

The 198th Annual Assembly Minutes of the Grand Council of New York August 20-21, 2021

Grand Council was called to Order at 7:40 PM on Friday, August 20, 2021. The Grand Marshal entered and announced that the Most Illustrious Grand Master is about to enter. Grand Honors extended.

The Grand Marshal of Grand Lodge announced that The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, William M Sardone is about to enter. Grand Honors extended.

MI Phil Chandler pointed out the fire exits per protocol and admonished all to register their attendance per Covid protocol. The Registration Desk was outside the door.

All councils were approved to be in good standing and allowed to vote.

Grand Recorder asked if there was a quorum. Grand Recorder called the roll of Councils and finds a quorum present.

MI Grand Master declares 198th Grand Council duly opened.

Credentials Committee: RI Robert Ball / III Robert Hyman / III Steve Howard.

Committee on Grand Master's Address: MI E William Whitaker (Chairman), MI Francis Karwowski, MI David Raymond.

Standard Resolutions for this assembly were presented

1) MI Francis Karwowski: Motion made the minutes of the 197th Assembly as printed and amended will be published. Moved by MI Francis Karwowski and seconded by MI Charles M Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

2) MI Richard Fowler: Moved that the reports of the Elected Council Grand Line Officers, From Deputy Grand Master through Judge Advocate which are printed and will be published be approved. Second by MI Charles M Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

3) MI E. William Whitaker: Moved that all Companion Select Masters in good standing be invited to remain as visitors at the Annual Assembly except such time as provided by the Constitution. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4) MI Charles M Roberts: Moved the election of officers be the order of business at 1:45PM or there about on Saturday, August 21, 2021 with nominating speeches be held to 3 minutes and secondary speeches be limited to 2 minutes. Motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5) MI Ted Harrison: Moved that our visiting Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters who are not already Honorary members of this Grand Council be made so. Motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the Committee on the Condition and Extension of the Rite: No report due to Covid restrictions.

The Grand Lecturer's report in recognition of the AGLs: It is the order of the Most Ill Grand Master the roll wait till tomorrow when the appointees hopefully would be all present.

Grand Council Web Site Committee: RI John Gallant / No Report

Committee on Masonic Education: by RI John Gallant: No Report

Library & Museum Committee: MI Phil Chandler / No Report

Ritual Committee: RI Stu Card spoke on Pandemic changes to our ritual. Hope to get back to more traditional ritual presentations. Admonish Grand Line Officers and DDGMs to work with AGLs on helping and encouraging their Councils to strive toward better ritual work. Good ritual inspires. Urged more participation in the Grand Lecturer's conventions. Strive to win the MI Jay Kosseff award. (No more than 1 Council Officer absent) or the MI Rex Long award be made permanent as an award of our Grand Council. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.. Stump the Grand Lecturer. If Grand Lecture can't answer it...The question and the name of the questioner will be published. Spoke about new ritual book. Widows and Orphans, Ahishar's Soliloquy. Move and passed to approve new cipher.

MI Phil announced that it had been pointed out to him that he never formally opened. He attended to that duty. MI Charles M Roberts offered the prayer of invocation. GCC displayed the Great Light. Grand Council duly opened.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Star Spangled Banner were given.

MI Charles Roberts moved all proceeding work be approved as stated and be spread upon the minutes according to our Constitution. Motion was seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Grand Historian: No report

Jurisprudence and By-laws Review Committee: MI E William Whitaker received updated By-laws from King Solomon's Council #31. The Committee found all changes to be in proper form and recommended approval. Committee moved its report along with the Judge Advocate's written report on advice to be approved by action of the Grand Council. Motion was seconded by RI Harvey Eysman. Motion was carried unanimously.

Trustee's Report: To be given tomorrow.

Grand Treasurer's Report: RI Kenneth J Lockard. Will be given tomorrow.

Audit Committee: To be given tomorrow

The Budget Committee: MI Charles M Roberts will report tomorrow.

Deputy Grand Master's Report: RI John Gallant. No Report

Vesper's Service: Grand Chaplain: MI Charles M Roberts (See Attached Document for the Service).

Center our minds in God's presence.

