

## Grand Council Minutes 199<sup>th</sup> Assembly August 20-21, 2022

MI John Gallant called Grand Council order, Grand Chaplain Stenrick Adams gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Singing of our National Anthem.

MI John Gallant pointed out the fire exits per protocol and admonishes all to register their attendance per COVID protocol. He reminded the companions present that the Registration Desk is outside the door.

Prior to the roll call, it was recorded that Fulton Council #50 is temporarily suspended as reports were not in on time. The Grand Recorder calls the roll and finds a quorum present. MI Grand Master declares 199<sup>th</sup> Grand Council duly opened.

The following companions were assigned to committees, Credentials: RI Robert Ball / Ill Robert Hyman / Ill Mike Driver, and Companion Paul Simonson; Committee on Grand Master's Address: (chairman), MI Francis Karwowski, MI Richard Fowler, and MI David Raymond.

The Committee on Standard Resolutions for this assembly made the following Resolutions. They were seconded, voted upon and passed:

- 1) MI Francis Karwowski: Motion made the minutes of the 199<sup>th</sup> Assembly as printed and amended will be published.
- 2) MI Richard Fowler: Moved that the reports of Elected Council Grand Line Officers, From Deputy Grand Master through Judge Advocate which are printed and will be published be approved.
- 3) MI David Raymond: Moved that all Companion Select Masters in good standing be invited to remain as visitors the annual Grand Assembly except such time as provided by the Constitution.
- 4) MI Gary Hutcherson: Move the election of officers be the order of business at 1:45PM or thereabouts on Saturday, August 20<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 with nominating speeches be held to 3 minutes and seconds be limited to 2 minutes.
- 5) MI Ted Harrison: Move that our visiting Grand masters and Past Grand Masters who are not already Honorary members of this Grand Council be made so.

The following Reports were presented:

Report on Committee of Condition and Extension of the Rite: No report at this time. Will be reported and voted on later. Long Range Planning: RI Rich Kerimoglu, Spoke about 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 5 year plan on membership posted in reports. Ritual Committee: RI Stu Card announced that for the first time in many years the Grand Lecturer had offered Conventions in every district throughout this Grand Jurisdiction. Companions have discovered errata in the new ritual books (mostly typos). Appealed to Grand Council for the latitude to make necessary corrections in the next edition of Ritual Books. Work for next year will be "Super Excellent Master" Short form. Approved by incoming Grand Master. He thanked all who served on Grand Lecturer's Committee.

List of all AGL's was read by MI Charles Roberts and called to the front to be recognized. MI John Gallant and RI Stu Card, thanked them for their service and called for Grand Honors.

Grand Council Web Site Committee: MI John Gallant, spoke that the goal is to attempt to upload to the Web Site in a timely manner. Grand Council emails have been put in place to avoid posting personal emails. Grand bodies working on a coordinated calendar to avoid conflicts. As each body has its own website, they will be overlaid so all scheduled events will be available at a glance. Intent is to make website simple and accessible. Committee on Masonic Education by RI Steve Rubinstein: Moved report be approved as posted. Seconded and passed. Library & Museum Committee: MI Phil Chandler / postpone until Saturday as Chairman is not here. Grand Historian Report: RI Garry Krom related that the first Grand Council was held in New York and all subsequent Grand Councils were to follow. Received requests for info from Grand Council of England and Grand Council of Texas. Reported that at the 180<sup>th</sup> Grand council it was passed that all proceedings would be put on CD and distributed. RI Gary

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suggested that one copy would be in paper form and given to the Grand Historian for historical record. Also, at the 165<sup>th</sup> Grand Council it was determined that each subsequent Grand Council deposit \$50.00 in escrow account for the purpose of helping to offset cost of the 200<sup>th</sup> year Celebration. Move that the 200<sup>th</sup> year committee be able to access those funds for that purpose. Moved seconded / passed. MI Charles M Roberts announced that \$1934.00 has been allocated by the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary's offices and is ready for disbursement.

Jurisprudence and by-laws review committee: MI Richard Fowler received, along with Judge advocate for approval, the following:

Bylaws changes for Cayuga Council #90. Section 2 time and place. Section 7 remove word "and Recorder" add "or recorder". add section 9; Ill Master, Recorder, and Treasure will conduct business of The Council when Council is dark or otherwise unable to meet. Moved / 2nd / Passed

Following by-laws changes in Flat Bush Council #80. Article 5: fees and dues. Add section 9. A collation assessment of (\$25.00) be added to council dues annually to supplement expenses such as food, libations and room reservations. The installed Deputy Master will be responsible for the expenditures in conjunction with the treasurer and with advice of the Ill Master to provide food and libation to the companions on behalf of the Council. Moved seconded / passed.

