

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York
2023-2024

201st Annual Assembly



M.: J.: Donald R. Kunego
Most Illustrious Grand Master
3023-3024 A. Dep.

August 23rd & 24th, 2024
The Desmond Hotel
Albany NY

AGENDA FOR THE 201st ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

1) The Opening of the 201st Annual Assembly

The Call To The 201st Annual Assembly Of The Grand Council Cryptic Masons Of The State Of New York

2) The Minutes Of The 200th Annual Assembly Of The Grand Council Cryptic Masons Of The State Of New York

3) The Annual Reports Of The Grand Line Officers

<i>Deputy Grand Master</i>	<i>Grand Principal Conductor of the Work</i>	<i>Grand Captain of the Guard</i>
<i>Grand Conductor of the Council</i>	<i>Grand Marshal</i>	<i>Grand Standard Bearer</i>
<i>Grand Steward</i>	<i>Judge Advocate</i>	<i>Grand Historian</i>
<i>Grand Archivist</i>		

4) The Annual Committee Reports

<i>By-Laws Review & Jurisprudence</i>	<i>Long Range Planning</i>
<i>Condition & Extension of the Rite</i>	<i>Membership</i>
<i>Masonic Education & Communications</i>	<i>Concordant Bodies & Youth</i>
<i>Library & Museum</i>	<i>Vespers & Necrology</i>
<i>Ritual (See Grand Lecturer's Report)</i>	<i>Northeast Cryptic Festival</i>
<i>Northeastern York Rite Conference</i>	<i>Cryptic Newsletter (None)</i>
<i>Website</i>	<i>Masonic Veterans (None)</i>

5) Annual Reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters

6) Grand Lecturer's Annual Report and the AGLs Annual Reports

7) Annual Grand Treasurer's Report

<i>Financial Accounting for 2023-24 Budget</i>	<i>Escrow Accounting for 2023-24</i>
<i>Budget for 2023-24 Comparison</i>	<i>Financial Review/Audit for 2023-24</i>

8) Annual Grand Recorder's Report

<i>The Office of the Grand Recorder</i>	<i>Financial's for 2023-2024</i>
<i>Proposed Budget for 2024-2025</i>	

9) Annual Report of the Trustees of Grand Council

10) Annual Awards Report

11) The Annual Allocution of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

12) The Annual Grand Council Charity Corporation Meeting

<i>Agenda</i>	<i>Minutes</i>	<i>Annual Summary</i>	<i>Financial Review/Audit</i>
<i>Charitable Distribution</i>	<i>Election of Directors</i>		<i>Charity Fund Awards Presentations</i>

13) The Report on the Most Illustrious Grand Masters Address

14) The Report of the Registration and Credentials Committee

15) The Election of Officers

16) The Address of The Newly Installed Most Illustrious Grand Master

17) The Conferral of the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree

18) The Remarks of The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in the State of NY

19) The Closing of The 201st Annual Assembly

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

THE CALL TO THE 201st Annual Assembly

May 2024

Official Notice is hereby given that the **Two Hundred and First Annual Assembly** of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York will be held on **Friday Evening, August 23, 2024 and continuing through Saturday, August 24, 2024** You will need to let the Grand Recorder's Office know of your attendance as soon as possible. **SOONER THE BETTER!**

HEADQUARTERS: The Crowne Plaza Albany - The Desmond Hotel at 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211. Room Reservations with the The Crowne Plaza Albany- The Desmond Hotel made by direct Room Link or by phone line: (518) 869-8100. Mention that you are with The Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of NY Annual Assembly for \$139.00 rate plus tax. Group Code is "GRC." Rooms must be reserved by August 1, 2024.

REGISTRATION: Friday, August 23, 2024: 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM and Saturday, August 24, 2024: 7:30 – 10:00 AM opposite the meeting room. Registration and Credentials **will close at 10:00 AM on Saturday August 24th.** 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. **All Reservations must be made by US Mail ONLY - No Emails or Phone Call Reservations! Cut Off Date for Meals is Absolute--There Will Be No Reservations Accepted after August 19, 2024 whatsoever!**

The Schedule Of The Annual Assembly

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch: Grand Line Officers & Past Grand Masters on your own
1:00 - 5:00 PM Conference: Grand Council Line Officers & Past Grand Masters
1:00 - 5:00 PM Hospitality Suite will be open
6:00 - 7:30 PM Welcome Buffet – Informal! All are Welcome. **Reservations & Tickets required**
BRING WITH YOU! (Dress Code: Casual Dress for All)
7:45 PM Opening of the 201st Annual Assembly
(Dress Code: Elected Grand Council Officers & Past MIGMs: White Jacket & Purple Tie;
Appointed Officers & DDGMs: White Jacket or Tuxedo & Purple or Black Tie;
Companions: Jacket and Tie. All Wear Aprons If Available!)
Business Conducted:
Grand Council Officers will open the Grand Council per Grand Council Ritual
Roll Call of Councils; Previous Minutes; Appointment of Committees
Resolutions by PMIGMs
Reports of:
Education, Membership & Public Relations; Library & Museum; Ritual Committee;
Grand Lecturer and Awards; Condition & Extension of the Rite; Grand Historian;
Jurisprudence & By-Laws Committee;
8:45 PM Vesper Service (The Offering for the evening will go to the Grand Council Charity Fund)
9:30 PM Yellow Dog Degree Conferral
10:00 PM Recess. Hospitality Suite will be open to 11:30 PM.

Saturday, August 24, 2024

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

Breakfast on Your Own

- 8:15 AM** **Assembling** of NY Distinguished Guests, Ladies and other Guests Admitted
8:30 AM **Reception** of NY Distinguished Guests
9:00 AM **Necrology Ceremony** - Ladies and Non-members excused following the Ceremony
9:45 AM **RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**
Business Conducted:
Roll Call of AGLs; Roll Call & Recognition of DDGMs; Recognition of Past Grand Masters; Roll Call & Recognition of Grand Representatives; Reports of: Trustees of Grand Council; Grand Treasurer; Audit; Budget; Deputy Grand Master; Grand Recorder; Presentation of Honorary Memberships; Remarks from Visitors; Most Illustrious Grand Master's Address.
- 10:45 -11:15 AM** **Annual Meeting of the Charity Corporation**
11:15 AM **Address** of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of NY or that of his personal representative.

Recess For Lunch

- NOON** **LUNCHEON** (Reservation and Tickets required - **BRING WITH YOU!**)

Reconvene Business of the Annual Assembly

- 1:15 PM** **RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**
Business Conducted: Reports of: Ish Sodi & Awards; Committee on the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Address; Time & Place Committee; Credentials; Unfinished Business; Election of Officers; Tiled Installation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master Elect; Closing of the 198th Annual Assembly by Grand Council Officers.
- 3:00 PM** **Public Installation** of Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council Officers & District Deputy Grand Masters and AGLs - Ladies & Guests Invited
- 4:15-5:30 PM** **Conferral Of The Thrice Illustrious Master Degree (Open Only for the Cast and Candidates and Limited number of Grand Council Officers due to Covid)**
(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**
(With Remarks and Presentation of Awards - Reservations & Tickets required - **BRING WITH YOU!**)
{Dress Code: Elected Grand Council Officers & Past MIGMs: White Jacket and Purple Tie; Appointed Officers & DDGMs: White Jacket or Tuxedo & Purple Tie; Companions: Purple Jacket / Tuxedo or Dark Suit & Tie; Ladies: Semi-Formal}
- 9:30 PM** Hospitality Suite will be open until 11:30 PM.

Attested To:

M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego

M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego
Most Illustrious Grand Master

M.:I.: John A. Gallant

M.:I.: John A. Gallant
Grand Recorder

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

The 200th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was held on Friday, August 18th and Saturday, August 19th 2023 at The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211.

OPENING BY THE GRAND MASTER AND OFFICERS OF GRAND COUNCIL:

Acting Grand Master, Right Illustrious Donald R. Kunego was introduced by the Grand Marshal Right Illustrious Ernest Parker and given Grand Honors. R.:I.: Kunego welcomed all to the 200th Annual Assembly.

OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF GRAND COUNCIL:

A constitutional quorum of Grand Council Officers and of Constituent Councils was determined to be present. The Grand Assembly was opened by Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego and the Grand Line officers in ample form on Friday, August 17th at 8:00 PM. M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts, appointed Deputy Grand Master (pro-tem). The Grand Post of Masonic War Vet's Honor Guard presented the colors. Grand Chaplain Charles M. Roberts gave the invocation. It was declared that all councils present were entitled to vote.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The following companions were assigned to committees, Credentials: M.:I.: David H. Raymond, R.:I.: Joshua DeLeon and R.:I.: Steven Howard, with M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts as advisor. Committee on Grand Master's address: M.:I.: Richard Fowler, M.:I.: Francis Karwowski and M.:I.: Phillip Chandler.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

- A) M.:I.: Richard Fowler: Moved that that the Minutes of the 200th Annual Assembly be approved when finalized by the Grand Recorder's office for publication and posting on the Grand Council Website.
- B) M.:I.: Gary Hutchurson: Moved that the Annual Reports of the elected Grand Council line officers with the exception of the Deputy Grand Master which are to be published as part of the 200th Annual Proceedings be approved.
- C) M.:I.: Steven Licht: Moved 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.
- D) M.:I.: Charles Roberts: Moved that the Election of Officers be the Order of Business at 1:45 PM on Saturday, August 19, 2023; and that the nominating speeches be limited to three (3) minutes and seconding speeches to two (2) minutes.
- E) M.:I.: Francis Karwowski: Moved that our visiting Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters who are not already Honorary Members of this Grand Council be made so.

CONDITION AND EXTENSION OF THE RITE REPORT:

The motion to accept the submitted report on the Condition and Extension of the rite and spread it upon the minutes was made by the Grand Recorder it was seconded, voted upon and passed.

GRAND LECTURER'S REPORT AND RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS:

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

R.:I.: Stuart Card announced that the job of Assistant Grand Lecturer is a very important one. Having a love of ritual is the most important. He presented the current AGLs and they were given a round of applause. He thanked his Deputy Grand Lecturer, V.:I.: Frank Fancher for his help, insight and enthusiasm. Two Grand Lecturers awards were presented, the M.:I.: Jay Kosseff, for the required level of attendance and the M.:I.: Rex Long award for the best attendance at a Grand Lecturers Convention. The winning councils were announced and all were given a round of applause. R.:I.: Card presented a few items that the Grand Assembly need to review and vote on. There are two changes for the wording in our Royal Master Degree. The options of “labors of a man” and “reward” were proposed, voted on and accepted. R.:I.: Card made the motion that his amended report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved. R.:I.: Card announced that this is his last year as Grand Lecturer. He thanked the Companions for all the help with his tenure and he looked forward to V.:I.: Frank Fancher taking over the position. R.:I.: Donald R. Kunego raised the Companions and presented Grand Honors to R.:I.: Card for all his hard work and years of service.

REPORT ON THE WEB SITE:

The web site report was given by M.:I.: John Gallant, Grand Recorder. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION, MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC

RELATIONS:

The Masonic Education, Membership and Public Relations report was given by R.:I.: Dan Elliott, Grand PCW. He highlighted a few points in the report, the use of the Cryptic Education Course, we are holding monthly Grand Council zoom meetings, we have added a Facebook page and have submitted articles to the Empire State Mason magazine. R.:I.: Elliott made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT: (No Report)

RITUAL COMMITTEE: (Given as part of the Grand Lecturers Report)

REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN:

With the absence of R.:I.: Harry Williams, the Grand Historian, the Grand Recorder made the motion to have the submitted report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

JURISPRUDENCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

The report of the Jurisprudence and By-Laws Committee was given by M.:I.: Richard Fowler. There were two Councils requesting By-Laws changes. Motions were made to approve the requested changes, they were seconded and approved. He made a motion to make R.:I.: Harvey Eysman a Judge Advocate Emeritus for his long standing membership and guidance to this committee, it was seconded and approved.

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

REPORT OF THE GRAND TRUSTEES

The Grand Trustees report was given by M.:I.: Garry Hutchurson. As part of the report, the Trustees recommend to the membership that they be authorized to transfer the Permanent Fund investments held with Mark J. Snyder Royal Alliance Associates, Medford, NY to Charles Schwab Investment Firm located at Pittsford, NY effective as soon as feasibly possible. M.:I.: Hutchurson made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER:

The Grand Treasurers report was given by R.:I.: Ken Lockard. He presented a number of highlights on the General Fund and Escrow accounts. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE REVIEW AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:

With the absence of audit committee members, the Grand Recorder made the motion to have the submitted report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

THE BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Budget Committee report was made by M.:I.: John Gallant, the Grand Recorder. The overall numbers are consistent with last year. With a beginning balance \$29,246.10, a projected income of \$40816.00, expenditures of \$43,225.00, the projected balance as of July 31, 2024 will be \$26,807.10. With the expected per-capita for the year, we are projecting a budget in the red. However, as can be expected not all line items are expended resulting in the budget being "ok" at the end of the year. There are two new line items for "pass-thru" where we support other organizations in making payments. These will no longer going through our "Misc" budget line item. M.:I.: Gallant moved to have report spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:

Acting Grand Master, R.:I.: Donald R. Kunego presented his report. Started with holding a Moment of Silence for our passed Most Illustrious Grand Master Stephen Rubinstein. "His sudden and untimely passing in November of last year, came as a shock to us all." R.:I.: Kunego reported on the 200th Anniversary plans. There is a medallion and pin designed, a planned all day event and a time capsule to be sealed for 100 years. R.:I.: Kunego reported on his travels during the year and is looking forward to serving next year. He moved to have his report spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved. M.:I.: Charles Roberts, Deputy Grand Master-(pt), raised the Companions. R.:I.: Kunego was given Grand Honors for stepping up to serve our Grand Council and having an outstanding year. The Companions are looking forward to next year.

VESPERS SERVICE:

The Vespers Service was conducted under the direction of M.:I.: Charles Roberts, Grand Chaplain. A copy of the Order of Service is appended to these minutes to be included in the proceedings of this assembly. M.:I.: Roberts extended his gratitude to R.:I.: Gerald Irwin, Grand Musician, who was here

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

to help the Companions with the singing. A collection of \$410.00 was offered by the Companions and presented to the Charity Corporation.

CALL FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:

R.:I.: Donald R. Kunego 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 are invited to take their seats by 8:30 AM. Labor will resume following the Necrology Report. He reminded everyone that room 156 is our hospitality room. R.:I.: Dan Elliott, 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. Labor was suspended at 9:40pm.

THE NOBLE ORDER OF LARKS:

The inaugural conferral of the special and unique Noble Order of the Larks degree was performed following the end of the Friday night Grand Council session. The "Grand Lark" reported that \$600 dollars was collected by the flocks of Larks and donated to the Grand Charity Corp.

ASSEMBLY RECONVENED:

The Annual Assembly of the Grand Council was reconvened in Public Session by Acting Grand Master, R.:I.: Donald R. Kunego on Saturday, August 20th at 8:30am.

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:

The following delegations were received and greeted personally in the East by the Acting Grand Master, R.:I.: Kunego, Pro-temp Deputy Grand Master M.:I.: Roberts and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work R.:I.: Elliott:

M.:I.: Manuel Ferreira III, Grand Master of Massachusetts,
M.:I.: Michael L. Terry, Grand Master of Ohio,
M.:I.: Prince D. Salvaraj, Grand Master of Ontario Canada,
M.:P.: Richard Fessler, Grand Master of Pennsylvania,
M.:I.: William "Sandy" Karstens IV, Grand Master of Vermont,
Commander General Ray Roche, Masonic War Vets of the State of NY,
Ms. Alyssa DiBartolo, Grand Worthy Advisor of The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls,
Ms. Kaitlin Piston, State Representative of the Organization of Triangles,
Illustrious David Barnes, Representing G. Michael Morris of the Council of Deliberation of NY, AASR,
M.:E.: Larry Barnard, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of the State of NY,
R.:E.: David Barkstedt, Grand Commander of Grand Commandery of the State of NY,
The Past Grand Masters of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of NY,
R.:P.: Paul Smith, DDGGM North-East Dist., General Grand Council International
R.:P.: G. Thomas Taylor, Deputy General Grand Master, General Grand Council International

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

The Deputy Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York entered and announced that Right Worshipful Steven A. Rubin Deputy Grand Master was about to enter. He was received by Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego, given Grand Honors and was seated in the East. The Grand Marshal entered the Council and announced that the Most Worshipful Richard J. Kessler Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York was about to enter. He was received by in the East by R.:I.: Kunego, given Grand Honors and was seated in the East.

The Representatives of the Youth Groups present were conducted to the East and presented their Messages for the year. Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego thanked them for their presentations and presented them with their gifts from Grand Council to help them with their programs.

NECROLOGY REPORT:

The Necrology Report was given under the direction of the Grand Chaplain: M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts. PMIGM Roberts gave eulogies for R.:I.: Jose L. Valencia, Jr., Grand Chaplain Emeritus and M.:I.: Stephen A. Rubinstein, MIGM (2022-2023) and the 28 Companions who have left us. See the submitted written Necrology Service for details.

LABOR RESUMED IN THE SECRET VAULT:

Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego excused all non-Cryptic Masons, Ladies and guests from the assembly room and then graveled the 200th Annual Assembly to Order and it was reconvened at 10:25 AM Saturday, August 19th 2023.

RECOGNITION OF 2022-2023 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS;

As the Grand Recorder read the roll, each individual present assembled in the East where Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego greeted each.

- District 1 - R.:I.: Grant Held (Present)
- District 2 - R.:I.: Steven Koch (Excused)
- District 4 - R.:I.: Richard Transue (Present)
- District 6 - R.:I.: Steven Howard (Present)
- District 7 - R.:I.: Wade Caler (Present)
- District 8 - R.:I.: Terry Mehlenbacher (Present)
- District 9 - R.:I.: Mark Seeloff (Present)

R.:I.: Kunego raised the Council and R.:I.: Ernest Parker, Grand Marshal, lead the Companions in presenting Grand Honors to the DDGMs.

RECEPTION AND GREETING OF THE PAST MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS:

As the Grand Recorder read the roll, each individual present assembled in the East where Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego greeted each.

- Most Ill. John Mauk Hilliard, 1990-91 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Joseph A. Peloso, 1993-94 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Edward P. Fagan, 2000-2001 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Donald Harrison, 2003-2004 (Excused)

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

Most Ill. Stephen A. Licht, 2004-2005

Most Ill. Charles M. Roberts, 2005-2006

Most Ill. Francis I. Karwowski, 2007-2008

Most Ill. Arnold E. Palmer, 2009-2010, (Excused In a Care Facility)

Most Ill. David H. Raymond, 2010-2011

Most Ill. Richard C. Anderson, 2012-2013 (Excused)

Most Ill. Leonard W. Mason, 2013-2014, (Excused In a Care Facility)

Most Ill. Garry R. Hutchurson, 2016-2017

Most Ill. Richard C. Fowler, 2018-2019

Most Ill. Phillip J. Chandler, 2019-2021 (Excused)

Most Ill. John A. Gallant, 2021-2022

R.:I.: Kunego raised the Council and R.:I.: Parker lead the Companions in presenting Grand Honors to the Past Grand Masters.

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES:

As the Grand Recorder read the roll, each Grand Representative present assembled in the East where R.:I.: Kunego greeted each.

It was announced that R.:I.: Nathan Metlitz is the new Grand Representative of Rhode Island near the Grand Council of NY. He was presented his appointment patent and letter.

