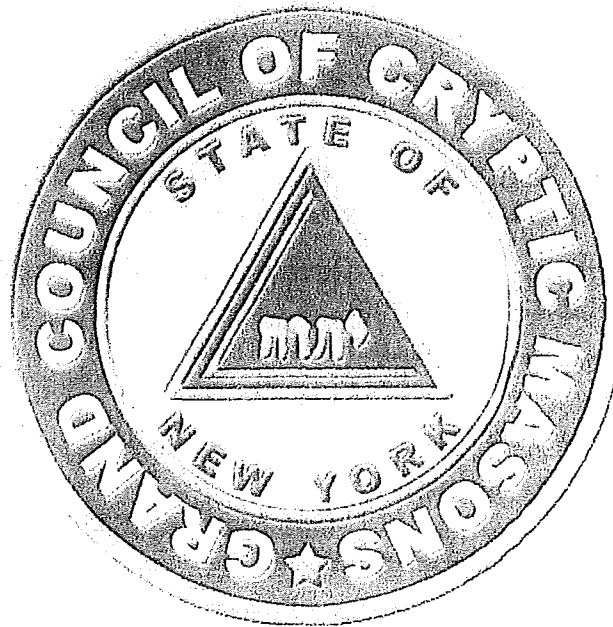


Grand Council of Cryptic Masons

Of the State of New York

2015-2016

193rd Annual Assembly



R.: J.: Garry R. Hutchurson
Acting Most Illustrious Grand Master
2015-2016

August 12th & 13th, 2016

Lexington Hotel
Rochester, NY

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Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

THE CALL TO THE 193rd Annual Assembly

MAY 2016

Official Notice is hereby given that the One Hundred Ninety-Third Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York will be held on **Friday Evening, August 12, 2016** at the **Lexington Hotel (Former Holiday Inn) Rochester, NY** and continuing through **Saturday, August 13, 2016**.

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: The Lexington Hotel Rochester Airport (Formerly the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport), 911 Brooks Avenue, Rochester, NY. Reservations with Chanel Weaver direct phone line: (585) 295-0948, email: cweaver@innercirclehotels.com. Mention Grand Council Cryptic Masons of NY for \$109.00 rate (Code MAS). Additional number to call if Chanel is not available: (585) 328-6000, Main Desk.

REGISTRATION: Friday, August 12, 2016: Noon to 9:30 PM and Saturday, August 13, 2016: 7:30 – 10:00 AM opposite the meeting room. Registration and Credentials will close at 10:00 AM on Saturday August 13th. 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 to be worn in all Tiled Sessions. Don't forget to bring yours.**

RESERVATIONS: Hotel and Meal Reservation Form is enclosed or you can go to the website: www.nycryptic.org and download a copy.

The Schedule Of The Annual Assembly

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2016

9:30 AM	Conference: Directors of the Grand Council Charity Corp. – (Executive Board Room)
1:00 – 4:00 PM	Conference: Grand Council Line Officers & Past Grand Masters - (Executive Board Room)
1:00 – 5:00 PM	Hospitality Suite will be open (Coachman Room)
6:00 – 7:30 PM	Welcome Buffet – Informal! All are Welcome. Reservations required. (Dress Code: Casual Dress for All) - (Rooms 1901, 1902, & 1903)
8:00 PM	Opening of the 193rd Annual Assembly (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 If Available!)
	Business Conducted: (Room 1904) Reception of Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council Officers; Roll Call of Councils; Previous Minutes; Appointment of Committees; Resolutions; <u>Reports of:</u> Website; Education, Membership & Public Relations; Library & Museum; Ritual Committee; Grand Lecturer and Awards; Condition & Extension of the Rite; Grand Historian; Jurisprudence & By-Laws Committee; Grand Trustees; Grand Treasurer; Audit; Budget; Deputy Grand Master.
9:15 PM	Vesper Service (The Offering for the evening will go to the Grand Council Charity Fund)
9:45 PM	Recess. Hospitality Suite will be open to 11:30 PM. (Coachman Room)

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Saturday, August 13, 2016

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

Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 AM Assembling of Distinguished Guests **(Outside of Conference Room 1904 – Hallway)**
8:45 AM **RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY - (Room 1904)** - Ladies, Guests & Members Invited
9:00 AM Reception of Distinguished Guests
9:30 AM **Necrology Ceremony** - Ladies and Non-members excused following the Ceremony
10:00 AM **Business Conducted:**
Roll Call of AGLs; Roll Call & Recognition of DDGMs; Recognition of Past Grand Masters; Roll Call & Recognition of Grand Representatives; Reports of: Grand Fraternal Correspondent; Grand Recorder; Presentation of Honorary Memberships; Remarks from Visitors; Most Illustrious Grand Master's Address.
11:00 AM **Annual Meeting of the Charity Corporation**
11:30 AM **Address** of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of NY

Recess For Lunch

NOON **LUNCHEON** (Reservations required) - **Joint Men's & Ladies' Luncheon** in Brooks Avenue Grill

Reconvene Business of the Annual Assembly

1:15 PM **RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (Room 1904)**
Business Conducted: Reports of: Ish Sodi & Awards; Committee on the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Address; Time & Place Committee; Credentials; Election of Officers; Unfinished Business; Tiled Installation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master-Elect; Closing of the 193rd Annual Assembly.
3:00 PM **Public Installation** of Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council Officers & District Deputy Grand Masters - **(Room 1904)** - Ladies & Guests Invited
4:15-5:30 PM **Conferral Of The Thrice Illustrious Master Degree - (Victorian Room)**
(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.)
6:00 PM **Social Hour prior to the Grand Council Annual Banquet (Cash Bar)**
7:00 PM **GRAND BANQUET (Rooms 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904)**
(With Remarks and Presentation of Awards - Reservations required)
{Dress Code: Elected Grand Council Officers & Past MIGMs: White Jacket and Purple Tie; Appointed Officers & DDGMs: White Jacket or Tuxedo & Purple Tie; Companions: Tuxedo or Dark Suit & Tie; Ladies: Semi-Formal}
9:30 PM **Hospitality Suite** will be open until Midnight. **(Coachman)**

Fraternally,

Attest:

R.: I.: Garry R. Hutchurson
Acting Grand Master

M.: I.: Charles M. Roberts
Grand Recorder

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EXPLANATION OF MEALS FOR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Friday's Welcome Buffet

Garden Greens with Assorted Dressings. An Assortment of Baked Rolls & Butter. The Buffet to consist of Cold Pasta Primavera Salad; Fresh Fruit Salad; Green Beans and silvered Almonds; Garlic Mashed Potatoes; Chicken Marsala with light sauce and mushrooms; Sliced London Broil; Seafood Au Graten; Apple Pie with Carmel Sauce. Freshly brewed coffee: Regular & Decaffeinated; Hot & Ice Tea and Lemonade.

Saturday's Joint Luncheon

Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings. Soup of the Day with Crackers. Fresh Fruit Salad; Cold Pasta Primavera Salad; Assorted Breads and Deli Rolls. Tuna Salad; Assorted Luncheon Meats & Cheeses to include Ham, Turkey, Salami & Roast Beef. Swiss, American & Provolone Cheeses. Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions, Pickles, Mustard & Mayonnaise. Platter of cookies and brownies. Freshly brewed coffee: Regular & Decaffeinated; Hot & Ice Tea and Lemonade.

Saturday's Banquet

An array of Imported and Domestic Cheeses/with Gourmet Crackers and Garnished with Fresh Seasonal Fruit during social hour. Family Style Garden Fresh Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings and Assorted Baked Rolls with butter.

8 oz Choice sirloin prepared with Montreal seasonings. Served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Fresh Seasonal Vegetables; Chicken French with Artichokes accompanied by Rice Pilaf and Fresh Seasonal Vegetable; Shrimp Scampi with tomatoes and scallions in a garlic lemon butter sauce over a bed of linguine; Stuffed Eggplant breaded with infused spices, layered with Ricotta cheese and roasted red peppers finished with marinara sauce and melted mozzarella cheese accompanied by a side of penne pasta. Chef's Choice for dessert. Freshly brewed coffee: Regular & Decaffeinated; Hot & Ice Tea and Lemonade.

MINUTES OF THE 192nd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The 192nd Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was held on Friday, August 21st and Saturday, August 22nd, 2015 at the Treadway Inn, Owego, NY.

OPENING AND RECEPTION OF GRAND MASTER AND OFFICERS OF GRAND COUNCIL:

A Council of Select Masters was opened by the Illustrious Master and Officers of Cayuga Council No. 90 on Friday, August 21st at 7:45 PM. The Officers of Grand Council were received into the Council and formed lines for the reception of the Most Illustrious Harley R. DeShane, Grand Master. MIGM DeShane was greeted with Private Grand Honors he ordered all Grand Line Officers to assumed their stations and places in the Council. Then MIGM DeShane spoke on the gavel being used for this Assembly work, It came from the Louisiana Grand Council. The Most Illustrious Grand Master invited RI Harvey Eysman to the East and presented him with his Grand Judge Advocate apron. Grand Honors were accorded him and he took his office location. M.:I.:G.:M.: Harley R. DeShane 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.:Harley R. DeShane 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.:Harley R. DeShane 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 DeShane declared the 192nd 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.:Harley DeShane 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.:DeShane then had the names of delinquent Councils not entitled to vote at the 192nd Annual Assembly. Union Council No. 2 failed to submit its Annual Per Capita payment.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The Grand Master then appointed a Credentials Committee, consisting of M.:I.:David Raymond, Chairman RI James Zearfoss, RI James Hemstrought and Comp. Alex Turck.

The Grand Master appointed a Committee to reply to the Grand Master's Address, consisting of M.:I.: , Chairman

RESOLUTIONS:

- 1] A Motion that the minutes of the 191st Annual Assembly as distributed in the packet and will be printed on the 2014-15 Proceedings CD be approved by MI Paul B. Matthews.
- 2] A Motion that all Companion Select Masters in good standing be invited to remain as visitors to this Annual Assembly, except at such time as provided by the Constitutions by MI Vic Versace.
- 3] A Motion that the Annual Reports of the Elected Grand Line Officers, from Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to the Grand Judge Advocate inclusive, as are printed or will be published on the 2014-15 Proceedings CD, be approved by MI E. William Whittaker.
- 4] A motion that the Election of Officers be the Order of Business at 1:45 PM on Saturday, August 22, 2015 and that nominating speeches be limited to three [3] minutes and that seconding speeches to two [2] minutes by MI Donald Harrison.

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 by MI Frank Karwowski.

All Motions were made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Copies of all Annual Reports can be found in the hand out packet at the Registration/Credentials Table.

Jurisprudence and By-Laws Review Committee

CONDITION AND EXTENSION OF THE RITE REPORT:

The report of the Committee on the Condition and Extension of the Rite was given by RI Curtis Banks. He stated only a handful of DDGM gave reports and recommendations. Opening and Closing Ritual needs to be worked on by all Officers of Councils to become more proficient from memory. Correct recitation of the ritual is critical for us all. RI Banks spoke to the availability of the Historical Proceedings on CD for a nominal cost of \$50.00 for three copies for a Council. At present Master Copies given to former Grand Recorder Powley have not been found as of yet but RI Banks assured all that he has the original Masters that he did to secure new ones if these are lost. MI Roberts will be looking for them once he gets all the records of the Grand Recorder's Office. Motion to approve the report and spread it full upon the minutes of this Annual Assembly, seconded and passed unanimously.

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

The report was given by R.:I.: Curtis Banks was not able to meet throughout the year and has nothing to report collectively. He advised all that Masonic Education is at the top tier request for Companions who are new to our Order of 5 years or less. He suggested that Grand Lecturer and AGLs become a part of this Committee to work on Ritual and Education so that they go hand-in-hand to building our Councils and the Officers thereof.

On motion to approved the Report and spread full upon the minutes of this Annual Assembly, seconded and passed unanimously.

