing in 2015 and held over for consideration and a final vote in 2016, unless adopted in 2015 by unanimous vote of the members present:

**NONE**

The following Sections of the General Regulations of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, will be submitted for a final vote in 2015:

**NONE**

Respectfully Submitted,

HARVEY A. EYSMAN  
Judge Advocate

## **Report of the Jurisprudence and By-Laws Review Committee**

July 7, 2015

The committee recommends approval the By-Laws changes of the following Councils; Hornellsville No. 35, Adoniram Council No. 36 and St. Georges Council No. 74.

M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Chairman

M.:I.: David H. Raymond

R.:I.: Richard M. Clark

**2014-2015 Condition and Extension of the Rite**  
**2014-2015 Masonic Education & Communications**

July 10, 2015

Greetings & Salutations Companions All,

**The 2014-2015 Condition and Extension of the Rite** Committee consists of:

R.:I.: Curtis Alan Banks, *Grand Captain of the Guard* [Chairman]

R.:I.: Charles Bunton, *Deputy Grand Master*

All 2014-2105 DDGM's

Only a handful of DDGM's gave reports and/or recommendations. Most companions have indicated that the ritual at hand, particularly the opening and closing, is something that needs more work in regards to doing it from memory. While this extends out to the AGL's it's important that the preservation of the Rite is saved and extended by careful recitation of the ritual.

**The 2014-2015 Masonic Education & Communications** Committee consists of:

R.:I.: Curtis Alan Banks, *Grand Captain of the Guard* [Chairman]

R.:I.: Charles Bunton, *Deputy Grand Master*

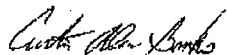
R.:I.: Steven P. Koch, *Grand Conductor of the Council*

R.:I.: Terry A. Byard, *PDDGM*

R.:I.: Mark D. Isaacs, *Grand Chaplain* [Advisor]

This committee was not able to meet during the course of the Cryptic Year, thus have nothing to collectively report. However, Masonic Education continues to be at the top tier request of our companions who are new to the order (< 5 years). Many of our new(er) companions are "racing" to the East and would appreciate more Education (light). R.:I.: Steve Koch has been spearheading a ritual contest that we are hoping will take a more solid form and approach this coming year. I am recommending that the Grand Lecturer & the AGL's become a part of this committee for the 2015-2016 year so that Education of the ritual and the rite go hand in hand with the Grand Lecturer's conventions, etc. and there be a standard in training.

*Zealously & Fraternally*



R.:I.: Curtis Alan Banks

Committee Chairman (2014-2015)

**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York**  
**Report of the Ritual Committee & Grand Lecturer 2014 – 2015**

Thus far this Cryptic year, no proposals for changes to the ritual have been received by the Ritual Committee.

Conventions were held in all Districts but one, reviewing the degree of Royal Master. All host Councils turned out a good crowd of their own members (sadly turnout from Councils other than hosts was often low) and demonstrated good knowledge of the ritual, *either* without errors *or* without using a book (a few could perform the ritual with full effectiveness: without errors, without a book, and with dramatic impact).

Our official focus was on the ritual itself, but my personal focus was on the history and symbolism of the degree, as well as the effect it should have not only on the candidates but also on the observers and participants. In the words of my favorite author (whom I recommend to you all), the late Robert Anton Wilson, "A true initiation never ends."

If I am re-appointed, the work of the Conventions in the coming year will be the degree of Select Master plus any other ritual topics requested by the Companions of the District. We will schedule these early in the year to maximize their value to the Councils. My job and that of all the Assistant Grand Lecturers is to *help* the Councils in the primary function of Cryptic Masonry: by performing ritual competently and with feeling, to transform the hearts and minds of Companions, making us all ever better ashlar.

In the coming year, Grand Council will work, through our District officers, with the Councils, to offer festivals in venues that reinforce the emotional impact of the degrees. Unfortunately I injured a leg early in the year, preventing me from working in actual caverns or tunnels as planned; I have recovered and hope to do so this coming year.

Our ritual is what distinguishes us from all other organizations. It is the means by which we transmit the unique message of Cryptic Masonry. It is the structure into which we pour our energies to provide the transformative experiences our ceremonies should be, that they *must* be to have any value. Whatever else you do in Cryptic Masonry, we ask you to remember the central and essential role of our ritual, and to give it the respect, attention and effort it deserves.

Zealously,

RI Stuart W. Card, Grand Lecturer & Ritual Committee  
RI Curtis A. Banks, Ritual Committee  
MI E. William Whittaker, Ritual Committee

## **The Grand Council Website Committee Report 2014-2015**

To: The Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council.

I would like to thank Most Illustrious Harley R. DeShane for my re-appointment to the position of Chairman of the Website Committee. With the help of my committee members, who have always extended words of encouragement and good advice, I am pleased to report that I have had another successful year as chairman.

The following is a brief synopsis of my accomplishments and goals over the past year while performing my duties as Webmaster.

My primary task has been to provide a rapid turn around of simple changes and updates to the web site and down-loadable documents. It is my personal goal to respond to requests within a 24 hour period.

This year I put into place a group of Email forwarding address to allow our councils a single email address, via our Web site, to reach various groups within our Grand Council. The following Email address are: "GrandLine@NYCryptic.org" : The working set of Grand Line Officers; "GrandCouncil@NYCryptic.org" :All Official Grand Council Grand Lodge Officers; "DistrictOfficers@NYCryptic.org" :All District Officers: DDGMs & AGLs and "CouncilOfficers@NYCryptic.org: The Ill. Masters and Recorders of our Constituent Councils.

I am also assisting with the ongoing YRIS project. A major goal of this project is the pre-loading of database tables with our council membership records. This will avoid the expensive data-input fees charged by the YRIS organization. Unfortunately these efforts have been hampered by the low level of participation by the Recorders of our constituent councils.

As the webmaster, I have been the contact for keeping our public calendar up to date with Grand Master visits, Grand Line visits to other conferences, Grand Assemblies and any other "Grand Line" related events. I look forward to the Grand Council Officers making increased use of this calendar, either with entering their own events or by contacting me.

The following is a brief list of the "Futures" I have planned for the upcoming year(s).

It is still a short term goal to provide selected "electronic" forms to allow Council Recorders to dynamically fill in their "end of year" information and email the report to the Grand Recorder's Office. We have updated the Grand Line Officer Visitation report to a PDF dynamic form. The next set to be worked on will be the Council Reports

I have a longer term goal to investigate what would be required to provide the Grand Council website in a Mobile format. With the continued proliferation of smart phones, this will allow the web site to be viewed "on the road".

In conclusion, it has been another good year. I have had the opportunity to learn a lot during my tenure as Chairman of the Website Committee. I look forward to continuing to serve the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council and our companions.

Zealously,

R. I. John A. Gallant  
Chairman of the Grand Council Website Committee

## Northeast Cryptic Festival 2015

On March 21, 2015 The Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts hosted the annual Northeast Cryptic Festival, also known as the "Tri-State Festival" in Feeding Hills Massachusetts. This year the Royal Master Degree was conferred by Companions from host Council and the Super Excellent Degree was scheduled to be conferred by The Most Puissant Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Connecticut. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate as a snow storm made it impossible for many of the cast members to attend. An abbreviated version was presented. The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was represented by King Solomon Council No. 31 R & S M who conferred the Select Master Degree.

The Degrees were well done and an enjoyable day was had by all. In all we greeted twelve new Companions, which was not too bad considering the weather. Many Companions left following lunch once they learned the Super Excellent Degree would be abbreviated. Hopefully they will catch up next year.

The cast was as follows

King Solomon - R.:I.: Steven P. Koch  
Hiram, King of Tyre - Companion Thomas McManus  
Hiram Abif - Comp. David Barkstedt  
Conductor of the Council - I. George Hunt  
Ahishar - R.:I.: Mark D. Isaacs  
The History - Comp. David Barkstedt  
Apron Presentation - R.:I.: Steven P. Koch  
Charge - R.:I.: Steven P. Koch

The weather, a funeral and other commitments resulted in our full team not being available, but we filled in where necessary and got it done.

As of this writing the date for the 2015 Tri-State Festival has not been set. It will be hosted by New York. We will be sure to spread the word when that time comes. It is a great opportunity to see Degrees conferred by other jurisdictions and share fellowship with our Companions from other states.

Respectfully submitted,

R.:I.: Steven P. Koch  
Grand Conductor of the Council  
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons  
In the State of New York

## CONCORDANT BODIES AND YOUTH COMMITTEE 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Distinguished East, Grand Line Officers, and Companions All. This is the Annual Report of the Grand Council's Concordant Bodies and Youth Committee for the 2014-2015 Cryptic Year.