R.:I.: Kunego raised the Council and R.:I.: Parker lead the Companions in presenting Grand Honors to the Grand Representatives.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO OUR VISITORS:

As the Grand Recorder read the esteemed list, the visiting Grand Masters assembled in the East where R.:I.: Kunego greeted each and presented them with their Certificates.

M.:I.: Riley D. Greenwood, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Maine

M.:I.: Manuel Ferreira III, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Massachusetts

M.:I.: Michael L. Terry, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Ohio

R.:I.: Kunego raised the Council and R.:I.: Parker lead in presenting Grand Honors to the Grand Representatives.

REMARKS FROM OUR VISITORS:

M.:I.: Manuel Ferreira III, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Massachusetts brought fraternal greetings and appreciation on behalf of the distinguished guests present today. He thanked the Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego for all the courtesies extended to him and his guests. It has been a great weekend with the companions of New York.

REPORT OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE:

R.:I.: Paul Huck, Judge Advocate, presented his report, he listed two changes for our Constitution. First was the creation of the Grand Archivist, as a Grand Council position and the creation of the Cryptic Council of Research for Grand Council. The Council of Research was patterned after the Research

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

Chapter in Grand Chapter. Motions presented, seconded and approved. R.:I.: Huck moved to have report spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

A motion was made by R.:I.: Elliott that the appropriate regalia be purchased for the Grand Archivist, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER:

M.:I.: John Gallant, Grand Recorder presented his report, he highlighted that we completed three Grand Representatives positions, however the pending nominations continue to take too long. In this Cryptic year our membership has dropped below 1000, he referred everyone to the membership report. He made the motion that the Grand Recorders report and the supporting documents be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:

Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Donald Kunego turned the gavel of authority over to the Acting Deputy Grand Master M.:I.: Charles Roberts, and he gave his Most Illustrious Grand Master's Allocution. A sounding round of applause was given to R.:I.: Kunego for his dedication to our craft this year. Deputy Grand Master Roberts made the motion that the Allocution turned over to the Committee on the Grand Master's Address, for reporting on later today, it was seconded and approved. The gavel was returned to Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego.

GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY CORPORATION:

Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Donald Kunego announced that it was eleven o'clock am and called M.:I.: Roberts, President of the Charity Fund Corporation to the East to convene the annual meeting. M.:I.: Roberts made the motion that the minutes of the last Charity Fund Corporation be accepted, it was seconded and approved. M.:I.: Roberts reported that it has been quite a challenging year, with the untimely death of M.:I.: E. William Whittaker, the Treasurer, the efforts to get the books and accounts in order was not simple. He called upon all Councils to make donations to the Charity Funds and all Council Recorders to rapidly turn around the received donations to the Charity Fund officers. He made the motion that the Charity Fund Corporation report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved. The Charity Corporation Audit committee presented its report and made the motion that the Audit report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

ADDRESS OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:

Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego called upon R.:W.: Steven A. Rubin, Deputy Grand Master for his brief remarks. R.:W.: Rubin spoke on his visit to the DeMolay convention where they played "We are Family". As we celebrate 200 years of Cryptic Masonry we praised all our Companions working together in harmony and be "As Family". He was given a warm round of applause by the Companions.

ADDRESS OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER:

Acting Grand Master R.:I.: Kunego called upon M.:W.: Richard J. Kessler, Grand Master for his brief remarks. He recognized the distinguished Companions in the East and called R.:I.: Ken Lockard to the East and R.:I.: Lockard was presented with his Green Ribbon Solomon Arch Society jewel. It is a great

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

day to be a traveling Mason here in NY. We will be supporting York Rite Unity at the dinner. He announced that Masons truly make a difference. He was given a warm round of applause by the Companions.

LUNCHEON:

Acting Grand Master R. .I. . Kunego ordered the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to call the Assembly to recess until 1:15 PM for lunch. The Grand Chaplain gave a blessing for lunch.

RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The Annual Assembly was reconvened by Acting Grand Master R. .I. . Kunego at 1:25 PM in the Assembly room.

REMARKS BY GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS IN THE EAST:

Acting Grand Master R. .I. . Kunego invited the Right Puissant Paul Smith, Regional Deputy General Grand Master of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International to address the assembly at this time. Right Puissant Smith gave his remarks and was accorded a warm round of applause. He presented an Alpha-Omega coin for the 200th time capsule.

Acting Grand Master R. .I. . Kunego invited the Right Puissant G. Thomas Taylor, Deputy Grand Master of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International to address the assembly at this time. Right Puissant Taylor gave his remarks focusing on membership and retention and was accorded a warm round of applause.

ISH-SODI AND AWARDS:

R. .I. . Richard Kerimouglu presented the report on the Ish Sodi and Awards committee. There were no companions eligible for the Ish Sodi awards this year. Membership Gains & Attendance Awards: Most Greetings and 5 or more Companions: Adelpic Council No. 7 {5 new companions}; 10% or Greater Increase in Membership: Joseph Warren Council No. 37 {3 new companions for 12.5% increase} and Hornellsville Council No. 35 {2 new companions for 10% increase}. Best Attendance at Grand Council Annual Assembly: Rotica Council No. 12 had 8 companions present. The following Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet: Grand Council State of NY Cryptic Mason of the Year and NY Giles Fonda Yates Medal Award; General Grand Council International Cryptic Mason of the Year, General Grand Council International Adult Youth Leadership Award, and the Lady of the Council Award.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:

M. .I. . Richard Fowler reporting for the Committee on the Grand Master's address wished to thank Deputy Grand Master Kunego for stepping into the "breech" following the passing of our Grand Master Rubinstein. M. .I. . Fowler congratulated him for continuing the plans for our 200th Anniversary and that the committee commends him for all his hard work and accomplishments this past year. In closing we expect this next Cryptic year will be a memorable one. The motion was made to spread in full the Most

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

Illustrious Grand Master's message in the proceedings of this Annual Assembly and to spread this report upon the minutes, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

M.:I.: David Raymond presented the report of the Credentials Committee. There were 18 Illustrious Masters; 3 Deputy Masters; 2 Principal Conductors of the Work; 57 Past Illustrious Masters for a total of 77 Companions; 9 Official Visitors and 19 Ladies were present for this Annual Assembly. There were 25 of our 27 Councils represented. M.:I.: Raymond made the motion to spread this report upon the minutes, it was seconded and passed.

REPORT OF THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

R.:I.: Kerimoglu presented the Long Range Planning Committee report. He referenced the three page report in the proceeding for the Companions to review. R.:I.: Kerimoglu made the motion to spread this report upon the minutes, it was seconded and passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following Companions were appointed tellers for the elections: M.:I.: Garry Hutchurson, M.:I.: Francis Karwowski, and M.:I.: Steve Licht. The Companions were reminded to the time limitations on nominating and seconding speeches by the Acting Grand Master. The gavel was turned over to M.:I.: Richard Fowler to conduct the Election of Officers for the 2023-2024 Cryptic Year.

M.:I.: John Gallant nominated R.:I.: Donald R. Kunego for the Office of Most Illustrious Grand Master. The motion was seconded by R.:I.: Ken Lockard. No further nominations were made. Nominations were declared closed. The Tellers found one unanimous ballot for R.:I.: Donald R. Kunego as Most Illustrious Grand Master. The assembly extended him a round of applause. He thanked all and agreed to serve. A motion was made by M.:I.: Francis Karwowski and seconded that all elected Grand Line officers, with the exception of the Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer and Grand Steward, be "moved up" or advanced one station in line as they were all unchallenged. The Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for the slate of Grand Line officers. One ballot was found for the slate of officers duly elected by the Tellers. M.:I.: Garry Hutchurson made the nomination of M.:I.: David Raymond as Grand Treasurer. It was seconded by M.:W.: Richard Kessler. The Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for M.:I.: David Raymond. M.:I.: Steven Licht made the nomination of M.:I.: John Gallant as Grand Recorder to succeed himself. The Grand Treasurer was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for M.:I.: John Gallant. In honor of his service R.:I.: Ken Lockard was given Grand Honors by the companions.

The office of Grand Steward was now in order. The declared candidate was R.:I.: Steven Koch. He was placed in nomination and duly seconded. There being no other nominations, the assembly elected R.:I.: Koch by acclamation. The Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for R.:I.: Koch. M.:I.: Richard Fowler was nominated for the office of Trustee for three years and R.:I.: Ken Lockard was nominated for the office of Trustee for one year. There being no other nominations, the Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for the Trustee nominations. All accepted to serve in their new office.

Grand Council Minutes 200th Assembly August 18-19, 2023

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

The tiled installation of M.:I.: Donald Kunego. took place, with M.:I.: Richard Fowler conducting the private installation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master-Elect. The Grand Master following his private installation was escorted to the East and given Private Grand Honors. Highlighted parts of his address and stated his full address would be given at the public installation ceremony. ‘

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE:

The report of the Time and Place Committee for the 201st Annual Assembly was given by M.:I.: Gallant. The 201st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of NY will be held on August 23-24, 2024 at The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, Albany, NY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Most Illustrious Grand Master called for any unfinished business at this time. The Grand Recorder reported that there was no unfinished business to come before this Annual Assembly.

CLOSING OF THE GRAND ASSEMBLY:

Most Illustrious Grand Master called upon M.:I.: Roberts for the Benediction. The 200th Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of NY was closed at 2:45pm.

OPEN INSTALLATION OF ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS:

The Open Installation took place in the Grand Assembly room at 3:00pm. The Elected and Appointed officers of Grand Council and District Officers were installed in their several places and stations.

THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER DEGREE CONFERRAL:

The TIM degree was conferred in the Grand Assembly room at 4:15pm. There were 14 incoming Illustrious Masters who received the TIM degree.

THE GRAND ASSEMBLY BANQUET:

The banquet took place in the Grand Assembly room at 7:00PM. Additional presentations and awards were presented by Grand Master Kunego and Right Puissant Taylor, DGGM of the General Grand Council International. The following awards were given: the NY Cryptic Mason of the Year to Ill Edward W. Mosso and R.:I.: Stewart W. Card; General Grand Cryptic Mason of the Year to Illustrious David E. Barnes; Ladies of the Council: Lady Brenda Card. Words of wisdom were delivered by our all distinguished Guests of the East. MIGM Kunego gave closing remarks of thanks and introduced the Most Worship Richard J. Kessler, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York for concluding remarks. The benediction was given and all assembled retired in Peace and Harmony.

Respectfully Submitted,
M.:I.: John A. Gallant, PMIGM
Grand Recorder

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

2023 - 2024

Elected And Appointed Officers

Grand Master

M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego (#19) [Barbara]
46 Kaymar Drive
Bergen, NY 14416-9528
585-301-2933
E-Mail: GrandMaster@NYCryptic.org

Deputy Grand Master

R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott (#93)
63 Cedar Ave.
New Windsor, NY 12553-6607
845-562-7538
E-Mail: DeputyGrandMaster@NYCryptic.org

Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu (#7)
3 Eastman Terrace
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
917-885-3006
E-mail: GrandPCW@NYCryptic.org

Grand Treasurer

M.:I.: David H. Raymond (#90)
4399 Seneca Road
Trumansburg, NY 14886-9318
607-279-7419
E-mail: GrandTreasurer@NYCryptic.org

Grand Recorder

M.:I.: John A. Gallant (#19) [Deborah]
2180 Plank Road
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585-245-2953
E-mail: GrandRecorder@NYCryptic.org

Grand Captain of the Guard

R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner (#12) [Deborah]
P.O. Box 875, 118 Quarry Ave.
Old Forge, NY 13420-0875
315-868-2192
E-mail:
GrandCaptainOfTheGuard@NYCryptic.org

Grand Conductor of the Council

R.:I.: Ernest W. Parker (#97) [Barbara]
323 State Hwy 458
St. Regis Falls, NY 12980
315-328-4468
E-mail:
GrandConductorOfTheCouncil@NYCryptic.org

Grand Marshal

R.:I.: Keith Alan Becker (#37) [Jamie]
2-1 Balsam Drive
Queensbury, NY 12804
518-321-6503
E-mail: GrandMarshal@NYCryptic.org

Grand Standard Bearer

R.:I.: Garry W. Krom (#31) [Cathy]
21 Marlborough Ct.
Albany, NY 12209-1117
845-453-5230
Email: GrandStandardBearer@NYCryptic.org

Grand Steward

R.:I.: Steven P. Koch (#31)
43 Robert Lane
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590-3219
845-298-2502 (Home)
Email: GrandSteward@NYCryptic.org

Grand Trustee (2026)

**M.:I.: Richard C. Fowler (#97) [Linda]
148 Maltby Road
Pulaski, NY 13142-3223
315-298-4603
E-Mail: GrandTrustee2026@NYCryptic.org**

Grand Trustee (2025)

**M.:I.: Garry R. Hutchurson (#19) [Wendy]
1004 Johnson Road
Churchville, NY 14428-9305
585-746-8992 (Home)
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Grand Lecturer

**R.:I.: Frank M Fancher (#12) [Stephanie]
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E-mail: GrandLecturer@NYCryptic.org**

Grand Chaplain

**R.:I.: (Rev.) Stenrick B. Adams (#80) [Sharon]
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Brooklyn, NY 11203-4117
917-518-7924 (Cell)
E-Mail: GrandChaplain78@NYCryptic.org**

Grand Chaplain

**R.:I.: (Rev.) Nathan D. Lipper (#1)
1270 E 72nd Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234
917-514-0617
E-Mail: GrandChaplain1@NYCryptic.org**

Assistant to the Grand Recorder

**M.:I.: (Rev.) Charles M. Roberts (#19) [Leslie]
158 Meadowbriar Road
Rochester, NY 14616-2339
585-621-3796 (Home)
E-Mail: AsstGrandRecorder@nycryptic.org**

Grand Trustee (2024)

**R.:I.: Kenneth J. Lockard (#76) [Mary Ann]
28 Pleasant Lane
East Hampton, NY 11937
631-324-1373
E-Mail: GrandTrustee2024@NYCryptic.org**

Grand Sentinel

**R.:I.: Steven W. Howard (#18) [Mary]
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Auburn, NY 13021-2444
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Deputy Grand Lecturer

**R.:I.: Stuart W. Card (#12) [Brenda]
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Grand Chaplain

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585-621-3796 (Home)
E-Mail: AsstGrandRecorder@nycryptic.org**

Grand Chaplain

Assistant to the Grand Treasurer

**R.:I.:

E-mail: AsstGrandTreasurer@nycryptic.org**

Judge Advocate

R.:I.: Paul G. Huck (#7) [Susan]
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Grand Archivist

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Grand Musician

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Grand Historian

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Grand Musician

R.:I.: Gerald F. Irwin, (#14)
1097 Knox Cave Road
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518-872-0672
Email: GrandMusician14@NYCryptic.org

Grand Musician

R.:I.:

Email:

Webmaster

M.:I.: John A. Gallant (#19) [Deborah]
2180 Plank Road
Lima, NY 14485-9407
585-245-2953
Email: WebMaster@NYCryptic.org

*All Emeriti Officers of this Grand Council will be noted
in the Annual Proceedings of this Grand Council.*

2023-2024
COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

By-Laws Review Committee & Jurisprudence

1. M.:I.: Richard C. Fowler (#97), Past Grand Master, *[Chairman]*
2. M.:I.: David H. Raymond (#90), Past Grand Master, Grand Treasurer
3. R.:I.: Paul G. Huck (#7), Judge Advocate
4. R.:I.: Steven P. Koch (#31), Grand Steward

Concordant Bodies and Youth

1. M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego (#19), Grand Master *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott (#93), Deputy Grand Master
3. M.:I.: John A. Gallant (#19), Grand Recorder

Condition and Extension of the Rite

1. R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott (#93), Deputy Grand Master, *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu (#7), Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
3. R.:I.: Frank M Fancher (#12) Grand Lecturer
4. All District Deputy Grand Masters

Finance and Accounts - Budget

1. R.:I.: David H. Raymond (#90), Grand Treasurer, *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott (#93), Deputy Grand Master
3. R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu (#7), Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
4. M.:I.: John A. Gallant (#19), Grand Recorder
5. M.:I.: Garry R. Hutchurson (19), Grand Trustee
6. M.:I.: Phillip J. Chandler (#12), Past Grand Master

Finance and Accounts – Review/Audit of the Grand Treasurer

1. R.:I.: Steven W. Howard (#18), Grand Sentinel, *[Chairman]*
2. I.:
3. R.:I.: Nathan D. Lipper (#1), Grand Chaplain

Grand Master’s Address Committee

1. M.:I.: Frank Karwowski, (#74), Past Grand Master
2. M.:I.: Richard C. Fowler (#97), Past Grand Master
3. M.:I.: Phillip J. Chandler (#12), Past Grand Master

Ish Sodi & Awards

1. R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner (#12), Grand Captain of the Guard, *[Chairman]*
2. M.:I.: John A. Gallant (#19), Grand Recorder
3. R.:I.: Ernest W. Parker (#97), Grand Conductor of the Council

Library & Museum

1. M.:I.: Phillip J. Chandler (#12), Past Grand Master, *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Harry Williams (#31), Grand Historian
3. R.:I.: Richard J. Powell (#), Grand Archivist
4. Grand Recorder's Office

Long Range Planning

1. R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner (#12), Grand Captain of the Guard, *[Chairman]*
2. All Elected Progressive Grand Line Officers

Masonic Education and Communications

1. R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu (#7), Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott (#93), Deputy Grand Master
3. R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner (#12), Grand Captain of the Guard
4. R.:I.: Ernest W. Parker (#97), Grand Conductor of the Council
5. R.:I.:
6. V.:I.:
7. M.:I.: Richard C. Fowler (#97), Past Grand Master, Adviser

Membership

1. R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott (#93), Deputy Grand Master, *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu (#7), Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
3. R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner (#12), Grand Captain of the Guard
4. R.:I.: Ernest W. Parker (#97), Grand Conductor of the Council
5. R.:I.: Keith A. Becker (#37), Grand Marshal
6. R.:I.: Garry W. Krom (#31), Grand Standard Bearer
7. R.:I.: Steven P. Koch (#31), Grand Steward

North-East Cryptic Festival

1. R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott (#93), Deputy Grand Master, *[Chairman]*
2. All Elected Progressive Grand Line Officers

Necrology and Memorial Service

1. M.:I.: (Rev.) Charles M. Roberts (#19), Grand Chaplain, Past Grand Master *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: (Rev.) Stenrick B. Adams (#80), Grand Chaplain
3. R.:I.: Nathan D. Lipper (#1), Grand Chaplain

Northeastern York Rite Conference

1. M.:I.: Donald R.. Kunego (#19), Grand Master, *[Chairman]*
2. All Elected Progressive Grand Line Officers

Registration & Credentials [201st Annual] Committee

1. M.:I.: (#), Past Grand Master *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Steven W. Howard (#18), Grand Sentinel
3. Comp. , Member at Large

Ritual

1. R.:I.: Frank M. Francher (#12), Grand Lecturer, *[Chairman]*
2. R.:I.: Stuart W. Card (#12) Deputy Grand Lecturer
3. M.:I.: Richard C. Fowler (#97), Past Grand Master
4. M.:I.: Frank Karwowski, (#74), Past Grand Master
5. All Assistant Grand Lecturers

Webmaster (www.nycryptic.org)

1. M.:I.: John A. Gallant (#19), Grand Master, *[Co-Chairman]*
2. M.:I.: (Rev.) Charles M. Roberts (#19), Adviser to Webmaster