Hymn "Be Thou My Vision"

Prayer

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 143 read by RI John Gallant

Offering: For Grand Council Charity Fund

Scripture Lesson: Job 2: - 1-10

Homily: "The Lord Oversees Us" by MI Charles M Roberts, Grand Chaplain

Closing Hymn: "Shalom Chaverim"

Benediction

Postlude

Report Moved and seconded. Passed.

Grand Chaplains: RI Stenrick B Adams / RI & Rev Dr Mark D Issacs / MI & Rev Charles M Roberts

Grand Musicians: RI Eric Howd / RI Gerald Irwin / RI David Shire

ASSEMBLY IN RECESS

MI Phil Chandler the Assembly stand in recess. Labor will resume in the morning at 8:30 AM with the reception of Distinguished Visitors, Ladies, follow by the Necrology Report and Service.

Grand Council Officers will be in their places at 8:20 AM. Ladies and guests invited to take their seats by 8:30 AM. Labor will resume following the Necrology Report

Grand Principal Conductor of the Work: Call the Companions from Labor to Refreshment to resume their labor in the Secret Vault at the sound of the Gavel in the East.

Grand Conductor of the Council: Attend at the Altar

Grand Captain of the Guard: Inform the Sentinel

Saturday: Aug 21, 2021 198th Grand Council

8:30 AM: MI Grand Master Phil Chandler called to receive Guests into the Secret Vault

Introduction of Distinguished Guests (See Registration Forms for Names)

Introduction of Youth Groups:

Triangles: Miss Maggie Calahan - Shape of the Future. Spoke of her year and her message. Thank MI Chandler and his lady for their support. Wished RI Gallant good luck on his year and thanked him and his lady for their support.

Rainbow: Miss Melinda Heneburge: Gail Gould adviser. Spoke of support in Medical Research and autism. Thank all for the courtesies and support extended to her.

DeMolay: Mr. Mark Elvarodo – DeMolay was founded 100 years ago. Productivity and self development. Spoke of seven Cardinal virtues. Become better men and sons and make parents proud as they strive to be better men. Youth are tomorrow's leaders. Asked continued support of DeMolay.

MI Phil spoke of how he is inspired by the youth.

Necrology Report: MI Charles Roberts. (See Program for Details)

"Amazing Grace"

23rd Psalm. "Level of Time". MI John P. Nosal / bio given; MI Victor S. Versace / bio given /
RI George D. Emmons. / bio given -

Prayer

Closing Hymn "It Is Well With My Soul"

Benediction.

MI Roberts moved that the Necrology Report be made a part of the proceedings of this Annual Assembly. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognize District Deputy Grand Masters. Grand Recorder called the roll. The MI Grand Master recognized all who were present personally and accorded Grand Honors.

District 1: RI Josh DeLeon

District 2: RI Melvin Birnbaum

District 4: RI Robert N Rogers

District 6: RI Brian D Moore

District 7: RI Wade Calor

District 8: RI Terry Mehlenbacher

District 9: RI Mark Seeloff

Recognize AGLs Grand Recorder called the roll. The Grand Lecturer and MI Grand Master recognized all those present and their hard work. Grand Honors were accorded.

District 1: VI Michael Llvshitz

District 2: VI Arron Adisian

District 4: RI Bruce Van Buren / VI Keith Becker

District 6: RI William H Toth II

District 7: VI Wilbur Corrington

District 8: VI Steve Gobert

District 9: VI Mike Seeloff

Presentation of Honorary Membership Status to our Distinguished Visitors:

MI Brian Messing Grand Master Grand Council State of Maine

MI David Schuler Grand Master Grand Council State of Vermont.

Right Puissant Willam Karstans IV Northeast Deputy General Grand Master of General Grand Council International.

MI Gerald P Cobb of PA asked to be excused as he and his lady and children have Covid. Grand PCW Mark Call is here as representative. Grand Master's representative was asked to deliver the certificate to the MI Grand Master of PA and wish him a speedy recovery on our behalf.

Visitor's spokesman RI Mark Call GPCW OF PA offered thanks for the hospitality on behalf of himself and his fellow visitors.