REPORT OF JURISPRUDENCE AND BY-LAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE

MI E. William Whittaker reported on behalf of the Committee. The Committee recommends the Grand Council approve the By-Law Changes for the following Councils: Hornellsville Council No. 35, Adoniram Council No. 36 and St. George's Council No.74. On motion duly seconded the Grand Council approved the By-Law Changes unanimously.

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 duly seconded and passed unanimously to accept the report and spread it full upon the minutes of this Annual Assembly. No request for modifications of our present ritual have been received this year. Grand Lecturer Conventions held in all Districts except one with reviewing the degree of Royal Master. Host Councils had increased attendance others of the District not so. Net year the Ritual will center on Select Master Mason Degree and other growth and historical elements of the Cryptic Rite. Ritual presentation has improved but still more improvement is needed Our Ritual is what distinguishes us from all other organizations we must take it serious and do wherever possible from memory and at our best, for our Candidates

The Assistant Grand Lecturers present were recognized. They were each personal thanked by Most Illustrious Grand Master DeShane for their work this past Cryptic Year, and Given Grand Honors.

On motion by RI Card that all submitted AGL reports be accepted, motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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.

NORTHEAST CRYPTIC FESTIVAL REPORT:

RI Steve Koch presented the report and basically stated the printed report captures the essence of the Festival and the activity which took place. He asked if there were any questions. None were raised. On motion to accept the report, duly seconded and approved unanimously. He highlighted that Grand Council of New York would be hosting the Tri-State Festival this coming year in 2016.

CONCORDANT BODIES AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

MI Roberts reported for the Committee. It has been a very active year for the Concordant Bodies and Youth Committee. He summarized the written report by highlighting items written therein. On motion to accept written report and spread it full upon the minutes of this Annual Assembly, duly seconded and approved unanimously.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR COMMITTEE

RI Koch stated that nothing really took place with the Newsletter this year. On motion to receive the written report, duly seconded and unanimously approved. A question was raised whether the Newsletter is still viable with us using the website to promote more. It is if we intentionally submit articles and advertise ourselves. But maybe we need to evaluate its use future use or its purpose.

REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN:

No Report was given in written or oral form.

REPORT OF THE GRAND FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT:

The report of M.:I.: Paul Matthews stated that sadly there is none annual report due to the loss of our Grand Recorder, no input from sister jurisdictions or Grand Representatives except for one. Maybe we will have a fuller report next year.

LONG RANGE PLANNING REPORT:

No report was given.

REPORT BY THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:

RI Charles V. Bunton gave his report. Moved, seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TRUSTEES:

The report was presented by M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts he gave an oral overview of the Trustee Report. He was grateful we only had to take out only \$5,000 to meet operational expenses. He stated that this year 2015-16 the Per Capita Tax increase that was approve would take effect upon the mailing of the Annual Returns. This hopefully will keep us solvent for awhile and we will not need to take resources out of the Permanent Fund. He moved the report printed in the handed out packet be approved and spread upon the minutes of this Annual Assembly the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER:

An oral report was given by M.:I.: Don Harrison on the budget and how we faired this Cryptic year. He mentioned we had to use funds from the Permanent Fund in order to balance our Budget. We withdrew \$5,000.00. 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 proposed Operating Budget for 2015-2016. Please see the attached financial statements concerning the Grand Council's Finances. Grand Council on motion by MI Harrison approved the proposed Budget for 2015-2016. Treasurer reported that he would have to make a slight correction to the Budget submitted but will have revised Budget to the Grand Recorder for anyone's perusal.

AUDIT/FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

RI George Emmons addressed the Grand Council concerning the Grand Treasurer's Financial Records and that of the Grand Recorder. With the untimely death of our Grand Recorder, Ted Powley, he stated that unequivocally it had no noticeable impact on the financial records. They were all found to be in good order and

the Committee commends both MI Harrison and MI Roberts to getting the financial records finalized to show a true accurate picture of this Grand Council's assets for this Annual Assembly. Committee moves approval of its report, it was duly seconded and unanimously passed with applause to our two Grand Officers.

THE GRAND RECORDER'S ANNUAL REPORT

MI Roberts requested that he present this at the Saturday Session. MI DeShane concurred due to the lateness of the hour.

CALL FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:

M.:I.:DeShane 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 8:40AM Saturday, August 23, 2014 for the reception of Distinguished Guests and Ladies, followed by the Necrology Report and remaining business of the Grand Council.

GRAND COUNCIL STANDS IN RECESS

The Grand Council recessed for the evening and shortly following this recess the Friday, Evening Vesper Service took place with MI & Rev. Charles M. Roberts as coordinating Grand Chaplain. The offering received was to go to the Grand Council Charity Corporation for its charitable work. A copy of the Vesper Service will be made a part of the minutes of this Annual Assembly.

The Annual Assembly of the Grand Council was reconvened in open session by M.:I.: Harley DeShane on Saturday, August 22, 2015.

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

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

Delaware
Massachusetts and Rhode Island Plantation
New Hampshire
New Jersey
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Steven Wing Personal Representative of Grand Master General K.Y.C.H
Rt. Puissant Douglas Connell 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.: Cyril Francis,
Grand High Priest and his Grand Line Officers
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of New York State, R.:Em.: Charles M. Roberts,
Grand Commander and his Grand Line Officers
Grand Master and Grand Line Officers, Grand Lodge of the State of New York

Right Worshipful Jeffrey M. Williamson, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of NY was received under escort, in the East By Grand Master DeShane and accorded Grand Honors.

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 DeShane, and accorded Grand Honors.

NECROLOGY REPORT:

The Necrology Report was given under the direction of R.:I.: and Rev. Jose Valencia, Jr. ; M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts, PMIGM gave a eulogy for R.:I.: Francis Edward Powley, Jr. Grand Recorder. 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 DeShane excused all non-Cryptic Masons, Ladies and guests from the Assembly room and then gaveled the 192nd Annual Assembly to order and it was reconvened at 9:45AM on Saturday, August 22, 2015.

RECOGNITION OF 2014-2015 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS:

The District Deputies Grand Masters were recognized and personally thanked by M.:I.: DeShane for their service this past Cryptic year. He greeted all in the East and they were accorded Grand Honors.

On Motion by MI Roberts that all DDGM reports submitted be approve, the motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RECEPTION AND GREETING OF THE PAST MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS:

The Past Grand Masters were introduced and asked to rise and approach the East to be personally recognized and thanked by M.:I.:Harley DeShane and accorded Grand Honors.

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES:

MIGM DeShane 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. Kohlhagen, 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.:DeShane. 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.:Charles Roberts. 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 by RI Banks.

REMARKS FROM OUR VISITORS:

MIGM of Louisanna on behalf of all our Visiting Grand Masters or visiting Officers thanked the Most Illustrious Grand Master DeShane and the Grand Council of New York for the courtesies extended to all the visitors.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO OUR VISITORS:

MIGM DeSahne presented honorary membership certificates to all our Visiting Grand Masters from our Sister Jurisdictions.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:

M.:I.: DeShane turned the gavel of authority over to the Deputy Grand Master Bunton, 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. Certificates & Solomon Arch Awards were 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 DeShane for all the courtesies that had been extended to him and his Grand Line for the weekend.

LUNCHEON:

MIGM DeShane ordered the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to call The Assembly to recess until 1:00PM following lunch. The Grand Chaplain gave a blessing for lunch.

RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The Annual Assembly was reconvened by MIGM DeShane at 1:10 PM 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 DeShane 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 DeShane 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 193rd Annual Assembly will be August 18, 19, 20, 2015, at the Marriot Hotel at Islandia, NY. RI Bunton's reception will take place the Thursday evening before the start of the Annual Assembly on Friday. All were encouraged to attend. The Committee looks forward to hosting us all on Long Island.

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: RI Dennis Davis, RI Ralph Rosenthal, and RI Terry Byard. The Companions were reminded to the time limitations on nominating and seconding speeches by MIGM DeShane.

The gavel was turned over to M.:I.:E. William Whittaker to conduct the Election of Officers for the 2015-2016 Cryptic Year.

A motion was made by Illustrious Master of Suffolk Council for the Election of RI Charles Bunton as Most Illustrious Grand Master for the ensuing year. It was duly seconded. No further nominations were forth coming. Nominations closed and the Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous vote for RI Charles Bunton as Most Illustrious Grand Master of this Grand Council. Tellers found one unanimous vote for RI Bunton. He agreed to serve. He thanked the Grand Council for their support through the years and looks forward to serving this Grand Body this coming year.

A motion was made and seconded by MI Matthews that all elected Grand Line Officers be "moved up" or advanced one position in line order as they were all unchallenged. The Recorder was ordered to cast one

unanimous ballot for the slate of Grand Line Officers. One vote in favor of the slate of Grand Line Officers was found by the tellers. All accepted to serve in their new office.

R.:I.:Stephen Rubinstein of North Shore No. 88 was presented for the Office of Grand Steward. He was elected to the Grand Steward position as he was unopposed. One ballot was cast by the Grand Recorder in favor of his election. Tellers found one unanimous vote for RI Stephen Rubinstein as Grand Steward. He agreed to serve and thanked all for their support.

M.:I.:Donald Harrison ran unopposed for Grand Treasurer and was duly elected unanimously. The Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous vote for M.:I.:Harrison. Tellers found one unanimous vote for MI Don Harrison. He agreed to serve for one more year then he plans to step down after ten years in the office.

MI Don Harrison nominated MI Charles Roberts for the Office of Grand Recorder for the ensuing Cryptic Year. There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. M.:I.:Roberts being unopposed the Grand Treasurer was to cast one unanimous vote for MI Roberts. Tellers found one unanimous vote. MI Roberts agreed to serve and also informed MI Whittaker and MI DeShane since he was elected Grand Recorder that he submits his resignation as a Trustee of this Grand Council to take effective immediately since he cannot hold two elected offices at the same time.

ELECTED GRAND LINE:

M.:I.:G.:M Charles Bunton, Deputy Grand Master R.:I.:Garry R. Hutchurson, Grand PCW R.: I.:Curtis A. Banks, Grand Treasurer M.:I.: Donald Harrison, Grand Recorder M.:I.:Charles M. Roberts, Grand Captain of the Guard R.:I.:Steven P. Koch, Grand Conductor of the Council R.:I.:Richard C. Fowler, Grand Marshal R.:I.:Phillip J. Chandler, Grand Standard Bearer R.:I.:John A. Gallant, and Grand Steward R.:I.:Stephen Rubinstein. The appointed Grand Sentinel was R.:I.:Kenneth Lockard of Suffolk Council No. 76. Other Appointed Grand Officers will also be made a part of the proceedings of this Grand Council.

ELECTION OF THE GRAND TRUSTEE::

It was reported by MI Roberts on motion that MI Victor Versace was being nominated for a three year term and RI Frederick Beitter was being nominated for a one year term to complete the unexpired term of MI Roberts, as Trustees of this Grand Council. The Grand Treasurer was ordered to cast one unanimously vote for the slate of Trustees since there was no other running for the Office of Trustee. Tellers found one unanimous vote for slate. Both men agreed to serve.

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.:Harley DeShane was then asked to depart from the Assembly He was granted Private Grand Honors escorted West of the Altar and escorted from the Assembly.

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

The tiled installation of M.:I.:G.:M.:Charles Bunton took place, with M.:I.:E. William Whittaker as the Installing Master and M.:I.:Charles Roberts as the Installing Marshal and & R.:I.: Rev. Jose Valencia as the Installing Chaplain. MIGM Bunton stated that he would give his address at the Public Installation. There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the Annual Assembly was declared closed by M.I.G.M. Bunton.

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.:Charles Roberts as the installing Marshal and R.:I.: & Rev. Jose Valencia as the Installing Chaplain. Full Ceremony was conducted. The MIGM Bunton installed his District Deputy Grand Masters for the ensuing Cryptic year. The Grand Lecturer installed his District Assistant Grand Lecturers at this time as well.