For our Grand Council Constitutions they presented: Article 1 section 4. Assembly's, Add new section 4c. In the event of a State or National Emergency, whereby the annual assembly of Grand Council will be impossible, dangerous or unhealthy to meet in person the assembly may be held by any other electronic means at the discretion of the Grand Master and guided by the rules as may be proscribed. Quorum will be maintained as if it were an in-person assembly. Move / second / passed.

MI Fowler gave tribute to the late E William Whittaker for his invaluable service for his many years as Chairman. Moved that the report be accepted. second / motion carried.

Trustee's Report: Gary Hutchurson / pg 60 in proceeding, move the report be accepted. Second / passed.

Grand Treasurers report: RI Kenneth Lockard. Operating Fund for 2021-2022 – \$26,226.27 starting / exp \$51,000.00 / \$29,246.10 end of year total. Escrow fund – \$16,181.97 motion to accept report. Second / Passed.

Audit Committee: MI Harrison. Grand Master, Grand line, and members of the Council of New York found that the accounts of the Grand treasurer were audited and found to be in good order. Audit Committee MI Don Harrison PGM, RI William E McCaully. Moved / second Carried.

The Budget Committee: MI Charles M Roberts 2022-2023 beginning balance \$29,246.10 / projected income \$43,472.00 / expenditures \$43,225.00 / projected balance July 31, 2023 / \$29,493.10 moved to have report spread upon the minutes. Seconded / passed

Deputy Grand Master's report: RI Steven Rubinstein Thanked Grand Council for affording him the opportunity to serve. Looks forward to ensuing year. Asked that his complete report be spread upon the minutes. Seconded and passed.

Vesper's Service: Grand Chaplain: Lead by MI Charles M Roberts, Reading: lead by RI Stenrick Adams. / Hymn / Scripture Psalms RI Stenrick Adams / Responsive reading: MI and Rev Charles M Roberts. / Offering will go to Grand Council Charities. Prayer: MI and Rev Charles M Roberts / Second Reading: Epistle of James / Homily: MI Charles M Roberts / Reading: Epistle of James, MI and Reverend Charles M Roberts Grand Chaplain / Closing Hymn: Hallelujah / Closing Prayer: MI Charles M Roberts Grand Musicians: RI Eric Howd / RI Gerald Irwin / RI David Shire

MI John Gallant announced that Grand Council will resume in the morning at 8:30 AM with the reception of Distinguished visitors follow by Necrology Report. 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. Reminded everyone that Room 156 is our hospitality room.

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Grand Conductor of the Council: Called the Companions for Labor to Refreshment to resume their labor in the Secret Vault at the sound of the Gavel in the East.

On Saturday: Aug 20, 2022, at 8:30 AM, MI Grand Master John Gallant called to resume labor in the Secret Vault Grand Council called to order: Invocation was given by MI & Rev Charles M Roberts

Introduction of Guests: The following delegation and representatives were received:

Connecticut: MP James McNeely, GM

Maine: MI Timothy Libby, GM

Maryland: MI Robert Lumbert, PGM & Ambassador

Massachusetts: MI Andrew Maninos, GM; RI Michael S. Bickford, Grand Chaplain; MI Donald Carriger, Ritual PDGM; RI George Herbolzheimer, DGM; RI Manuel Ferreira III, PDGM; RI John Riggles II, PDGM;

New Jersey: MI Sean McNorton, GM

Ohio: MI David Weimer, GM; RI Curtis Miller, Grand Chaplain; VI John Caterbury, Grand Aide; VI Ronald Bokan, Grand Aide;

Ontario: MI Prince Selvaraj, GM

Pennsylvania: MI Richard Fesler, GM

Vermont: MI Josh Retchless, GM; RI Jon Husford, Grand PCW; MI David Schuler, PGM;

AMD: Right Venerable Brother Oscar Alleyne, Grand Chaplain

GC RAM NY: ME Jason Sheridan, GHP; RE Larry Barnard, Grand King ; RE Steven Shearer, Grand Scribe; RE Mark Peerson, Grand Captain of the Host; RE Jamie J. Kaime Jr, Grand Principal Sojourner;

GC KT NY: REGC SK Dennis S. Davis; DGC SK David Barkstedt; Grand Generalissimo SK Conrad Johnson; Grand Prelate SK & Rev. Charles Roberts; Grand Recorder SK Steven Wing; Assistant Grand Recorder SK David Lathers; Grand Senior Warden SK John Mullen; Grand Junior Warden SK Earl G. Wilkinson; Grand Standard Bearer SK Kenneth P. Jordan;

GGCCMI: RP William Snyder, Deputy General GM; RP Thomas G. Taylor, General Grand PCW; RP Sandy Karstens, N/E Regional Deputy General GM; RP & Rev. Charles Roberts, Assistant Grand Chaplain; MI Gary Wyne, CMMRF

Grand Lodge of NY: RW Robert Hogan, Senior Grand Warden; RW Peter Stein, Junior Grand Warden; RW Lawrence Kania, Senior Grand Deacon; RW Donald Williams II, Grand Standard Bearer;

Right Worshipful Stephen A. Rubin, Deputy Grand Master was escorted to the East by Deputy Grand Marshal RW Peter Unfried, received by Grand Master Gallant and accorded Grand Honors  
Most Worshipful Richard J. Kessler, Grand Master was escorted to the East by Grand Marshal RW John Haslem, received by Grand Master Gallant and accorded Grand Honors

The Masonic War Vets Posted the Colors, MW Richard J Kessler dismissed the War Vets with thanks.