Roll Call Of the Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters of NY

MI E William Whittaker 2001-2002

MI Donald Harrison 2003-2004

MI Steven A Licht 2004-2005

MI Charles M Roberts 2005-2006

MI Francis I Karwowski 2007-2008

MI David Raymond 2010-2011

MI Richard Anderson, excused 2012-2013

MI Lenard Mason, excused 2013-2014

MI Garry Hutchurson, excused due to his ladies health 2017-2018

MI Richard C Fowler 2018-2019

MI Fred Hicken 1984-1985

MI John M Hilliard 1991-1992

MI Arnold Palmer 2009-2010, excused in care facility

MI Richard Fowler on behalf of the Past Grand Masters congratulated MI Phil on a well fought term during these unprecedented times and was grateful for his leadership to keeping the Cryptic Rite in tack and moving forward.

Grand Chapter of the State of NY

RE Grand High Priest's representative spoke for ME Brian Singer. RE Jason Sheridan spoke of his career and the need to make changes to accommodate covid shut down. Also spoke on membership and the youth groups and the relationship of all the groups to one another.

Grand Commandery of the State of NY

RE Grand Commander Yves Etienne: We are all under one umbrella as brothers. Spoke of Grand Commandery in September in Vestal, NY and that it will be a hybrid/zoom meeting. Protocols will be in place.

Grand Representatives Recognized:

In the essence of time and Covid protocols MI Roberts suggested that those Grand Representatives that were present stand and announce who they represent.

General Grand Representative of General Grand Council International

Right Puissant Karstans brought greetings on behalf of MP General Grand Master Monty Glover. Announce that he would defer his comments till the banquet.

Membership Committee Report:

MI Roberts reported that at the beginning of the year with 1100 and presently there are 1050 members. Must find a way to deal with loses due to Demits and NPD's. Membership report per Council is received and moved to be spread upon the minutes. Motion was seconded and

passed unanimously.

Grand Treasurer's Report: RI Lockard moved the printed report in the packet to be adopted. Motion seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Committee Report:

That the Treasurer's books are balanced and in good order. MI Donald Harrison, III Steven J Kofer, III William E McCaully. Committee thanked Grand Council for the privilege of serving. MI Roberts moved that the report be spread upon the minutes. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Grand Recorder's Financial Report:

MI Charles Roberts, moved the published report and to have it spread upon the minutes. Motion was seconded and passed.

Proposed Budget 2021-2022

MI Charles Roberts presented the proposed budget for 2021-2022 as in the published packet. He moved its adoption for the ensuing year. Motion was seconded and passed unaimously.

Trustees Report

MI Fowler: As of June 2021 we had positive growth. Remind Grand Council Officers that they responsible for their jewels and regalia. MI Richard Fowler and MI David Raymond were appointed to fill the void in the trustees due to the retirement of Richard Anderson and the untimely death of MI Versace. He moved the Trustee Annual Report. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Grand Recorder's Report

RI Howe moved his written report in the published packer. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MI Grand Master Chandler Allocution

MI Grand Master spoke of the covid shut down and the need to serve an extra term to keep Grand Council in good report. Dispensations were granted according rules & regulations and protocols. We had zoom meetings to keep the Councils active. Degrees were offered and Grand Council proceeded. MI Phil spoke eloquently on getting work done within the bounds of our rules and regulations.

Grand Master Phil spoke of the Ish Sodi award and the Meritorious Ish Sodi Award, and the difficulty of achieving it. We were short of Meritorious Award Medals so MI Karwowski took it upon himself to order some. MI Phil presented him with a Certificate to accommodate his medal. The award is for the achievement of being responsible for bringing 25 Royal Masters and Select Master into the Council.

RI Richard Transue was given the Ish Sodi award for sponsoring five new Royal Masters.

MIGM spoke about membership and spoke about the youth groups. Must support the youth. Spoke of the Library. Disappointed that he could not visit as many councils as he would have liked due to covid. His allocution was submitted upon order of the RI Deputy GM to the Review Committee for reporting upon later.

Deputy Grand Master: RJ Kessler. Spoke affectionately of his friendship with MI Phil and his involvement with the Charities Corp. He will speak more at the banquet.