### Concordant Bodies

Upon appointment by M.: W.: William J. Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York the Concordant Bodies Committee consisting of the following individuals Grand Lodge of NY: M.: W.: William J. Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in the State of NY, R.: W.: Jeffrey M. Williamson, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of NY (Chairman), R.: W.: George Emmons, Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of NY and R.: W.: James R. Kintzel, Deputy Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of NY; Cryptic Rite: M.: I.: Leonard W. Mason and M.: I.: Harley R. DeShane, R.: I.: Charles V. Bunton, M.: I.: Rev. Charles M. Roberts; Commandery/Knights Templar: SK Kenneth I. Sussman, PREGC, SK Charles M. Roberts, REGC, SK Frederick Beitter; DGC; Royal Arch Masons: M.: E.: Piers A. Vaughan, PGHP, M.: E.: Cyril A. Francis, GHP and R.: E.: Raymond Roche, Grand King; Scottish Rite: Ill. Peter J. Samiec, Grand Lt, Commander, Ill. David P. Spencer, Deputy for NY State. This Committee did convene three times this year.

The Concordant Bodies Committee has been reorganized under the new leadership of our Grand Master William J. Thomas with its membership returning back to being the Presiding Officer and Deputy of the Masonic Groups in New York State with the R.: W.: Deputy Grand Master of Grand Lodge of New York chairing the Committee and providing the agenda. The meetings of this committee provided a general round table opportunity for discussions of mutual interest, and that they are closed and in executive session, except for discussions of the Remember The Blue Lodge Program. Membership will change with the annual meetings of the various bodies, except for COD which changes ad hoc. Members of this committee have one vote at the Grand Lodge Annual Communications.

The Committee addressed the following agenda items: Educational Assistance Program Scholarship presentations. Deputy Grand Master Williamson encouraged all York Rite & Scottish Rite bodies to participate in these presentations throughout the state for presenting our awards it shows a united front in New York. We then addressed the upcoming calendar dates for Receptions and Grand Lodge Apron presentations and other events from May 2014 through October 2016. All bodies were to establish links to the updated Website of Grand Lodge and promote these dates and hopefully this will produce less conflicts between events. These events now scheduled will take precedence for attendance of Presiding Officers of Grand Lodge and other Bodies in NY. Calendar interfacing between the bodies must be ongoing throughout our Masonic life in NY. Grand Lodge is supported in the Concordant Bodies of NY by providing now all access to demits, NPDs, suspensions so we can all update our membership rosters for our respective bodies. Grand Master Thomas accomplished this task for authorized personnel of our bodies with the understanding that it is kept private and not to be shared with anyone. Deputy Grand Master Williamson then addressed the issue of "How do we communicate?" He shared about present electronic ways but also stressed the need of the personal touch and that we as Presiding Officers must encourage respect and dialogue, exchange of ideas and provide whatever appropriate means to help enhance communications for all of our brothers. We must work cooperatively and with the knowledge that Grand Lodge through our present Grand Master is encouraging the theme of "TEAM = Together Everyone Achieves More." Better visibility between Grand Lodge and the Concordant Bodies and vice a versa must be coordinated and complementary. We need to support each other wherever possible. We are all in the same Masonic boat less row in one direction for unity sake.

Finally, all our meetings concluded with a update on the Remember The Blue Lodge Program by R.: W.: George Emmons, Grand Marshal of Grand Lodge of NY who is the Coordinator of this program. We have enough supplies yet to continue the program. Lets get out there and promote this program. The respective Concordant Bodies representatives are open to receiving ideas, thoughts or comments from you to present at any of the meetings of the Committee to better the advancement of Freemasonry in this state.

### Youth Groups

The three remaining Youth Groups in New York State: The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, The Organization of Triangles, Inc., and The Order of DeMolay were all active this past year and represented at many Masonic functions and activities throughout the state.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Grand Assembly met at the Honors Haven Resort in Ellenville, NY on April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Miss Hanna Nelson Grand Worthy Advisor's reign came to a close and Miss Danielle Paynter was elected Grand Worthy Advisor and her theme for the year is "Find Your Heart Song." They celebrated their 75th Anniversary of Grand Assembly at this year's Grand Assembly Session. A special Diamond Jubilee Celebration was held on Saturday Evening, April 25, 2015.

Miss Annie Parks is the NY State Representative for The Organization of Triangles, Inc. The Organization will hold its 27<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in Kerhonkson, NY on October 9-11, 2015.

This year the York Rite Bodies initiates an Annual Recognition of Young Masonic Women. Its new program is called the Order of Deborah. The Youth Committee wishes to thank M.:E.: Alan Morgan and M.:I.: Charles Roberts, R.:E.: Raymond Roche and other representatives over the years from Grand Chapter of NY, RAM and our Youth for the development and creation of this program. The First Honorary Members of the "Order of Deborah" were State Representative Annie Parks, Past State Representative Ally Callaghan, Past Grand Worthy Advisor Samantha Hansen, and Rainbow Grand Worthy Advisor Hannah Nelson at the Grand Chapter of NY, Royal Arch Session in March 2015. At the NY International Order of the Rainbow for Girls convention in April 2015 Miss Dawn Mirando was the recipient of the Order of Deborah. One young lady from the Organization for Triangles, Inc. will receive it at its upcoming Biennial Convention in October 2015. A new medallion of the Order was minted for presentation. The recipient of the Order receives a medallion to wear and an inscribed gavel. We wish to thank M.:W.: William & Susan Thomas for the donation of the crystal gavels which were given to inaugurate this new program. This program will be funded through York Rite Bodies of NY each year through their respective youth committees. The Grand Commandery purchases a sword for the York Tribune selected each year for NY DeMolay. We are truly excited for this new award program and we hope you will support it.

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Order of DeMolay in NY State met at Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, NY on July 31 - August 1, 2015 where DeMolay Zachary Williams was elected NY State Master Councilor. DeMolay Efrain Crespo was the 2015 recipient of the York Tribune Award bestowed by the York Rite Bodies of NY of which Grand Commandery presents him with an award sword engraved with his name. This year we also bestowed a new medallion which was minted especially for our state for all our past recipients and all future ones.

This year the New York Council of DeMolay conducted a special honor conferral of becoming a DeMolay in honor of our Grand Master William J. Thomas. and another in honor of SK Charles M. Roberts, Right Eminent Grand Commander is scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2015 during the Grand Commandery Conclave of NY. If you are interested in becoming an Honorary Member DeMolay and wish to join Sanctorum Chapter No. 1 speak with either Dad William Sardone, Executive Director of NY DeMolay, or Dad M.:I.: Charles Roberts.

The Youth Organizations are grateful for the attendance of Most Illustrious Grand Master Harley DeShane and Past Most Illustrious Grand Master Charles M. Roberts and other Grand Council Officers at several of their functions and activities throughout the year. They felt deeply honored by their presence and encouraged by their warm support for their endeavors.

I move that this Annual Report be accepted and made a part of the full proceedings of this 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of NY.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts, PMIGM, Chairman

M.:I.: Richard C. Anderson, PMIGM

M.:I.: David H. Raymond, PMIGM



# Report of Grand Council Newsletter Editor Committee 2014-2015

The Cryptic Corner was not issued this year. This was partly due to a lack of input but largely due to a lack of time of the editor - yours truly. A new job was added to the list of other commitments and unfortunately this newsletter suffered as a result. This is unacceptable and I take full responsibility for its failure.

The goal of this newsletter has not changed "to be as current, relevant and as readable as possible." There should be some measure of regularity which will be determined by our next Grand Master and what he would like to see. Size of the newsletter should be fluid. If there is only enough material for one page or one story, so be it. We should not sit on the issue for lack of input. However, the size should not go overboard. Too many pages and it will be put aside to be "read later" which means that it will probably be forgotten. Photos are key to emphasizing and event and breaking up the print on a page.

I plan to reach out to our incoming District Deputies to funnel information to me so we can let the world know the good work we do.

Respectfully submitted,

R.I.: Steven P. Koch  
Chairman Grand Council Newsletter Editor Committee  
Grand Conductor of the Council  
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons  
In the State of New York



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

*Friday Evening, August 21, 2015*

**VESPER SERVICE**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**APPROACHING GOD (In Unison)**

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. (Psalm 63: 1-2; 5- 7) Therefore O God, we each come this evening to worship and to praise Thy Holy Name.

**OPENING EVENING HYMN**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

**OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)**

Dear Father, We thank you for everyone gathered here this evening. Thank you that you know each of us by name and have caused us to walk with You. We say that we are dependant on You and our trust is in You completely. As we surrender ourselves in adoration we ask that You would come by Your Holy Spirit and inspire our hearts this evening. Come fill our lives with Your love, fill our time with Your grace and truth, fill this worship with Your presence. We ask this for Your glory and praise. Amen.

**THE READING OF THE WORD OF GOD:**

Psalm 84

**THE EVENING MESSAGE:**

*"The Blessings of Dwelling In God's Presence"*

*M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts, Grand Chaplain*

**THE OFFERING**

*(The Officers receive the gifts from the people of God)*

**LITURGY OF EVENING PRAYERS**

.....The Lord's Prayer.....

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us Lead us not into temptation But deliver us from evil For the Kingdom, the power, and the Glory are yours, Now and forever. Amen.