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 at this Grand Assembly at approximately 4:15 PM.

THE GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET:

Took place at 7:00PM. See the attached program of the evening for details. Presentations and awards were presented by Grand Master DeShane. Presentations were made to the Youth Group Leaders and M.:I.:DeShane 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 awards were given by M.:I.:DeShane & General Grand Council International representatives. M.:I.: DeShane 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.

The benediction was given and all assembled retired in Peace and Harmony.

Respectfully submitted,
M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts, PMIGM
Grand Recorder

Grand Council Cryptic Masons State of New York

Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Annual Report (2015-2016)

July 14, 2016

Greetings and Salutation Companions All,

I bring you fraternal greetings on behalf of The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York serving as it's Grand Principal Conductor of the Work for the year 2015-2016. It continues to be a pleasure to serve our Grand Council in my capacity, along with the remaining elected and appointed Grand Line Officers. This year in particular we all continue to be at all of our companions "call" to assist whenever and wherever we can.

I am fortunate to have had a wide array of visits this year which included visiting 3 states, an owed visit from last year to Central City # 13 (District 6) and to visit the councils in my own Mother District 1.

Central City# 13

I appreciated the companions welcoming me on the night that was specifically set aside for Companion Steve Koch. The Illustrious Master I.: Geoffrey Linehan was very gracious and accommodating and truly do thank him for making the time to have me come down and visit with the companions who last I saw was a few years ago when I was the Grand Lecturer. Great to see so many familiar faces, especially in the likes of R.: I.: Harvey Eysman & R.: I.: (& M.: W.:) Bruce Widger.

District# 1

Always nice to visit "home" where it all began! The companions of my Mother Council [Columbian# 1] continues to encourage me to stay the course and receives me always in a manner that is befitting of a King! Degree work and attendance remains impeccable. Same goes with the reception at my 2nd home [Flatbush Council# 80]. I am very anxious to see this council grow further with this coming year doing our own degrees of Royal & Select. I was not able to make it out to be with my companions of Long Island via North Shore# 88 & Suffolk# 76. You will be receiving a "make up" visit from me this coming year; pending my hopeful nomination & election to the next office. Adelpic Council# 7 continues to work and feed many of its new membership from the neighboring Grand Lodge York Rite bodies of Royal Arch & even Commandery. Adoniram Council# 36 is positioning itself to work closely with it's York Rite counterparts as Flatbush is doing. I hope and wish them continued success in this endeavor.

Grand Councils

• Georgia

While this wasn't their annual Grand Session it was a chance to see and be with many of their Grand Council officers and companions as they had a York Rite festival that day. My gratitude to Companion Wade Smith who is the Grand Secretary/Recorder of the York Rite Bodies of GA (& Past Grand High Priest) along with M.: I.: Ben Polston who is the current Most Illustrious Grand Master in GA for their direction & hospitality.

• District of Columbia

A chance to continue visiting Grand Councils that have companions who I know and recognize. M.: I.: Teko Foley received me and accorded me Permanent Membership into their Grand Council. The chance was thrilling to see the additional York Rite bodies all work together with Cryptic.

• Vermont

A chance to be with R.: I.: Steve Rubenstein who is projected to be Grand Marshal should my projection to the Grand East be afforded soon, was acting the part by allowing me to room with him for my overnight stay as well made it his business to be sure I was looked after. I personally want to thank him

for that and our years of friendship and shared counsel. This session as well brought about a chance to witness York Rite Masonry with all three bodies working closely and tight knit. I thank R.:I.: Bruce Howard for his care in making sure my meals and other amenities were steady looked after. Congratulations to M.:I.: William Karstens, IV on his election as Cryptic Grand Master 2016-2017.

I once again would like to continue to offer my services to you, the companions, this coming year (2016-2017) should I remain in the Grand Line and elected to advance to the next position of favor and choice. Each Grand Line officer is responsible for listening to critique from the masses. This is the only way, in my opinion, that a well-groomed aspiring Grand Master will be able to answer to his companions.

I offer this as a beginning stepping stone towards York Rite Unity in New York State. I have been to several states over the last 5 years or so where the 3 bodies of the York Rite meet. While I do understand and comprehend that NYS is somewhat unique in it's parallel existence of York Rite Unity – we need to seriously and continuously understand that we have the SAME “players” fielding all THREE teams. While Cryptic is not a requirement it is nonetheless a vital part of the York Rite Make-Up.

Remember...all of us CHOOSE to become Cryptic Masons in NYS. Let's choose to see what we can do to bring together a more cost effective means of celebrating our York Rite Unity. My ear continues to be open for suggestions as the buck doesn't stop or start here – but dialogue is essential.

So end's my report and I look forward to continuing to serve this Grand Council in 2016-2017 and beyond, ask that this report be included in our current proceedings and move for its acceptance by the body assembled.

Yours in the Cryptic Rite,
Zealously & Fraternally

R.:I.: Curtis Alan Banks
Grand Principal Conductor of the Works

Annual Report of the Grand Conductor of the Council 2016

This year your Grand Conductor was assigned District 4 to visit and introduce himself to those companions there. I wish to give thanks to my lady Linda for traveling with me on these visits.

I began this year with a visit to St. George's Council in Schenectady. After a lively dinner at the local restaurant we adjourned to the Council room for our meeting. As I had been there before to deliver the T.I.M. degree a few times it was great to be among the companions of St. George's again. This evening was also the visit of the District Deputy Grand Master so their program was full. M.:I.: Francis Karwowski was present and it was delightful to renew our friendship.

The next evening I journeyed to Joseph Warren Cryptic Council in Saratoga Springs after spending the day enjoying the American Military Museum and having lunch at the Old Bryant Inn. After an enjoyable covered dish dinner we went upstairs to open and conduct business in the Council room. An entertaining program was given by one of the companions after which I asked if he had given any thought to our "Grand Council Question" about what side of the triangle was broken and why. He thought that was a good question and would consider researching this topic before giving his answer.

My next visit was to Oneonta Council and was welcomed there heartily. It was pleasant to be among the many leaders of the Grand Craft [both Chapter & Council] assembled there. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made. The program of the evening was the Select Master degree and it was performed admirably. I welcomed the new companions on behalf of the Grand Council and the acting Grand Master.

My last visit was to Albany for the assembly of Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council. My wife and I enjoyed the delicious meal held downstairs in the dining area prior to our departing for the Council room upstairs. We took the scenic [elevator] route to the first floor where she took advantage of the library room to read her book during the meeting time. As this was their annual election of officers and business meeting the evening was busy. I was asked if I would install the new officers but as it was late in the evening and my travel time home was long I declined the honor and asked if M.:I.: Joe Pozefsky would do the installation for me. He answered in the affirmative and I thanked him.

During this year I had the opportunity to be present when R.:I.: Steven Koch was visiting my District and to enjoy food, friendship and fellowship with him. It was also an honor to be present when our acting Grand Master R.:I.: Garry Hutcherson visited Central City Council. I have been present at all the workshops and marched at St. John's Day with the rest of the Grand Line. I was with other members of the Grand Line in Gananoque for the Royal Ark Mariner degree this May.

As I travel this Grand Council's jurisdiction I am truly honored to be a member of this Grand Council line of Officers. The friendship and fellowship of all the companions makes one feel very proud to be a Cryptic Mason. With the dedication I see in the companions of the Councils I visited this year our future looks bright.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Fowler, Grand Conductor of the Council

Annual Report for the Grand Captain of the Guard 2015-2016

This past Masonic year I visited the seven Councils in Regions Six and Seven; Rotica Council No. 12, Central City No. 13, King Hiram No. 18, Ahwaga, No. 30, Fulton No. 50, Cayuga No. 90 and King David No. 97. The meeting dates for these Councils were such that I was able to complete all seven Councils in three visits which saved tremendously on windshield time and consolidated says off from work. As always, this was the highlight of the year. I always enjoy the fellowship of my Companions and visiting new Councils, seeing other Lodges and spreading the message of Cryptic Masonry.

The first trip was in November 2015 when I visited Rotica 12, King Hiram 18 and Cayuga 90. I was able to travel with DDGIM R.:I.: Dennis Davis for the first leg of this journey. While we had seen each other many times in our Masonic travels, this was the first time we had a chance to sit down and get to know each other. We found we had much in common and hoped to see each other again on future visits. The ritual work of Rotica and Cayuga was generally good with the usual visitors and "acting" officers sitting in chairs. There were plans for Degree conferrals so I was please to see some growth. King Hiram Council is struggling to re-find their identity. The good news is that there are dedicated Companions who are looking to keep the Council alive.

My second extended trip in March 2016, included Ahwaga 30, Fulton 50 and King David 97. It was the coldest trip I have taken in a long time. The warmth of the Companions definitely made the trip worthwhile. I was joined by R.:I.:Richard Fowler, Grand Conductor of the Council, for the last two visits and this increased my enjoyment. I am sure it is not a common practice for Grand Line officers to be escorted to the East and accorded Grand Honors at each meeting of their own Council. I know this is something I routinely wave off as unnecessary in my own Council. There is something about being elevated among your closest Companions that seems somewhat uncomfortable because you look at yourself as "one of them." When there are visiting dignitaries we must all "bite the bullet" and be recognized. I'm sure R.:I.:Fowler is planning payback. Ahwaga and King David illustrated an enthusiasm that was encouraging while Fulton is clearly struggling to hold on. I wish them the best going forward.

My final visit was to Central City Council No. 13. This was the best attended visit of the year and I was surprised to find R.:I.:Curtis Banks, Grand Principle Conductor of the Work, in attendance. The ritual was well done and I was pleased to see a Council thriving.

During all my messages I spoke of the value of Cryptic Masonry and how we "complete the story," we answer those remaining questions that the curious among us must ask. There is value in what we do and the Degrees we confer. I spoke of those moments in studying the ritual when the light bulb went on and a previously missed connection was revealed. Those moments are only revealed when we learn and understand the ritual. Then we see how everything ties together.

In order to remain vibrant is comes down to membership. We have seen dual membership used to prop up failing Lodges and Councils. This is a short term solution. We need to get the word out to Brothers about the York Rite in general and the Council specifically to ensure our long term health. As I stated in the past, 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 Captain of the Guard Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in the State of New York

Grand Standard Bearer Report for 2015-2016

To: The Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Right Illustrious Garry R. Hutchurson 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 Standard Bearer.

This year I was able to visit all three of the councils in District 9. I had a wonderful time at Buffalo-Keystone Council #17, Dunkirk Council #25 and Hamburg Council #91. All three councils were able to open and close their meetings. 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 wish the companions of Hamburg Council all the best these next few years as they work at re-establishing their leadership ranks. It is my continuing recommendation that the Councils make it a tradition to hold a meal before the meetings to extend their fellowship and increase attendance of their members.

Along with my council visitation duties it was my pleasure to attend the District Grand Lecturer's Convention, it is always a joy to watch our Grand Lecturer R.: I.: Card work his magic at our councils. I also had the honor to participate at Hamburg Council's special event – a Re-dedication of the Council following the discovery of their original charter. Although Mother Nature and her wintry whims almost forced, me, my wife and R.: I.: Curtis Banks to miss the event, I am grateful that the companions waited for us to make it through the snow storm and be there to participate on their special night.

My tenure as Grand Standard Bearer was filled with a number of events other than Official visits. I attended New York's Grand Commandery Conclave and Grand Chapter Convocation with my fellow Grand Line Officers. I participated in the Saint John's Day parade and workshop in Utica. I attended the annual assemblies of our three youth groups: DeMolay, Triangle and Rainbow, as a representative of our Grand Council, and assisted with their ceremonies for the "Order of York Rite Tribune" and "Order of Deborah". These young men and women are truly amazing in what they can, and will, accomplish. On a more local level, I represented our Grand Council at the re-establishment of the Rochester DeMolay Chapter and the installation of officers at Fidelity Triangle.

All in all a very exciting Cryptic year.