Convened the Annual Grand Council Charity Corporation

MI Charles Roberts. Minutes have been written and moved to be made a part of the proceedings of the Annual Assembly. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report for Charities. MI Whittaker walked through the published report and moved that it be spread upon the minutes of this Annual Assembly. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

RI Steven Howard reported on the audit committee. Committee report that all the books are accurate and in order. Moved the audit report be accepted and spread upon the minutes of this Annual Assembly. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. Appreciation was offered to the audit committee.

Elections: RI RJ Kessler to replace RI Kessler for three years; RI Stu Card to replace RI Stu Card for three years. Moved and passed unanimously.

Council donations recognized. Solomon Arch awards were announced.

King Hiram Council received the Kreason Memorial Bible for their contribution of \$1500.00.

It was moved seconded and passed that the awards report be approved and spread upon the minutes.

Remarks from GM Sardone

Grand Master William Sardone was introduced by MI Phil Chandler.

Grand Master Sardone spoke of Ritual and growth. Spoke of NPDs and demits. Sorry your leaving, have a good life. We have too much to offer to beg people to stay. Spoke affectionately about the youth. Spoke of new properties around the State i.e. New Rochelle. Zoom allows interaction with brothers who are otherwise remote and inaccessible. Spoke about his endeavor to have model train collection.

Recess of Annual Assembly

MI Chandler made the call from labor to refreshment for lunch. To Return at 1:30 pm sharp to the sound of the gavel in the East.

Committee on Grand Master's Address

MI Francis Karwowski

No one could have predicted the Global Pandemic. Appreciate and are grateful to the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the Grand Line for the dedication to their duties to the Cryptic Craft for the past two years. Those here know what they went through to bring us to our 198th annual assembly. We wish to express our thanks for a successful assembly.

We agree the Most Illustrious Grand Master as to the dispensations that were granted as well a keeping with our Constitution to not open unless there were nine present. We agree with all the guide lines for the degrees that were followed for the conferral of them by Oneonta #89.

The award segment of the report speaks for itself that those of us who do receive awards do not do it for the reward but for the love of the craft. Case in point; recognized that RI Stuart Card received the General Grand Council Bronze medal for dedicated service.

We are agreed that the education of the Companions by the classes that were created by King Solomon #31. The festivals that were presented by Buffalo Keystone #17. Our Grand Council did a very great service by adding 36 new companions and other select masters.

Condition of the Rite is that we are still meeting in person and there is nothing like that experience. We need to thank our Grand Lecturer for the work he did with our new Rituals.

We thank you Most Illustrious Grand Master for all of your interactions with Youth Groups. We need to cherish them. The transfer of our materials the Livingston Museum was overseen by you.

All in all Grand Master we agree with all that you did throughout your term. Thank you for leading and guiding during this time.

Motion made to accept the Committee on the MI Grand Master's Address report. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Credentials Committee

RI Bob Ball - Grand Sentinel. It's been an honor to serve the last two years. Many more productive years to you (LOL). He gave the following report: 13 Illustrious Masters / 2 Deputy Masters / 2 PCWs / 50 Past Masters / 11 Companions for at total of 77 / 19 Ladies. We need 40 to make everything official when we vote. Thank you. Motion made to accept report, duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Time for election of officers for the ensuing year. Three tellers appointed: MI David Raymond / ME Bruce Testut / MI Frank Karwowski.

Nominating speeches kept to 3 minutes. 2nds no more than 2 minutes

Reminder: Step to the microphone when making said speeches. Give Name, Council and Office.

MI Phil Chandler handed gavel to MI Past Grand Master E William Whitaker who will run the election.

Nominations are now opened for Most Illustrious Grand Master for the ensuing year. RI Terry Mehlenbacher DDGM for 8th Capitular District nominated RI John Gallant. Always there to lend a hand, teach and educate, and always available for anything that is needed. He is a dedicated family man and dedicated Mason. Has served this Cryptic whenever very well. RI Bob Hyman 2nd the nomination with accolades.