Newsletter Committee

1. R.:I.: Steven P. Koch (#31), Grand Steward *[Chairman]*

Masonic Veterans Liaison

1. M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego (#19), Grand Master, (Veteran) *[Chairman]*



Grand Line Officer Visitation Schedule

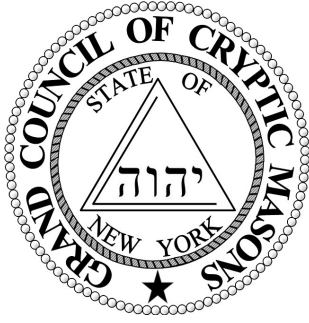
(2023 – 2024)

M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego, Grand Master	(None)
R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott, Deputy Grand Master	(None)
R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work	Cryptic District 1
R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner, Grand Captain of the Guard	Cryptic District 4
R.:I.: Ernest W. Parker, Grand Conductor of the Council	Cryptic District 9
R.:I.: Keith Alan Becker, Grand Marshal	Cryptic District 6 & 7
R.:I.: Garry W. Krom, Grand Standard Bearer	Cryptic District 2
R.:I.: Steven P. Koch, Grand Steward	Cryptic District 8

2023-24 GRAND COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICERS

<u>District</u>	<u>District Deputy Grand Master</u>	<u>Assistant Grand Lecturer</u>
<u>District #1</u>	R.:I.: Grant Held (#7) 808 Columbus Ave, 4A New York, NY 10025 (516) 946-5279 Email: GHeld@me.com	V.:I.: David Diamondstein (#88) PO Box 43 East Norwich, NY 11732 (516) 523-9148 Email: BeeHiveBusy@gmail.com
<u>District #2</u>	R.:I.: Harry Williams (#31) 144 Yantz Road Red Hook, NY 12571 845-758-6765 Email: harry@marist.edu	V.: I.: Louis Irizarry III (#93) 346 Convent Road Blauvelt, NY 10913 914-661-0002 Email: li416t@gmail.com
<u>District #4</u>	R.:I.: David E. Barnes (#74) 211 Darrow Road Duanesburg, NY 12056 518-356-2817 Email: Dbarnes986@yahoo.com	V.:I.: Mathias J. Erschen, IV (#74) 1029 Dean Street Schenectady, NY 12309 518-461-7211 Email: MJErschen@nycap.rr.com
<u>District #6</u>	R.:I.: Steven Howard (#18) 265 Seymour Street Auburn, NY 13021 315-558-0587 Email: stevenhoward.auburn@gmail.com	V.:I.: Frank R. Williams (#12) 2627 Edgewood Rd. Utica NY 13501 (315) 794-1031 Email: frwill48@gmail.com
<u>District #7</u>	R.:I.: Charles L. Hill (#30) 4522 Foster Valley Road Endicott, NY 13760 607-748-0667 Email: celestialartist@yahoo.com	R.:I.: Marty DeVault (#30) 319 Brookcrest Drive Endwell, NY 13760 607-743-8475 Email: mdevault@stny.rr.com
<u>District #8</u>	R.:I.: James J. Kaim Jr. (#75) 39 N. Wadsworth Street Geneva, NY 14456-1236 (315) 521-3845 Email: jk.nyram@yahoo.com	V.:I.: Stephen Goebert (#75) 603 Allendale Dr. Newark, NY 14513-9149 (315) 573-3083 Email: SGoebert@hotmail.com
<u>District #9</u>	R.:I.: Michael B. Seeloff (#17) 398 Walnut Street Lockport, NY 14094 716-433-9262 Email: LFDAFC@roadrunner.com	V.:I.: Robert Drzewucki (#91) 118 Brockmoore Drive East Amherst, NY 14051-2137 716-982-1538 Email: rdrzewu@yahoo.com

28-Oct-2023 (jag)



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
State of New York
Right Illustrious Daniel D. Elliott
Deputy Grand Master
63 Cedar Ave.
New Windsor, NY 12553-6607
DeputyGrandMaster@NYCryptic.org

Report of the Deputy Grand Master:

Companions,

This has been a very busy and difficult year for me. As you know I wear many hats. First, for my Grand Council Duties, I attended and assisted with the 200th Anniversary celebration on September 23rd in Albany. I also attended the Grand Commandery Sessions on September 16th.

On the Weekend of October 14th, I was Appointed and Installed as the Grand Marshal for the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of the State of NY. On November 4th I attended M.:I.: Don Kunego's Reception.

I had a difficult 2024 so far. Sadly, my mother passed away on April 4th. I would like to thank everyone who mailed cards and sent condolences. It was very much appreciated. I was unable to attend the Grand Assembly of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls that weekend. I thanked R.:I.: Carl Klossner for taking my place and performing the Order of Deborah. However, on February 24th, I was able to attend Allysa's Homecoming as Grand Worthy Advisor for NY Rainbow. I also attended the Triangle Convention in October.

Most of the Spring was traveling with Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star of the State of NY for the Grand Matron's Official Visits. We completed 28 Visits throughout New York. I also would like to thank R.:I.: Richie Kerimoglu for traveling and representing Grand Council in the absence of M.:I.: Don and myself.

I was able to attend the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch in March as well as the Reception for the Grand High Priest, M.:E.: Steve Sheerer on June 1st. I also had the honor of attending the Masonic War Vets Convention and dinner on June 15th.

I look forward to having a better year next year and be able to travel even more. Thank you all for your support.

Zealously,

Right Ill. Daniel D. Elliott
Deputy Grand Master
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York

**Right Illustrious Richard Kerimoglu
Grand Principal Conductor of the Works
3 Eastman Terrace
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
GrandPCW@NYCryptic.org**

Annual Report of the Grand Principal Conductor of the Works 2023-2024

To: The MIGM, Officers and Members of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons State of New York

It was an honor to serve the Cryptic Council as your Grand Principal Conductor of the works for the ensuing year. Thank you once again for giving me this opportunity.

This year, I began planning my visitations with the 1st District and worked with both the DDGM and AGL in order to have joint visits done as much as possible, Visits began with Flatbush Council #80 on November 28th 2023, Suffolk Council #76 on January 12th 2024, North Shore Council #88 on January 22nd 2024, Adoniram Council #36 on February 8th 2024, Columbian Council #1 on March 13th 2024 and finally Adelpic Council #7. All of the councils visited were able to open with a mix of Companions using Ritual books and others from memory. All did excellent work getting their Councils to open. All of the Councils held their regular business meetings and introductions took place of the DDGM, AGL and myself, and all were given the opportunity to speak. The 200th anniversary, Cryptic charities were all mentioned by myself and also the DDGM. To all of the Councils, thank you for the honors and courtesies accorded to me and the DDGM and AGL.

I also attended Grand Council, The Northeast Conference in Albany, Grand Commandery and Grand Chapter sessions during the year together with the GHP, MIGM and Grand Commander's receptions. I also had the opportunity to visit various Grand Councils and represent the State of New York Those included Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maine, Connecticut and finally Vermont. On April 21st I represented Grand Council at Empire DeWitt Clinton Commandery's wreath laying in Greenwood Cemetery at the DeWitt Clinton gravesite and participated in the wreath laying. If anyone ever has a chance this is an excellent event to attend and be a part of. Then finally, being in the parade at St Johns day is always great.

In closing, as always all of the visitations were enjoyable and participate in Masonic fellowship and meet the Companions throughout the state This year completes my visits and I have had the opportunity to visit every Council. Thank you to all for the hospitality shown throughout my travels. Thank you to everyone for the fellowship this year. I ask that this report be accepted and spread upon the minutes of this Grand Council.

Zealously,
R.I. Richard Kerimoglu
Grand Principal Conductor of the Works
Grand Council Cryptic Mason New York

**REPORT OF THE GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD
GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

ANNUAL REPORT

As I assumed my office in August of 2023 I began another year of my Masonic Travels. The first stop on this journey was the North East Conference located in Albany New York. On the weekend of September 8th and 9th a series of meetings encompassing Royal Arch Masonry, Cryptic Masonry and Commandery began on Friday and ended at approximately 5 p.m. on Saturday. This series of meetings gathers together masons from the North Eastern United States and is sponsored by Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Reports were given at these meetings covering the state of Cryptic Masonry throughout the north east.

My next stop was at the 200th Anniversary celebration of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York. It was highlighted by a presentation of the Super Excellent Master Degree. This was followed with a feast fit for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons from across the state. It was held at the Albany Masonic Temple. The next stop in this Journey was to attend the reception hosted in Albany for the Right Excellent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the State of New York, Sir Knight Conrad Johnson. It was a pleasure representing, with several other Cryptic Companions, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

The month of November was kicked off at the reception of our own Most Illustrious Donald Kunego, taking place on November 4th in Rochester New York. This was followed by my first official visit of the year. I had the pleasure of visiting Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council Number 14 on November 9th. As an aside, I arranged all of my visits to coincide with the Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master and the District Assistant Grand Lecturer. This year I traveled with Right Illustrious David Barnes and Very Illustrious Mathias Erschen. As always, it was wonderful to travel with these outstanding Cryptic Masons. In November, my travels took me to Joseph Warren Council No. 37. Again, a very enjoyable evening with these companions from Northern New York. Meeting in the Glens Falls area, they draw companions from the Plattsburgh area down to the south of Glens Falls.

Next in my travels I hit the road in February of this year. I made the Official Visit to Oneonta Council No. 87 on February 28th. A great evening of Cryptic Masonry was enjoyed by everyone. In March I attended the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Annual Meetings in Binghamton on the 22nd and 23rd. As always, Grand Council was well represented at this function. My final visit of the

year took place on April 18th with my visit to St. Georges Council No. 74. As was the case all year long, the companions of St. Georges extended a warm welcome to me. This also happened to be the home council for the district DDGM and the AGL. I can honestly say I thoroughly enjoyed traveling with the 4th Cryptic District Leadership Team. As in past years, it was a pleasure spending time with the companions and getting to know them.

My final travels from this past year were to Grand Lodge in May and then to St. Johns Day towards the end of June. I had the pleasure of carrying the Council Banner for the parade and also, as in typical fashion these last few years, to get soaked in the rains-both light and heavy during the day. I look forward to serving our Grand Council this next year and the travels I will have the pleasure of making as a Grand Line Officer.

Respectfully Submitted
R.'I.'. Carl J. Klossner
Grand Captain of the Guard



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
State of New York
Right Illustrious Ernest Parker
Grand Conductor of the Council
323 State Hwy 458
St. Regis Falls, NY 12980
GrandConductoroftheCouncil@NYCryptic.org

Annual Report – Conductor of the Council – 2023-2024

To: The Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master and Grand Council Officers.

First, I want to thank the members of the Grand Line for their support, encouragement and advice. With their guidance and support, I have been able, hopefully, to fulfill my responsibilities as Grand Conductor of the Council.

August 18-19, 2023 – I attended Grand Council in Albany. At the assembly I was promoted to the position of Conductor of the Council. There were many activities to participate in and information passed on. It was conducted very well by our Illustrious Grand Master Donald, and his team.

September 8-9, 2023 – I attended the Northeast York Rite training session at the Desmond Hotel, where I completed courses 401; which complete the entire training course. It was also an opportunity to receive all the information from General Grand Chapter, and General Grand Council. Also reports from all the Charities, and their accomplishments from the previous year.

September 15-16 2023- I attended the 209th Grand Conclave of New York Commandery, in Albany New York. It was a fitting end to SK David Barkstead tenure, and the election and installation for SK Conrad Johnson for the ensuing year. It was a great opportunity to refresh old acquaintances and make new ones.

September 23, 2023- I attended the 200-year celebration of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York. It was a full day of Temple Tours, revisiting the forming and the events of the past 200 years of the Grand Council of New York. There was an outstanding presentation of the Super Excellent Master, presented by a cast from Columbia Council no1. We had a sumptuous meal and after in true fashion there were many toasts, of which it was y honor to ensure the glasses were replenished.

October 11, 2023, I visited Hamburg Council No 91 in the western end of the State. The District Deputy and Assistant Grand Lecturer made their presentations before I ended with my report on our charities. We were well received, and they made us very welcome, and extended us all the curtsies.

October 14, 2023 Attended Grand Commander SK Conrad Johnson's homecoming in Albany, NY. There were many Grand Council Line members in attendance, and we were well treated by our host. It was a treat to have ordure's served in the banks old vault.

October 25, 2023 Visited Dunkirk Council No 25 in western end of the state. had greeted 7 new companions, in the preceding month, with the Most Illustrious Donald Kunego in attendance. They are attempting to revitalize the council, furthermore there were three of the new companions setting in chairs. There were enough companions present to not only open, but we had several sideliners.

November 4, 2023 Attended Most Illustrious Donald Kunego's homecoming in Rochester, New York. It was a chance to have a meeting and reacquaint council with friends and companions. It was a wonderful experience, with a fine meal, program, and enjoyed by all in attendance.

March 22-23, 2024 - Attended Grand Royal Arch Convention, in Binghamton N Y with other Grand Council officers, where we were received. It was a great opportunity to spend time with other Masonic bodies.

As a Grand Line Officer, I get to visit places I would probably never visit, and meet companions that I would never have met otherwise. It is a wonderful journey. I am looking forward to serving the Grand Council next year, by being elected to the position of Grand Captain of the Guard.

Ernie Parker –

Grand Conductor of the Council

Greetings Companions,

It has definitely been a great pleasure to be in service to all our companions this year. I had the opportunity to visit the Rotica and Fulton Councils, where I was warmly welcomed and engaged in meaningful discussions and activities. One of the highlights of this year was working on the 200th celebration, a significant milestone that allowed us to reflect on our rich history and achievements. Additionally, I collaborated with your grand line to initiate our very own fun degree called the Noble Order of the Larks. This innovative degree was well received by our members and successfully raised \$600 for our charities, showcasing our commitment to philanthropy in a fun and engaging manner.

Moreover, it was a pleasure to work with our Grand Illustrious Master to institute our preservation program, ensuring that our valuable artifacts and documents are properly maintained for future generations. In conjunction with this effort, we established the Grand Archivist position to oversee this crucial task. These initiatives are vital to preserving our heritage and enhancing the educational resources available to our members. I continue to work with our Grand Line to further progress Cryptic Masonry and hope to introduce several new programs and resources in the coming years.

I want to take this opportunity to officially thank every one of my Companions for their continued support during this extremely difficult time, which took me completely by surprise. Your unwavering support and understanding have been invaluable, and I am deeply grateful.

I want to take this time to reflect on something that became a very teachable moment in my life, and I am still learning as we are here today. I am learning that my Brothers and Companions are here for me, for whatever I need. Whether due to my upbringing or my generation, we were taught not to ask for help, especially in difficult times. Once I reached out, I was overwhelmed by the number of Brothers and Companions who offered their support. I was extremely floored and amazed by the non-stop calls, texts, and messages of encouragement over two days.

I am truly grateful to be a Mason, as it has led me to one of the greatest support systems I have ever seen. I don't think I can ever say thank you enough, and I will double my efforts to give back to our great fraternity. I will work towards empowering every Companion with the light of our teachings and ensure that we will be a driving force of strength to the weak, hope for the hopeless, and providing charity to those in need.

Thank you all; I am eternally in your debt.

Fraternally, yours in service,

R.: I.: Keith Alan Becker
Grand Marshall
The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRAND STANDARD BEARER

2023-2024

TO: The Most Illustrious Grand Master and Officers of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons State of New York.

It was a pleasure to serve the Cryptic Council as your Grand Standard Bearer this past year. I was elected as the Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Council of the State of New York at the 200th Annual Assembly on August 18th and 19th of 2023.

On September 8th and 9th, I attended the Northeastern Conference in Albany, New York.

Due to a pre-arranged and booked cruise through the Panama Canal, I was unable to attend the 200th Anniversary Celebration of The New York State Cryptic Council in September last year (2023).

On November 4th, 2023, I attended M.:I.: Don Kunego's reception in Rochester, New York.

On January 25th, 2024, I completed my first official visit in District 2 by visiting Goshen Council #93. We began the evening "breaking bread" at a local restaurant. We then went to the lodge where I sat in as the Conductor of the Council, which allowed them to open. With many of the "chairs" being occupied by companions "acting" in that role, the opening went very smoothly, although, using the book. I congratulated all on the job well done, as most members were in unfamiliar chairs.

On March 21st – 23rd, 2024, I attended the Grand Chapter State of New York RAM Convention in Binghamton, New York.

On April 25th, 2024, I attended the Grand Lecturer's Convention for District 2 in Middletown, New York.

On May 14th, 2024, I completed my second official visit in District 2 by visiting King Solomon's Council #31. The evening started with dinner in their downstairs dining area. We then proceeded to the upstairs lodge room with 11 of their 29 members. Approximately half of the "chairs" were filled by "acting" members, thus the book was used to open council. I again, commented on the job well done they did.

On June 22nd, 2024, I participated in St. John's Day, held in Utica, New York. It was raining for most of the day and held off for about halfway through the parade. After completing three fourths of the parade route, the rain increased in intensity and most people ran for cover as the parade ended.

In the months of February, March and May 2024, attempts were made to complete my official visits by setting dates to visit Union Council #2. Prior to arrival of each visit, Union Council #2 contacted me and cancelled my visit. Therefore, I was not able to complete my official visits to the three councils in District 2.

I would like to thank each of the Councils I visited for extending me their courtesies and fellowship on the nights of my visits. After driving from Albany, I enjoy and appreciate the extra time I can spend with the companions, talking and getting to know them.

To The Most Illustrious Don Kunego and the Officers of the Grand Council of New York, I want to thank you for the privilege to serve and represent the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York this past year. I am looking forward to continue to serve this organization as a member of the Grand Line.

Official Visits and attendance:

2023

8/18 + 8/19 - Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York Annual Assembly in Albany, NY

9/8 + 9/9– Northeastern Conference in Albany, NY

11/4 - Most Illustrious Don Kunego's reception in Rochester, NY

2024

1/25 - Official visit at Goshen Council #93 in Middletown, NY

3/21 – 3/23– Grand Chapter State of New York RAM Convention in Binghamton, NY

4/25 – Grand Lecturer's Convention (District 2) in Middletown, NY

5/14 - Official visit at King Solomon's Council #31 in Saugerties, NY

6/22 – St. John's Day in Utica, NY

September 2023 – July 2024

Monthly ZOOM Meeting of Grand Council State of New York

Respectfully Submitted,

R:.l.: Garry W. Krom

Grand Standard Bearer

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York



R.: I.: Steven P. Koch
Grand Steward 2023-2024

Grand Council Cryptic Masons State of New York

I would like to begin by thanking all the Companions of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons for electing me Grand Steward in August 2023. Due to health concerns, I was unable to attend. It is an honor to once again be in this Grand Line and I pledge to fulfill my duties to the best of my ability. After being away for the last six years it feels like coming home.

This past year I attended the York Rite Conference in September 2023 and participated in the Leadership 102 session. As always, the weekend was interesting and thought provoking and I look forward to the next session this coming September. I also attended, with the rest of the Grand Line, the opening ceremonies of Grand Commandery the following weekend is September followed by the 200th Anniversary of Grand Council in Albany the next weekend.

Before hunkering down in anticipation of the long winter to come, I attended M.:I.: Kunego's Reception in Rochester in November 2023.

On March 20, 2024, I attended my first visit as Grand Steward to Doric Council No. 19. Meeting places may change as the years go by, but the comradery and fellowship is always warm and welcoming. This was particularly so considering the weather, which was miserable. Following this visit, I attended Grand Chapter in Binghamton.

April 10 and 11 of this year I visited, respectively Skoi Yase Council No. 75 and Hornellsville Council No. 35. As with the visit in March I took advantage of staying with my daughter Pamela, her husband Tizo and my first grandson, Cassius, who celebrated birthday number one on March 4th. Pam lives in Buffalo, so I was able to use that as my "home base" for my visits.