I wish to extend a special "Cryptic Thank You" to the DDGM of Distinct #9: R.: I.: Mark Robson. It has been a delight to work with him on both a District and Grand Council Level. He is a very dedicated Cryptic Mason and is an asset to the district and our Grand Jurisdiction. I want to thank V.: I.: Jerry Coleman who stepped up and filled the open AGL appointment for the District.

In conclusion, I have had a very enjoyable 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 Standard Bearer. I look forward to continuing to serve our Grand Council.

Zealously,

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

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GRAND STEWARD REPORT FOR 2015-2016

As this is my first report as a member of the Grand Line, I wish to thank all of my colleagues, the Past Grand Masters and all of the companions I have met during the year. Everyone was helpful and all my questions were answered. I particularly wish to thank the Illustrious Masters and members of the Councils I visited during my term as Grand Steward. Their hospitality was second to none, and their comradeship was overwhelming.

Warned to avoid visiting District 8 during the winter months, I arranged to visit three Councils in the autumn (Skoi Yase on 11/16, Doric on 11/18 and Hornellsville on 12/10). On April 25th I visited Nun Da Waga in Attica. Palmyra Council, in the process of merging with Doric was not meeting, and their consolidation has effectively been completed. In October, I attended the makeup TIM presentation in Schenectady.

In February (during a local snow storm) I accompanied the Grand Master and other members of the Grand Line to Hamburg Council and participated in its re-dedication.

I also attended the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York, Annual Convocation and was present at the Cryptic Council training session held at that time. In late June, I marched in the parade at the Masonic Home and participated in the Grand Council training held during that weekend.

In January, I attended the Grand Council Session of Rhode Island at the request of the General Grand Council, representing both them and the Grand Council of New York. RI Curtis Banks and I represented the Grand Council of New York at the Grand Council Assembly in Vermont in early June.

In October 2015, I was appointed a Grand Chaplain of the Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts. In that capacity (and with no conflicts in scheduling) participated in many evenings of comradeship. I was always introduced as the Grand Steward of the Grand Council of New York on the occasions when I accompanied their Grand Illustrious Master. I have been reappointed to that position for the 2016-17 term, and have reiterated my position that New York obligations are primary and will always take precedence over anything in Massachusetts.

At the local level, I am completing my term as Deputy Master of South Shore Council, No. 88. I have attended 50% of their actual meetings. In Massachusetts, I am completing my year as Scribe of Thomas Chapter and Principal Conductor of the Work of Harris Council (both in Fitchburg, MA) and in September will be the High Priest of Thomas Chapter.

York Rite Masonry is a vibrant part of my life and I thoroughly enjoy participating at all levels of the organization, especially as a member of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

WITHIN THE CRYPT LIES THE SOUL OF FREEMASONRY

Fraternally,



R I Stephen A. Rubinstein

**Report of the Jurisprudence Committee
2015-2016**

June 30, 2016

- 1.) Recommends the Grand Council take action on the following merger: Palmyra Council No. 26 into Doric Council No. 19. Whereby Palmyra Council accepts Doric Council's By-laws, Dues structure and Officers.
- 2.) Recommend the approval of Buffalo Keystone Council No. 17 By-laws change.

Respectfully submitted by the Jurisprudence Committee,

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

M.:I.: David H. Raymond

R.:I.: Richard M. Clark

Long Range Planning

To many, the general consciences [Grand Council of Cryptic Masons] of the York Rite Organizations of N.Y. is considered the least involved and Recognized. One fact being that the Degrees of Cryptic Masons. is not a requirement to become a Knight Templar. Although it was said that the members that belong as Cryptic Masons is needed to complete the Circle of Perfection in the York Rite Masonry, [meaning that part of the story/ Degrees would be missing as we know it]. So Cryptic Masons belong because they want to and to know the rest of the story.

At the recent Workshop in Utica, all present had the opportunity to offer what Grand Council needs to become more involved and accepted in the Masonic Family. Different issues were discussed ; One being that the changes of our Grand Records recently not having complete knowledge of the requirements and programs. One being, keeping individual/manual records, not always being passed on or tying into other organizations.

Future Grand Masters commented on the continued need for visitations programs not only the important required District visits, but other Grand Sessions In and out of State. Other issues addressed were a needed Educational Officer Training of Grand Council Officers duties and responsibilities. The value of Grand Lecturer's Conventions, which was needed through the Districts, which was reported on by our Grand Lecturer and offered more in the future. All Officers will be promoting for future Grand line members and not wait for them to come to them. Discussed to assist the Grand Recorder in a needed recording program [Yris/Mori]. Due to the continued changes of locations for Grand Assemblies , **discussion on adopting and agreed to hold Future Grand Council Sessions at one suggested location as Grand Chapter or Grand Lodge.**

These issues were discussed at the Workshop of Grand line Officers and not just a committee. There is hope that each will promote these in the Future to make Grand Council of Cryptic Masons more productive and recognized.

M.:I.: PGM Richard C. Anderson, [Chairman]

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CONDITION & EXTENSION OF THE RITE COMMITTEE 2015-2016

Greetings and Salutations Companions:

With myself and the Acting Grand Master, R.:I.: Gary Hutchurson, we are actively and continuously looking at improvements and revisions to what the body wants. Our DDGM's have all reported in a timely manner in regards to how each Council fairs not only with its ritual but to the point(s) of what YOU the companions would like. Currently the reports of each DDGM is included for you review but overall the DDGM's have made a somewhat unilateral assessment of the councils which is that our Council Officers are making a sincere effort in using outside resources to bring education of the Rite into the Councils and that we as a Grand Council must hear this. Well, we have and starting immediately under the new 2016-2017 administration there will begin a plan implementing a Grand Council Education Course. More will be implemented and posted on the website.

As an extension of the Rite, the Acting Grand Master and I have taken the liberty to review certain practices that have rewarded some of our companions but similarly has hindered the growth and acknowledgment in others. Working closely with the Grand Recorder, our Grand Standard Bearer (& WebMaster) have diligently worked hard to facilitate the Grand Representative appointments in a timely manner. The acting Grand Master and I will be also looking to pursue new standards and guidelines as it relates to receiving a Grand Rep position. Companions, this is not a "freebie" position to receive an R.:I.:, it is a working position and should be given to those that are willing to do the work. This will be monitored in a timely manner and more will be coming forth in the course of the new administration.

Finally, our webmaster will be loading the proceedings project that was promised for quite some time on the web. This has been a labor of love and especially for those of us who are interested "editors of history!" After the death of our Grand Recorder we could not locate the duplicates that were intended to be sent to each Council. I had/have the master set and will be personally mailing out to each Council four (4) copies for the recorder and Council officers. These CD's are in PDF format and catalog/OCR,d. We ask that each council that receives this to send a suggested donation of \$50 to the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of NYS and that THE COUNCIL MAKES THE EARMARK DETERMINATION AS TO WHERE THESE FUNDS WILL GO. Currently we are looking at 3 options:

1. Grand Masters Fund (to be distributed according to the will and pleasure of the Grand Master for the purposes of Grand Council and reported
2. Grand Council Permanent Fund (for use where see fit within the councils
3. Grand Council Charity Fund (for Parkinson's Disease distribution

We are also asking that each companion who may want their own copy on CD to send a request to me at SirKDBD@gmail.com with your name, council, and address. I will be asking for a donation of \$15 of which \$10 will go to the Grand Council Charity Corporation and \$5 to cover the tentative shipping cost, etc.

There will be the appropriate forms and payee information for you to fill out and mail to upon receipt of the CD's. A full accounting disclosure will be accorded at our 2017-2018 Grand Session.

We hope that we can continue improving on hearing what is needed to promote the good and welfare of the craft as it pertains to the councils and to you, our companions, via the Grand Council.

Respectfully submitted:

R.:I.: Curtis Alan Banks [Chairman]
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

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Annual Membership Report for the 2015-2016 Cryptic Year

This Cryptic Year was a mixed blessing with regards to membership. We had gains but major losses too. Council Recorders reviewed their rosters and made necessary corrections to their actual counts. So adjustments to some previous Annual Returns for some Councils needed to be made to get their total membership as accurate as possible with that of the Grand Recorder's Office, so we know exactly what Per Capita is due to us and what we pay out to General Grand Council International. The more accurate our records are the easier and more accurate they will be when we enter Grand Encampment's Membership (YRIS) program because the cost is based upon the total number of members.

The following statistics are the Year End report from the Grand Recorder's Office for this Grand Council:

Membership as of June 30, 2015 – 1,285

Greeted 49

Affiliated 4

Restored 1

Total Gains: 54

1,339

That's the good news – now for the bad

Died 27

Demitted 19

Suspended NPD **38**

Suspended in Chapter 8

Expelled	0
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Previous Return Adjustments 20

Total Losses: 112**Membership as of June 30, 2016 1,227**

A complete breakdown of the membership by Council is attached.

Fraternally yours,

M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts

Grand Recorder

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES BY COUNCIL 2015-16

COUNCIL	No.	6/30/2015	GREETED	AFFIL.	REST.	DIED	DEMIT	SUSP. NPD	SUSP. CHAP.	EXPELLED	6/30/2016	NET GAIN/LOSS (1) plus -35 adj.
Columbia	1	156	7	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	120	(1) plus -35 adj.
Union	2	31	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	30	(1)
Adelphic	7	56	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	56	0
Rotica	12	68	0	0	0	2	7	1	0	0	58	(10)
Central City	13	52	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	55	3
Bloss-DWClinton	14	74	3	0	0	3	1	3	3	0	67	(7)
Buffalo-Keystone	17	48	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	53	5
King Hiram	18	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Doric	19	30	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	29	(1)
Dunkirk	25	35	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	32	(3)
Palmyra	26	11	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	9	(2)
Ahwaga	30	40	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	39	(1)
King Solomon's	31	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0
Hornellsville	35	38	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	36	(2)
Adoniram	36	25	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	27	2
JWarren-Cryptic	37	33	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	35	2
Fulton	50	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	(1)
Peekskill	55	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0
St. George's	74	104	6	0	0	5	2	1	4	0	100	2 adj.
Skoj Yase	75	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	21	(7)
Suffolk	76	81	4	0	0	3	4	11	0	0	88	7 adj.
Flatbush	80	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0
Oneonta	87	56	4	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	55	(1)
North Shore	88	42	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	41	(1)
Cayuga	90	24	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	23	(1)
Hamburg	91	47	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	47	0
Nun Da Waga	92	38	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	34	(4)
Goshen	93	39	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	40	1
King David	97	20	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	4
TOTALS		1285	49	4	1	27	19	38	8	0	1227	(58)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MASONIC EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE 2015-2016

Greetings & Salutations Companions:

The committee on Masonic Education has not had a chance to actively meet in person [due primarily to my vocation travels and scheduling] in regards to the active plan that our acting Grand Master along with myself have already discussed in brief in our Condition & Extension of the Rite Report. I am happy to report on that a bit more extensive in this section.

Projected for 2018 there will be a Grand Council Education Course tentatively called "Adoniram's Crypt: Lessons in Council Masonry". It will be broken into 9 chapters as in our arches... Of which three will concentrate on basic entry level (per say) Cryptic information on both the Royal, Select and a touch into the SEM DEGREES. The next three chapters will educate on tips to good council growth, Understanding Grand Council and its function, and finally Grand Council International and its role. The final three chapters will concentrated effort on the esoteric nature of one of the most prominent characters in our Order that most do or may know little of and/or about: Adoniram. Good ideas are often borrowed. I must thank R.:I.: (Past Grand High Priest) Piers Vaughan for introducing an education piece in Royal Arch which inspired me to create one for the council. It was my intention to make Adoniram to the Council as relevant as Zerubabel is to the Chapter!