**CLOSING EVENING HYMN**

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**THE BENEDICTION**

### **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

### **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou for ever will be.

#### **Chorus**

Great is thy faithfulness  
Great is thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above.  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

#### **Sing the Chorus**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

#### **Sing the Chorus**

## **District Deputy Grand Master 2nd. District: 2014-2015**

**Union Council #2** - This Council is starting to get back on their feet. They had lost their recorder earlier last year and are trying to find everything to get things in order. In other words, they are starting from scratch. However, they are doing a great job with what they have. Like the other Councils in the District, they are struggling to get Companions out to meetings. They do need to work on their opening and closing. I know that the Illustrious Master Micheal Quigley, who is also the Assistant Grand Lecturer is working on that issue. They will need to focus on membership and finances. They are financially stable at this time but they can use some income for the future. If they can bring in just a few more Companions that would also help this Council greatly.

**King Solomon Council #31** - This year King Solomon Council struggled a little. Some of the key Officers had other commitments throughout the year, which made attendance difficult. On the night of my visit, they barely had enough to open. However, they are financially stable and organized. Some of their members can also open and close without the books. In the past, this Council has also conferred the Royal Master Degree in costume and had it memorized. They also spear headed the Tri-State Festival that took place back in April of 2013 in New Windsor, NY. They have conferred degrees at other Tri-State Festivals as well. Overall, this Council is in good shape and is one of the strongest in the District. I would recommend that they continue to do what they are doing and see if they can also bring in some new and younger members.

**Peekskill Council #55** - Unfortunately, I was unable to have my Official Visit with Peekskill. First, we had a bad winter, which made it difficult to meet. Second, this Council only meets every other month, which made it difficult to find a date to meet. However, I did meet with M.I. Paul Matthews back in March of 2014 in regards to the condition of the Council. This Council has a lot of older members and they can't get out to meetings. Peekskill also has another issue in regards to a meeting place. I was originally going to meet with them on March 11, 2015. However, M.I. Paul said that they were still not able to return to their meeting place at the American Legion in Congers. The owners of the building (American Legion) were in a dispute with the electrical contractors. The Council did consider holding their assembly at M.I. Paul's Lodge meeting place, which was the local Elks club. However, that building was having repeated break downs of the heating system. Not having a meeting place can hurt your chances of getting new members. I would suggest that they reach out to the local Lodges and inform them about the York Rite bodies. Hopefully, they will generate enough interests to save this Council. They should also continue to find a better meeting place.

**Goshen Council #93** - This is my home Council and was led this year by new Illustrious Master Bruce Bogerd. This Council has around 30 members and on average has 9 to 11 members show up to meetings. Approximately 14 are active members in their Lodges and other bodies. This Council is also very financially stable and actively contribute to Council Charities. They are also not quite there yet to confer degrees. However, only a few members can open and close without their books. They have some new members that are eager to go up the line, which is a great sign for the future. I would recommend that they continue to get new members and try to learn the ritual. Also, some of the new members are seeking more out of the Council. I suggested to the Illustrious Master that he should have a program for every meeting, which he has been doing. Having a program on Cryptic Masonry every meeting will help this group of Companions come out to every meeting and keep their interests.

I think the overall theme for the 2nd District would be membership. If each Council can bring in 5 or 6 young active members, they will all be in great shape. Just a few solid Companions can really turn a Council around. I would recommend to get out to Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters to let other Brothers know what Cryptic Council is all about.

Zealously,

R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott  
District Deputy Grand Master  
2nd Cryptic District

# District Deputy Grand Master 6<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District Report 2014-2015

To: Most Illustrious Harley R. DeShane, Grand Master  
Companions of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York

I would like to thank Most Illustrious Harley R. DeShane for my appointment as District Deputy of this district, the Companions of the District for their support and Very Illustrious John B. Covell, AGL for his constant assistance and companionship in our travels this past Cryptic Year.

## Rotica Council No. 12:

This Council performs the opening and closing ritual very well and can confer the Degrees without assistance. They conferred the Royal Master Degree on 11/17/2014, 12/15/2014 & 3/16/2015 and the Select Master Degree on 4/20/2015. The degree work by Rotica Council was very good to excellent and this Council will travel to assist other Councils with Degree work. The Council is financially sound and has new members progressing through the chairs.

## Central City Council No. 13:

This Council performs the opening and closing ritual very well and can confer the Degrees without assistance. They did not confer the degrees this Cryptic Year but they did the Royal and Select during the 2013-2014 year. This Council is financially sound and has new members progressing through the chairs.

## King Hiram Council No. 18:

The condition of the Masonic Temple in Port Byron has required a change of location to the Waterloo Masonic Lodge. This Council has weathered a very difficult period and is in dire need of new members with a current membership of 11. This Council cannot open or confer the Degrees without assistance from other Councils. The good news is that they have two petitioners for the Cryptic Degrees. This Council will only survive with continued support. This Council has minimum finances available.

## Fulton Council No. 50:

This Council performs the opening and closing ritual well and can confer the Degrees without assistance. They did not confer the degrees this Cryptic Year. This Council is functional but needs some new members and this is the Council's theme for the ensuing year. This Council has minimum finances available.

## King David Council No. 97:

This Council performs the opening and closing ritual well and can confer the Degrees without assistance. They did not confer the degrees this Cryptic year. This Council is functional, does have some younger members coming up thru the line but needs more new members. This Council has minimum finances available.

## In summary:

On September 10, 2014 was the 6th Cryptic District Grand Lecturer's Convention at Central City Council No. 13 in Liverpool. This was well attended by Central City and Rotica. The only degree work conferred in the District this past year was by Rotica Council. These councils will remain dependant on the long term health of the Chapters they have to draw members from. The Councils that are conferring degrees have functional Chapters in their areas.

Respectfully Submitted,



R.: I.: Dennis S. Davis  
DDGM 6<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District

## **DDGM ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 8<sup>th</sup> CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

I am pleased to report that the Councils are doing well. The Councils are all able to open in due form, ritual books are used at all Councils, but NOT by all Members. Being a member of Nundawaga Council I know they are able to do Degree work, Doric performed their Degrees, but I was only able to attend one degree because of health issues.

Being all well and good I am looking forward to my visits in the coming Cryptic year. It is with a heavy heart that I make a AGL report. On my District Deputy Visits I was accompanied by R.:I.: Ted Powley. Ted gave his AGL message at all visits and made comments on openings and the Degrees. R.:I.: Garry Hutcherson, Grand Council Officer for the 8th District was my traveling partner for the year and I thank him for that.

R.:I.: Dennis Parmerter, District Deputy Grand Master  
8<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District

## **DDGM ANNUAL REPORT FOR 9<sup>th</sup> CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

**Due to cancer health issues of R.:I.: Lee Garrison and his recent untimely death there was no final DDGM written annual report submitted for the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly proceedings concerning the 9<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District..**





## **Report of the Assistant Grand Lecturer of the First Cryptic District,**

**V.:l.: R. Conrad Johnson**

Firstly I would like to express my deepest gratitude to R.:l.: Stu Card for my appointment as Assistant Grand Lecturer of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, and for all the support he has afforded me specifically in my new role in Cryptic masonry, in addition to his passion for the Craft and command of Cryptic masonry in general.

Here is a summary of observations over the last year I have regarding the Councils in the First District, in order of occurrence. In general, the Councils are vibrant and interested in prospering, each with senior members of the Craft guiding and mentoring the more junior Companions. In general also, I observed some strong ritual work – accurate memorization and emphatic delivery, and some work that was neither and could benefit from additional guidance.

**North Shore Council No. 88** meets the fourth Monday in September, November, January, March, and June. I visited North Shore with the DDGM R.:l.: Bob Bukowski on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. We were warmly received and dined prior to the meeting with the Illustrious Master l.: Steven Rubenstein and several of the Companions. During the opening, there was a combination of Companions who had some command of the material while others resorted to reading, and it was not clear to me who were Officers and who were helpful substitutes. However I appreciate the strong culture and close fellowship of the Companions and there is great history to the Council and the other York Rite bodies associated with this location.

**Adelphic Council No. 7** meets the fourth Wednesday of October, January, March, and May. I visited on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 with the DDGM R.:l.: Bob Bukowski. The Officers performed well, again with a combination of general command of the material and some reading or reference to the ritual during the opening. This was reinforced when I visited the Council during the conferral of the Royal Master degree – there are several senior luminaries of the York Rite and indeed Masonic Firmament associated with Adelphic Council and they performed as one would expect – at a level of command befitting such men.

**Flatbush Council No. 80** meets the fourth Tuesday, September through June. However, Flatbush Council meets on the same night as its Commandery of Knights Templar, so more focus may be given on the night of the meeting to one or the other, depending on the work of the evening (for example conferring the Royal Master versus the Order of Malta). I visited Flatbush on November 25<sup>th</sup>, and also on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 for the election and installation of Officers. Again, a very strong culture and a close-knit group of individuals working to enrich both Flatbush Council and Bay Ridge Commandery. The junior Companions and Officers generally speaking are quite solid with the ritual work and are passionate about their involvement.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the **Grand Lecturer's Convention** was held at North Shore Council No. 88. I considered this a challenging option, given the location of North Shore at Oyster Bay, about an hour and a half all in (by train), from the city.