I completed my official visits on April 22 with Nun Du Waga Council No. 92.

What I found during all my visits was the same dedication to Cryptic Masonry I encountered the last time I was on the road making visits starting 11 years ago. The numbers show that Grand Council is losing membership. While not surprising, since Masonry and Fraternal organizations in general are suffering from a lack of new blood, I hope we can change to trend and begin increasing membership. I have seen growth at the lodge level in my district and believe it is only a matter of time for our new Brothers to become comfortable and learn those basic foundational lessons from their respective lodges and they too will be looking for further light in Masonry.

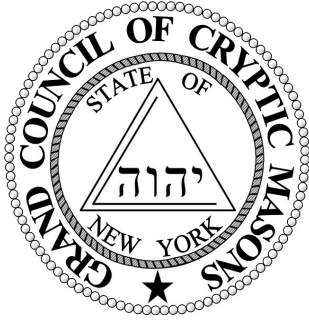
While we wait for those Brothers to be ready for new Degrees, new Companionship and new expanded fellowship in Masonry, we cannot side idly by. We need to hone our message that Cryptic Masonry has a story to tell and a value for all who seek to knock on our doors. Embrace those things that are unique to Council and let our Brethren and Companions in Chapter know that only we can show them Grand Master Hiram Abif as King Solomon saw him. Only we can show Hiram Abif's wisdom and compassion in our Royal and Select Master Degrees and only

we can complete the story of King Solomon's Temple begun in the First Degree.

In closing I would like to thank R.:I.: Jamie Kaim, DDGIM and V.:I.: Stephen Goebert AGL of the 8th Cryptic District for their companionship during my visits and the continued communication that I believe is just beginning. I'd also like to thank I.: Jan deRoos, I.: Charles Knighton, I.: Robert Hyman Illustrious Masters of Doric, Hornellsville and Nun Da Waga Councils respectively, for their courtesy and Fellowship during my visits.

Respectfully submitted,

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



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
State of New York
Right Illustrious Daniel D. Elliott
Deputy Grand Master
63 Cedar Ave.
New Windsor, NY 12553-6607
DeputyGrandMaster@NYCryptic.org

Report on Condition and Extension of the Right: The good news is, that it has been reported to me that there has been an increase of interest in Cryptic Council due to the ritual. Many Companions have decided to join Council not only to complete the rest of the story but also to take part in some of the great ritual/degrees that Cryptic Masonry has to offer. This is a good trend for some of our Councils. However, membership overall is still falling in all organizations in Masonry. We need to continue to support our Lodges and Royal Arch Chapters. We need to continue to bring awareness to Cryptic Masonry through out all the other bodies and our community.

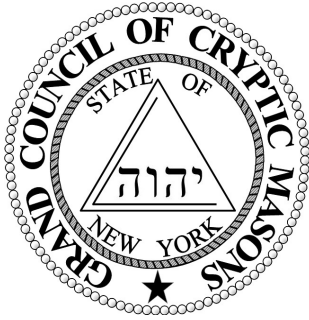
Membership: See Grand Recorders report for the data on membership. The Grand Recorder has been working hard to get membership information switched over to MMS (Masonic Membership Solutions). This might bring things to light as far as membership is concerned. We may find out that we have a lot less members are actually on the books than previously reported. More information will be available soon.

North-East Cryptic Festival:

Unfortunately, this past year we were unable to have the Tri-State Festival due to conflicts and communication challenges. However, we are exploring other options for this Cryptic Year. We may work with other states to come up with a festival in the Spring of 2025. Other in-state festivals are being planned as well.

Zealously,

Right Ill. Daniel D. Elliott
Deputy Grand Master
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
State of New York
Right Illustrious Richard Kerimoglu
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
3 Eastman Terrace.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
GrandPCW@NYCryptic.org

Masonic Education and Communication Committee Report:

As a Grand Council we were able to accomplish several goals this year regarding Education and Communication. Below is a snapshot of activities that were reported to us this year.

Education:

Some Councils/Districts have held classes on the Cryptic Masonry Education Course. This was based on the book by Robert G. Davis. We would like to see more Councils and Districts hold these education seminars.

Schools of Instruction:

Are being held by our Grand Lecturer and Assistant Grand Lecturers. Thank you to both for your continuing efforts and time.

Communication:

We continue to have monthly Zoom meetings that keep the Grand Line Officers, AGL, and DDGM's, informed of what is going on. In continuance of this year's support of York Rite unity, we continue to invite the heads of both the Grand Chapter RAM and The Grand Commander of New York and look forward to continuing this.

Social Media:

We have a Facebook page, which was started last year. Please continue to add content and visit the page. Remember the page is a private group, so you will need to join and one of the admins will approve your request. Currently the page has 139 members. If you haven't joined yet, please do so.

Communication with Blue Lodge Brothers:

We continue to contribute articles to the Empire State Mason Magazine to make Brothers aware of Cryptic Masonry. We will continue to visit Blue Lodges to educate Brothers on York Rite Masonry.

On November 29th, 2023, The First Capitular District Association held a York Rite Festive board in the Jacobean room at Grand Lodge on 23rd street and York Rite leaders gave a presentation of each body. For Cryptic Masonry R.I. Grant Held DDGM gave a talk on Cryptic Masonry, and I was given the honor to give the reply to the toast of the MIGM and the Grand Line of Cryptic Masons. Attendance was an impressive 120 Masons attending. A program similar to this could possibly be held in other Districts throughout the state to promote Cryptic masonry and the York Rite as a whole.

I thank everyone on the Committee for their contributions. I respectfully submit this report and make the motion that it be spread upon the minutes of this Grand Assembly.

Zealously,

Right Ill. Richard Kerimoglu
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York



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

M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego
Grand Master

46 Kaymar Drive
Bergen, NY 14416-9528

(585) 301-2933
GrandMaster@NYCryptic.org

August 8th, 2024

TO: M.:I.: John A. Gallant
Grand Recorder

R.:I.: Daniel Elliott
Deputy Grand Master

SUBJECT: Annual Report – 2023-2024 Masonic Veterans Liaison Committee

The following Annual Report for 2023-2024 is submitted.

The Grand Council, District and Council Officers have actively supported the New York Masonic War Veterans throughout the Jurisdiction. Color guards for Council and District events enhanced the programs and instilled an esprit de corps for the Companions in attendance.

Companions of the Masonic War Veterans provided Color Guards for the Annual Assemblies, 200th Anniversary Celebration and numerous Cryptic events

I am very proud to report that at the 200th Annual Assembly a special raffle was conducted and over \$1,000 was raised and donated to the Masonic War Veterans official charity, America's VetDogs. The America's VetDogs, Inc., located at 371 East Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787 is a 501(c) 3 charity. Their goal is to serve individuals across our country who have visual, hearing, emotional, and or other physical disabilities.

I have been honored to represent the as the Chairman of the Masonic Veterans Liaison Committee Chairman. I am looking forward to continuing to serve.

Zealously,

Most Ill. Donald R. Kunego
Grand Master
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York
Chairman
Masonic Veterans Liaison Committee

**May God Bless Our Great Fraternity
May God Bless Our Troops and May God Bless America**

Jurisprudence & By-Laws Review Committee Report

July 4, 2024

We reviewed the updated By-Laws of Dunkirk Council No. 25. We found all their change in proper form. We recommend their approval.

Respectfully submitted by the Jurisprudence Committee,

M.:I.: Richard C. Fowler, Chairman

M.:I.: David H. Raymond

R.:I.: Paul G. Huck, Judge Advocate

R.:I.: Steven M. Koch

The Grand Council Website Committee Report 2023-2024

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, our Grand Line Officers and District Officers I am pleased to report the Web Site has continued to be a stable and on-line presence for our Grand Jurisdiction.

The primary task for me is to provide a rapid turnaround of updates to the Web Site and down-loadable documents and to be the official location of Announcements and Edicts by our Most Illustrious Grand Master.

Due to the proliferation of Internet Fishing emails, there will be changes in the listings of our Constituent Council Officers. The listings will only contain the name of the Illustrious Master and the contact information for the Council's Recorder. We consider it vital that our Constituent Council listing is not completely removed from our web site. Since it's removal a few month ago, I have received around two dozen legitimate requests for contact information. It is beneficial information for our Companions from NY and sister jurisdictions. We will continue to use our internal emails lists for the Councils containing the Illustrious Master and Recorder.

I wish to remind our District officers and our Council Recorders that our public calendar is used by our York Rite companions when checking for scheduled Cryptic Degrees. When your District or Council has scheduled a Cryptic Degree please let me know and the Degree information will be uploaded into our Calendar. The Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery calendars are also listing their Degrees to allow all our York Rite Companions to search for and attend these Degrees.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council and our companions as we prepare for another Cryptic year.

Zealously,



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



R.:I.: A. Harry Williams

Grand Historian

GrandHistorian@nycryptic.org

A.harry.williams@gmail.com

Report of the Grand Historian, 2024

I'd like to thank M.I. Donald R. Kunego for appointing me Grand Historian. It has been a great honor, and I've learned a lot during my time in office and had a chance to meet new and thoughtful people.

- A. Unlike recent years, I received no questions from other jurisdictions about our Grand Council chartering or granting warrants for Councils or Grand Councils in what today would be another jurisdiction.
- B. As mentioned last year, there is a photo array at the Livingston Library in Utica that contains photos of the Past Grand Masters of the Grand Council. The last displayed photo is Donald Harrison (2003-2004). We are now attempting to locate the photos that were collected, we have two frames to display 16 photos and display in the Museum.
- C. As mentioned last year, the Reading Course about Cryptic Masons in the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Library only contained 4 books while the other 16 Reading Courses of the Library all have 5 books in the course. I worked with V.W. Michael LaRocco to replace one book and add an additional book. The current reading course contains the following books:

13. The Secret Vault Under the Tabernacle, the Cryptic Mason Course:

- a. Cryptic Masonry, A Manual Of The Council by Albert Mackey (M14.4 M19c)
- b. One Hundred Years, 1823-1923, of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, State of New York compiled by Herbert W. Greenland (M17.4 N48g)
- c. A History of the Cryptic Rite vol. 1 by Eugene E. Hinman (M14.4 H59 vol. 1)
- d. A Short Story About Cryptic Masonry by A. Thompson Phillips (M14.4 P54)
- e. Jeremy Ladd Cross : "Renowned Author and Lecturer" by James R. Case (921 C882c)

The last book on the list is published by the General Grand Council and I highly recommend it. It is an ease read and should be easy for even the newest Companions.

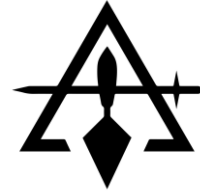
- D. The Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, R.W. Gary L. Heinmiller, has created an Excel spreadsheet of every lodge ever existing under the Grand Lodge of New York or any other Grand Lodge which merged into the Grand Lodge. It includes dates of dispensation, location and other relevant information. I am attempting to collect such information about every constituent Council of this Grand Council, starting with our Proceedings. When I am satisfied that it is far enough along to have value to others, I will arrange publication. Progress is going much slow than planned, but I will continue to move it forward.
- E. While keeping up with York Rite bodies in the jurisdiction of Oklahoma, I discovered that the Historian had setup a virtual cemetery in the FindAGrave web site to track the final resting place of the Grand Masters of the Indian Territory. I have started a virtual cemetery for the Grand Illustrious Masters of New York's Grand Council. It is also much a work in progress, but it is available <https://www.findagrave.com/virtual-cemetery/1817467>

Zealously submitted,

R.:I.: A. Harry Williams
Grand Historian



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



Grand Archivist Annual Report

7/31/2024

The premier year of the Grand Council's Grand Archivist position has been one of settling into the role. The assignment from the Grand Line was to create a brochure that assisted Brethren & their families on what to do with their Masonic regalia, aprons, jewels, rings, etc. upon the passing of a Brother.

As the true essence of Cryptic Masonry centers upon the Secret Vault where the great treasures of Masonry are stored so should Cryptic Masonry aid in the preservation of Masonic knowledge and materials such as those mentioned above.

To that end, a brochure has been created entitled "Preserving Freemasonry: A Short Guide to Get You Started on Preserving Your Masonic Artifact" was put together with links to some useful guides as well as contact information for the Grand Archivist.

In addition, a second brochure was created entitled "Your Masonic Legacy" which is a brochure for Brethren to fill out with contact information for all the Masonic organizations to which he might belong so his family, upon his death, know who to contact to return/preserve his Masonic belongings.

It is my hope that the Grand Council will print these brochures and distribute them throughout New York State as well as post a PDF of each on the Grand Council website.

A time capsule was built and filled at the Grand Council's 200th Anniversary Celebration and needs a home. As the Grand Council does not currently maintain a physical office, inquiries will be made at the Albany and Utica Masonic Temples about potentially setting one up at one of these facilities to maintain a small physical collection related to the Cryptic Degrees.

Respectfully Submitted...

R.I. Richard J Powell
Grand Archivist
Grand Council Cryptic Masons of New York

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
201st Annual Assembly, Albany, New York
Saturday, August 24, 2024

Annual Necrology Report

MEMORIAL SERVICE

** Stand if you are able*

LIGHT THE CANDLE

This Candle is lit today to symbolize each of the lives of the 26 Companions who have entered the eternal realm of God. The flowers illustrate their growth and journey within the Circle Perfection. The Symbolic Lodge (*Blue Flower*), The Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch (*Red Flower*) and the Cryptic Vault (*Purple Flower*).

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Isaiah 25:8a-9*)

Leader: God will swallow up death for ever.

People: **Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces.**

Leader: It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God: we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

People: **This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

ALL: **Let us worship our God and grant praise unto him for his deliverance.**

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord, you have been our dwelling place in every generation. From everlasting to everlasting you are God. You stand beside us in every experience of joy or sorrow, happiness or desolation. As we walk through death's dark valley, help us to trust in your steadfast love until the day dawns, the morning stars sing together, and the whole creation shouts your praise. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our departed Companions. We thank you for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of the Almighty, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN: "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" (Verses 3 & 4)**

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away. Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.

When ends life's passing dream, When death's cold, threatening stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove; O lift me safe above, A ransomed soul!

EULOGY: M.:I.: Edward Patrick Fagan, Jr., MIGM (2000-2001)

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 130 and Hebrews 6:18-20

A REFLECTIVE THOUGHT "A Grounded Hope"
M.:I.: Rev. Charles M. Roberts, Grand Chaplain

CLOSING PRAYER

*** CLOSING HYMN: "In the Sweet By and By" (Verses 1 & 3)**

There's a land that is fairer than day, And by faith we can see it afar; For the Father waits over the way To prepare us a dwelling place there. In the sweet by and by We shall meet on that beautiful shore. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore The melodious songs of the blest; And our spirits shall sorrow no more, Not a sigh for the blessing of rest. In the sweet by and by We shall meet on that beautiful shore. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore

CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

*** BENEDICTION**



IN MEMORIAM (2023-2024)

Columbian Council No. 1

Union Council No. 2

Adelphic Council No. 7

Central City Council No. 13
Buffalo-Keystone Council No. 17

Doric Council No. 19

Dunkirk Council No. 25
Ahwaga Council No. 30

Hornellsville Council No. 35
Skoi Yase Council No. 75

Suffolk Council No. 76
Cayuga Council No. 90

Goshen Council No. 93

Victor E. Stewart
Steven J. Wilson
Steven A. Rubinstein (2023)
Edward P. Fagan, Jr.
Ernest F. Wieting
Michael J. Lampadarios
Kurt Ott
Michael Pombet
Bruce D. King
Robert A. Baus
Douglass S. Harrison
Lee L. Coller, Sr.
Douglas M. Koenig
George N. Stanton, Jr.
Earl J. Carlson
William J. Beckenhaupt
Wallace R. Hunt
Luther Brown
Robert C. Howe
Ernest H. Day, Sr.
Richard B. Broyles
Gerald W. Minns, Sr. (2020)
Rudolph O. Krause
Joseph L. Patterson
Frank G. Giragosian
Norman E. Moon

Respectfully Submitted,
Grand Chaplains
R.:I.: Rev. Stenrick B. Adams
R.:I.: Nathan Lipper
M.:I.: Rev. Charles M. Roberts

Grand Council Cryptic Masons
201st Annual Assembly
Awards Committee Report, 2023-2024

Individual Achievement

- 1) General Grand Cryptic Mason of the Year
- 2) General Grand Cryptic Youth Leadership Award
- 3) Lady of the Council Award
- 4) M.:.l.: E. William Whittaker Grand Master's Award
- 5) Giles Fonda Yates Award
- 6) Grand Master's Certificate of Achievement

Above to be announced at the Grand Council Banquet

Council Membership Gains & Attendance Awards

- 1) Most Greetings of New Select Masters in the Cryptic Year
Columbian No. 1 [7]
- 2) Greetings of 5 or More Select Masters in the Cryptic Year
Columbian No. 1 [7]
Central City No. 13 [6]
Joseph Warren No. 37 [6]
- 3) 10% or Greater Increase in Membership for the Cryptic Year
Rotica No. 12 [3]
Central City No. 13 [6]
Joseph Warren No. 37 [6]
- 4) Best Attendance at Grand Council Assembly

To be announced at the Grand Council Assembly

Ish-Sodi Awards

- 1) Ish-Sodi Awards the first line signer for 5 Petitioners in the last year.
No Submissions
- 2) Meritorious Ish-Sodi Awards the first line signer for 25 Petitioners.
No Submissions

Submitted by,
R.I. Carl J. Klossner, Chairman
M.I. John A. Gallant
R.I. Ernest W. Parker

**Grand Treasurer's Report
Operating Fund 2023-2024**

Balance- August 1,2023

\$40,949.75

Income

R-1	Member- NY Per Capita		\$28,023.50	
R-2	Member- GC Per Capita		\$3,412.50	
R-3	New Member Greeting		\$410.00	
R-4	Permanent Funds		\$0.00	
R-5	Bank Interest		\$0.00	
R-6	Late Annual Return Fee		\$295.00	
R-7	Refund Host Council		\$10,206.00	
R-8	Escrow Funds		\$0.00	
R-9	Miscellaneous		\$8,045.89	
		total	\$50,392.89	\$50,392.89

Total Income

\$91,342.64

Disbursements

A-1	Annual Assembly (Meals & Hotel		\$25,129.41	
A-2	Annual Proceedings		\$450.00	
B-1	Grand Master's Expenses		\$4,591.54	
B-2	Grand Master's Apron			
B-3	Grand Master's Jewel			
C-1	Grand Recorder's Salary		\$2,000.00	
C-2	Grand Treasurer's Salary		\$800.00	
D-1	Office Expense		\$595.06	
D-2	Grand Council Storage		\$827.00	
D-3	Grand Council Supplies		\$0.00	
D-4	Grand Council Postage		\$643.66	
D-5	Grand Council Printing		\$810.00	
D-6	Telephone		\$0.00	
D-7	Insurance and Bonding		\$126.00	
D-8	Taxes		\$0.00	
E-1	Grand Lecturer's Expenses		\$532.39	
E-2	Grand Line Officer's Expenses		\$2,425.53	
F-1	General Grand Council Per Capita		\$2,465.00	
F-2	Youth Yearly Support		\$0.00	
G-1	General Grand Triennial Escrow Fund		\$200.00	
G-2	Ritual/Constitution Escrow Fund		\$100.00	
G-3	Regalia-New York Escrow Fund		\$200.00	
G-4	Equipment Repair/Purchase Escrow		\$100.00	
G-5	History Escrow Fund		\$200.00	
G-6	Grand Master's Fund		\$100.00	
H-1	Miscellaneous & Adjustment		\$6,730.31	
	Total		\$49,025.90	

Total Disbursement

\$49,025.90

Balance- July 31, 2024

\$42,316.74

Pass Through Lines

Date	Deposit #	Voucher #	For What	Amount
9/25/23	23	23-1734	NE Conference	\$13025.61
10/10/23	24	N/A	New Bank Transfer	\$44634.58
11/7/2023	25	23-1738,1741,1750	Grand Master Reception	\$5676.86

Escrow Funds 2023-24

	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5	S-6	TOTALS
Balance as of 7/31/23	8209.61	647.19	1472.55	3097.49	2136.87	2165.92	17729.63
Income	1169.05	200.00	200.00	100.00	200.00	100.00	1969.05
Interest	3.12	0.25	0.55	1.15	0.79	0.80	6.66
sub-totals	9381.78	847.44	1673.10	3198.64	2337.66	2266.72	19705.34
Disbursements		166.48		641.33	468.08		1275.89
Balance as of 7/31/24	9381.78	680.96	1673.10	2557.31	1869.58	2266.72	18429.45

- S-1 Rituals, Constitutions, Guides, Ish Sodi Awards
- S-2 Regalia Fund
- S-3 Triennial Fund
- S-4 Equipment Purchases and Repair Fund
- S-5 History Fund
- S-6 Grand Master's Fund

Date	Account	Budget Code	Deposit	Withdrawal
30-Aug	S-1	G-2	\$100.00	
30-Aug	S-2	G-3	\$200.00	
30-Aug	S-3	G-1	\$200.00	
30-Aug	S-4	G-4	\$100.00	
30-Aug	S-5	G-5	\$200.00	
30-Aug	S-6	G-6	\$100.00	
		Total	\$900.00	
30-Aug	S-1		\$56.00	
25-Sep	S-1		\$50.00	
30-Oct	S-1		\$150.00	
9-Nov	S-1	PT-1	\$0.07	
13-Jan	S-1		\$14.85	
21-Jan	S-1		\$100.00	
4-Feb	S-1		\$58.20	
9-Mar	S-1		\$240.00	
24-Mar	S-1		\$200.00	
4-Apr	S-1		\$80.00	
30-Jun	S-1		\$120.00	
24-Jul	S-2			\$166.48
24-Jul	S-4			\$641.33
24-Jul	S-5			\$468.08

Respectfully Submitted,

David H. Raymond

M.I.: David H. Raymond
Grand Treasurer 2023-24



**GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS
OF
NEW YORK**

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

August 7, 2024

To the Grand Master, Grand Line, and members of Cryptic Councils of the State of New York:

The accounts of the GRAND TREASURER were examined and found in good order.