Necrology Report: was given under the direction of MI & Rev Charles M Roberts. Eulogies were given for MI Fred Higgins and MI E William Whittaker. Spoke of remembering all those who have gone on. Refer to the printed Necrology report for details.

The work of Grand Council was suspended, and The College of Preservation was duly opened. Two awards presented by the General Grand Council by RP William Snyder DGGM. MI Charles Roberts escorted MI John Gallant west of the altar. MW Richard J Kessler escorted RI Ken (Rick) Howe Grand Recorder, west of the alter. The Order of the Secret Vault was conferred on the companions. Following the Ceremony MI Charles M Roberts announced that the College of Preservation be duly closed.

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MI John Gallant dismissed Ladies and guests. It was announced that the bus to the Ladies program was waiting to leave. The 199<sup>th</sup> Annual assembly was called to order.

MI John Gallant called the DDGM's to the East for recognition.

Grand Secretary called the role: District #1 - RI Joshua DeLeon; District #2 - RI Melvin J Birnbaum; District #4 - RI Robert N Rogers; District #6 - RI Brian D Moore; District #7 - RI Wade Caler; District #8 - RI Terry Mehlenbacher; District #9 - RI Mark Seeloff.

MI John Gallant thanked them for their service and they were accorded Grand Honors.

Visiting MIGM's were presented their certificates Honorary membership in the Grand Council:

MI Josh Retchless, GM; MI Prince Selvaraj, GM; MI David Weimer, GM; MI Timothy Libby, GM. They were accorded Grand Honors.

MI Jim McNeely was invited to the East to say a few words on behalf of visiting dignitaries.

Gave thanks for hospitality as they all felt the sensation of being with family. Hugs and Handshakes. We are family.

Recognition of Past Grand Masters who are with us today. The Grand Recorder read the list of all past Grand Masters present. MI John M Hilliard; MI Joseph A Poloso; MI Donald Harrison; MI Steve Licht; MI Charles M Roberts; MI Francis Karwowski; MI David Raymond; MI Gary Hutchurson; MI Richard C Fowler; MI Philip J Chandler. MI Gallant thanked them for their advice and council through-out his tenure in office. They were accorded Grand Honors.

ME Jason Sheridan Grand High Priest Grand Chapter RAM spoke on how the Grand Chapter is concentrating on the Chapters of New York State and assure them that they were appreciated and loved. Make sure the right kind of members enter our lodges.

RE Dennis Davis Grand Commander Grand Commandery spoke of the pleasure he and his Lady Diana experienced traveling with MI John and his Lady Deborah. The pre-eminence of the York Rite Bodies which they all shared. Promise that they will continue to serve the craft after they are done.

Grand Master Kessler asked to have all the heads of the Grand bodies gather for a picture.

The Roll Call of Grand Representatives to the Grand Council of New York was done. MI Gallant thanked the Reps for their service and they were accorded Grand Honors by MI Gallant.

MI John invited General Grand Council Deputy Grand Master, RP William Snyder, for his remarks.

RP Snyder presented greeting from General Grand Master Monty Glover who could not be here. He presented a number of interesting topics.

### Grand Secretaries report:

RI Kenneth R Howe Jr, Grand Recorder reported that this will be his last report as your Grand Recorder. He referred to Secretary's report as posted in the minutes. "Thank you" for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Recorder for these last several years. Our Grand Recorder was thanked by the Companions. He was accorded Grand Honors from MI John Gallant.

MI John Gallant turned the gavel to Deputy Grand Master Rubinstein, and he gave his Grand Masters Address. The Deputy Grand Master ordered the Address turned over to the Committee on the Grand Masters Address, for report upon later. The gavel was returned to the Grand Master.

MI John Gallant presented the Deputy Grand Master RW Steven A Rubin to speak a few words.

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MI John Gallant called the Assembly to recess for the purpose of calling the Charities Corporation to order. President MI Charles M Roberts opened the Corporation with a prayer. He referenced the report in the proceedings for review. It has been a rough year with the death of MI Whittaker. Overall; the Charity Corporation is healthy as we continue to receive gifts. The Charity corporation Awards were presented.