Heavy talks will occur in the coming year with R.:I.:s Steve Koch, Terry Byard and Mark Isaacs along with I.: Lawrence Gordon and myself. I will be requesting that for the year(s) going forward that the elected Grand PCW and DGM be on this committee as it will strengthen the continuity and potential added addition to this program. You will hear more of and from this program as it is developed and rolled out in the coming 2 years.

Re the communication aspect it's good to see that our webmaster has included our DDGM's in the email threads on issues surrounding our Order so that hopefully this communication is being trickled down to the councils and to you the companions. I'm happy to see and hear that many companions are utilizing emails, text and Social Media as a means of seeing "what's happening" in the world today. By no means is this the ONLY means or dare I even use the word "preferred" but if used properly can be a quick means of communicating to a wider audience then snail mail or even phone trees. The committee only asks that you govern yourselves accordingly with common sense practice and rules of conduct when engaging in electronic media conversations and/or postings.

Nothing further to report I would like the 2016-2017 Grand Master to consider my request to stay on as Chairman of this committee with the remaining officers in place, unless they choose/wish not to be reappointed. I promise that better communication between us will be instituted for a more broadsided collective report then that of which this is singularly authored as such!

Respectfully submitted:

R.:I.: Curtis Alan Banks
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

The Grand Council Website Committee Report 2015-2016

To: The Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council.

I would like to thank the Grand Council 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 very solid 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 continues to be the ability 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.

The front page of the web site now has an area dedicated to the Assembly and Banquet forms and Grand Masters Message for downloading by our companions.

As the webmaster, I continue to be 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. This year I included the Grand Line and DDGM visits to our constituent councils. This allowed us to keep a calendar that would be useful to the local district web sites that included our public calendar as part of their schedules. I continue to 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 goal of the committee 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

We need to readdress our plans on making use of the MSS (YRIS) project. With the stabilization of our Grand Recorder's office and the organizational improvements therein, it may be worth reevaluating the plans of pre-loading the database tables with our council membership records. In previous years my attempt at the gathering of companions data from all our individual councils was often an "up-hill" effort. (I do want to extend my personal thanks to the councils who were very forth coming with the requested data.) I expect that our Grand Recorder will be in a very much better position with the gathering of Council data over this next year that we may be able to start the process with what we have gathered and add the missing records going forward.

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

Report of the District Deputy Grand Master of the First Cryptic District, R.:I.: R. Conrad Johnson

Firstly I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Grand Line members, past and present, for my appointment as District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York. It has been a pleasure to work with the Cryptic team this year and I look forward to another successful year.

Here is a summary of observations over the last year I have regarding the Councils in the First District, in alphabetical order. 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.

Like many Masonic bodies I have visited in various District Deputy capacities (Lodges, Chapters, and Councils), there can be a broad range of what is acceptable or standard in terms of books and records. The result is that each Council has its own framework and expectations.

Adelphic Council No. 7 meets the fourth Wednesday of October, January, March, and May. I visited on October 28th, 2015. The Officers performed well with a combination of general command of the material and some reading or reference to the ritual during the opening. Right Eminent Past Grand Commander George Harrison is the Recorder, and the books and records are immaculate and very well organized.

This year Adelphic Council hosted the Grand Lecturers Convention on March 23rd, 2016, and both the Royal Master and Select Master were performed that night. The Officers of Adelphic performed many of the roles, with the assist from others in the District, notably Columbian Council. I had the pleasure and privilege to take the part of Hiram Abif in the Royal Master, and again am struck with the profound beauty and importance of this work.

Adelphic Council has a number of York Right luminaries involved, including REPGC Don Berry, incoming Grand Commander Ritchie Kerimoglu, and Grand Captain of the Host Paul Huck. Adelphic Council is an exceptional Council.

Adoniram Council No. 36 meets on the fourth Thursday of September, November, February, April, and June. As I reported last year the Council is in rebuilding mode and working to fill the chairs with regular officers and bring in new members. A group of dauntless Masons, the Council is led by several Companions of the Council including R.:I.: Ari Chisin, James Reichman, John McKoy, and I.: Joe Savaglio. I met with the Council on January 14th, 2016.

I also attended a special meeting held April 14th for the purpose of holding Annual Elections and Installations.

The condition of their books and records and paraphernalia is fair to very good. Over the past two years this Council has made huge strides, but they need to continue bringing new members in and creating a support structure with the other York Rite bodies.

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. Generally the equipment is available and in good shape, but the Charter is quite old and battered and should be replaced.

Columbian Council also has the unique distinction that it performs the Most Excellent Master degree each year, which usually hosts Companions from the First District as well as visitors.

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 March 22nd, 2016. Again, a very strong culture and a close-knit group of individuals working to enrich both Flatbush Council and Bay Ridge Commandery. Several senior members of the York Rite Grand Bodies (including R.I.: Curtis Banks) are involved in this Council as well, contributing to the stability of the Council. The junior Companions and Officers generally speaking are quite solid with the ritual work and are passionate about their involvement. You really get the sense that the line works hard to be professional in their roles.

The books and records need to be reviewed in depth this year, since many of them were not available at the visit.

North Shore Council No. 88 meets the fourth Monday in September, November, January, March, and June. I visited North Shore on November 23rd, 2015. We were warmly received and dined prior to the meeting with the I.: 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. 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. Also, the Companions and Sir Knights in the other York Rite bodies in the area are quite involved.

North Shore has a core group of stalwarts, and the condition of their books and records is fair to good, and paraphernalia is excellent, however the evening of the inspection neither the Treasurer nor Trustee was present to walk me through the financials of the Council.

Suffolk Council No. 76 meets on the second Friday of September through June (except April). My visit was scheduled Friday the 13th in 2015. This Council is a pleasure to visit – I was quite warmly greeted and quite a few Companions showed up for both the visit as well as the dinner beforehand. The Council finished the evening by presenting a custom ordered cake!

Suffolk also has solid books and records as well as equipment, and a growing membership.

In summary, the books and records as well as the paraphernalia are in good condition with some followups to be performed. The ritual work of the First District is quite 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.

I look forward to visiting all the Councils again this year and continuing my support for the District.

Zealously,



R.:l.: R/Conrad Johnson

DDGM 1st Cryptic District

District Deputy Grand Master 6th Cryptic District Report 2015-2016

Rotica Council No. 12:

This Council performs the opening and closing ritual very well and can confer the Degrees without assistance. The Council is financially sound and has new members progressing through the chairs. Membership decreased slightly this year.

Central City Council No. 13:

This Council performs the opening and closing ritual very well and can confer the Degrees without assistance. They conferred the Royal Master Degree October 14, 2015 on five Companions and the Select Master Degree March 9, 2016 on four Companions. 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. 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. 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 October 22, 2015 was the 6th Cryptic District Grand Lecturer's Convention at King David Council No. 97 in Dexter. This was attended by King David No. 97, Central City No. 25 and Rotica No. 12. The 6th Cryptic District Councils will remain dependant on the long term health of the Chapters they have to draw members from.

Respectfully Submitted,



R. L. I.: Dennis S. Davis
DDGM 6th Cryptic District

**ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
FOR THE 7th CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

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

As of right now, I have little to report, given that at Ahwaga, there is are no actions in process, there is one petition that I know of but they are waiting until the fall to address it.

As for Cayuga, I do not know of there situation and communication with them at times takes a while for response.

I do know that both Councils are capable of doing both degrees with a little outside help.

Again, my apologies for my ineptitude in this matter, in hindsight I took on a little more responsibility than I should have.

I also did not include any suggestions for replacement AGL, or DDGM. In looking at the forms, I was not in possession of most of the information asked for on the form. I spoke with Cayuga, and at this time they had no one available for either position.

In Ahwaga, there are 2 people who would be willing to fill the rolls, however, neither are available to be present at Grand Council. They being: Ill. Bill Beckenhaup for AGL and Ill. Scott Kinne for DDGM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. I. : Marty DeVault

**DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE 8th CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

Doric Council # 19 is doing a good job with openings with a couple of companions using ritual books and are usually able to open. The Council is able to do degree work according to reports from my visit. In my opinion Doric Council is in stable condition.

Palmyra Council #26 was a struggling Council and since my Official Visit has merged with Doric Council #19.

Hornellsville Council #35 has some trouble getting enough Companions to open, but are able to do that with some assistance and use of ritual books. The Council is unable to do their own Degree work. The Council is in good shape.

SkoiYase Council #75 has enough Companions to open but needs the use of ritual books. They report that they are able to do Degree work. The Council is also in good shape.

Nundawaga Council #92 are able to open with the use of one ritual book. The Council is able to do Degree work with minimal assistance. The Council is also in stable condition.

Off the record: the AGL and myself discussed our reports and neither one of us wanted to give a bad report to any of the Councils. The Councils all opened at the time of our visits and all used books. One Companion at Nundawaga had a stroke and uses the ritual but he's trying very hard. Older members, which are a lot of us, also use the ritual. I would like, as we all do, to see more Brothers and Companions join the Council to learn "the rest of the story. " I thank all the Companions that showed up to their respective Councils for the Assemblies.

Respectfully Submitted,
R.:I.:Dennis Parmerter, DDGM

District Deputy Grand Master 9th Cryptic District: 2015-16

The passing of R.:I.: Lee Garrison last year was a sad moment for the 9th District as well as for the many other Masonic bodies in which he was a devoted leader. At the last minute before the Annual Assembly I was obliged to ask what best served Cryptic Masonry in Western New York. There are only Three Councils in the 9th, and I was serving as AGL in my first year as a past I.:M.: because the talent pool had so many R.:I.:s already. We came up with a 'plan B' adopting what I called AGL-By-Committee. I urged the three I.:M.:s to make themselves available to R.:I.: Stuart Card and to arrange the Grand Lecturer's Convention. Kudos to I.: Gene Olofson of Dunkirk #25 for hosting it.

Dunkirk #25 is continuing to maintain at least the status quo of opening and closing properly, albeit with a good deal of dependency on the Monitor. What they need is new Master Masons coming into their local lodges that are then encouraged to take the York Rite path to further light. It looks like that will be the case in a short while, in fact. If #25 can persist as the furthest outpost of Royal and Select Masters in Western-most New York while more Royal Arch Masons are exalted, their exertions will be rewarded. I visited them twice, including the GLC.

Hamburg Council #91 continues to enjoy success, meantime. The home council of M.:W.: Grand Master Jeffery M. Williamson celebrated the rededication of their Secret Vault and the recovery of their original warrant, which had been lost. I find that ceremony to be an altogether satisfying masonic tour-de-force. Along with this event, I attended their two degrees, and their installation of officers. While their principal officers are past I.:M.:s, they have a strong group of new companions beginning their journeys to the East in CC, Marshall, Steward and Sentinel. Soon enough there will even be new talent in the pool for the District offices.

Buffalo-Keystone Council #17 has been doing what needed to be done, greeting leaders and influencers as new members, who in turn have brought along others curious to learn what makes them so passionate for Cryptic Masonry. I.: Steve Eisenhower has a strong lineup of companions new to the Secret Vault but not new to the Craft. There has not been a 2nd time I.:M.: here in three years and won't be another for the foreseeable future. It helps that the Grand Lecturer of Grand Lodge leads the ritual team, and that past and present AGLs and DDs of both Chapter and Lodge, and leaders of the Valley of Buffalo, are among those new companions and their mentors. Their ritual and degree work is simply beyond criticism. They are also my home council, so I attended all their meetings this past year.

I want to conclude with a heartfelt thanks to R.:I.: Garry Hutchurson, Acting Grand Master, for his grace and strength as he 'had greatness thrust upon him' unexpectedly. I look forward to his continued success and hope to be regarded as useful to him and the Grand Council in the years to come.

R.:I.: Mark J. Robson, DDGM 9th District.

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

Grand Lecturer's Report for 2015 – 2016

Conventions were held in 5 of 7 Districts. All host Councils turned out a good crowd of their own members (sadly turnout from Councils other than hosts was low) and showed knowledge of opening and closing, *either* without errors *or* without using a book.