Audit Committee:

Steven W. Howard

R.:I.: Steven W. Howard, Chairman

Michael A. Miller

III.: Michael A. Miller

Thomas G. Ostrander

Companion.: Thomas G. Ostrander



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York

Most Illustrious John A. Gallant, PMIGM
Grand Recorder
2180 Plank Road, Lima, NY 14485-9407
GrandRecorder@NYCryptic.org

To the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the Companions of Grand Council.

I wish to continue to extend my deepest gratitude to the Companions for supporting me during my second year as your Grand Recorder. I think I might be getting the “hang of it”. I need to thank M.:I.: Charles Roberts, Assistant to the Grand Recorder, who's Institutional knowledge continues to be invaluable to the success of this office. It is a pleasure to work with M.:I.: David Raymond, our Grand Treasurer, on his Inaugural year. I look forward to our continued work together.

I congratulate M.:I.: Donald Kunego and our 200th anniversary committee on well run and eventful 200th year celebrations. It was a memorable year and well received by everyone.

Back in October had the distinct honor to represent the Grand Council of New York at the Grand Council of England's 150th Anniversary in London England. It was a “lost fact” that the Grand Council of New York was the Mother Grand Council for their formation. When their Grand Historian, working with our counterpart, uncovered this fact it was quite a pleasant surprise.

This year, most of our Council's Annual Reports and Elections were in before the deadline, but unfortunately a few were not. *(Companion Recorders, the deadline is July 10th, per our Constitution. This deadline is necessary for the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer to prepare our annual reports and close out the Fiscal year.)* All the late paperwork came in before our Annual Assembly. All Councils are in good standing and approved to attend this Grand Assembly.

The big project over the last few months was our progress with the Masonic Membership Solutions or MMS. I was able to upload the membership rosters for 23 of our 27 councils before I had to focus on preparing for our Grand Assembly. I expect to resume working with our Council Recorders to upload the remaining Rosters. Next, I will work on cleaning up the loose ends that were uncovered as part of the membership searches and uploads. My plan is that once the membership hurdles have been resolved I will be working with the MMS administrators for the various Cryptic reports and listings. This will enable us to start the migration from paper to electronic records. I want to address our plans for the Grand Council membership numbers. It is my intention to continue using an internal number tracked by my Office. The MMS system does provide a member number, but that number is not consistent per Companion. For example an affiliated Companion is assigned multiple member numbers. We need a unique number that is consistent for each Companion. I know that over the last few years we have failed in the proper assignment of Grand Council membership numbers. Following the roster upload phase, I will be making a Grand Council membership number review and assignments with the Companions listed in in Greetings paperwork from last the few years, cross referencing with what records we do have.

One distressing trend is our loss of membership, I refer you to my report on our Membership numbers. There are some positive signs this year but as you can see we are below 1,000. With my work on the MMS upload of our Council rosters, we are finding that there are Companions still on the rosters, that are no longer with us. Unfortunately once this process completes, there will be a drop in membership. Companions please don't loose sight of this level of loss, endeavor to bring more Brothers and

Companions to the York Rite and our Grand Council.

During the year we did complete transactions for four Grand Representatives, three "For" New York and one "To" New York. I congratulate our three nominees.. It is my personal disappointment that after working with one Jurisdiction for over 5 years, we finally rescinded our Grand Representative Nomination. We will be working with a new jurisdiction for our Companion.

With regards to the Financial condition of Grand Council, again this year it was not necessary to make a withdrawal from our permanent funds. However, with our lower membership numbers and expected increase in costs, we have projected a budget in the red. We may not reach the expected level of expenses and the budget will settle out OK. Keep in mind that we cannot sustain this and there may have to be a per-capita increase in our future. For reference eight years ago was our last per-capita increase

In closing, I again wish to thank the Companions for their kind assistance and patience while I learn more details of this Office. I look forward to continuing to serve this Grand Council.

Respectfully Submitted,

Most Ill. John A. Gallant
Grand Recorder

Annual Membership Report For The 2023-2024 Cryptic Year

This Cryptic Year is once again a continuation of our previous years with regards to membership. We had some gains but we continue to have major losses as well. We are working with our Council Recorders on having an accurate count from all Councils.

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

Membership as of June 30, 2023 – 992

Greeted:	34
Affiliated:	3
Restored:	<u>1</u>
Total Gains:	38

1,030

Unfortunately membership is falling, mainly through the big three: deaths, demits and suspensions. However, there are two positive trends that I wish to point out. Perhaps the most encouraging is that our Greetings count is greater than our Death count. We are bringing in more Companions than those who are leaving us due to death. The other trend is not as great but the numbers of Companions who demitted or were removed is less than last year: 2023(67) vs 2024(47), approximately 30%. Perhaps these numbers over the next few years will continue to decline.

Died:	26
Demitted:	19
Suspended NPD:	20
Suspended in Chapter:	8
Expelled:	0
Previous Return Adjustments:	<u>0</u>
Total Losses:	73

Membership as of June 30, 2024 - 957

A complete breakdown of the membership by Council is attached.

Fraternally yours,
M.:I.: John A. Gallant
Grand Recorder

Summary of Membership and Activities by Council 2023-2024

Council #	06/30/23	Greeted	Affiliated	Restored	Died	Demitted	NPD	RAM-Spnd	Expelled	06/30/23	Net Gain/Loss
Columbian No. 1	129	7	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	132	3
Union No. 2	18	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	17	(1)
Adelphic No. 7	65	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	65	0
Rotica No. 12	27	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	27	0
Central City No. 13	37	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	40	3
Bloss-DeWitt No. 14	43	0	1	0	0	5	0	5	0	34	(9)
Buffalo-Keystone No. 17	57	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	48	(9)
King Hiram No. 18	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	(1)
Doric No. 19	27	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	25	(2)
Dunkirk No. 25	32	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	31	(1)
Ahwaga No. 30	25	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	19	(6)
King Solomon No. 31	28	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	27	(1)
Hornellsville No. 35	21	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	20	(1)
Adoniram No. 36	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	19	(1)
Joseph Warren No. 37	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	6
Fulton No. 50	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0
St. George's No. 74	63	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	60	(3)
Skoi Yase No. 75	19	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	16	(3)
Suffolk No. 76	55	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	51	(4)
Flatbush No. 80	46	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	1
Oneonta No. 87	42	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	39	(3)
North Shore No. 88	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0
Cayuga No. 90	16	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	13	(3)
Hamburg No. 91	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	0
Nun Da Waga No. 92	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0
Goshen No. 93	43	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	44	1
King David No. 97	28	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	27	(1)
	992	34	3	1	26	19	20	8	0	957	(35)

We have a total of 27 Councils at present.

Balance August 1, 2024			\$42,316.74
			Budget 2024-25
	INCOME	Comments	
R-1	Member NY Per Capita (957)	\$20.50 per member	\$19,618.50
R-2	Member GC Per Capita (957)	\$ 2.50 per member	\$2,392.50
R-3	New Members-Greetings (50)	\$10.00 per member	\$500.00
R-4	Permanent Fund Income		\$5,000.00
R-5	Bank Interest		\$0.00
R-6	Late Annual Return Fee		\$0.00
R-7	Meal Income from Host Council for A-1		\$12,000.00
R-8	Escrow Funds		\$0.00
R-9	Miscellaneous		\$500.00
	Totals		\$40,011.00
	Disbursements		
A-1	Annual Assembly (Hotel/Meals/Etc.)		\$14,000.00
A-2	Annual Proceedings		\$600.00
B-1	Grand Master's Expense		\$5,600.00
B-2	Grand Master's Regalia		\$1,500.00
B-3	Grand Master's Jewel		\$1,000.00
C-1	Grand Recorder's Honorarium	GR=1,300/yr; AGR=700/yr	\$2,000.00
C-2	Grand Treasurer's Honorarium	GT=800/yr	\$800.00
D-1	Office Expense	GR 500 = 2000; GT 100 = 400	\$2,400.00
D-2	Grand Council Storage		\$900.00
D-3	Supplies		\$400.00
D-4	Postage		\$600.00
D-5	Printing		\$1,000.00
D-6	(TBD)		\$0.00
D-7	Insurance & Bonding		\$175.00
D-8	Taxes		\$0.00
E-1	Grand Lecturer's Expense		\$1,200.00
E-2	Grand Line Officers' Expenses		\$4,800.00
F-1	Gen. Grand Council Per Capita (1 year)		\$2,392.50
F-2	Youth Committee Yearly Program Support		\$500.00
G-1	General Grand Triennial Fund		\$200.00
G-2	Ritual/Constitution NY Escrow Fund		\$100.00
G-3	Regalia - New York Fund		\$200.00
G-4	Equipment Repair & Purchase Fund		\$100.00
G-5	History Fund		\$200.00
G-6	Grand Master's Fund		\$100.00
H-1	Miscellaneous		\$2,000.00
	Totals		\$42,767.50
	Balance as July 31, 2025		\$39,560.24

			Budget 2024-25
	Pass-Through Lines		
PT-1	Funds Input	NE-Conf, GM-Rec, SRICF-NE	\$0.00
PT-2	Funds Output		\$0.00
	Respectfully Submitted,		
	R.:I.: Dan D. Elliot, DGM		
	R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu, PCW		
	M.:I.: John A. Gallant, Grand Recorder		
	M.:I.: David H. Raymond, Grand Treasurer		

Grand Recorder's Financial Report for 2023-2024**Balance as of August 1, 2023:****\$40,949.75****Income/Revenue**

(Pass Thru)

Deposit #01	Annual Rtn	Hornellsville #35	\$480.00	
Deposit #02	Annual Rtn	Skoj Yase #75	\$460.00	
Deposit #03	Annual Rtn	Flatbush #80 (2023)	\$1,387.00	
Deposit #04	Annual Rtn	Fulton #50 (2022 & 2023)	\$1,342.00	
Deposit #05	Annual Rtn	Dunkirk #25	\$782.00	
Deposit #06	200th Event	200th Anniversary Event	\$180.00	
Deposit #07	Assembly	200th Assembly Meals	\$2,028.00	
Deposit #08	Annual Rtn	Columbian #1	\$3,047.00	
Deposit #09	Annual Rtn	Central City #13	\$851.00	
Deposit #10	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$210.00	
Deposit #11	200th Event	200th Anniversary Event	\$240.00	
Deposit #12	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$1,110.00	
Deposit #13	200th Event	200th Anniversary Event	\$960.00	
Deposit #14	Assembly	200th Assembly Meals	\$3,770.00	
Deposit #15	Annual Rtn	Adelphic #7	\$1,430.00	
Deposit #16	NSF Cash	K. Becker, Check, Fee, xtra	\$80.00	
Deposit #17	200th Event	200th Anniversary Event	\$480.00	
Deposit #18	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$520.00	
Deposit #19	200th Event	200th Anniversary Event	\$720.00	
Deposit #20	200th Event	200th Anniversary Event	\$530.00	
Deposit #21	Late Fee	Invoice #03 – Dunkirk	\$50.00	
Deposit #22	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$305.00	
Deposit #23	NE-Conf	Pass-through for NE Conf.		\$13,025.61
Deposit #24	Wells Fargo	Close out Wells Fargo Acct		\$44,634.58
Deposit #25	Kunegp Recp.	Pass-Through for Reception		\$5,676.86
Deposit #26	Wells Fargo	Close out Wells Fargo Acct		\$0.07
Deposit #27	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$105.00	
Deposit #28	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$105.00	
Deposit #29	Late Fee	Invoice #04 – Flatbush 80	\$45.00	
Deposit #30	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$100.00	
Deposit #31	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$105.00	
Deposit #32	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$205.00	
Deposit #33	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$315.00	
Deposit #34	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$200.00	
Deposit #35	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$100.00	
Deposit #36	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$100.00	
Deposit #37	Medallions	200th Medallion Sales	\$100.00	
Deposit #38	Annual Rtn	King Hiram #18	\$253.00	
Deposit #39	Annual Rtn	Ahwaga #30	\$575.00	
Deposit #40	Annual Rtn	Suffolk #76	\$1,295.00	
Deposit #41	Annual Rtn	King Solomon #31	\$644.00	
Deposit #42	Annual Rtn	Bloss-DeWitt Clinton #14	\$943.00	
Deposit #43	Annual Rtn	Goshen #93	\$953.00	
Deposit #44	Annual Rtn	St. George's # 74	\$1,449.00	
Deposit #45	Annual Rtn	Oneonta #87	\$966.00	
Deposit #46	Annual Rtn	Cayuga #90	\$365.50	
Deposit #47	Annual Rtn	Central City #13	\$961.00	
Deposit #48	Annual Rtn	Skoj Yase #75	\$447.00	
Deposit #49	Annual Rtn	Dunkirk #25	\$736.00	
Deposit #50	Annual Rtn	Rotica #12	\$628.00	
Deposit #51	Annual Rtn	Hornellsville #35	\$483.00	
Deposit #52	Annual Rtn	Adoniram #36	\$460.00	
Deposit #53	Annual Rtn	Buffalo-Keystone #17	\$1,321.00	
Deposit #54	Annual Rtn	Hamburg #91	\$759.00	
Deposit #55	Annual Rtn	King David #97	\$654.00	
Deposit #56	Annual Rtn	Flatbush #80	\$1,068.00	
Deposit #57	Annual Rtn	North Shore #88	\$874.00	
Deposit #58	Annual Rtn	Nun Da Waga #92	\$391.00	
Deposit #59	Assembly	201 st Assembly Meal Checks	\$2,605.00	
Deposit #60	Annual Rtn	Fulton #50	\$621.00	
Deposit #61	Annual Rtn	Columbian #1	\$3,037.00	
Deposit #62	Annual Rtn	Union #2	\$414.00	
Deposit #63	Escrow Returns	Voucher 23-E0001	\$1,275.89	

GR Financials 2023-24

Deposit #64	Annual Rtn	Doric #19	\$539.00
Deposit #65	Annual Rtn	Adelphic #7	\$1,430.50
Deposit #66	Assembly	201 st Assembly Meal Checks	\$1,803.00

Total Income: \$50,392.89

Expenditures/Expenses

Voucher #

23-1729	Ernest W. Parker	Travel Dist. 1 – FY-2022	\$600.00	
23-1730	Donald R. Kunego (History)	200th Celebration Time Capsule – Inner case (S-5)	\$102.71	
	History	200th Celebration Lapel Pins	\$514.00	
	Printing	200th Celebration Time Capsule – Archangels (S-5)	\$43.27	
		200th Celebration Passports	\$270.00	
Bank Adjustm	Wells Fargo Bank	NSFs – Companion (KB) 200 th Event and Fee	\$72.00	
23-1731	Charles M. Roberts	Greece Ridge Self Storage Rental for Grand Council c	\$827.00	
23-1732	Crown Plaza – The Desmond Hotel	200th Grand Assembly Hotel (GCM-900682223)	\$22,629.41	
23-1733	Escrow Funds of Grand Council of NY For 2023-24 Escrow Transfers	General Grand Triennial Fund	\$200.00	
		Ritual/Constitution NY Escrow Fund	\$100.00	
		Regalia - NY Fund	\$200.00	
		Equipment Repair & Purchase Fund	\$100.00	
		History Fund	\$200.00	
		Grand Master's Fund	\$100.00	
23-1734	Crown Plaza – The Desmond Hotel	North-East Conf. Hotel Expenses (Conf-337035)		\$13,025.61
23-1735	Dennis Davis	Reimbursement – Hospitality, 4 bottles Honey Wild Tu	\$147.86	
23-1736	John Gallant	Reimbursement for Proceedings printing	\$450.00	
		Reimbursement for 200th Catering Meals	\$1,900.00	
		Reimbursement for Replacement/new Name Badges	\$197.40	
23-1737	Donald R. Kunego	200th Celebration Time capsule wooden box (S-5)	\$300.00	
		200th Celebration Time Capsule – Archangel (S-5)	\$22.10	
23-1738	Double Tree Rochester	Grand Master's Reception (Inv Oct. 19)		\$4,355.49
23-1739	Macy Publishing	(5) Replacement 5-Loop Star for Grand Line Collars (\$132.95	
23-1740	General Grand Per-capita (992-6)	Per-capita for 2022-23 (986 members)	\$2,465.00	
23-1741	Double Tree Rochester	Grand Master's Reception, (2nd Inv Oct. 27th)		\$821.37
23-1742	John Gallant	Reimbursement for DDGM/AGL Dist Badges (S-4)	\$258.11	
		Reimbursement for Past GM Gold Badges (S-4)	\$52.87	
23-1743	Donald R. Kunego	Grand Master's FY23/Q1 Expenses	\$178.08	
23-1744	Dan Elliott	GLO FY23/Q1 Expenses	\$511.29	
23-1745	Richard Kerimoglu	GLO FY23/Q1 Expenses	\$565.59	
23-1746	David Raymond	1st Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$200.00	
		Travel & Office Expenses	\$58.62	
23-1747	John Gallant	1st Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$325.00	
		Travel & Office Expenses	\$30.39	
		Postage	\$220.46	
23-1748	Charles M. Roberts	1st Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$175.00	
23-1749	Masonic Hall Association of Albany	Albany Temple Rental for the 200 th Event.	\$500.00	
23-1750	Donald R. Kunego	Grand Master's Reception, (Over Payment by GM)		\$500.00
23-1751	Kentropolis Internet	Web Site Hosting for 2023-2024	\$140.00	
23-1752	R/G Award Systems	Ladies Name Badges (5)	\$158.56	
23-1753	Copy Town Enterprise	200th Celebration Passports (400)	\$540.00	
23-1754	Rainbow Charities of NY, Inc.	NY Rainbow Full Page Journal Ad	\$100.00	
24-1755	Charles M. Roberts	2nd Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$175.00	
24-1756	John Gallant	2nd Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$325.00	
24-1757		Travel & Office Expenses	\$46.52	
24-1758		Postage	\$136.62	
24-1759	David Raymond	2nd Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$200.00	
24-1760	Richard Kerimoglu	GLO FY23/Q2 Expenses	\$34.41	
24-1761	Donald R. Kunego	Grand Master's FY23/Q2 Expenses	\$1,280.48	
24-1762	CNA Surety	Bond Bill for Treasurer	\$126.00	
24-1763	Grand Post MWV	Masonic War Vets 2024 Convention Journal (Half Pag	\$75.00	
24-1764	Oxford Chapter #245	MEGHP Shearer Reception Journal Full Page	\$120.00	
24-1765	Lapel Pins & More, Inc.	GC GM's Award [M.:I.:E. William Whittaker Award]	\$1,012.00	
24-1766	Triangle Girls Inc	Convention Journal Ad (Full Page)	\$90.00	
24-1767	David Raymond	3rd Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$200.00	
24-1768	John Gallant	3rd Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$325.00	
		Travel & Office Expenses	\$248.00	
		Postage	\$156.38	
		Grand Council Regalia (S-2)	\$166.48	
24-1769	Charles M. Roberts	3rd Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$175.00	