MI John Gallant asked MW Grand Master RJ Kessler for his remarks. He spoke of family. He discussed that we are indeed part of a great family and admonished all to remember that. The Grand Master held up a trowel and told that it was presented to him by GM Carl Smith. "Never forget that we are all working in the quarries of humanity until our dying breath; always remember!!!"

Following the Grand Masters remarks, MI John Gallant called craft from labor to refreshment for Lunch. The craft was called from refreshment to Labor at 1:15pm.

Assistant Grand Secretary moved that the Library report be moved as MI Phil Chandler is not present.

The Ish Sodi and Awards Committee, RI Don Kunego with the assistance of RI Dan Elliot presented their awards. The recipients were given a round of applause.

MI Dick Fowler gave the report on the Grand Masters address. The committee approved of the Grand Master's work, that he left the Grand Council better and that it would continue to grow and prosper.

Report of time and place of our 200<sup>th</sup> Grand Council: August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at the Desmond Hotel in Albany.

The Credentials Committee report was given by RI Bob Hyman. There were:

Illustrious Masters: total 11

Deputy Masters: total 4

PCW: Total 4

Past Masters: Total 44

Companions: Total 26

Other Jurisdiction Visitors: Total 21

Grand Total: 141 / 36 Ladies

MI John Gallant reported that the Time is the appointed hour for Elections. The three tellers were appointed. Past Grand Master MI Dick Fowler will run the elections. RI Ted Harrison nominated : RI Steve Rubinstein for Most Illustrious Grand Master. There being no further nominations it was moved that the nominations be closed. Moved that RI Steve Rubinstein be elected by acclamation. It was moved by MI Chuck Roberts that all Grand Council Officers be moved up on station except for the Grand Steward, Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer. MI Dick Fowler moved that the office of Grand Steward be open for nominations, Companion Garry Krom was nominated by RI David Barkstedt. There being no further nominations it was move that the nominations be closed. It was moved that RI Ken Lockard succeed himself as Grand Treasurer. The nomination for Grand Recorder be opened. MI David Raymond – nominated MI John Gallant for the ensuing year. Being no other nominations. Nominations declared closed. Elected by acclamation. Trustee: MI Charles M Roberts nominated MI Gary Hutchurson to be elected Trustee for the ensuing three years. There being no other nominations, nominations declared closed and MI Hutchurson elected by acclamation. MI Dick Fowler declared that the election closed and handed gavel back to MI John Gallant who dismissed the team of tellers with thanks.

MI John Gallant reported that the TIM degree will be immediately following the Public Installation. The Grand Master's banquet is scheduled for 7:00pm.



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Grand Master, MI John Gallant retired west of the altar under the escort of the Grand Line he was granted Private Grand Honors and escorted from the Assembly.

The Installing team consisted of Installing Master MI Don Harrison / Installing Marshall MI Frank Kowowski They proceeded to install the Illustrious Grand Master Elect. MI. Stephen Rubinstein. The charge given by MI Don Harrison. The new Grand Master was greeted with Private Grand Honors

MI Grand Master Rubinstein, thanked all in the Jurisdiction for having faith in him to electing him Grand Master. Theme for this year is "Honor the past and challenge the future" He spoke of the gavel that he would be using, as it had been passed down for two generations. MI Steve looked forward to serving this Grand Council for the ensuing year.

MI Grand Master Rubinstein proceeded to close the Council, asking his good friend from Massachusetts to lead us in prayer. He declared the 199<sup>th</sup> Grand Council State of New York closed.

It was announced that the public installation will be at 3:00pm, all past and present officers will stay for pictures.

The Evening Banquet honoring MI Past Grand Master Gallant was held at 7:00pm, the MC was RI Rich Kerimoglu. Presentations were given by representatives of the Masonic Youth Groups. Words of Wisdom were delivered by our distinguished guests. The following Awards were given: Giles Fonda Yates Award – RI Ken (Rick) Howe; Cryptic Mason of the Year - RI Robert Ball; Ladies of the Council – Ms. Mavis Hyman, Ms Marion Lockard, Ms Cathy Howe; Masonic Youth Leader – Br. Peter Brusco; General Grand Cryptic Mason of the Year - RI David Barkstedt. MI Gallant was presented his past Masters Jewel and Apron and the honor of being made a permanent voting member of General Grand Council. RI Rich Kerimoglu introduced the Most Worshipful Richard J Kessler, Grand Master of Masons Grand Lodge of New York. He spoke with delight of knowing each person who received awards, spoke of the fact that this world needs Masonry more than ever. Admonished all to remember the vows made as a Mason and to donate to his wife, Joanne's special charity the "Battle Within", The Banquet was closed with all present joining in to Ray Charles singing "America"

Respectfully Submitted:  
RI Kenneth R. Howe, Jr.  
Past Grand Recorder