The Convention focus was the Select Master degree ritual, including complex floor work and opportunities for dramatic performance. We also discussed 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 Super Excellent Master plus any other ritual topics requested by the Companions of the District. With your help, we will again try to 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. We still hope to confer the Select Master in actual caverns or tunnels: the Lockport Hydraulic Tunnel could work for the western part of the state; we need help identifying suitable locations, considering accessibility, safety and cost, in the east and downstate.

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. This starts with the opening: experienced members need to exemplify this and train our eager newer members to do it in a manner that prayerfully attunes the minds of all Companions present, preparing them to perform effectively and benefit abundantly from the Masonic work of our Assemblies.

Zealously,

RI Stuart W. Card, Grand Lecturer

2015-2016 Annual Report of the Assistant Grand Lecturer for the First Cryptic District

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow Companions for their thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes during my convalescence. I did not expect to have a heart attack, nor a quadruple bypass. It sorely took the wind out of me--literally. It unfortunately sidelined me for a good portion of the Cryptic year, but I am feeling well and look forward to reassuming my duties come the new Cryptic year. Once again, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for your many kindnesses.

Columbian Council #1

I attended the exemplification of the SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER degree that the Council performs every year. I paid particular attention to the ritual, noting the particular attention being given to its form. The Council uses a somewhat redacted form of the ritual due to the fact that the exemplification of the ritual in its full form would be excessively hard to carry out due to a limited number of companions and a lack of space. I found the version of the ritual that the Council is using in no way lessens the ritualistic and symbolic meaning of said degree. None of the important speaking parts were deleted, and only the overwhelming number of side characters were cut. The Council, in this form, exemplified a full and robust version of the work.

I also attended the Council's election of officers and installation. The election of officers was carried out as per the accepted work, and the officers were installed in due form. All-in-all, Columbian Council Number 1 is not sitting on its laurels, and the respect due it as Mother Council is justly warranted.

Adelphic Council #7

I was scheduled to attend the Select Master exemplification of the Council, but unfortunately I suffered a heart attack and was sidelined. I look forward to attending their work in the ensuing Cryptic year.

Adoniram Council #36

This council is fighting back. They have regrouped and are extremely dedicated in moving forward. I had offered my assistance and the assistance of the Councils in the District to aid them in any work that they would be doing in their year. The Council is opening with some assistance. Officers are working diligently in memorizing their work. Assistance is being given by other Companions within the District. All-in-all I foresee a bright future ritualistically for this Council.

Suffolk Council #76

I attended the Royal Master and Select Master degrees of this council. Suffolk Council has recently experienced somewhat of a change of their ritual teams. Much younger Companions in the rite have stepped up and are taking over many of the roles within the work. Suffolk Council is lucky to have many fine ritualists. The degrees were performed with acumen and flare. I foresee their work only getting stronger as they inculcate our lessons to the younger Companions and those Companions get involved with the work.

I also attended the election and installation of the officers of the Council, both of which were done in accordance with the stated work, and I enjoyed not being elected to any office in that line for a long while.

Flatbush Council #80

I introduced myself to the Illustrious Master of the Council after the Order of Anointed Kings degree, extending my offer of assistance. As we all know, Assistant Grand Lecturers' observations are not mandatory. I asked to be placed on their mailing list and be contacted when and if they were exemplifying any degree work during the year. I did not receive any communication from the Council this year.

North Shore Council #88

As with the previous Council, I introduced myself to the Illustrious Master of the Council after the Order of Anointed Kings degree, extending my offer of any assistance. I asked to be placed on their mailing list and be contacted when and if they were exemplifying any degree work during the year. I did not receive any communication from the Council this year.

Respectfully Submitted,
V.:I.:Francis Parrella

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER FOR THE 2nd CRYPTIC DISTRICT (2015-16)

I had the honor to travel the district with R.:I.: Mike Quigley, DDGM for the 2nd Cryptic District. We have enjoyed working together these past few years. I have seen some improvements in the 2nd Cryptic District with our 4 Councils. I have broken down each Council below.

Union #2

I had an opportunity to meet with these Companions outside of Council as well as during meetings. Some of their members are involved in the other York Rite Bodies as well as Eastern Star. This is a small Council but will soon be growing thanks to the influx of Companions from Royal Arch. They are still using the books for opening and closing. However, I feel if they continue to build their membership through the Royal Arch and the Lodges that their ritual will get better. I don't think they can do any of the Council Degrees on their own yet but I would like to see them take part and assist other Councils.

King Solomon #31

This Council has been very strong with ritual in the past. They have done the Royal Master Degree on their own. Some Companions can do the ritual without the books. This Council is in the planning stages of conducting both the Royal Master and Select Master Degrees along with other Companions throughout the District. They have many Companions in Royal Arch that are interested in joining Council. The membership for this Council and the rest of the 2nd Cryptic District should improve soon. Therefore, the ritual should improve also.

Peekskill #55

I did not get an opportunity to meet with Peekskill Council this year. I know that they are trying to get their Royal Arch Chapter in order first. Their Royal Arch Chapter (Buckingham-Mohegan #177) just had Elections and are trying to get back on their feet. As soon as that happens, then they will focus on getting Peekskill Council back up and running. I look forward to working with them in the future.

Goshen #93

Goshen is working on building their membership up. They have 2 Companions in waiting to take their degrees. There were 2 Companions that didn't need a ritual book to open and close. The other Companions are still using the books. This Chapter hosted the Grand Lecturer's Convention in March for the 2nd Cryptic District. The Companions that were present got a lot out of R.:I.: Stu Card's lecture. It was very informative. This Chapter is not yet ready to do any of the degrees on their own. However, I believe that there are a few Companions that are good at ritual and can assist King Solomon with putting on one of the degrees. This Council is also doing a good job at trying to get either a guest speaker or some type of education for each meeting relating to ritual.

Overall, as a District the Ritual would be considered fair. Some Companions can open and close without the books. However, most cannot. There were approximately 50 Companions that joined Royal Arch in our District last year. If some of the new Companions decide to join Council, you will see an improvement in the Ritual. The new Companions will be eager to learn and hopefully, will take an active role in their respected Councils.

Submitted Respectfully,
R.:I.: Dan Elliott
AGL 2nd Cryptic District

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER FOR THE 6th CRYPTIC DISTRICT

Right Illustrious Companion Hutchurson, Acting Most Illustrious Grand Master and Right Illustrious Companion Card, Grand Lecturer, Grand Council All:

On August 21 & 22, 2015, I attended Grand Council in Owego. I marched in as a member of Grand Commandery and attended every session of Grand Council and the break out meetings as well, particularly the AGL's meeting with the Grand Lecturer.

On September 9, 2015, I accompanied the District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master Dennis Davis on his Official Visit to Central City Council #13, Liverpool-Syracuse. Central City is doing very well. They have a strong line of leadership. They are active in the Cryptic District and at the Grand Council level. Central City confers both the Royal Master and Select Master Degrees with only minimal assistance from outside this Council. Their ritual work at opening and closing as well as their degree work is solid but could improve.

On October 14, 2015 I participated in the Royal Master degree at Central City Council #13 in Liverpool. The degree was well done and the portrayal of Grand Master Hiram Abif and his allocution of the Soliloquy of Death by Companion William Toth was spell binding!

On October 19, 2015, I accompanied the District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master on his official visit to Rotica Council #12. Rotica Council is strong and doing very good ritual work. They have a strong leadership and a line of officers coming thru. They are doing both Royal and Select Master degrees at Rotica almost every year and Rotica members assist in almost all the degrees in this district.

On October 22, 2015, I attended the 6th. Cryptic District's Grand Lecturer's convention with our Grand Lecturer and our District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master at King David Chapter #97 in Dexter, NY. The insights of the Grand Lecturer into the Select Master degree was the message for the evening and it was again, similar to his insights into the Royal Master Degree the previous year, an outstanding and insightful program. This visit also served as the official visit of the DDGIM. The ritual work at King David is good but also could improve.

While attending Grand Chapter in Albany on March 4th, 2016, I attended the Grand Council break out session. This session, of course, dealt mostly with the resignation of the Grand Illustrious Master and the fate of the 2016 Grand Council meeting site.

On March 9, 2016, I portrayed the part of King Solomon in the conferral of the Select Master Degree at Central City Council #13 in Liverpool. This degree was very well done. Central City Council should be proud of the excellent portrayal of the Royal & Select Master degrees they performed this Cryptic year.

On March 15, 2016, I accompanied the District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master on his official visit to King Hiram Council #18 currently meeting in Seneca Falls. 2 members and 7 visitors were present for this Official visit. PGIM E. William Whittaker is helping to keep this Council alive during a transitional period. In the past two years 3 new members of Auburn Lodge have joined this Council and give indication of becoming active members. The resurrection of King David Chapter in Auburn after moving from Port Byron and the recent exaltation of 9 new members of King David Chapter at Charles H. Platt Chapter #247 in Skaneateles on May 25, 2016, may prove to be a sign of good things to come for King Hiram Council as many of these new companions have indicated they will be joining King Hiram Council. As King Hiram Council was in Port Byron and has always been the Cayuga County Council, it would make sense to eventually return this council to Auburn Lodge, and that is the long term plan and hope for this Council. I also sadly report that RI Don Ellinwood, the long-time Illustrious Master of this Council, is seriously ill with cancer and not doing well. For the first time in many years he was not able to attend the Official Visit.

I was unable to attend the Official Visit at Fulton Council #50 in Phoenix, NY on April 27, 2016, as I was out of state of the birth of my first grandson in Minnesota. The DDGIM indicated to me that the visit was successful.

It has been my pleasure to serve as AGL for the 6th Cryptic District from 2014-2016!

Zealously,

Very Illustrious John B. Covell, M. D.
AGL 6th Cryptic District 2014-2016

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER
FOR THE 7th CRYPTIC DISTRICT**

Over all things in the District are good, Ritual has improved, The GL Convention did not transpire due to conflicts with dates and I could not get an answer from Cayuga Council as to when it would be a good time for them. As far as I know Cayuga Council is good with the Ritual with help in the Degrees, As for Ahwaga new membership is a big issue, They need petitioners. We have been able to confer the Degrees in the past but it will take a little help. The Companions are trying to do most by memory and that is a lot better than it has been in the past.

Fraternally

V.I. Eugene R. Graves

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER'S REPORT FOR THE 8TH CRYPTIC DISTRICT 2015-2016

In reviewing the positive and negative attributes of the Councils in the 8th Cryptic District, there are a number of similarities shared among them.

The interest and participation in each Council is indeed heartening, although a mitigating factor is membership. With overall membership declining throughout the District as a function of the attrition brought about by age, relocation, declining health issues and death. A number of the Councils have found themselves hard-pressed to have enough Officers to open.

One of the ramifications of this predicament is difficulty mastering ritual----if a Councils generally hold one meeting each month. Therefore, if a Council is unable to open frequently, and many do not, months can elapse with no meetings taking place. Without this opportunity to engage in and thereby enhance ritual proficiency among the Officers, the problems in opening and closing, which are inherent components of ritual, are thereby often exacerbated.

In an attempt to compensate for this quandary, most (if not all, to an extent) of the Councils do rely upon Ritual Books to sustain themselves in being able to conduct their meetings.

The desire to conduct meetings is clearly evident throughout the District, yet the lack of membership and sporadic meetings throughout the year are most definitely impediments to continuity.

During my visits to each of the Councils in the District, I was impressed with the tenacity of the memberships in attempting to be able to successfully conduct their meetings despite the pitfalls which face them. In each case, the Officers "went that extra mile" to perform in an adequate manner. I have to commend them in demonstrating a Yeoman's job in the efforts they have demonstrated.