GR Financials 2023-24

24-1770	Carl J. Klossner	GLO FY23/Q3 Expenses – Grand Capt. of the Guard	\$114.24
24-1771	Garry W. Krom	GLO FY23/Q3 Expenses – Grand Standard Bearer	\$600.00
24-1772	The Crowne Plaza-Desmond Hotel	Deposit for 2024 Annual Assembly	\$2,500.00
24-1773	Charles M. Roberts	Safety Deposit Box Fee	\$60.75
24-1774	General Grand Council Sales	Awards for 201 st Assembly, Inv 2024-194 (3 LoC)	\$375.00
24-1775	Donald R. Kunego	Grand Master's FY23/Q4 Expenses	\$3,132.98
		Postage	\$98.44
24-1776	David Raymond	4 th Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$200.00
24-1777	John Gallant	4 th Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$325.00
		Travel & Office Expenses	\$150.78
24-1778	Charles M. Roberts	4 th Quarter Honorarium for FY-2023	\$175.00
		Postage	\$31.76
24-1779	Frank Fancher	Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$532.39
24-1780	PHA – York Rite Convention	M.:I.: Williams Journal Ad	\$100.00
24-1781	Masonic Brotherhood Fund	Grand Masters Ball Journal	\$150.00

Total Expenditures: \$49,025.90

Balance as of July 31, 2022: \$40,949.75

Total Income: \$50,392.89

Total Expenditures: -\$49,025.90

Checking Operating Ending Balance: \$42,316.74

BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2024: \$42,316.74

Escrow Accounts for 2023-2024

August 1, 2023 Balance: **\$17,729.63**

Income/Revenue

Escrow #01	Annual Escrow Xfers S-1:S-6	\$900.00
Escrow #02	Ritual Sales	\$56.00
Escrow #03	Ritual Sales	\$50.00
Escrow #04	Ritual Sales	\$150.00
Escrow #05	Ritual Sales	\$14.85
Escrow #06	Ritual Sales	\$100.00
Escrow #07	Ritual Sales	\$58.20
Escrow #08	Ritual Sales	\$240.00
Escrow #09	Ritual Sales	\$200.00
Escrow #10	Ritual Sales	\$80.00
Escrow #11	Ritual Sales	\$120.00
	Bank Interest:	\$6.66
		\$1,975.71

Expenditures

23-E001	Reimbursement to Op. Fund Misc	-\$1,275.89
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July 31, 2024 Balance: **\$18,429.45**

**Respectfully Submitted,
M.:I.: John A. Gallant, Grand Recorder**

TRUSTEES REPORT ON THE PERMANENT FUNDS
OF THE GRAND COUNCIL FOR THE CURRENT CRYPTIC YEAR 2023-2024

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 2023-2024 Cryptic Year.

PERMANENT FUNDS

PERMANENT FUND BALANCE on June 30, 2023: **\$151,118.64**

INCOME/REVENUE

<u>American High-Income Trust Class A Funds</u>	<u>Gains & Dividends</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Fund Value</u>
July – September 2023 – 1 st Quarter	\$895.53	5,476.231 (\$9.03)	\$49,450.37
October – December 2023 – 2 nd Quarter	\$877.92	5,571.817 (\$9.50)	\$52,932.26
January – March 2024 – 3 rd Quarter	\$818.22	5,657.826 (\$9.57)	\$54,145.39
April – June 2024 – 4 th Quarter	<u>\$854.21</u>	5,747.510 (\$9.56)	\$54,946.20
	+\$3,445.88		
		<u>June 30, 2024 Fund Value:</u>	<u>\$54,946.20</u>

<u>Putnam Investments High Yield Trust A</u>	<u>Gains & Dividends</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Fund Value</u>
July – September 2023 – 1 st Quarter	\$1,362.10	20,209.258 (\$5.080)	\$102,663.03
October – December 2023 – 2 nd Quarter	\$1,890.51	20,576.896 (\$5.290)	\$108,851.78
January – March 2024 – 3 rd Quarter	\$1,550.61	20,870.943 (\$5.300)	\$110,616.00
April – June 2024 – 4 th Quarter	<u>\$1,572.79</u>	21,169.765 (\$5.290)	\$111,988.06
	+\$6,376.01		
		<u>June 30, 2024 Fund Value:</u>	<u>\$111,988.06</u>

TOTAL PERMANENT FUND BALANCE on June 30, 2024: **\$166,934.26**

A increase in the Value of the Permanent Funds from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2024: **\$15,815.62**
 That is a 10.47% increase in value.

DISBURSEMENTS

There were No Withdrawals from the Permanent Funds this Cryptic Year for operating expenses.

Peekskill Council No. 55 Records and Property still have not been received in the Grand Recorder's Office from the former Recorder after many attempts to get them by the Grand Officers. We are deeply grateful for our Deputy Grand Master for his efforts to assist in this matter.

We again remind the Grand Recorder, Current Grand Council Officers and Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters of the importance of the property held in their trust [Jewels, Collars, Aprons/Cases, Badges and etc.]. You are held responsible for their safekeeping and eventual return to the Grand Council of NY and if lost you will replace them personally. On behalf of the Grand Council Trustees, the Grand Recorder's Office holds in trust in a safety deposit box at Key Bank, 3636 Dewey Avenue, Greece, NY three Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters Jewels.

The Trustees have not been able to transfer the Permanent Funds held with Mark J. Snyder Royal Alliance Associates, Medford, NY to Charles Schwab Investment Firm located at Pittsford, NY but hope to have this completed shortly.

Respectfully Submitted,
 M.:I.: Garry R. Hutchurson (2022-2025) Chairman
 M.:I.: Richard C. Fowler (2023-2026)
 R.:I.: Kenneth J. Lockard (2021 -2024)

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

Friday Evening, August 23, 2024

VESPER SERVICE

* *Symbol Means Stand If You Are Able.*

QUIET CENTERING

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In our meeting together this evening let us remember that we worship the God who created this world, the God who spoke through his prophets from generation to generation, led his people from captivity to liberty, healed the sick, fed the hungry and was faithful even when faced with rejection.

PEOPLE: **The same God who wants all people to be drawn to his love and grace, to know his forgiveness and the joy of his salvation.**

Leader: We worship a God of Promise, whose saving grace brought a people from captivity into a land of promise, whose enduring love still leads us from places of captivity into a promise of peace, forgiveness and eternal life.

PEOPLE: **The promises of God endure forever. The promises of God will be fulfilled. Let us put aside all that hinders and join together in worship and praise.**

* **OPENING EVENING HYMN**

“For The Beauty of the Earth”

(words on reverse side)

EVENING PRAYER (In Unison)

Into your presence we come, God of Grace and Peace, who was, and is and ever shall be the eternal One. Into fellowship we come, bound together in the love that is everlasting. Lord God, in this short time together, open our ears and our eyes to see your vision for this time of worship and our part within it. Speak to us, encourage and forgive us. In the meeting of our lives, Lord, be the focus of all that we are. Lord God, in a universe that seems so immense it is easy to feel insignificant as we gather here this evening. Yet we know that we are precious in your sight - unique individuals loved and blessed in so many ways. Teach us, hear our prayers and enable us for service wherever you might take us, to your praise and glory. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

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: **Psalm 121; Psalm 145; John 14:27**

EVENING MESSAGE:

“The Creator’s Peace”

M.:I.:Rev. Charles M. Roberts

* **CLOSING EVENING HYMN**

“Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”

(words on reverse side)

*** THE BENEDICTION**

*** POSTLUDE**

“For The Beauty Of The Earth”

For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies, For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies; Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child; Friends on earth and friends above; For all gentle tho'ts and mild: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

“Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”

***Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, Traveling thro' this wilderness.***

***Thanks we give and adoration For Thy gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of Thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to Thy truth may we be found.***

Grand Chaplains

***R.:I.: & Rev. Stenrick B. Adams R.:I.: & Rev. Dr. Mark D. Issacs
M.:I.: & Rev. Charles M. Roberts***

Grand Musicians

R.:I.: Gerald Irwin R.:I.: David Shire



R.:I.: A. Harry Williams

District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master 2023-24

2nd Cryptic District

A.harry.williams@gmail.com

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER 2ND CRYPTIC DISTRICT: 2023-24

It has been an honor to serve the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons for the State of New York as the District Deputy Grand Master for the Second Cryptic District for the 2023-2024 year and I thank M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego for appointing me.

Each of my visits was combined with R.:I.: Garry Krom. Garry and I have worked closely on several projects in the past, including education for the District during COVID. There are 3 Councils in the District, and visits to two went smoothly – Goshen Council No 93 and King Solomon No 31.

King Solomon Council No. 31 is a strong Council. Full disclosure, it is also my Council. The Companions are engaged in the work of the Council and interested in doing more. When pushed to do the ritual without books, they are able, but fall back if not challenged. The biggest struggle this year has been sharing meeting nights with our companion Chapter – Poughkeepsie Chapter No 172. When the move was made from Poughkeepsie to Saugerties, the meeting nights were combined with Poughkeepsie Chapter meeting first, and Council later in the evening, to create one less night out for the Companions. While a worthy and understandable goal, the Council was always shorted for time. In an attempt to resolve that, they tried meeting 6 meetings each for the whole night. Again, sounds good in theory, but in practice was left wanting. The Council, with recently changed their bylaws, hopefully to be approved at the Assembly, will return Council to meeting the 4th Tuesday for 10 meetings a year.

Goshen Council No.93 is also a strong Council with Companions that are interested in the work. During my visit they were enthusiastic and, like King Solomon Council, were excited about the possibility of joining a District effort to eventually confer the Super Excellent Master Degree.

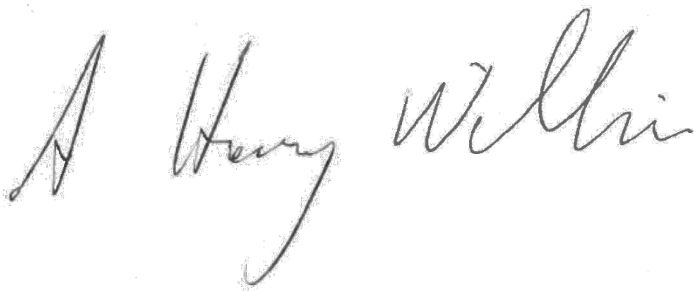
Both Goshen and King Solomon Councils have limited Ritual experience the past 4 years, especially with the lack of a Tri-State Festival. Both want to bring in new members and are willing to work together as a District to do so or participate in the rumored District 4 festival or to be a part of a renewed Tri-State Festival.

Union Council No. 2 is struggling. They were only scheduled to meet 3 times per year, January, February and March – probably the worst choices of months. They have not opened in a couple years, and barely met unofficially. I had originally planned to come in January but was snowed out, February the same, and then in March, the death of one of their members forced the cancellation of the meeting. A special communication was arranged for May but again they could not get 9 Companions to attend. Through the hard work of the Deputy Grand Master and the Recorder, another special communication was arranged at White Plains Lodge and 7 Companions from Union Council attended, with both the Deputy Grand Master and myself attending as guests to obtain the required 9 companions to open. Changes to the bylaws were approved to meet 5 times per year in the same location and alternating months with their feeder Chapter – Buckingham-Mohegan-Tabernacle in Verplank. There is a new Illustrious Master, Deputy Master and Principal Conductor of the Work and they seem excited to make the Council work going forward. I am optimistic that with new leadership and a new location they have the opportunity to succeed.

I believe that Union Council should be use all available Companions to grow and once again be self-sufficient. This will take time and bodies. The Companions I met at Union Council are interested in growing the Council. They are interested in Cryptic Masonry but frustrated with the lack of growth. I would recommend jump starting membership by their participation in the Tri-State Festival and the rumored festival in the 4th Cryptic District.

In general, I would not recommend a Council meeting less than 6 times per year except for a special Council, such as a Research Council or a holding Council to allow companions to retain their membership in Council meeting at the Grand Assembly – much like Commandery does with Empire State Commandery No 83. Meeting infrequently does not allow the ritual to be retained and the Council becomes in a constant state of being rusty.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Harry Williams". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

R.: I.: A. Harry Williams

District Deputy Grand Master, 2nd Cryptic District

**Report of the District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master
4th Cryptic District
2023-2024**

I would like to thank the M.: I.: Donald R. Kunego, Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of New York for appointing me to be District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master of the 4th Cryptic District. I have enjoyed my year in this position and have learned a great deal about the Councils in this district, and about Cryptic Masonry in general.

During the year, I visited all four of the Councils in the 4th Cryptic District, traveling with the V.: I.: Mathias J. Erschen IV, Assistant Grand Lecturer, and R.: I.: Carl J. Klossner, Grand Captain of the Guard.

We began the year with the official visit to Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council # 14 on Thursday, November 9, 2023. This Council has struggled at times lately to have sufficient numbers to open, however a change in their meeting night has helped increase participation. There were 12 Companions of the Council present that evening. The officers mostly read their parts but with proficiency. The Illustrious Master has been working diligently to rebuild this Council and to begin to confer degrees again. They are in good financial condition and their records are up to date.

We held the 4th Cryptic District Grand Lecturer's Convention on Thursday, November 16, 2023, hosted by St. George's Council #74. R.: I.: Frank M. Fancher put on a good program for Unfortunately, it was not well attended by the other Councils in the District. The location was selected because it is more or less in the center of the District, however the distance some Companions would need to travel may be a factor in attendance. One Council is located in Queensbury and another is in Oneonta, with about two hours of travel time between them. It is my hope that we will see better participation in 2024-2025.

Our next official visit was to Joseph Warren Cryptic Council #37 on Friday, February 23, 2024. This Council has also changed its meeting night in order to increase participation. They are struggling to open and to have sufficient participation. There were 7 Companions of the Council present, so with the guests present, they were able to open that evening. Their membership is less than 30 Companions, and they cover an area that is large and reaches all the way to Plattsburgh and the Canadian border. On a positive note, they conferred the Royal and Select Master Degrees on Saturday, April 6 2024, where they brought in 7 new Companions. This was the first time in several years they conferred any degrees. They had assistance from around the District, including one Companion who drove up from Oneonta Council that morning to help out. This was a good sign that this Council may be in a rebuilding stage, and I have offered to assist them in doing so. Their records are in good shape, but they do not have much in the way of financial assets.

We visited Oneonta Council #87 on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. There were 16 Companions of the Council present. The officers were clearly proficient in their ritual work and almost all did their work from memory. They are one of the strongest Councils in this District, if not in the state. Their books are in very good condition. They have a number of excellent ritualists as

members, and it shows. One of my goals for the coming year will be to see if I can encourage them to travel to other Councils and to share their talents in order to strengthen the other Cryptic Councils in this District.

My final official visit was to St. George's Council #74 on Thursday, April 18, 2024. This is my home Council. This Council is strong financially and its records are in excellent shape. The officers demonstrate proficiency in opening, although some have to read their parts. This Council has also conferred the Royal and Select Master Degrees a couple of times over the past few years.

In April, we also held a Caucus of the R.: I.: and V.: I.: members of the District by Zoom, with good attendance and participation. A number of names of candidates for future District Deputy Grand Illustrious Masters and Assistant Grand Lecturers were put forth. This bodes well for this District moving forward.

For the coming year, it is my intention to continue to encourage and support the Councils in this District, and to improve communication between them. The overall geographic size of the District does inhibit travel as do other Masonic commitments by many of the Companions. Two of the Councils in the District are going to continue to need support and encouragement, however I believe they can rebuild with this support.

I look forward to continuing in this role for the coming year and working with the new Grand Illustrious Master.

With Fervency and Zeal,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David E. Barnes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

R.: I.: David E. Barnes
District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master
4th Cryptic District

To: The Most Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Council, State of New York:

I would like to thank the Most Illustrious Donald Kunego, RI Dan Elliott, and all MIII ∴, RIII ∴, VIII ∴, III ∴, and Companions all, for the blessing, opportunity, encouragement, support, and Brotherly advise passed on to me. I thank all for the honor of serving the craft.

The following is a brief synopsis of my observations over the past year while performing my duties. All Councils, regardless of location, were most welcoming, brotherly, and kind. Each Council demonstrated a strong presence in the craft and shows a bright and strong future in Council.

ROTICA COUNCIL #12: This is a strong group of Companions with many experienced members. They meet the 3rd Monday, August through November. They go dark from December through February and resume labor March through May. They conduct their own degree work in excellent form, and demonstrate excellent skill opening and closing Council.

CENTRAL CITY #13: Once again, a strong group of Companions that promote the craft. They hold assemblies 5 times a year. They are capable of conducting their own ritual and brought in 6 new Cryptic Companions this year.. They demonstrated excellent work in opening and closing their assemblies.

KING HIRAM COUNCIL # 18: This a fantastic group of Companions, that work hard to promote the craft. They meet 5 times a year, and are working to increase their numbers. Meetings are filled with education and / ritual degree practice. They have had the opportunity to put on the first Council degree. Their opening and closing is excellent.

FULTON COUNCIL #50: This is an excellent group of Companions working hard to promote the craft. Their Recorder is an excellent Companion, and is working to help strengthen their Council. They are working to continue to grow and develop and grow their council. Their opening and closing ritual is excellent.

KING DAVID # 97: This is an exceptional group of Companions. They meet 7 times a year, going dark during November through February. They are devoted members of the craft, and bring a great deal of wisdom, years of experience, and love for the craft. Their ritual is excellent, and demonstrate this through their actions as well.





August 23, 2024

R.:I.: Jamie J. Kaim Jr.

District Deputy Grand Master

8th Cryptic District

M.:I.: Grand Master, R.:I.: Deputy Grand Master, R.:I.: Grand Principle Conductor of the works, Grand Line Officers, Companions All,

I would like to start off by thanking the Thrice Illustrious Grand Master for having confidence in me to represent him in his home district, the 8th Cryptic District of the Grand Council of New York Cryptic Masons. I have enjoyed traveling and bringing his message to the companions and raising awareness of our Cryptic Charities. I hope I have brought honor to you and our District.