Given that most of the Councils in the First District are in the city – this location would afford the opportunity to travel for many of the Companions and also nobody could remember when the last Grand Lecturer's Convention was held there; North Shore seemed a wonderful opportunity. The Illustrious Master l.: Steven Rubenstein agreed. The work was the Royal Master Degree, which was conferred by a combination of Companions from the District.

## **Royal Master Degree**

Illustrious Master / King Solomon – R. Conrad Johnson (AGL)

Deputy Master / Hiram King of Tyre – Michael Livschitz (Columbian Council #1)

Principal Conductor of the Work / Hiram Abif – Stu Card (Grand Lecturer)

Captain of the Guard – Peter Pizzorno (Suffolk Council #76)

Conductor of the Council – Larry Tuck (North Shore Council # 88)

Historical Lecture – Darren Fortunato (Columbian Council #1)

**Columbian Council No.1** meets on the second Wednesday of January, February, and March. I attended both January and February meetings, but business travel in March precluded some Masonic activity for me, including the conferral of the Super Excellent Master Degree in March. Ritual work in general at Columbian is quite excellent, with most if not all of the work memorized and delivered with authority and passion. All the seats of the Line are committed and it is unusual for any position not to have its elected or appointed Officer attendant. Fellowship follows every meeting with a dinner, with opportunity to engage in educational discussion.

**Suffolk Council No. 76** meets on the second Friday of September through June (except April). My visit was scheduled in February but weather did not permit, and subsequent months' visits were trumped by work travel. I am eagerly looking forward to engage with the Companions of Suffolk because of the sense of excitement and growth about this Council and the leadership of Illustrious Master, I.: Lloyd Patterson.

**Adoniram Council No. 36** meets on the fourth Thursday of September, November, February, April, and June, although this Council seems not to have met for quite some time after some unfortunate activity related to its Past Illustrious Master. A group of dauntless Masons, led by several Companions of the Council including R.:. Ari Chisin, James Reichman, John McKoy, and I.: Joe Savaglio. The purpose of the meeting was twofold, to receive the visit of the DDGM and also the Inspection for Trinity Commandery. Much discussion about getting this Council and Commandery back on track ensued, and I am hopeful of a positive and successful outcome.

In summary, the ritual work of the First District is solid, with exceptional standouts as well as some room for improvement. My perception is that all Companions are interested in improving their work as well as open for additional educational opportunities.

Zealously,

V.:. R. Conrad Johnson

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

## **AGL REPORT FOR THE 2<sup>nd</sup> CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

This is my AGL Report for visits to the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Cryptic Masons. This District is composed of 4 (four) Councils. They are Union Council #2, King Solomon Council #31, Peekskill Council #55 and Goshen Council #93. Each Council has similar as well as differences. The membership in each needs help. The average age of most of them are 60 (Sixty) years plus.

Let's get to an important fact, **Peekskill Council** has not met or had a meeting in many years. Things keep getting pushed off to the next year and nothing ever happens. The DD and myself were going to visit them on March 11, 2015 but did not go because last year when we went only 2 (Two) members showed up. This year they had other problems, this time no building to meet in as the place they use had a fire.

**Goshen Council** visit was October 23, 2014. This Council really tries hard, they need work to stop using their books, and get new members. If you visit you need to sit in a chair to help them open.

**King Solomon Councils** visit was supposed to be Feb 23, 2015 but because of weather it was canceled. The way my own schedule is I could not get back to visit. I know this Council does good work, opening and closing. They have the oldest members who come to meetings, I have visited them before and they need to work on getting younger members or within the next few years they will be in real trouble.

**Union Council** was May 7, 2015, this Council has some of the youngest members coming to meeting, but still only enough members to open. This is my own Council so I know our problems. Membership is the biggest. We have not done a degree in a couple of years as the older members who use to do it don't come out because of age or weather.

This Council only meets 6 (Six) times weather permitting and the last 2 (Two) years have been bad.

In conclusion, the next DD and AGL need to work closer with all the Councils and do District events, not just visits. Some things they could do would be a District Dinner, a District Table Lodge and have rotating District Degrees. They have been dependent on one day classes and keep asking when the next one is. Our Blue Lodges are getting younger but we are not filtering this into our York Rites. Some of our members should contact the Worshipful Masters and ask to do a program on the York rites.

V:. I:. Michael Quigley

AGL 2<sup>nd</sup> District

## AGL's Report for 4<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District 2014-15

As AGL I visited Councils in my District to carry the message of the Grand Lecturer to those who could not attend his visit to Albany Council.

I observed several degrees that were done in accordance with the Standard Work and Lectures of Cryptic Rite Masonry. Unfortunately, I did not connect with the Saratoga Council –they apparently were not meeting on a regular basis.

My itemized findings are of a more general nature because the observations applied to each Council and I did not wish to be critical of any particular one.

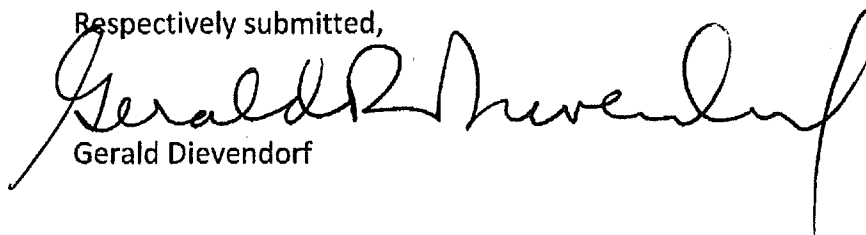
As far as strengths:

- leadership in each chapter was apparent.
- each Council that I visited had a core of ritualists who were more than competent,
- meetings were held in proper ritual manner and for the most part were on time,
- every meeting, most with dinners proceeding, were fine examples of masonic fellowship, and
- Most degree work was done from memory.

Weaknesses observed included:

- It seemed that most of the line officers were retreads, this is not necessarily bad but may be indicative of other issues,
- I feel that more emphasis could be placed on membership development and retention,
- meetings that were solely business in nature without a program,
- with one notable exception, degrees were held for only a handful of candidates, and
- many of the elected and appointed officers had to read their respective parts.

Respectively submitted,

  
Gerald Dievendorf

## AGL Report For 6<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District

At your request is a report of my Cryptic activities as AGL for the 6th Cryptic District this past year. Paper copies of my AGL Official Visit reports have previously been mailed to the Grand Illustrious Master, Grand Lecturer, and DDGIM.

On August 22 & 23 I attended all the sessions of Grand Council in Batavia and was installed as the AGL for the 6th Cryptic District. I attended the AGL's meeting with the Grand Lecturer on the 22nd.

On September 10, 2014 I attended the 6th Cryptic District Grand Lecturer's Convention at Central City Council in Liverpool. This was well attended by Central City and Rotica companions. The Grand Lecturer gave an outstanding program on the Royal Master degree, including his take on the meaning and hidden nuances of the degree. After the assembly, PGM Widger was effusive in his praise of the outstanding job done by the Grand Lecturer, and PGM Widger is not generally easily impressed.

On September 15, 2014, I attended the Official Visit of DDGIM for the 6th Cryptic District, RI Dennis Davis, to Rotica Council (his home council). This was well attended and the opening and closing ritual was very good to excellent. See below for comments on degree work for Rotica Council.

On October 8, 2014 we held the Official Visit by the DDGIM, RI Dennis Davis, at Central City Council #13. Central City did a very good opening and closing that evening. The message of the Grand Illustrious Master, MI Harley DeShane, was well received by the Companions. Central City Council is in good condition. They did not do the degrees this year, but did both degrees in 2013-2014 while I was IM.

On October 11, 2014, I attended the reception for GIM, MI Harley DeShane in Owego, New York.

On March 17, 2015 we attended the Official Visit to King Hiram Council #18 at the Waterloo Masonic Lodge. There were two members and seven visitors present, including 3 Past Illustrious Masters (Whittaker/Anderson/Mason). PGIM Whittaker is helping keep this Council alive by bringing companions from Geneva to assist in opening and closing. The IM, Don Ellinwood's, health and mental capacity are failing. The long term outlook for this chapter is iffy. The good news is that they have two petitioners for the Cryptic Orders. PGIM's Mason & Anderson were in attendance to present RI Ellinwood his certificate as the 2013 Cryptic Mason of the Year. Due to the health of the IM and the lack of meetings of this Council, the certificate was awarded two years late.

On May 27, 2015, we attended the Official Visit to Fulton Council #50 in Phoenix. There were 8 members present, the DDGIM and myself to give us 10 to open. The opening and closing was good and only 1 member was using a book. The DDGIM installed the officers of this council for 2015-2016. This Council is in OK shape, but obviously needs some new members. The IM, Tom Sawyer, expressed his goal for this year was to recruit some new companions for this council.

On May 28, 2015, we attended the Official Visit to King David Council # 97 in Dexter. 10 members and two visitors were present. Opening and closing was good but there were a few books open. A past IM sat in the chair of the IM, I Roswell Gotham, as his eye sight is failing and he is unable to read the ritual well. This council does have some younger members coming up thru the line, although like most councils, they could also use some new members.

On May 19, 2015, I attended the meeting of St. Lawrence Council #13 in Ganonoque, Ontario, with several other Companions and most of the Grand Cryptic Line from NY and received the Arc Mariner degree at this Assembly.