To elucidate each Council current state in specifics is difficult at best, as they each seem to have a common yet prevalent problems, as alluded earlier in this report. However, I will attempt to describe each individually in the following report:

- 1) Of the councils in the 8th Cryptic District, Doric Council, # 19 is for the most part, able to open and close and is fairly fluent in its ritual. There are occasions when they do not have enough Officers to pen, but this malady is generally adequately rectified through assistance of occasional "sideliners." Additionally, this Council is able to perform Degree work and is thereby able to sustain itself for the present.
- 2) Unfortunately, Palmyra Council, # 26 found itself in difficulty as a result of declining membership. A recent effort to recruit new Companions resulted in one member, who shortly after, passed away. As a result of that unfortunate incident, coupled with an extended period of struggling, their Council has since merged with Doric Council, # 19.

- 3) Hornellsville Council, # 35 has, this year, been able to fill its Officer line up, but attendance, a predominant problem across the District, places this Council in peril by limiting the opportunity to open and thereby conduct meetings. Ritual books are used to an extent.
- 4) Skoi Yase Council # 75 is able to open and conduct meetings, but like other Councils in the District, relies upon the assistance of Ritual Books. They are able to conduct Degree work, as well as to sustain themselves at present, but attendance is an ever present yet not uncommon dilemma.
- 5) Nun-Da-Wa-Ga Council, # 92 is able to open for the most part without the aid of Ritual Books. Most scheduled meetings have been held. Ritual work is successfully conducted. This Council is self-sufficient and able to maintain itself.

Over all, confronted with the foibles facing most fraternal bodies in recent times, the Councils of the 8th Cryptic District appear to be able to carry out the work necessary for sustainability, albeit with assistance of Ritual Books and some combined efforts and periodic substitution of Officers.

Should you have any questions or require further elucidation of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at: lindalee115@hotmail.com or if you prefer: (585)494-2223.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Austin, AGL
Council of Cryptic Masonry
8th Cryptic District

OPERATING FUND 2015/2016

BALANCE August 1, 2015 22,566.36

INCOME

R-1	Member NY Per Capita	8,069.91	
(15.00)			
R-2	Member GC Per Capita (1.00)	0.00	
R-3	New Member Greeting	0.00	
(10.00)			
R-4	Permanent Funds	0.00	
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	697.50	8,767.41

31,333.77

DISBURSEMENTS

A-1	Annual Assembly (Hotel/Meals)	11,425.86
A-2	Annual Proceedings	264.00
B-1	Grand Master's Expense	3,816.97
B-2	Grand Master's Apron	743.25
B-3	Grand Master's Jewel	0.00
C-1	Grand Recorder's Salary	2,000.00
C-2	Grand Treasurer's Salary	1,000.00
D-1	Office Expense	3,648.27
D-2	Grand Council Storage	1,200.00
D-3	Supplies	338.26
D-4	Postage	213.68
D-5	Printing	312.00
D-6	Mileage & Travel	2,812.60
D-7	Telephone	138.00
D-8	Insurance & Bonding	0.00
D-9	Taxes	0.00
E-1	Grand Lecture's Expense	310.62
E-2	Grand Line Officers Expense	
E-3	Regalia	1,750.00
		0.00
E-4	History Fund	0.00

Sheet 1 of 2

E-5	Equipment Purchase & Repair	18.00	
F-1	General Grand Council Per Capita	1,272.00	
F-2	General Grand Triennial Fund		
G-2	Ritual/Constitution NY Escrow	0.00	
G-3	Regalia-New York Fund	0.00	
G-6	Miscellaneous	1011.55	
			31,908.83
	<u>BALANCE July 31, 2016</u>		-575.06

Respectfully submitted,
DONALD HARRISON
M. °. I. °. Donald Harrison, Grand Treasurer

OPERATING FUND 2014/2015

BALANCE August 1, 2014 15,700.51

INCOME

R-1	Member NY Per Capita	(15.00)	22,322.50	
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	29,309.50
				45,010.01

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	
G-2	Ritual/Constitution NY Escrow	900.00

G-3 Regalia-New York Fund	0.00
	43.85

Sheet 1 of 2

G-4 Equipment Repair & Purchase
Fund

G-5 History Fund	0.00
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G-6 Miscellaneous	0.00
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	1,597.34
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23,115.65

BALANCE July 31, 2015

21,894.36

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD HARRISON

M. S. I. S. Donald Harrison, Grand Treasurer



ESCROW FUNDS 2015/2016

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

	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5	Totals
Balance June 30, 2015	3416.22	673.42	70.61	1,990.47	1,332.43	7,483.15
Income	694.23	0	0	0	0	694.23
Interest	1.39	.18	.05	.43	.27	2.32
	4,111.84	673.60	70.66	1,990.90	1,332.70	8,179.70
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance June 30, 2016	4,111.84	673.60	70.66	1,990.90	1,332.70	8,179.70

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD HARRISON

M.: I.: Donald Harrison
Grand Treasurer

ESCROW FUNDS 2014/2015

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

	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5	Totals
Balance June 30, 2014	1,968.00	573.25	70.56	1,990.09	1,332.18	5,934.08
Income	1,446.95	100.00	0	0	0	1,546.95
Interest	1.27	.17	.05	.38	.25	2.12
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance June 30, 2015	3,416.22	673.42	70.61	1,990.47	1,332.43	7,483.15

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD HARRISON

M. L. Donald Harrison
Grand Treasurer

The Annual Report of the Grand Recorder 2015-2016

Acting Most Illustrious Grand Master Hutchurson, my fellow Grand Line Officers, Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, and Companions all:

Let me state unequivocally that this year has been a very busy year in the Office of the Grand Recorder. First, I started out immediately trying to address the confusion of files on the Grand Council Computer. Unfortunately the hard drive files were backed up twice onto the hard drive. There were numerous duplicate and triplicate files. I had to sort through three layers to reach the true files. Many files were partial, corrupt and unnecessary. After cleaning all those I had to open up all files that were in pdf format with no names only numbers and no master file was found on the computer to coordinate a numeric file to a name file. Many long and tedious hours were spent to clean up the files into name files. This task alone was from September to late January of this year. The computer is much more efficient and useable but more detailing to files need to be accomplish to tweak it to perfection which I hope to address this year.

I than began to address the non-assigned Grand Council numbers for members over the last several years, with the assistance of Council Recorders and a more organized computer, I was able to locate membership files, consolidate them and assign all Grand Council numbers to members and informed all Recorders of them this past Spring. The only ones to be assigned are the 2015-16 Cryptic Year members which already have been entered into the data base. Unfortunately I am waiting on two back years of new members names from Flatbush Council so that the Grand Council numbers assigned stay properly sequenced. I wish to thank the previous Grand Recorders for their assistance in locating and tracking the needed information to accomplish this enormous task (MI Paul Matthews, MI Joe Pozefsky and MI Victor Versace). Thank you to the Recorders of the local Councils for their patience and help. Many phone calls and emails were done to accomplish this task this year.

Finally, I would like to thank my son Josh for his wealth of knowledge on computer programming and his patience with me with my many questions in assisting to straighten out the mess with our Grand Council computer.

With the untimely resignation of our Most Illustrious Grand Master Charles Bunton in February, I had to shift gears to bring up to speed out Deputy Grand Master and address the effects of this on the Grand Council. As most of you know, MI Harrison and I had tried to resolve the Marriott Hotel in Islandia, NY for this Annual Assembly to no avail. We are still in litigation over the signed agreements by Companion Bunton. Hopeful we can resolve this issue very soon. We did have to retain a Long Island attorney to assist us in this legal matter. I would like to go on record to inform all present Grand Line Officers and future ones too, that, they nor their Councils are able to sign any legal agreements binding this Grand Council to anything. The Officers who have this authority are only the Grand Recorder and/or Grand Treasurer with the consent of the Most Illustrious Grand Master. This year with a resignation and the Marriott debacle both the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder have spent many burdensome and wasteful hours.

The financial health of this Grand Council is now on a better footing with the implementation of the new increase in Per Capita this Cryptic year. Though we ended in the negative this year due to unforeseen circumstances, the future looks to be in the positive. But we need to keep vigilant with expenses. I hope to save some money for the Grand Council in the Grand Recorder's office as we begin the scanning process of old records to cut back on storage fees. We only have one file cabinet with membership cards, several cartons and supplies being stored. I have the supplies stored at present at my home and church office until such time we need to move them. The scanning of the materials in the one file cabinet with old 3x5 membership cards will be tackled this coming year. MI Mason has volunteered to assist in this project.

Sorry, Len we were not able to begin it this Cryptic year. I hope to address the numerous scanning of records stored in boxes too. I plan to be a faithful steward of the financial resources entrusted to the Grand Recorder's Office for the operations of this Grand Council.

All financial obligations of this Grand Council for this Cryptic year have been paid in a timely manner including one voucher for a Grand Line Officer that was overlooked for the 2014-2015 Cryptic year. The finances of the Grand Recorder's Office are as follows:

Total Revenue Received: \$29,655.22

(Deposits #1 thru #7)

Investment Income Received: \$ 0.00

Total Expenditures: \$31,908.83

(Vouchers 16-1376 thru 16-1402)

All revenue and vouchers were turned over to the Grand Reorder for deposit or payment. For a complete detailed analysis of the finances please refer to the Grand Treasurer's Financial Reports for this Cryptic Year.

I wish to thank MI Harrison our Grand Treasurer for all his assistance early on in this Cryptic year in order for me to learn the intricacies of the finances of this Grand Council and making sure I was on track for completing my financial responsibilities as Grand Recorder. It truly has been a pleasure working with him for last year's Annual Assembly and for this one.

Finally, I am asking all Council Recorders, Elected and Appointed Grand Line Officers to heed to the date of July 10th as per our Constitution to submitting all documents necessary for the Annual Assembly in order for the Grand Recorder have sufficient time to prepare for the Annual Assembly and for closing of the financial records by our Grand Treasurer. I received information right up to Thursday of this week before I could copy the packet for this Assembly. This must end my Companions. Please be diligent to your responsibilities and obligations that you have solemnly assumed. I would appreciate it. I thank the former Grand Recorders for their kind assistance and counsel while learning all the details of this Office. I hope I have done it justice.

Respectfully Submitted,
MI Charles M. Roberts
Grand Recorder

TRUSTEES REPORT ON THE PERMANENT FUNDS
OF THE GRAND COUNCIL FOR THE CURRENT CRYPTIC YEAR 2015-2016

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 2015-2016 Cryptic Year.

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

Additional Income for 2015-2016: \$ 0.00

Withdrawals for 2015-16: (Ill. Master Silver Trowel Jewels-CK#107) \$147.50

Grand Master's Fund (St. George's Council) Balance as of June 30, 2016: \$ 2,068.29

PERMANENT FUND

PERMANENT FUND BALANCE on June 30, 2015: \$121,053.52

INCOME/REVENUE

	<u>Gains & Dividends</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Fund Value</u>
American High-Income Trust Class A Funds			
July – September 2015 – 1 st Quarter	\$ 535.53	3,462.512 (\$9.83)	\$34,036.49
October – December 2015 – 2 nd Quarter	\$ 603.40	3,525.007 (\$9.35)	\$32,958.82
January – March 2016 – 3 rd Quarter	\$ 517.06	3,581.013 (\$9.46)	\$33,876.38
April – June 2016 – 4 th Quarter	<u>\$ 532.62</u>	3,635.284 (\$9.85)	\$35,807.55
	<u>+\$2,006.61</u>		

June 30, 2016 Fund Value: \$35,807.55

	<u>Gains & Dividends</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Fund Value</u>
Putnam Investments High Yield Trust A			
July – September 2015 – 1 st Quarter	\$1,078.88	10,371.136 (\$7.430)	\$77,057.54
October – December 2015 – 2 nd Quarter	\$1,094.16	10,523.144 (\$6.970)	\$73,767.24
January – March 2016 – 3 rd Quarter	\$1,110.70	10,685.389 (\$7.110)	\$75,973.12
April – June 2016 – 4 th Quarter	<u>\$1,041.11</u>	10,828.309 (\$7.340)	\$79,479.79
	<u>\$4,324.85</u>		

June 30, 2016 Fund Value: \$79,479.79

TOTAL REINVESTED INCOME FOR THE YEAR FROM FUNDS: + \$6,331.46

DISBURSEMENTS

There were No withdrawals from American High-Income Trust this year. There was a \$5,000.00 withdrawal from Putnam Investments Funds on July 16, 2015 for Grand Council operational expenses for 2014-2015.