It was a pleasure to work alongside R.:I.: Steven Koch, Grand Steward and V.:I.: Steven S. Goebert, Assistant Grand Lecturer. The bonds of companionship were strengthened and along with our work, I think we brought joy to the councils on our visits.

I had the pleasure of not only being installed as DDGM at my Home Council Skoi-Yase #75 in Geneva, NY by the Grand Master but also to present a Solomon Arch Jewel with a blue ribbon to M.:I.: Steve Licht at his home Chapter Nundewaga #92 in Attica, NY. I also had the pleasure of assisting in the Greeting of two new Select Masters to the 8th Cryptic District at Doric Council #19 in Fairport, NY for both Doric and Skoi-Yase Councils. I also got to take part in the Royal Degree as Hiram Abiff and give his beautiful soliloquy. Joining the Companions and Brothers in Hennrietta, NY for the Grand Masters Banquet was a wonderful time and both Miss Maria and I had a memorable evening.

May brought us back to Geneva, NY where the Grand Lecturer held his convention at the annual meeting of Skoi-Yase Council #75 for the companions of the 8th Cryptic District. The Cryptic year flew by and many great memories were made in the 8th Cryptic District.

The 8th Cryptic District held their caucus with 10 companions discussing the future of the district and I am sure that the next Thrice Illustrious Grand Master will take their recommendations and make the best choice for his year. Bellow you will find a brief report on each Council in the district as a supplement to the 3 page report provided for each council.

Doric #19- Financially Stable, Dedicated Companions with newer Companions willing to advance in the chairs. Good Education provided by the Recorder. (1) New Select Master this year. Active with charities. (ACTIVE)

Hornellsville #35- Financially Stable, Dedicated Members working to come out of the Covid years. (IN NEED)

Skoi-Yase #75- Financially Stable, 7 out of 10 active members are new within last 3 years. Social programs and education provided by Ill. Master, (1) New Select Master this year and (1) New petition just received. Active with charities (ACTIVE)

Nundewaga #92 - Financially Stable, unable to open since covid by themselves, companions unwilling to advance in the chairs. Chapters it draws from are no longer in existence. (DISFUNCTIONAL)

I would like to thank M.:l.: Donald R. Kunego for giving me the privilege to serve the leadership of the 9th Cryptic District. The 9th District is a strong District and I enjoyed working with the Grand Master and Illustrious Master in the District. It's been an honor to served the district and its companions.

The 9th district had a very productive year. My Official visits to Buffalo Keystone #17, Dunkirk #25, and Hamburg #91 was well attended. The Illustrious Grand Master message "Travel into the Future" was well received with standing applause. The Grand Representative for the 9th, Grand Conductor of the Council, R.:l.: Ernest W. Parker, made his Official visits to each council. We wish him a quick recovery. The Grand Lecturer, RI Frank Faucher, could not make the Grand Lecturer Convention because of illness. Buffalo Keystone #17 conferred the Royal Master and Select Master degrees on one member. They are the strongest of the three councils and have a solid line of officers. Dunkirk #25 conferred the Select Master on 9 new members. They are going strong and have developed a solid line of Officers. Hamburg #91is strong and have a solid line of officers.

Zealously,

R.:l.: Michael B. Seeloff, DDGM

9th Cryptic District

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York
Report of the Grand Lecturer & Ritual Committee 2023-2024

Ritual conventions were held this past year in the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 8th Districts, focused primarily on the Opening and Closing. I visited the 7th and assisted them with a Summoned Joint meeting which was a wonderful night of brotherhood and fellowship. While not an official convention, both councils were represented and it is a path to move forward with! The 6th was regrettably cancelled due to weather and it was not able to be rescheduled. Along the same lines the 9th was delayed and then cancelled due to falling ill to COVID. I will be back in both districts next year with hopes to see many companions as we discuss the Royal Master degree! The goal is to help Councils in the primary function of Cryptic Masonry: performing ritual competently and with feeling, to inspire transformation of Companions. To help emphasize this the Grand council has two awards, the M.: I.: Jay Kosseff Award and the M.: I.: Rex Long Award. To win the M.: I.: Jay Kosseff Award, a Council must participate, with no more than one of its main ritual officers (IM, DM, PCW, CG, CC) absent; more than one Council can win this at the same convention. To win the M.: I.: Rex Long Award, a Council must have the largest traction of its members attend, of the Councils in its District; only one Council can win it at the same convention. The use of ritual books continues to dwindle. I have seen companions fill in lasty minute with little to no use of books which has personally warmed my heart. R.: I.: Stu card started this mission during his time as Grand Lecturer and I'm overjoyed to see it continued! The newest Ritual books are in the process of being printed and at the time of this writing, the production of the books is being completed. We're putting in an order of 250 books for the companions with the availability to order more, if need be, in the future. All changes that were made at the August 2023 grand assembly have been implemented and there is no further changes in the future to our beloved ritual for this book. As demand for the Super Excellent degree has been ever growing, we have been working on making the degree more approachable for our grand jurisdiction without removing the parts necessary for this degree. I cannot thank the Councils for the warm invite as I've traveled the state so far and I would also be remiss in not thanking Rl.: Card and the entire Grand line thus far for their encouragement and assistance. To my Assistant Grand Lecturers thank you for being the Ritual back bones of your respective districts. You do more than anyone knows and honestly have the best job in masonry. If I am re-appointed, I will see you all throughout the 2024-2025 as we discuss the Royal Master Degree!

Respectfully,

R.: I.: Frank Fancher, Grand Lecturer, for the Ritual Committee: R.: I.: Stuart W. Card,
M.: I.: Frank Karwowski, M.: I.: Richard C. Fowler, and the Assistant Grand Lecturers

1st Cryptic District; Assistant Grand Lecturer Annual Return

Greetings,

I am happy to report we have six councils in District One. While we have been experiencing a set back here and there, overall the District is growing. Many Councils newest members are using books with a few exceptions who have picked up the ritual more easily. New members are joining the Councils at a rate equal to if not exceeding loss of members. I see this as a positive sign. All councils are performing degrees on their own and / or, with assistance from other councils.

On a side note regarding building membership in our councils,

A few thoughts come to mind :

1) Being that most of our Grand Line Officers have filled chairs in all the York Rite bodies and beyond, we should collectively consider making it necessary, or at least highly recommended that any Brother heading into the York Rite make it his duty to go through Chapter and Council before Commandery.

2) Brothers curious about the York Rite are not understanding how much Chapter and Council have to offer. Some are under the impression the Royal Arch is only preparation for Commandery, because they hear that you cannot join Commandery without being in the Royal Arch first, and not being able to commit to Commandery, are staying away from the York Rite, as though they would be wasting their time because they will not be joining the Commandery for their religious beliefs.

3) Some how we need to communicate with all our Brothers on the Chapter and Council rituals, and how they explain other important aspects of GMHA's life and work, without bringing up Commandery right away. Today this is reversed, they hear the question How do I become a Knight, with the response always being, You have to join the Royal Arch first. While this is a true and correct way to answer the question, the meanings of the Chapter and Council degrees is not being discussed.

It is a prerequisite for Commandery, but the stand alone rituals of the Chapter and Council are rarely talked about on their own.

Zealously,

V.:I.: David Diamondstein

Assistant Grand Lecturer

1st Cryptic District

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER FOR THE 4TH CRYPTIC DISTRICT; 2023-2024
Submitted by V.∴I.∴ Mathias J. Erschen

This year DDGM David E. Barnes and I collaborated on our visits. This has worked well for us, and I hope to continue this practice.

Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council #14

We visited on Nov. 09, 2023. The council did a good job opening, however books were used by most. Some of the officers attempted to do their parts from memory with occasional glances to the text. This is a stable council, which I feel will improve with practice.

Joseph Warren Cryptic Council #37

We visited on Feb. 23, 2024. The opening was well performed from the book. This is a small council. Sometimes they struggle to have sufficient attendance to open. To address this, they had a rather innovative combined festival of chapter and council degrees on April 6th. R.∴I.∴ Barnes and I were able to assist, as well as R.∴I.∴ Rich Transue. The degrees were conducted with some parts read as some from memory. They could use some improvement in ritual memorization and floor work as they grow.

Oneonta Council #87

We had our visit on Feb, 28, 2024. This council did an excellent job opening. All parts were done from memory with minimal prompting. The only council in this district. This is a well established council, and I see little in need of improvement.

St. Georges Council #74

This visit was rescheduled to Apr, 18, 2024. St. George's does a good opening using the book. I participated in one degree conferral of the royal and select degrees, The degrees were well performed. Some parts were read. The masters part and Hiram's soliloquy were done from memory. Memorization of parts could be improved.

Assistant Grand Lecturer for the 8th Cryptic District: 2023-24

I began my year by being charged as the AGL for the 8th District in Grand Council last August. We welcomed the M.I. Grand Master Donald Kunego in September at Skoi-Yase Council where he charged R.I. Jamie Kaim as the District Deputy Ill. Grand Master of the 8th District along with delivering the M.I. Master message in person!

I also attended Doric Council's 2 degrees, my official visit and Steven Koch's official visit. Doric Council is mostly proficient in all of there ritual in opening, closing and in their degrees.

My official visit along with R.I. Steven Koch's and R.I Jamie Kaim's to Hornesllsville , which now meets in Nunda, had enough Companions present to open and were fairly proficient in there ritual. Like most Councils, their membership has mostly older members and are in need of new and younger Companions to keep the Council open!

Nun Da Waga Council is struggling. Mine, Jamie Kaim's and Steven Koch's visit were the first time that they had opened in awhile! They will need help to keep their Charter!

Skoi-Yase Council does have 4-5 new Companions as officers, but struggles to open because they are all very active in other Masonic bodies which sometimes conflict with meeting nights. Skoi-Yase did have a very successful Table Council on Valentines Day with the wives participating. That being their meeting night, it would have been almost impossible to have a meeting with enough present! All thought that it was very meaningful and happy that the wives participated!

The Grand Lecturer's Convention took place in May at Skoi-Yase Council. It was an informal convention led by the Grand Lecturer Frank Fancher with M.I. Donald Kunego, Grand Master, blessing us with a shortened opening and closing. The Grand Lecturer provided thought provoking questions and received some thought provoking answers! I thought that it was a very interesting deviation from the conventional ritual based Grand Lecturers Convention.

As I have said, nearly all of the councils have mostly older Companions and in need of new and younger Companions. There is no active recruitment programs being used to attract new Companions that I have seen! York Rite Masonry must try to do more to promote their York Rite bodies!!

Fraternally,

Stephen Goebert, A.G.L. 8th District

Greetings Companions of all Ranks and Titles,

Passion for Cryptic Masonry and particularly the Ritual is alive and well in the 9th Cryptic District. We are composed of three Councils. Buffalo-Keystone Council #17 has the most tenured members attending meetings and mentoring their new leadership. They actively work on presenting the ritual work from memory and have the capacity to confer the degree with all their own members. They routinely are conferring the degrees and bringing in new Companions. Dunkirk Council #25 has had a revitalization this year while bringing in many new members who are starting their journey as officers. They have a core group of tenured companions mentoring the future leadership. Dunkirk Council has conferred the degrees with the assistance of Brothers around the district and these new members are picking up the work. If the trajectory continues Dunkirk Council will be leveraging their new members and presenting all the ritual work from memory. Hamburg Council #91 has stabilized the Council over the years and are not questioning if they will have a quorum to formally open. Officers utilize the ritual book to open and close; however, this practice is becoming less of an occurrence with the expectation of opening each time they meet. This council has not conferred a degree in its own Council in a while but can do so with some work and assistance from around the district. Our Grand Lecturer's Convention this year had to be postponed/canceled due to our Grand Lecturer falling ill the night prior to the convention and rescheduling the date was not successful. Each of our three Councils has the desire and passion to learn, practice and maintain the ritual. Each council has Companions educated and actively mentoring the future leader.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bob

V.: I.: Robert Drzewucki
Assistant Grand Lecturer '23-'24
9th Cryptic District
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York
C: (716) 982-1538
rdrzewu@yahoo.com
<http://www.nycryptic.org/>



Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York

Most Illustrious Donald R. Kunego

Acting Grand Master November 2022 - August 2023
Grand Master August 2023 - August 2024



Grand Master's Allocution:

Most Worshipful Grand Master Steven Adam Rubin, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Robert Hogan, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master Daniel Elliott, Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Companions, Members of the York Rite and Scottish Rite, Honored Guests, My Brothers All, Greetings.

I would like to begin by giving thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for the opportunity to have served our Grand Council. And I will be eternally grateful for the continued support, encouragement, trust and confidence received from the Grand Council, Council Officers, Companions and Past Grand Masters.

A Special Thank You for my wife, best friend and the love of my life **Lady Barbara "Bobbie" Kunego**, whose encouragement and unwavering support has made my Masonic Journey more enjoyable during my ascent up the Grand Line. She has been with me from the start and enabled me to live my theme. "**Travel into the Future**". I have been truly Blessed to have her by my side during this journey.

I would like to pause a moment to remember our Brother Companions that were called home by the Great Architect during the past two years with a quote by Justin Cronin: "As long as we remember a person, they're not really gone. Their thoughts, their feelings, their memories, they become a part of us". Let us continue to remember.....

Being that we "ALL" started our Masonic Journey as a Traveling man seeking "More Light", I chose "**Travel Into the Future**" as my theme. By pursuing and achieving "More Light", the light at the end of the tunnel will only become brighter.

During my masonic travels, I decided to choose a path for my "**Travel into the Future**", that would set an example and provide opportunities for all Companions to read, observe, learn, investigate, participate and make the extra effort to "**Make History**". Hopefully all were successful to be the one that creates, grows and made history during their travels.

During my journey, I became acutely aware of a quote by Sir Winston Churchill: "To each, there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing...what a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared for that which could have been their finest hour."

I will be eternally grateful for the support, encouragement, trust and confidence received from the Grand Council, District Deputies, Assistant Grand Lecturers, Council Officers, Companions and Past Grand Masters when M.'I.'. Steven Rubenstein was called home by the Great Architect and I received my "tap on the shoulder" on a cold day in November 2022. Thrust from Deputy Grand Master to Acting Grand Master, accelerated my trestle board and travel plans and accentuated the meaning of my theme, "**Travel Into the Future**".

Just before the Great Architect called him home, M.'I.'. Steven Rubenstein was making plans and looking forward with great anticipation to celebrating the "200th Anniversary of the Grand Council". I was honored when he asked me to design a special "Token" to commemorate the event. The design had to be unique to Cryptic Masonry. Several formats and designs were submitted and he chose the one designed as a hanging jewel with a purple ribbon with our Grand Council Seal upon it suspended from a golden top bar embossed with "200th Anniversary". The round jewel's obverse body was to contain our Grand Council's name, dates of incorporation & anniversary and Alpha & Omega symbols, a representation of a Secret Vault and contain nine Amethyst color stones symbolizing the "The Nine Arches" of Cryptic Masonry. The jewel was to be accompanied by a matching lapel pin and enclosed in a presentation case stamped in gold with the NY Cryptic Seal and "New York 200th Anniversary". The jewel was minted and made available for the Companions in early 2023. M.'I.'. Steven Rubenstein was looking forward to announcing the availability of the jewel and celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Grand Council. With the help and assistance of many Companions his dream was a huge success.

During my term in office the following programs, projects and events were developed and held with the help and assistance of many Companions throughout our jurisdiction. These activities provided a platform that produced opportunities for Companions to grow, learn and prepare for their "**Travel into the Future**":

- **200th Anniversary Celebration:** With the help and support of numerous Companions the 200th Anniversary of the New York Grand Council was recognized via a Celebration Event held on September 23rd, 2024 at the Albany, N.Y. Temple. A wooden "Time Capsule" was designed as a facsimile of the "Arc of the Covenant" and received numerous items from Councils, Districts and individuals commemorating the Grand Council's history.

For all those that attended, additional limited edition "Tokens" were designed and available to commemorate the event:

- A Souvenir Program
- A black 200th Anniversary lapel pin designed by R.'I.'. Daniel D. Elliott
- A black 200th Anniversary Poker chip designed by R.'I.'. Daniel D. Elliott

This historic event was attended by 90+ Companions and guests representing General Grand Council, NY Grand Council and Councils, NY Grand Lodge, NY York and Scottish Rites, Prince Hall, NY Masonic War Veterans, Sister Jurisdictions of New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania.

The 200th Anniversary Celebration was highlighted by the following events:

- Tiled Opening by members of Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council No.14
- Posting of the Colors by Masonic War Veterans of the State of NY - Grand Post & LCDR John E. Hart Post #70 Commanded by R.'W.'. Edward Mosso

- A Cast of Members from Columbian Council No. 1 gave a superb performance of the Super Excellent Degree. Grand Council coordination with the cast was conducted by R.'I.'. Frank M. Fancher and R.'I.'. Stuart W. Card.
- Coordination with the Albany Temple Association a wonderful, informative tour of the Albany Temple was conducted by I.'. Michael Hernandez.
- An open "Festive Board" was held with Toasts and a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner.
 - The Master of Ceremonies was R.'I.'. Steven W. Howard.
 - Format of the Festive Board was authored by R.'I.'. Keith Alan Becker.
- The "Time Capsule" was sealed via a Ceremony of Consecration authored by R.'I.'. Keith Alan Becker and officiated by M.'I.'. (Rev.) Charles Roberts
- Musical Accompaniment was provided by R.'I.'. Gerald F. Irwin

A special "Thank You" and "Well Done" goes to the following Event Team Leaders who provided vital support that made the event a success:

- Registration – R.'I.'. Carl J. Klossner
 - Planning and Coordination – R.'I.'. Daniel Elliott, R.'I.'. Richard Kerimoglu and R.'I.'. Keith Alan Becker
 - Reception – R.'I.'. Ernest Parker
- In commemoration of my term in office as Grand Master, a Souvenir Set comprised of a Grand Master's Lapel Pin and Challenge Coin was designed and minted. With the help and assistance of the District Deputies the Souvenir set was advertised, promoted throughout the jurisdiction. All donations received were forwarded to the Grand Council Charity Fund.
 - A Grand Council "**Travel Passport**" with my theme "**Travel Into the Future**" was designed, printed and distributed throughout the jurisdiction with the assistance of the District Deputies. The program was utilized by the Companions to document their Masonic Cryptic Travels.
 - The office of "**Grand Architect**" with the title of R.'I.'. was instituted, confirmed and added as a Grand Council Officer. The office was filled upon appointment of R.'I.'. Richard J. Powell to the office. He is truly worthy and well qualified and has made many informational programs available since his appointment. The goal of the office is for Companions and Brothers to gain a greater understanding of our Cryptic Masonic history and provide a conduit for our widows and orphans to learn about and preserve the legacy of their deceased family member, specifically as it pertains to their Masonic accomplishments and artifacts.
 - "The M.'I.'. E. William Whittaker Award" was created as the Grand Council's Grand Master's Award. The award is designed, minted and comes packaged in a leatherette carrying case. This prestigious award presented by the Grand Master to honor individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, integrity, and selflessness in their contributions to our noble institution.
 - My Reception was well attended and the published Journal was a great success. Many Thanks for all that "Stepped-up to the plate" to make it happen. A Thank You to the following for making the event very special: Lady Bobbie, R.'I.'. Steven Howard, R.'I.'. Keith Alan Becker and M.'I.'. (Rev.) Charles Roberts.