The only degree work conferred in the District this past year was by Rotica Council. They conferred the Royal Master Degree 11/17/2014, 12/15/2014 & 3/16/2015 on two candidates at each session. They then conferred the Select Master Degree on 4/20/2015 on all 6 candidates. The degree work by Rotica Council was very good to excellent.

Respectfully submitted,

VI John B. Covell, AGL  
6th Cryptic District

## **AGL REPORT FOR THE 7th CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

My visits to Ahwaga Council No. 30 has impressed me, they now can fill all the chairs but Treasurer and Sentinel with NY Members and no longer need the help of the PA Members to open and close. They do their parts from memory and no longer are using the ritual books.

They did a great job with the Royal Master Degree with all the major parts done without any ritual books (some minor parts used the rituals because were asked to do the part that night because of missing members). The night I planned to visit Cayuga Council No. 90 was the night the Grand Lecturer was scheduled to visit but it was cancelled. I apologize that my schedule didn't afford me another chance to visit them.

I took this position because the MIGM asked me to -- if there is someone who would be interested in this position, I would appreciate the incoming MI Grand Master offering it to them. The ritual between the states is similar but different and I don't want to get the work confused since I do degree work in PA.

M.:P.: Dean Lewis, Assistant Grand Lecturer  
7<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District

## **AGL REPORT FOR THE 8th CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

Due to the untimely death of R.:I.: Francis Edward Powley, Jr. in May of 2015 who was the AGL for the 8<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District at the time, no final written annual report was submitted for the proceedings of the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly.

## **AGL Report 9<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District 2014-15**

Buffalo Keystone # 17 Cheektowaga

Hamburg # 90                      Hamburg

Dunkirk #25                      Dunkirk

The 9<sup>th</sup> District Grand Lecturer's Convention was held November 3, 2014, at the Cheektowaga Masonic Center, Buffalo-Keystone #17 hosting. All three councils participated. The RM degree exemplification went very well, performed from memory, with some companions doing parts they had not done before. R.: I.: Card provided a running tutorial commentary, breaking down the meaning and the interplay of events, which went very well. I was disappointed that only two members from each of the visiting councils attended, but that has been the pattern over the years, and will be so in future Conventions, no doubt. Erie County is blessed to have many Masonic organizations working within its borders, but that very blessing leads to the expectation that an event should not involve more than 15 minutes travel time.

The Assistant Grand Lecturer traveled to Hamburg Council degree conferrals in the Fall and the Spring, to Dunkirk Council October, 2014, and to Buffalo Keystone – my home council - for Degrees in March and April, 2015. I was also privileged to present a historical survey lecture to Hamburg Council in April.

The better ritualists in their respective areas populate all three councils. Ritual and Degree work is routinely done by memory without the book in all three. The weakest link seems to be Dunkirk Council, not on account of their ritual as much as their not having as generous a pipeline of new Royal Arch Companions to draw into Cryptic Masonry as the other two. Their membership is stable, and very much capable, but they do sometimes have less than nine at an evening.

In contrast, Hamburg Council has been very energetic this year. For example they greeted Select Masters in February, which occasion one or two of their waiting Royal Masters could not attend. So they shrugged their shoulders and agreed to do it again the next month. This was very much agreeable to Buffalo-Keystone, whose planned date for the Select Master had been moved back due to weather. Hamburg Council kindly included one of BK's RMs in their rescheduled conferral. They have greeted 6 new Royal and Select Masters this year.

My home council Buffalo Keystone #17 has also been energetic these past couple years, greeting 8 new companions in that time, 4 each year. Their line entirely comprises new R&SMs, and like the other two councils, they do their ritual by memory without the book. This year they have scheduled a Summer social picnic, an innovation indicative of their vitality. There are good things on the horizon for Western New York Cryptic Masonry.

Humbly Submitted,

V.: I.: Mark J. Robson, Assistant Grand Lecturer, 9<sup>th</sup> Cryptic District.



## OPERATING FUND 2014/2015

BALANCE August 1, 2014 15,700.51

### INCOME

R-1	Member NY Per Capita	(15.00)	19,755.00	
R-2	Member GC Per Capita	(1.00)	1,317.00	
R-3	New Member Greeting	(10.00)	670.00	
R-4	Permanent Funds		5,000.00	
R-5	Bank Interest		0.00	
R-6	Late Annual Return Fee		0.00	
R-7	Refund Host Council		0.00	
R-8	Escrow Funds		0.00	
R-9	Miscellaneous		0.00	26,742.00
				42,442.51

### DISBURSEMENTS

A-1	Annual Assembly (Hotel/Meals)	3,059.32
A-2	Annual Proceedings	861.35
B-1	Grand Master's Expense	4,000.00
B-2	Grand Master's Apron	0.00
B-3	Grand Master's Jewel	350.00
C-1	Grand Recorder's Salary	2,166.33
C-2	Grand Treasurer's Salary	1,000.00
D-1	Office Expense	2,800.00
D-2	Grand Council Storage	1,075.00
D-3	Supplies	50.93
D-4	Postage	371.52
D-5	Printing	99.00
D-6	Mileage & Travel	1,794.51
D-7	Telephone	263.00
D-8	Insurance & Bonding	126.00
D-9	Taxes	0.00
E-1	Grand Lecture's Expense	182.50
E-2	Grand Line Officers Expense	1,050.00
F-1	General Grand Council Per Capita	1,325.00
G-1	General Grand Triennial Fund	900.00
G-2	Ritual/Constitution NY Escrow	0.00
G-3	Regalia-New York Fund	43.85

G-4 Equipment Repair & Purchase	
Fund	0.00
G-5 History Fund	0.00
G-6 Miscellaneous	1,597.34

23,115.65

BALANCE July 31, 2015

19,326.86

Respectfully submitted,

*Donald Harrison*

M. . . . Donald Harrison, Grand Treasurer

2014-15 Budget Vs 2014-15 Actual  
With Proposed 2015-16 Budget

Grand Council Cryptic Masons Budget 2015-2016					
			Budget 2014-15	Actual 2014-15	Budget 2015-16
	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Comments</b>			
R-1	Member NY Per Capita (1,317 / 1285)	\$15.00 / \$20.50 per member	19,875.00	19,755.00	26,342.50
R-2	Member GC Per Capita (1,317 / 1285)	\$1.00 / \$2.50 per member	1,325.00	1,317.00	3,212.50
R-3	New Members-Greetings (35)	\$10.00 per member	350.00	670.00	350.00
R-4	Permanent Fund Income		5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
R-5	Bank Interest		0.00	0.00	0.00
R-6	Late Annual Return Fee		0.00	0.00	0.00
R-7	Refund Host Council for A-1		4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
R-8	Escrow Funds		900.00	0.00	900.00
R-9	Miscellaneous		100.00	0.00	260.00
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>31,550.00</b>	<b>26,742.00</b>	<b>35,065.00</b>
	<b>Disbursements</b>				
A-1	Annual Assembly (Hotel/Meals/Etc.)		4,500.00	3,059.32	4,500.00
A-2	Annual Proceedings		1,000.00	861.35	1,000.00
B-1	Grand Master's Expense		4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
B-2	Grand Master's Apron		800.00	0.00	800.00
B-3	Grand Master's Jewel			350.00	800.00
C-1	Grand Recorder's Salary		2,000.00	2,166.33	2,000.00
C-2	Grand Treasurer's Salary		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
D-1	Office Expense	GR 525 = 2100 GT 375 = 1500	3,600.00	2,800.00	3,600.00
D-2	Grand Council Storage		1,545.00	1,075.00	1,800.00
D-3	Supplies		250.00	50.93	250.00
D-4	Postage		250.00	371.52	460.00
D-5	Printing		500.00	99.00	500.00
D-6	Mileage & Travel		1,300.00	1,794.51	1,900.00
D-7	Telephone		250.00	263.00	250.00
D-8	Insurance & Bonding		130.00	126.00	130.00
D-9	Taxes		0.00	0.00	0.00
E-1	Grand Lecturer's Expense		700.00	182.50	700.00
E-2	Grand Officers' Expense		2,450.00	1,050.00	2,800.00
F-1	Gen. Grand Council Per Capita		1,325.00	1,325.00	3,212.50
G-1	General Grand Triennial Fund		1,500.00	900.00	300.00
G-2	Ritual/Constitution NY Escrow Fund		500.00	0.00	500.00
G-3	Regalia - New York Fund		3,000.00	43.85	500.00
G-4	Equipment Repair & Purchase Fund		500.00	0.00	200.00
G-5	History Fund		100.00	0.00	100.00
G-6	Miscellaneous		350.00	1,597.34	500.00
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>31,550.00</b>	<b>23,115.65</b>	<b>31,802.50</b>
	<b>Balance as July 31, 2015 / 2016</b>			<b>3,626.35</b>	<b>3,262.50</b>
	To The Grand Council:				
The Committee on Finance & Accounts -- Budget has held its required meeting to complete the Budget and review the accounts.					
We find that all is in order.					
Respectfully Submitted,					
M.:L. Donald Harrison, PGM, Grand Treasurer					
R.:L. Charles V. Bunton, DGM Chairman					
R.:L. Garry R. Hutcherson, GPCW					
M.:L. Charles M. Roberts, Chairman of GC Trustees					

**TRUSTEES REPORT ON THE PERMANENT FUNDS**  
**OF THE GRAND COUNCIL FOR THE CURRENT CRYPTIC YEAR 2014-2015**

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Masters and Companions All:

The Trustees of the Grand Council submit the following written Annual Report on the funds held in trust for the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State New York for the 2014-2015 Cryptic Year.