PERMANENT FUND BALANCE on Hand as of June 30, 2016: \$115,287.34

The financial market this year has shown more stabilization and less fluctuation than in recent years. We had an increase of \$6,331.46 in gains/ dividends in the Permanent Fund. But due to a decrease in share value with American Funds (down \$0.79) per share and Putnam Funds (down \$0.46) per share from last year and a withdrawal of \$5,000.00 from the Putnam Fund we ended the year with a net value decline of \$5,766.18 since our last Annual Assembly.

The Trustees also suggest that the constitution be changed to enable the Trustees to work within the normal parameters of a Trustee with the abilities to assist the Grand Council and the beneficiaries of these funds (membership) or in a manner in which men in ordinary, prudence, discretion and judgement would act in the management of their own affairs.

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 homeowner's insurance to cover the cost of replacement of the property held in your trust (jewels, collars, aprons, badges and etc.) if lost or stolen. Or that a suitable insurance provider be entrusted with a jeweler's insurance. This is a substantially more coverage as it will cover actual replacement costs which some home owners' policies will not do.

Respectfully Submitted,
MI Richard C. Anderson, Trustee (2014-2017), Chairman
MI Victor S. Versace, Trustee (2015-2018)
RI Frederick A. Beitter, Trustee (2015-2016)

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

**GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, August 13, 2016 – 11:00 AM**

Convening of the Annual Meeting	President Charles M. Roberts
Invocation	
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of August 2015	Secretary Richard J. Kessler
Board of Directors Highlights for 2015-2016	President Charles M. Roberts
Financials of the Corporation for 2015-2016	Treasurer E. William Whittaker
Financial Review/Audit Report	R.:I.: Dennis Davis, Chairman
Charitable Distribution for 2015-16 year	President Charles M. Roberts
Election to the Board of Directors for 3 Years	M.:I.: Donald Harrison, Chairman

Report of the Nominating Committee

M.:I.: E. William Whittaker replacement for M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, term expired
M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts replacement for M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts,
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, 1st Vice President (2014-2017)
R.:I.: Ralph H. Rosenthal, 2nd Vice President (2014-2017)
M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, Treasurer (2013-2016)
I.: Richard J. Kessler, Secretary (2015-2018)
R.:I.: Stuart W. Card, Assistant Secretary (2015-2018)

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

General Meeting Owego, NY

Minutes August 22, 2015

Open: President Roberts called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

Invocation: Rev. Jose Valencia

Opening Remarks:

President Roberts opened the annual meeting of the Charity Corporation

- The criterion for becoming a Solomon Arch Society member is a \$1,000 pledge/donation.
- Participation in the Solomon's Ninth Arch is continuing to grow. The \$1000 pledge will allow us to maintain or expand or donations to charity.
- Stock Market was volatile this year and our earnings were somewhat lower than in past years.
- Stock portfolio is just over \$500,000
- The Charity may need to develop some different strategies to improve giving level of Companions

Minutes:

Minutes of the August 13, 2014 General Meeting from Batavia, New York was approved.

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

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented the following reports

- Council Giving in Dollars – Seven councils did not contribute at all.
- Sponsor, Patron, & Grand Master Levels Report
- Council \$5 per Member Report
- Annual Financial Investment Report
- Current status of checking Account

Donations: The directors recommended the following donations:

- Parkinson Disease \$ 7,500
- Order DeMolay \$ 1,500
- International Order of Triangles \$ 1,500
- Order of Rainbow \$ 1,500
- 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:

R.:I.: Curtiss Banks represented the Charity Corporation at a Parkinson Disease Foundation (PDF). Our Charity Corporation was recognized for its outstanding continued support of PDF. Our Charity Corporation received a platinum award

Election of Directors:

- M.:I.: Donald Harrison, chairman of the nominating committee, nominated R.:I.: Richard J. Kessler and R.:I.: Stuart Card as directors of the Charity Corporation for the ensuing three years and R.:I.: Ralph Rosenthal for two years.
- There were no further nominations and a motion to close nominations was made and approved.
- The president directed the Treasurer to cast one ballot for the unanimous election of Kessler, Card, and Rosenthal.
- The elections were closed.
- All business being conducted, President Roberts closed the general meeting at 11:45 AM.

Awards Ceremony:

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

Benediction: Rev. Jose Valencia

Adjourned: 11:45 AM

Respectfully submitted,

R.:I.: *Richard J. Kessler*

Secretary

Grand Council Charity Corporation
Grand Council Cryptic Masons
State of New York

August 22, 2015

Directors: Curtis Bank, Ralph Rosenthal, Richard J. Kessler, E. William Whitaker, Charles Roberts

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 PM by President Roberts.

The following officers were nominated and elected to serve for the ensuing year:

President:	Charles Roberts
1st Vice President:	Curtiss Banks
2 nd Vice President:	Ralph Rosenthal
Secretary:	Richard J. Kessler
Treasurer:	E. William Whittaker
Asst. Secretary	Stuart Card

The meeting was then adjourned in peace and harmony.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Kessler

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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Union-2	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
5	Adelphic-7	\$10.00	\$60.00	\$70.00
6	Rotica-12	\$105.00	\$150.00	\$255.00
7	Central City-13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Bloss-DeWitt Clinton-14	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
9	Buffalo-Keystone-17	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
10	King Hiram-18	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
11	Doric-19	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
12	Dunkirk-25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Palmyra-26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Ahwaga-30	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
15	King Solomon-31	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
16	Hornellsville-35	\$135.00	\$350.00	\$485.00
17	Adoniram-36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
22	Skoi-Yase-75	\$21.00	\$600.00	\$621.00
23	Suffolk-76	\$25.00	\$600.00	\$625.00
24	Flatbush-80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
25	Oneonta-87	\$35.00	\$184.00	\$219.00
26	North Shore-88	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
27	Cayuga-90	\$0.00	\$185.00	\$185.00
28	Hamburg-91	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
29	Nundawaga-92	\$85.00	\$450.00	\$535.00
30	Goshen-93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
31	King David-97	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
32	Misc. Donations	\$130.00	\$509.00	\$639.00
33				
34	TOTALS	\$556.00	\$5,258.00	\$5,814.00

\$5.00/council member

2016

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Council	No.	membership	at\$5/member	total gift	/member	
2	Columbian	1	156	\$780.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
3	Union	2	31	\$155.00	\$200.00	\$6.45	x
4	Adelphic	7	56	\$280.00	\$70.00	\$1.25	
5	Rotica	12	68	\$340.00	\$255.00	\$3.75	
6	Central City	13	52	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
7	Bloss-DWC	14	74	\$370.00	\$100.00	\$1.35	
8	Buff-Keystone	17	48	\$240.00	\$300.00	\$6.25	x
9	King Hiram	18	8	\$40.00	\$400.00	\$50.00	x
10	Doric	19	30	\$150.00	\$450.00	\$15.00	x
11	Dunkirk	25	35	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
12	Palmyra	26	11	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
13	Ahwaga	30	40	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$6.25	x
14	King Solomon's	31	19	\$95.00	\$120.00	\$6.32	x
15	Hornellsville	35	38	\$190.00	\$485.00	\$12.76	x
16	Adoniram	36	25	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
17	JWarren-Cryptic	37	33	\$165.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
18	Fulton	50	35	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
19	Peekskill	55	17	\$85.00	\$150.00	\$8.82	x
20	St. George's	74	104	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
21	Skoi Yase	75	28	\$140.00	\$621.00	\$22.18	x
22	Suffolk	76	81	\$405.00	\$625.00	\$7.72	x
23	Flatbush	80	30	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
24	Oneonta	87	56	\$280.00	\$219.00	\$3.91	
25	North Shore	88	42	\$210.00	\$10.00	\$0.24	
26	Cayuga	90	24	\$120.00	\$185.00	\$7.71	x
27	Hamburg	91	47	\$235.00	\$100.00	\$2.13	
28	Nun Da Waga	92	38	\$190.00	\$535.00	\$14.08	x
29	Goshen	93	39	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
30	King David	97	20	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$5.00	x

Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of New York Charity Corporation			
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY August 1, 2015 thru July 31, 2016			
Checking Account Balance 8/1/15		\$27,133.78	
Investment Account Balances 8/1/15			
	DWS Global High Income Fund (SGHSX)	\$96,800.42	
	Janus Balanced Fund (JABAX)	\$141,750.17	
	Loomis Sayles Bond Fund (LSBDX)	\$110,688.61	
	Pimco Income (PONDY)	\$66,398.52	
	Ridge Worth High Income (STHTX)	\$62,002.21	
Misc (cash and checks in hand)		\$477,639.93	
TOTAL ASSETS 8/1/15		\$0.00	\$504,773.71
ACTIVITY 8/1/15-7/31/16			
Income	Donations	\$5,814.00	
	The Solomon Arch Society	\$3,100.00	
	Dividends/Interest/Realized Capital Gains(Losses)	\$18,421.06	
	Misc	\$0.00	
Total Income		\$27,335.06	
Expenses	Contributions to Charity	\$12,000.00	
	Operating/Administrative Expense	\$6,035.45	
Total Expense		\$18,035.45	
Net Unrealized Change in Investment Value (gain/loss)		-\$1,562.23	
TOTAL ASSETS 7/31/16			\$512,511.09
ASSET DISTRIBUTION AS OF 7/31/16			
Checking Account Balance 7/31/16		\$18,389.02	
Investment Account Balances 7/31/16			
	DWS Global High Income Fund (SGHSX)	\$96,557.40	
	Janus Balanced Fund (JABAX)	\$158,981.12	
	Loomis Sayles Bond Fund (LSBDX)	\$112,981.84	
	Pimco Income (PONDY)	\$65,302.96	
	Ridge Worth High Income (STHTX)	\$60,298.75	
Total Investment Balances 7/31/16		\$494,122.07	
Misc (cash and checks in hand)		\$0.00	
TOTAL ASSETS 8/1/16			\$512,511.09

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

Friday Evening, August 12, 2016

VESPER SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Leader: The Lord is here. His Spirit is in our midst.

People: WE LIFT OUR HEARTS TO THE LORD!

Leader: This is the day which the Lord has made.

People: WE REJOICE AND ARE THANKFUL!

* OPENING EVENING HYMN "The God Of Abraham Praise"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We humbly and sincerely ask You, O God, to have mercy upon us. Forgive our wrongdoings and strengthen the good in us, and prepare us for eternity. With grateful hearts, we give You thanks and praise You for our deliverance. In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

THE OFFERING (The Offering received this evening goes to the Grand Council Charity Corporation for meeting its annual donations to approved charities. The Officers will receive the gifts from the people of God)

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Revelation 22:1-5

THE HOMILY: "The Circle of Perfection"
R.:I.: & Rev. Stenrick B. Adams

* CLOSING EVENING HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

* THE BENEDICTION

* Stand If You Are Able.

GRAND CHAPLAINS

R.:I.: & Rev. Stenrick B. Adams

R.:I.: & Rev. Jose L. Valencia, Jr.

R.:I.: & Rev. Dr. Mark D. Issacs

M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts, PMIGM

The God Of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of Love; Jehovah,
great I AM! By earth and heaven confessed:
I bow and bless the sacred name for ever blest.

The great I AM has sworn: We on this oath depend.
We shall on eagle wings up-borne, to heaven ascend.
We shall behold God's face; We shall God's power adore.
And sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest;
A land of sacred liberty, and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy" cry, "Almighty King!"
Who was and is the same, And evermore shall be:
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM. We worship Thee!"

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, unhasting, 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 changest Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light.
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render. O help us to see.
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