I had an active year concerning Dispensations. A "Well Done" and "Thank You" for our Grand Recorder, for M.'I.'. John A. Gallant for processing all the documents. Dispensations received

were requests to add and or change meeting days, new or temporary meeting locations and for the conferral of our Degrees.

Our Grand Council's Grand Representatives program is still very active. Over the last two years we had several losses through death and retirements. Currently several nominations are actively being considered by our Sister Jurisdictions. Also, three have been granted and warrants have been received. As this program is viable and positions are being requested, our Councils should be encouraged to nominate their worthy Companions.

During my time as your Grand Master, I was privileged attend many events within and outside our jurisdiction that gave me the opportunity to meet new Brothers and renew Friendships that reinforced my efforts to support York Rite and Scottish Rite "Unity". The bonds formed via Friendship and Fellowship made were very special. I would like to thank the visiting Brothers who have traveled to attend our Grand Council's 200th Anniversary Celebration, 200th and 201st Annual Assembly, were are honored to receive you.

The following is a partial listing of the Journeys made during my "**Travel into the Future**" as Grand Master:

- Visits to numerous Councils whilst performing Installation of Officers, enjoying Table Councils, and Degree Conferrals.
 - o 200th Anniversary Celebration NY Grand Council, Albany, NY
- NY Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Sessions, Binghamton, NY
 - o Numerous visits to Chapters and Degree Conferrals
 - o 200th Anniversary R.A.M Fidelity Chapter No. 77, Trumansburg, NY
- Grand Commandery, Albany, NY
- New York Grand Lodge Annual Sessions and
 - o St. Johns Day Celebrations, Utica, NY
 - o 125th Anniversary Sutherland Lodge No. 826, N. Tonawanda, NY
- New York Scottish Rite Council of Deliberation 154th & 155th Annual Convocations
 - o Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite NMJ, Home Coming for Sovereign Grand Commander III. Peter J. Samiec, Albany, NY
- Masonic War Veterans Annual Conventions, Alexandria Bay, NY
- Ontario Canada – 124th Annual Assembly of Royal & Select Masters
- New Hampshire – 162nd Royal & Select Grand Session
- Connecticut – 204th Grand Council Session, Cromwell, CT
- South Carolina – 164th Royal & Select Grand Session, Columbia, SC
 - o Concordant Bodies Association – Royal & Select Sessions, Conway, SC

Reflecting upon the last two years, I leave you with a few recommendations as the outgoing Grand Master.

- Participation in the Concordant Bodies meeting and submitting articles for the NY Mason has been very informative and productive whilst reinforcing "York Rite Unity" and should be continued.
- Requitement, membership, participation and losses of companions continues to present challenges within our Constituent Councils. These issues should be under constant review and the Grand Line Officers, District Deputies, Council officers and companions should strive to identify and develop paths forward to increase interest to attend and encourage active membership recruitment. Mentoring, should involve all Companions and be a bottom-up practice to encourage attendance and increase ritual proficiency.

- Continue the policy of publishing local and District events, meeting announcements and minutes always has been a way to increase interest and participation.
- Also, keep in mind that one of a Leader's greatest accomplishments is to create a legacy policy that recruits and mentors worthy Companions for future positions of responsibility.

I would like to recognize and Thank members of the **Elected and appointed Grand Line, District Deputies, Assistant Grand Lecturers, Council Officers and Companions** for all of their support, efforts and outstanding work during the last year and nine months that have brought our great Council forward. Your dedication and leadership efforts have assured a productive path into the future for our Great Fraternity.

To My Brother and Friend, **Right Illustrious Daniel D. Elliott**, upon his ascension to the office of Grand Master and his elected and appointed Grand Line Officers, I pledge my unwavering support. Also, I will continue to provide assistance and guidance for all Companions of our Great Grand Council – Always “For the Good of the Craft”.

Upon leaving office, I pray that under my efforts and leadership, I will have left our Grand Council with an enriched esprit de corps and improvements that will ensure a productive future. I am confident that as the Grand Council “**Travels into the Future**” it will continue to grow and prosper under the leadership and guidance of the incoming Grand Master and his elected and appointed Grand Line Officers.

“A person who is appreciated will always do more than is expected”, Amy Rees Anderson author

Brother Companions, as members of the “Greatest Fraternity”, we all share the name that we cherish, “**My Brother**”. This name is the **needle** that rests upon **our moral compass** that provides guidance as we travel along the “**Alpha-Omega**” of our Masonic Journey.

“We were, we are, we always will be Brothers”.....

Thank You for the Privilege to Serve.

God Bless our Fraternity, May God Bless our Troops and First Responders and May God Bless the United States of America!

Zealously Always for the “Good of the Craft”,



Most Ill. Donald R. Kunego
 Grand Master
 Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York

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Dispensations 2022-2024

1. **Columbian Council No.1**, to call a meeting on April 3rd, 2024 for the purpose of electing and installing its officers for the ensuing year
2. **Columbian Council No. 1**, to confer the Super Excellent Master Degree using Columbian Council's Degree Ritual as part of our Grand Council's 200th Anniversary in Albany NY
3. **Central City Council No. 13**, to hold a special assembly on November 21st, 2023 for the purpose of combining with King Hiram Council No. 18 for the presentation of the Select Master Degree.
4. **Bloss-Dewitt Clinton Council No. 14**, to hold a special meeting on August 24th, 2024 in Albany NY for the purpose of Electing and Installing its Officers for the ensuing Cryptic year.
5. **Buffalo-Keystone #17**, to move their stated assembly meeting location to be at the 32nd Degree Masonic Center, 2379 Union Road, Cheektowaga, NY.
6. **King Hiram Council No. 18**, request for a dispensation to relocate our November 21st, 2023 stated communication from Auburn Lodge to Liverpool Lodge.
7. **King Hiram Council No.18**, to relocate your November 21st stated communication to Liverpool Lodge, for the purpose of combining with Central City Council No. 13 for the presentation of the Select Master Degree.
8. **Ahwaga Council No. 30**, to hold your Annual Meeting on Monday, June 26th, 2023.
9. **Adoniram Council No. 36**, to hold a Special Assembly on Monday, May 22, 2023 for the purposes of Election and Installation of Officers.
10. **Joseph Warren Council No. 37**, to hold a special meeting on July 26th, 2024 for the purpose of Electing and Installing its Officers for the ensuing Cryptic year.
11. **North Shore Council No. 88**, to cancel the Assembly on the fourth Monday of March 2024 and to add an Assembly on the fourth Monday of April 2024
12. **North Shore Council No. 88**, to reschedule their stated assembly from March 25th to April 22nd for the purpose of holding an assembly and a practice for their Select Master Degree
13. **Cayuga Council No. 90**, to hold a Special Assembly on Thursday, July 13th, 2023 at 7:00pm, for the purpose of electing and installing your Officers for 2023-24.
14. **Cayuga Council No. 90**, to hold a meeting on May 9th, 2024 in Cortlandville Masonic Hall for the purpose of Electing and Installing its Officers for the ensuing Cryptic year.
15. **Nundawaga Council # 92**, to hold a Special Annual Meeting on Monday, September 25th 2023 at 7:30pm, for the purpose of electing and installing your Officers for 2023-24.
16. **Goshen Council No. 93**, to hold your Council Meetings starting at 7:30pm.



King Solomons Council No. 31 Saugerties, New York 12477

January 15, 2024

R. V. I. David R. Barkstedt, Recorder
235 W. Saugerties Rd.
Saugerties, NY 12477
dave@eliteconsultantsinc.com

I. V. William S. Nugent
934 Old Albany Post Rd.
Garrison, NY 10524
wsnugent4560@gmail.com

To: The Grand Secretary, Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Council Officers, Illustrious Masters, Council Records and Commandery Records

****RE: Intent to apply for NY Grand Council Steward Station**



R. V. I. A. Harry Williams
D.O.B. May 30, 1957

Harry Williams commits himself fully to every position he assumes and has been a tremendous asset to all the York Rite and Scottish Rite bodies of which he is a member. He looks for ways to strengthen all Masonic bodies with which he is involved. He has led and taught educational programs at all levels and has worked to enhance reading courses and education courses. He is currently working on improving the Cryptic collection at the Livingston Library. His commitment to the fraternity is as strong as ever and he has become a tremendous asset to all the York Rite and Scottish Rite bodies of which he is a member. King Solomon's Council #31 strongly believes that Companion Williams would again be a positive addition to New York Grand Council's Grand Line We strongly believe that Harry Williams would be a positive addition to the Grand Council of Cryptic Mason Grand Line. We encourage your support of this fine man and Mason.

Thank you for your consideration.
F & Z

R. V. I. David R. Barkstedt
Recorder

Personal Life:

Family:

Wife - Janice

Children: Jessica Mitchell, Jennifer Reed, Becky Taylor, Carter Williams,

Grandchildren: Austin Mitchell, Lauren Reed, Lindsey Reed, Kristin Mitchell,
Grayson Taylor

Education:

Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY; MBA - Human Resources 1996

Syracuse University, MS - Computer and Information Science 1987

Marist College, Poughkeepsie NY; BA - Computer Math 1980

Work Experience:

Marist College – 1980-present

Expected retirement - June 2024

Religious Life:

Elder – Westminster Presbyterian Church – 2008-2011

Red Hook UMC Food Pantry – 2012-present

Masonic History:

Adonai Lodge No 718:

- Initiated February 23, 1993
- Passed March 23, 1993
- Raised April 26, 1993
- Master: 2000-2002, 2004-2005
- Chaplain: 2006-2012
- Senior Warden: 2012-2014
- Chaplain: 2015-present

- Additional Activities:
 - AGL – Greene-Ulster 2006-2008, 2014-2016
 - DDGM – Greene-Ulster 2008-2010
 - Advisor for High Peaks Chapter Order of DeMolay 2015-present
 - President Greene-Ulster Past Grand Lodge Officers Assoc. 2010-2017
 - Chairman Mid-Hudson Past Grand Lodge Officers Assoc. 2018-2020
 - President Mid-Hudson Past Grand Lodge Officers Assoc. 2020-present

Mountain Lodge No 529

- Honorary Member – 2011

Warren Lodge No 32

- Member 2011-present
- Senior Warden: 2014-2015, 2016-2023
- Junior Warden: 2023-2024
- Master: 2015-2016

Geneva Lodge No 965 (Now Geneva-Ark No 33)

- Member 2012-present

American Lodge of Research

Member 2010-present

Southern California Research Lodge

Member 2009-present

Missouri Lodge of Research #9998

Member 2020-present #256022

Thomas Smith Webb Research Chapter

Member 2023-present

Royal Arch – Poughkeepsie Chapter #172

- June 2012
- High Priest 2018-2019
- Treasurer 2023-present
- 5th Capitular District Education Officer 2021-2023
- AGL 5th Capitular District 2023-present
- Capitular Development Course taught 2020, 2021, 2022
- Royal Arch Capstone Course 2021, 2022

Cryptic Rite – King Solomon Council No 31

- March 2015
- Illustrious Master 2017-2019
- Treasurer 2021-present
- R.I. District Deputy Grand Illustrious Master 2023-present
- V.I. Assistant Grand Lecturer District 2 2022-2023
- R.I. Grand Historian 2022-present

Knights Templar – Poughkeepsie Commandery #43

- Poughkeepsie Commandery #43 March 2017
- Trustee 2020 – present
- Grand Commandery Newsletter 2022 - present

Scottish Rite NMJ:

- Valley of The Hudson: 2013
- Trustee 2018-2020
- Treasurer 2020-present
- Meritorious Service Award 2023
- Scottish Rite Research Society 2019-present

AMD: Jay Kosseff Council #557

- Charter Member
- Sovereign Master

July 2018
2020-2021

Hudson Valley Forest No 215 – Tall Cedars of America

- Charter Member
- Treasurer

2014
2014 - present

Additional Masonic Memberships:

- Poughkeepsie Masonic Temple Association Trustee
◦ Secretary
- Philalethes Society
- Cyprus Shrine #5
- Grotto – Tri Po Bed Grotto No 132
- The Masonic Society Member
- Bannack 3-7-77 Historic Lodge member
- Order of Saratoga
- Muscovite Degree
- Red Cross of Constantine
- Glencairn Council No 14, Knights Masons
- Albany York Rite College No 24
- Grand College of Rites of the United States of America
- Royal Order of Scotland

2017-present
2018-present
2020-present
April 2017- present
2019-present
2013-present
2019-present
2023
2020
April 2019 – present
October 2019 – present
October 2019 – present
2020-present
2023 – present

Boy Scouts of America 1975-present

Assistant Scoutmaster BSA Troop 72 - Marlboro
Scoutmaster Troop 72
Eagle Scout
Order of the Arrow
Woodbadge trained
Algonquin District Committee, Rip Van Winkle Council,
Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award - 2013

2009-2015

Sons of the Revolution – 1985-present

Computer Technical Professional:

Open Mainframe Project – Governing Board Member 2015-present
SHARE President 2016-2018
SHARE Nominating Committee Chair 2018-2020
SHARE Vice President, Director of Industry Relations 2014-2016
SHARE Treasurer 2012-2014
SHARE Director of Community Enablement 2009-2012
SHARE Integrating Services Technologies Program Co-Chair 2007-2009
USERblue Program Committee Program Co-Chair 2000-2005
SHARE Distributed Systems Program Manager 1998-2006
SHARE Storage Management Technical Steering Committee 1991-2000
The VM Workshop Program Chairman 1986-1994

King Hiram Council #18
Auburn, NY 13021



C:.Thomas Ostrander, Recorder
118 N. Hoopes Ave
Auburn, NY 13021
315.224.0940
tostrander7948@gmail.com

Ill:.Michael A Miller
1 Norma Drive
Auburn, NY 13021
315.729.3680
millers980@gmail.com

To: The Grand Secretary, Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Council Officers, Illustrious Masters,
Council Recorders

RE: Nomination of RI:.Steven W. Howard for the Station of Grand Council Steward



Greetings Companions,

On behalf of the Officers & Companions of King Hiram Council #18 - Auburn, it is my distinct honor to officially nominate this outstanding Companion for the Station of Grand Steward for the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of New York!

RI:.Howard has faithfully served our Craft as a distinguished leader for many years now. He has served as DDGM under MW:.Sullivan, DDGHP under both ME:.Huck & ME:.Raymond, DDGM under MI:.Rubenstein and MI:.Kunego, and is currently supporting MI:.Kunego as Grand Sentinel.

In addition to his vastly demonstrated leadership skills, RI:.Howard demonstrates a passion for our Ritual and demonstrates exemplary presentation of it.

Through his consistent dedication to our Craft, RI:.Howard's commitment was identified early in his York Rite career by his mentor, MI:.E. Wm. Whittaker. MI:.Whittaker felt strongly that this kind of *Man and Mason* is what is needed for the continued success of *Our Grand Council*.

It is once again, my honor and privilege to nominate my dear friend and Companion, RI: Steven Howard for the Station of Grand Steward for the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

Illustrious Master:	III: Michael A Miller	<u>Michael A. Miller</u>
Deputy Master:	RI: Steven Howard	<u>Steven W. Howard</u>
Principal Conductor of the Work:	C: Anthony Tabone	<u>Anthony Tabone</u>
Captain of the Guard:	C: G. Scott Harris	<u>G. Scott Harris</u>
Conductor of the Council:	C: Scott Bennett	<u>Scott Bennett</u>
Treasurer:	C: Joe Sheppard	<u>Joe Sheppard</u>
Recorder:	C: Tom Ostrander	<u>Tom Ostrander</u>

Steven William Howard

Business Address: 2 North Herman Avenue - Auburn, NY 13021

Home Address 265 Seymour Street

City & zip: Auburn, New York 13021

County: USA

Wife's Name: Mary

Children: Rachel (23)- Music Teacher, Leah (20) – Sophomore at Central College , Major- Kinesiology / Exercise Science, Christopher (17)- Senior at Auburn High School

Years a Master Mason: Raised 4-20-2006

Business/Profession: Educator

Lodge: Auburn No. 124 **Highest Office Held:** Worshipful Master

Chapter: King David No. 34 **Highest Office Held:** High Priest

Council: King Hiram No. 18 **Highest Office Held:** Illustrious Master

Commandary: Sagoyewatha No. 17 **Highest Office Held:** Commander

Other Positions:

Grand Lodge: Past District Deputy Grand Master

Royal Arch: Past District Deputy Grand High Priest / Past AGL, Grand Chapter Education Committee

Cryptic Council: Current Grand Sentinel, Grand Council State of NY, Current District Deputy Grand Master

Commandary: Deputy Zone Commander, Sagoyewatha No. 17

Masonic Bodies / Affiliations:

32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason - Valley of Syracuse

Royal Arch Mariner Degree -- Grand Council of Ontario (May 2017)

Damascus Shriners

Member of Order of Old Saratoga

Member—Order of The Larks

Invitational Bodies:

Red Cross of Constantine – Christian Conclave

York Rite College – Central New York No. 27

Knight York Cross of Honor -- Empire State

Order of Knight Masons – Cathair Salann Council

Other Masonic affiliations and achievements: President - Grand Lodge Officers Association of Cayuga Tompkins District (2014-present), Past President - Cayuga Tompkins District Past Masters Association, Secretary -- Cayuga Tompkins Past Masters Association, Past Treasurer - Cayuga Tompkins Masonic Charities Corporation. Past President / Past Vice President - Zone 8 Council Officers Association, NY State Council of

Steven William Howard

Other Organizational involvement: American Kang Duk Won Karate -- 4th Degree Black Belt & Chief Instructor, Past Member of Administrative Council - Auburn United Methodist Church, Past Chair of Auburn United Methodist Church Finance Committee, Past Recorder - Auburn United Methodist Church Finance Committee, Member of Memorial Committee - Auburn United Methodist Church, Past "Band Dad" for Auburn Vanguard Marching Band, Past Secretary - Cayuga County Music Educators Association, Scholar Award Judge - Cayuga County Music Educators Association, Past Facilitator / Presenter – Music K-12 Collaborative Community: Cayuga Onondaga BOCES.

To the Companions and Officers of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of New York,
Letter of Recommendation for Companion Steven Howard, King Hiram Council #18

Over the years in my Cryptic travels, I have had the privilege to work with Companion Steven Howard of King Hiram Council. I have found him to be a very dedicated Mason and committed Cryptic Companion. His work as the District Deputy Grand Master of the sixth District and as our Grand Sentinel has been outstanding.

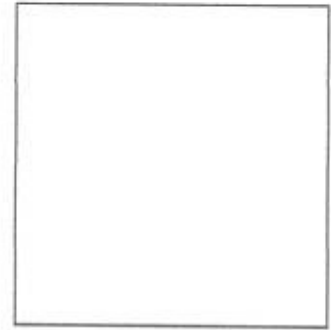
It is my pleasure to present this letter of recommend for him for the Position of Grand Steward in our Grand Council.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Gallant". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John A. Gallant
Doric Council #19

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

**Most Illustrious Richard C. Fowler
Past Grand Master
148 Maltby Road
Pulaski, NY 13142-3223
RFowler415@aol.com**



I am writing this letter of recommendation in support of Right Illustrious Steven Howard. He is seeking the office of Grand Steward of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York. I have known him for many years and have the utmost confidence that he will perform the duties of the office to the best of his ability. He has always performed any tasks asked of him and most of the times he went beyond what we expected of him. He always asks if there is anything he can do to assist in any undertaking without any thought of reward to himself. He is ever prompt and punctual in any meetings.

I heartily endorse his name to be considered for this office and look forward to serving with him.

Fraternally and Zealously,

M. I. Richard Fowler, O.P.C., O.S.V.
Past Grand Master