Grand Master's Fund (St. George's Council) Balance as of June 30, 2014: \$2,778.76

Additional Income for 2014-2015: \$ 0.00

Withdrawals for 2014-15: \$562.97

(Voucher #5: \$284.86 & Voucher #6: \$278.11)

Grand Master's Fund (St. George's Council) Balance as of June 30, 2015: **\$2,215.79**

**PERMANENT FUND**

**PERMANENT FUND BALANCE** on June 30, 2014:

**\$122,531.02**

**INCOME/REVENUE**

**American High-Income Trust Class A Funds**

	<b><u>Gains &amp; Dividends</u></b>	<b><u>Shares</u></b>	<b><u>Fund Value</u></b>
July – September 2014 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$ 568.59	3,259.378 (\$11.09)	\$36,146.50
October – December 2014 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	\$ 571.36	3,311.601 (\$10.75)	\$35,599.71
January – March 2015 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$ 531.57	3,360.580 (\$10.86)	\$36,495.90
April – June 2015 – 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	<u>\$ 533.11</u>	3,409.866 (\$10.64)	\$36,280.97

+ \$2,204.63

**June 30, 2015 Fund Value:** **\$36,280.97**

**Putnam Investments High Yield Trust A**

	<b><u>Gains &amp; Dividends</u></b>	<b><u>Shares</u></b>	<b><u>Fund Value</u></b>
July – September 2014 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$1,087.24	10,443.920 (\$8.070)	\$84,282.43
October – December 2014 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	\$1,101.42	10,583.132 (\$7.780)	\$82,548.43
January – March 2015 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$1,116.51	10,725.390 (\$7.860)	\$84,301.57
April – June 2015 – 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	<u>\$1,131.13</u>	10,868.276 (\$7.800)	\$84,772.55

\$4,436.30

**June 30, 2015 Fund Value:** **\$84,772.55**

**TOTAL REINVESTED INCOME FOR THE YEAR FROM FUNDS: + \$6,640.93**

**DISBURSEMENTS**

There were No withdrawals from American High-Income Trust this year. There was a \$5,000.00 withdrawal from Putnam Investments Funds during July 2015 period for Grand Council operational expenses for 2014-2015.

**PERMANENT FUND BALANCE** on Hand as of June 30, 2015:

**\$121,053.52**

The financial market this year has shown slight ups and downs. We had an increase of \$6,640.93 in gains/dividends in the Permanent Fund. But due to fluctuation in the market value we ended the year with a loss in net value of \$1,477.50 since our last Annual Assembly. We are hopeful with the increase in Per Capita for each member that we will need no funds from the Permanent Funds for operational costs.

An inventory of the Grand Recorder's Office has been done and old and outdated equipment, file cabinets have been recycled or disposed of. Most of the present inventory is office supplies and old records.

Finally, we remind the Grand Recorder that the current Grand Council Officers' & Past Grand Master jewel/apron forms must be signed and be current each year for such current and past Officers. We encourage all Present and Past Grand Officers to have a rider on your homeowners insurance to cover the cost of replacement of the property held in your trust (jewels, collars, aprons, badges and etc.) if lost or stolen.

Respectfully Submitted,

MI Charles M. Roberts, Trustee (2013-2016), Chairman

MI Edward P. Fagan, Jr. Trustee (2012-2015)

MI Richard C. Anderson, Trustee (2014-2017)

## **Report of the Acting Grand Recorder - August 17, 2015**

Most Worshipful Grand Master William J. Thomas, Most Illustrious Grand Master Harley R. DeShane, my fellow Grand Line Officers, Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, and Companions all:

Suffice it to say the last three months since M.:I.:DeShane appointed me as Acting Grand Recorder has been very busy. With the untimely death of our Grand Recorder R.:I.:Francis Edward Powley, Jr. in May, my friend and colleague, and my duties as Grand Commander, it sure has been a fast pace learning curve to have everything ready for this Annual Assembly. I wish to thank both M.:I.:Paul Matthews and M.:I.:Victor Versace for their kind assistance and counsel while learning all the details of the office. I hope I have done it justice.

I had to do a U-Haul move of the entire Grand Recorder's Office out of Sodus Lodge in Sodus, NY by the end of June so as not to incur further rent charges there. I have done a quick inventory of the supplies and property we have. In my role as a Trustee of Grand Council, I noticed we had old copiers, typewriters and worn out file cabinets that were rusted and falling apart. I have downsized these storage units by recycling them or donating them to others since they were empty and not in use. We have one file cabinet with membership cards in it. I have the supplies stored at present at my home and church office until I can secure a new home for them all.

All financial obligations for the first three-quarters of this Cryptic year to our former Grand Recorder were duly met. After reviewing the known records found at Ted's office and on the computer the following is the written report for the Grand Recorder's Office for 2014-2015.

The Cryptic Year for this Grand Council consists of the following statistics:

### **Membership as of June 30, 2014 – 1,317**

<b>Greeted</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Affiliated</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Restored</b>	<b>3</b>

**Total Gains: 76**

That's the good news – now for the bad

<b>Died</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Demitted</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Suspended NPD</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Suspended in Chapter</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Expelled</b>	<b>3</b>

**Total Loss: 108**

### **Membership as of June 30, 2015 1,285**

We had a total loss of 32 for the year. A complete breakdown of the membership by Council is attached.

I don't want to come across too harsh, but the Constitutional date for the submission of Annual Returns is July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Most Illustrious Grand Master extended that until July 16<sup>th</sup> due to the untimely death of our Grand Recorder. Yet there were several Councils who did not meet this deadline, and it placed on this individual an unnecessary burden to get all the paperwork done.

THIS MUST CEASE if this office is to run successfully and smoothly. Most Councils hold their Election of Officers in May, and a couple even before that. I see no reason for the Grand Recorder to have to wait until the end of July to get these documents in hand. They were mailed out in late April to all Recorders. How long does it take to fill out one sheet of paper for elections and maybe three sheets for the annual return? Please companions let's try to do better next year. So the Grand Recorder does not have to complain.

I would strongly urge that all Councils have more than one signature on file for all financial accounts of the Council to avoid untimely and unnecessary legal delays to gain access to finances due to unforeseen circumstances. I would also suggest that each Council have an assistant appointed for the office of Recorder of the Council in case of the inability of the Recorder to carry out his duties. The assistant should be familiar with the operations of the Recorder's office of his Council and where things are.

The Financial records of the Grand Recorder for this Cryptic year show the following:

<b>Total Revenue Received:</b>	<b>\$21,742.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue from Investments:</b>	<b><u>\$ 5,000.00</u></b>
	<b><u>\$26,742.00</u></b>
<b>Total Expenses per Invoices:</b>	<b><u>\$25,020.15</u></b>
<b>Balance as of July 31, 2015:</b>	<b>\$ 1,721.85</b>

*(This is based on what records where found)*

All in all, I have enjoyed serving the Grand Council in this capacity these last few months and I hope I met your expectations.

Fraternally yours,



M. I. & Rev. Charles M. Roberts, PMIGM, Acting Grand Recorder

# SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES BY COUNCIL 2014-15

COUNCIL	No. 6/30/2014	GREETED	AFFIL.	REST.	DIED	DEMIT	SUSP. NPD	SUSP. CHAP.	EXPELLED	6/30/2015	NET GAIN/LOSS
Columbian	1	168	6	0	0	1	0	1	1	156	(12)
Union	2	33	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	31	(2)
Adelphic	7	50	7	1	1	1	0	0	0	56	6
Rotica	12	64	5	1	0	3	1	0	0	68	4
Central City	13	53	4	0	0	1	4	0	0	52	(1)
Bloss-DW/Clinton	14	69	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	74	5
Buff-Keystone	17	50	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	48	(2)
King Hiram	18	14	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	(6)
Doric	19	27	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	3
Dunkirk	25	37	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	35	(2)
Palmyra	26	13	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	11	(2)
Ahwaga	30	41	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	40	(1)
King Solomon's	31	20	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	19	(1)
Hornellsville	35	36	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	38	2
Adoniram	36	26	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	25	(1)
JWarren-Cryptic	37	35	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	33	(2)
Fulton	50	37	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	35	(2)
Peekskill	55	18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	17	(1)
St. George's	74	111	1	0	4	1	3	0	0	104	(7)
Skoi Yase	75	24	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	4
Suffolk	76	82	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	81	(1)
Flatbush	80	37	19	0	4	5	16	0	1	30	(7)
Oneonta	87	58	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	56	(2)
North Shore	88	43	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	42	(1)
Cayuga	90	26	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	24	(2)
Hamburg	91	43	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	4
Nun Da Waga	92	41	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	38	(3)
Goshen	93	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0
King David	97	22	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	20	(2)
TOTALS	1317	67	6	3	36	19	45	5	3	1285	(32)