MI Charles M Roberts moved that RI John A Gallant be elected by Acclamation. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion made and 2nd to move the progressive line up with exception of Grand Treasurer and Grand Standard Bearer. Passed on one unanimous ballot.

RI Don Kunego accepted his office by proxy due to his health issues preventing him from attending this year. All others accepted to serve.

Nomination for Grand Treasurer, RI Kenneth Lockard. Nominated and 2nd. Passed by acclamation.

Nomination for Grand Standard Bearer: Nominated by Michael P Dunn. Ill Carl Klossner. 2nd by RI Stu Card. On motion passed by one unanimous ballot.

Nomination for Grand Steward: No nominations were made. MI Charles Roberts moved to grant the Grand Master the latitude to appoint a Grand Steward at a later date. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Nomination for Trustees for a 2 year and 3 year term. Moved by MI Charles Roberts, that MI David Raymond be elected Trustee for 3 years and MI Richard Fowler be elected for 2 years. with the Grand Recorder casting one unanimous ballot for them both for such. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Both accepted to serve.

Closing Remarks

MI Phillip Chandler inquired as to whether there was any more business. None reported. He asked if all goody bags have been picked up by the Distinguished Guests. He also stated to make sure you bring dinner tickets for this evening banquet. Hospitality Room will be opened after the banquet. Cash bar at the banquet

He announced the location of Thrice Illustrious Master degree. He announced Covid protocol.

A round of applause was given to Grand Line for their leadership during the pandemic and shut down.

RI John Gallant announced that pictures would be taken for Web site following the installation ceremony.

MI Richard Fowler announced that MI Phillip Chandler was about to retire. The Grand Council was left in charge under RI Gallant. He was escorted west of the altar. Rousing applause!!!

RI John A Gallant, MI Grand Master Elect was presented west of the altar by the aid of the Grand Marshal where he was obligated and installed as Most Illustrious Grand Master by MI Richard Fowler.

MI Gallant was escorted to the East and received Private Grand Honors. He deferred comments until after the Public Installation Ceremony. MI Gallant announced that public installation will be at 2:30 pm.

There being no further business MI Gallant proceeded to close the 198th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of the State of NY.

Prayer offered by MI and Reverend Charles Roberts.

MI Gallant declared 198th Grand Council closed.

Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York announced that MW William M. Sardone, Grand Master of Masons of NY is about to retire. Remain under direction of MI Grand Master of Cryptic Masons.

Public Installation Ceremony

Public Installation Ceremony of the Grand Council of NY Elected and Appointed Officers took place at 2:30 pm.

Banquet Ceremony

Reception of Special Guests.

MI Phil Chandler spoke of his run as Grand Master where he was on the road attending meetings around the State. After three months he was shut down because of the pandemic. Thankful for all of the support he received from his Grand line.

Awards: International adult youth leadership award given every year. An adult who is forever dedicated to the youth. Special people.

2020: Mrs. Carol Wright - from Triangle.

2021: Mark Alvarado – DeMolay

International Cryptic Mason of the Year Award: RI Dennis S Davis

General Grand Council International Cryptic Mason Columbian Award: RI Stu Card – Presented by Right Puissant William Karstan

RP Karstan presented MI Phil Chandler with a plaque commemorating his tenure in office. Most Illustrious Past Grand Master.

Presentation of Past Grand Master's Apron and Certificate of Honor: Presented by MI Charles Roberts and the Past Grands.

Most in attendance award at Grand Council given to Columbian Council #1.

Remarks:

Right Puissant William Karstan: Community transparency. See Web Page. Weekly newsletter. Education. Thanks.

New York State Cryptic Mason of the year: MI Phil Chandler to Jordon Eric Jaquay.

RI Richard J Kessler: Three Amigos Dunn, Davis and Chandler. Maintaining Masons. Sponsor one brother and see that he is educated and has direction.

MW William M. Sardone: Introduced Grand Line that were present. Three Million Dollars raised for the Green House at the Masonic care community. Spoke of Bee Hive. Spoke of Horticultural Center. Thanked all for a terrific weekend.

Break for Hospitality. Good Night.

Grand Recorder Grand Council

State of New York

Kenneth R Howe Jr.