# Grand Council Cryptic Masons

State of New York

## Awards Committee Report 2014-2015

### **Individual Achievements**

A. Grand Council State of New York Cryptic Mason of the year

To be announced at Grand Council Assembly

B. General Grand Council-International Cryptic Mason of the year

To be announced at the Grand-Council Banquet

C. General Grand Council-International Adult-Youth leadership

To be announced at the Grand Council Banquet

D. Most Ill. Grand Master's Recognition Award

Lady of the Council Awards

To be announced at the Grand Council Banquet

### **Ish-Sodi Awards**

A. ISH—SODI Awards

The first line signer for 5 Petitioners since August 2003

No Companion eligible

B. Meritorious ISH—SODI Awards

The first line signer for 25 Petitioners

No Companion eligible

### **Council Membership Gains & Attendance Awards**

A. Most Greetings of new select masters in the Cryptic year

Flatbush Council #80 --- Top of the list (11 new Companions)

B. Greetings of 5 or more new Companions in the Cryptic year

Columbian #1 (6)

Adelphic Council #7 (7)

Rotica #12 (5)

Flatbush #80 (11)

C. 10% or greater increase in membership in the Cryptic Year

This award presented by General Grand Council International

Flatbush Council #80      11 = (44% increase)

Skoi-Yase Council #75      4 = (16% increase)

Adelphic Council #7      7 = (14% increase)

Hamburg Council #91      4 = (10% increase)

D. Best Attendance at Grand Council Annual Assembly

To be announced @ Grand Council Assembly.

These are the awards with the reported figures available at this time,  
As there was 5 Councils that either did not report or fully report to the  
ACTING GRAND RECORDER as (July 16, 2015).

Submitted by

Richard Anderson PGIM Committee Chairman

## DEPUTY GRAND MASTER REPORT FOR 2014-2015

Being Deputy Grand Master this year has been a valuable learning seat for an eventual role as the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

As I "throw my hat into the electoral ring" for Most Illustrious Grand Master, I promise to fulfill the expectations and high level of performance of my predecessors.

The rounds of the Grand Council Team have included visiting many of the presently existing councils, including a visit to Adoniram Council No. 36 which will make a comeback from some hard luck last year.

I acknowledge with appreciation the Right Illustrious Robert Bukowski, District Deputy Grand Master, who facilitated a summoned assembly with the assistance of Ari Chisin, James Reichman, Joseph Savaglio and others. John McCoy was elected Illustrious Master. Congratulations.

As previously noted, I could not attend a whole lot of Cryptic activities last autumn during the months of September, October and November.

Therefore, I acknowledge with appreciation, the Right Illustrious Garry Hutchurson who on my behalf accompanied our Most Illustrious Grand Master at the Annual Grand Conclave and Chapter/Council Triennial.

In particular, in my absence, he chaired the Grand Council Officer Workshop on October 11th. Thank you, Garry.

However, I did have the chance to attend the

Grand Lodge Committee Meeting on Concordant Bodies

Grand Chapter Convocation, State of New York

Cryptic Table Council, Columbian Council No. 1

Annual Grand Assembly, State of Delaware

Annual Grand Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Select Master Degree, Rotica Council No. 12

Annual Grand Assembly, State of Washington

Election and Installation, North Shore Council No. 88

Line of March, Saint John's Day Pilgrimage

along with my frequent visits to my own, Suffolk Council No. 76.

Where ever, I was received with courtesy and respect.

As a fiscal conservative, I am including my committee reports in this printing. I have come to believe that some committees are redundant.

#### Finance, Accounting and Budget

Arranging another meeting night can be a challenge, since we all live in different areas of this Grand Jurisdiction.

In an attempt to use our time wisely, I scheduled a lunch/meeting on Saturday March 7th following the Installation of Grand Chapter Officers and Closing. I had concerns about my budget.

However, this meeting never came to fruition.

Afterwards, I was advised, "We do the budget. Don't worry about."

#### Long Range Planning Committee

This committee did not formally convene. The members are regular attendees at the Grand Council Workshops.

The work done at these workshops is the same as if the committee did meet.

#### Membership

The Grand Council Membership Committee members have been working in their respective areas to spread the message of York Rite Masonry to the Craft lodges.

No formal meeting took place.

#### Condition of the Rite

Due to the death of Right Illustrious F. Edward Powley, a blessed memory, Most Illustrious Charles Roberts has been acting as interim Grand Recorder. Thank you, Charles.

I am fully supportive of the effort of our Grand Council Team.

The cooperation we have enjoyed has allowed us to accomplish much, but I ask for more, for our task is great. However, I am confident that with the level of knowledge and skill displayed by my colleagues, we will continue to improve Cryptic Masonry and overcome all obstacles in our path.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles V. Bunton, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master



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

**M.:I.: Harley R. DeShane  
Grand Master**

**1987 Preble Road, Box 105  
Preble, NY 13141-0105**

**GrandMaster@NYCryptic.org**

August 16, 2015

Most Worshipful Grand Master: William J. Thomas  
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master: Jeffrey M. Williamson  
Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master: Charles A. Bunton  
Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters of the Grand Council of New York  
Grand Council Line Officers, and Companions all.

Good Morning!

I would like to welcome you all to the Owego, Treadway Inn for this morning's session of the 192nd Annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

I am pleased to open my Allocution with the report that our Grand Jurisdiction is continuing to go in a positive direction. For example, we have four Councils who have increased their membership by five or more companions and three who have reached a ten percent or more increase. I send my personal congratulations to these hard working councils. I extend the challenge to all our Councils to meet these same milestones in the coming years.

I would like to take the opportunity to detail some of my accomplishments during my Tenure as your Grand Master.

I approved dispensations that varied from authorizing degree work, to changes in meeting locations and dates. I also had the distinct pleasure to allow the exemplification of the Pennsylvania Ritual's opening and closing in Ahwaga Council. It was a truly memorable evening.

I did a lot of traveling to our Sister Jurisdictions and attended their Grand Assemblies. My traveling companions and I visited Ontario Canada to the North, Louisiana to the South, Maine to the East, Ohio to the West and many others along the way like: Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and Pennsylvania. Every visit was special to me and I want to thank the Grand Masters or their Representatives who could be with me this weekend.

Within our great State of New York, I attended and represented our Grand Council at this year's Grand Lodge session - Congratulations to Most Worshipful William Thomas and Right Worshipful Jeffery Williamson on being reelected; the Grand Chapter Convocation - Congratulations to Most Excellent Cyril Francis on your election and the Grand Commandery Conclave - Congratulations to our very own "Most Illustrious", Right Eminent Charles Roberts on your election. I represented our Grand Council at the General Grand Chapter/General Grand Council Triennial in Buffalo, N.Y. The reenactment of the "Meeting of the Waters" was a meaningful event.

I was fortunate to attend a number of events with our Youth Groups, the young ladies of Triangle and Rainbow and young men of DeMolay. It was my distinct pleasure, as Grand Master, to participate in two unique ceremonies, the Order of Deborah and the Order of York Tribune. These extraordinary ceremonies are truly outstanding and momentous for everyone involved.

I need to extend a special "Thank you" to the best traveling companion a Man could ever have – my wife Carol! Without her strong support and her willingness to "hit the road" with me, I would not have been able to do any of the traveling I did during this year.

Now going forward, as my term as Grand Master is coming to an end, what words of Cryptic Wisdom can I present to you my Companions? I have two – one set for our Constituent Councils and one set for my fellow Grand Line Officers.

To our Constituent Councils – Continue the outreach to our new Masonic Brothers. Don't just "shove" a petition in their hands. Become their friend, a trusted Brother, a Mentor and a role model for the York Rite. When they are ready for further Masonic Light, then "Walk with them" and introduce them to our York Rite Bodies. Do this and we will all win!

To my fellow Officers in Grand Council – Companions, we must be more "visible" within our State, our Jurisdiction and our Sister Jurisdictions. It is vital that we travel and participate in other Masonic events and represent our Grand Council. We can no-longer be the "quiet" Grand Body, the term "Cryptic" should be in our name – only! If you hear of a Masonic Event – an Installation, a Parade, a youth group activity or a public Masonic Ceremony like St. John's Day or a building re-dedication; Attend – Be there - and wear your Cryptic Regalia proudly.

Finally Companions, in closing: "All in all" it has been a good year for me. In my travels it is truly wonderful to meet with my companions wherever I have gone.

As I look around at the Line Officers of our Grand Council I know that our Grand Jurisdiction is in good hands!

May the Great Architect of the Universe watch over you and your families, bless our extraordinary Cryptic brotherhood and bless our great Country.

Thank you.

*Harley R. DeShane*

Most ill. Harley R. DeShane, MIGM  
Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

**Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of New York  
Charity Fund Corporation**

**GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, August 22, 2015 – 11:00 AM**

Convening of the Annual Meeting	President Charles M. Roberts
Invocation	
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of August 2014	Secretary Richard J. Kessler
Board of Directors Highlights for 2014-2015	President Charles M. Roberts
Financials of the Corporation for 2014-2015	Treasurer E. William Whittaker
Financial Review/Audit Report	
Charitable Distribution for 2014-15 year	President Charles M. Roberts
Election to the Board of Directors for 3 Years	M.:I.: Donald Harrison, Chairman
<b><u>Report of the Nominating Committee</u></b>	
I.: Richard J. Kessler replacement for I.: Richard J. Kessler, term expired	
R.:I.: Stuart W. Card replacement for R.:I.: Stuart W. Card, term expired	
Charity Fund Awards Presentations	Directors of the Corporation
Approval of Minutes of this Annual Meeting	Secretary Richard J. Kessler
Benediction	
Adjournment	President Charles M. Roberts

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

***M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts, President (2013-2016)***  
***R.:I.: Curtis A. Banks, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (2014-2017)***  
***R.:I.: Ralph H. Rosenthal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2014-2017)***  
***M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Treasurer (2013-2016)***  
***I.: Richard J. Kessler, Secretary (2012-2015)***  
***R.:I.: Stuart W. Card, Assistant Secretary (2012-2015)***





# Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York Charity Fund Corporation

## General Meeting Batavia, NY

Minutes August 23, 2014

Open: President Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM

Invocation: Rev. Jose Valencia

### Opening Remarks:

President Roberts opened the annual meeting of the Charity Corporation.

- Commitment of Companions is outstanding
- As jurisdiction shrinks in membership, resulting Companions are asked to possibly increase their current rate of giving.
- Solomon Arch Society signed up over 28 Companions. This is short of our goal of 50.
- The criterion for becoming a Solomon Arch Society member is a \$1,000 pledge/donation.
- Rate of giving has remained constant of the past 5 years.

### Minutes:

Minutes of the August 17, 2013 General Meeting from Batavia, New York were approved by the directors.

A copy of the minutes is included in the annual proceedings.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Report is included in the annual proceedings on pages 45-47.
- The report is also available on the Treasurer's Lap top.
- Treasurer's Report was approved by the body.

Donations: The directors recommended the following donations:

- Parkinson Disease \$10,000
- Order DeMolay \$ 1,500
- International Order of Triangles \$ 1,500
- Order of Rainbow \$ 1,500
- CMMRL \$ 1,000
- The body unanimously approved the recommended giving levels.

### Audit Report:

R.:I.: Vern Rupert, chairman, stated that the Audit Committee found all records in good order. Motion to accept the audit report was made and approved by acclamation. President Roberts thanked the committee for their diligence and hard work. Copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

### General remarks:

- M.:I.: Roberts hoped that by next year we can not only reach a level of 50 Companions in the Solomon Arch Society, but may hit 75.
- State of New York has changed the Not-for-profit Revitalization Act on December 2013. All not-for-profit organizations will have a grace period in which to comply with the new regulations.
- Changes in our procedures have already begun

- Because of new regulations, the Charity Corporation may have to increase from 6 to 9 directors.

#### Election of Directors:

- President Roberts appointed 3 tellers
- M.:I.: Charles Roberts reported that R.:I.: John Patterson will not run for another 3-year term. He cited family matters, most importantly the grave medical condition of his son Bart. President Roberts all to keep R.:I.: Patterson, his son and the whole family in their prayers.
- A replacement director will be appointed by the Board as provided for in the Charity Corporation's Constitution.
- M.:I.: Donald Harrison, chairman of the nominating committee, nominated R.:I.: Curtiss Banks as a director of the Charity Corporation for the ensuing three years. There were no further nominations and a motion to close nominations was made and approved.
- Tellers directed the Secretary to cast one ballot for the unanimous election of the previous mentioned candidate.
- The elections were closed and the tellers were dismissed with thanks.
- Companion Banks agreed to serve.
- All business being conducted, President Roberts closed the general meeting at 11:05 AM.

#### Awards Ceremony:

The President with the assistance of the Treasurer and Secretary handed out certificates to all recipients. Solomon 9<sup>th</sup> Arch presentations were also made.

Benediction: Rev. Jose Valencia

Adjourned: 11:05 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
R.:I.: Richard J. Kessler  
Secretary

Council Giving in Dollars  
2014-2015

	A	B	C	D
1	Council & No.	Gift Level	S-P-GM Levels	Council Totals
2				
3	Columbian-1	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
4	Union-2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Adelphic-7	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	Rotica-12	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$225.00
7	Central City-13	\$28.00	\$0.00	\$28.00
8	Bloss-DeWitt Clinton-14	\$40.00	\$150.00	\$190.00
9	Buffalo-Keystone-17	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
10	King Hiram-18	\$25.00	\$300.00	\$325.00
11	Doric-19	\$50.00	\$425.00	\$475.00
12	Dunkirk-25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Palmyra-26	\$76.00	\$0.00	\$76.00
14	Ahwaga-30	\$0.00	\$205.00	\$205.00
15	King Solomon-31	\$0.00	\$270.00	\$270.00
16	Hornellsville-35	\$0.00	\$525.00	\$525.00
17	Adoniram-36	\$0.00	\$126.00	\$126.00
18	Joseph Warren-Cryptic-37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	Fulton-50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	Peekskill-55	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
21	St. George's-74	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
22	Skoi-Yase-75	\$38.00	\$300.00	\$338.00
23	Suffolk-76	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
24	Flatbush-80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
25	Oneonta-87	\$118.00	\$100.00	\$218.00
26	North Shore-88	\$0.00	\$205.00	\$205.00
27	Cayuga-90	\$130.00	\$0.00	\$130.00
28	Hamburg-91	\$75.00	\$250.00	\$325.00
29	Nundawaga-92	\$70.00	\$450.00	\$520.00
30	Goshen-93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
31	King David-97	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
32	Misc. Donations	\$25.00	\$300.00	\$325.00
33				
34	TOTALS	\$875.00	\$4,506.00	\$5,381.00

Sponsor - Patron - Grand Master Levels  
1966 -2015

<u>Council &amp; No.</u>	<u>1966-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Columbian-1	46	0	46
Union-2	60	0	60
Adelphic-7	33	0	33
Rotica-12	235	2	237
Central City-13	67	0	67
Bloss-DeWitt Clinton-14	106	2	108
Buffalo-Keystone-17	64	2	66
King Hiram-18	18	3	21
Doric-19	262	4	266
Dunkirk-25	21	0	21
Palmyra-26	6	0	6
Ahwaga-30	73	2	75
King Solomon-31	66	4	70
Hornellsville-35	59	2	61
Adoniram-36	91	1	92
Joseph Warren-Cryptic-37	19	0	19
Fulton-50	26	0	26
Peekskill-55	92	2	94
St. George's-74	85	0	85
Skoi-Yase-75	82	4	86
Suffolk-76	74	3	77
Flatbush-80	31	0	31
Oneonta-87	118	1	119
North Shore-88	48	1	49
Cayuga-90	38	0	38
Hamburg-91	34	3	37
Nundawaga-92	62	5	67
Goshen-93	15	0	15
King David-97	13	2	15
Other	81	1	82
TOTALS	2025	44	2069

## Council \$5.00/member

2015

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Council	No.	membership	at\$5/member	total gift	/member	
2	Columbian	1	168	\$840.00	\$35.00	\$0.21	
3	Union	2	33	\$165.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
4	Adelphic	7	50	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
5	Rotica	12	64	\$320.00	\$225.00	\$3.52	
6	Central City	13	53	\$265.00	\$28.00	\$0.53	
7	Bloss-DWC	14	69	\$345.00	\$190.00	\$2.75	
8	Buff-Keystone	17	50	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$6.00	X
9	King Hiram	18	13	\$65.00	\$325.00	\$25.00	X
10	Doric	19	27	\$135.00	\$475.00	\$17.59	X
11	Dunkirk	25	37	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
12	Palmyra	26	13	\$65.00	\$76.00	\$5.85	X
13	Ahwaga	30	41	\$205.00	\$205.00	\$5.00	X
14	King Solomon's	31	20	\$100.00	\$270.00	\$13.50	X
15	Hornellsville	35	36	\$180.00	\$525.00	\$14.58	X
16	Adoniram	36	30	\$150.00	\$126.00	\$4.20	
17	JWarren-Cryptic	37	35	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
18	Fulton	50	37	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
19	Peekskill	55	19	\$95.00	\$150.00	\$7.89	X
20	St. George's	74	111	\$555.00	\$40.00	\$0.36	
21	Skoï Yase	75	24	\$120.00	\$338.00	\$14.08	X
22	Suffolk	76	102	\$510.00	\$250.00	\$2.45	
23	Flatbush	80	37	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
24	Oneonta	87	58	\$290.00	\$218.00	\$3.76	
25	North Shore	88	43	\$215.00	\$205.00	\$4.77	
26	Cayuga	90	26	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$5.00	X
27	Hamburg	91	43	\$215.00	\$325.00	\$7.56	X
28	Nun Da Waga	92	41	\$205.00	\$520.00	\$12.68	X
29	Goshen	93	39	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
30	King David	97	22	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$4.55	
31							
32				\$6,705.00			
33			1341				

