

# PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

of the  
One Hundred Fifty-First  
Annual Assembly  
of the  
Grand Council of Cryptic  
Masons of the State of Missouri  
held  
June 9, 2016  
Capital Plaza Hotel  
Jefferson City, Missouri





# Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri

## 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly Schedule

(subject to modification as necessary)

### Thursday, June 9, 2016

- 7:30 a.m. Red Cross of Constantine Breakfast Meeting – Members Only (Carnegie)  
Others, Breakfast – On Your Own
- 8:00 a.m. Registration (Credentials Committee) – Council and Commandery only – until  
10:30 am (Atrium)
- 9:00 a.m. Welcoming Comments by Master of Ceremonies – Open to Ladies and Guests  
(Capitol/Truman)  
Introduction of the Grand Lecturer and the Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers  
Introduction of the Regional Deputy Grand Masters  
Introduction of the 2015-2016 Grand Council Officers  
Brief Welcoming Comments by the Grand Master  
Reception of the Past Grand Masters of Missouri  
Reception of the Out of State Grand Council Officers  
Recognition of the Grand Representatives  
Reception of Heads of Missouri York Rite Bodies  
Reception of National Body Representatives  
Reception of the General Grand Council Officers  
Reception of the General Grand Master or Representative & brief remarks  
Reception of the Grand Lodge Officers  
Reception of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri & brief remarks  
Summary Address of the Grand Master  
Necrology: Part of the Grand Master's Address  
Address of General Grand Master or his Representative (\* if time permits)  
Address of Grand Master of Grand Lodge or his Representative (\* if time permits)  
(\* if out of time, moved to last agenda item)  
Dismissal of the Ladies and the Non-Member Guests
- 10:15 a.m. Formal Opening of the 151<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic  
Masons of the State of Missouri (Capitol/Truman)  
Preliminary Report of the Credentials Committee
- 10:30 a.m. Election of the 2016-2017 Grand Council Officers  
Report of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address  
Report of the Jurisprudence Committee

- Report of the Finance Committee
- Report of the Grand Treasurer
- Report of the Grand Recorder
- Routine Business & Additional Committee Reports (as needed)
- Report of the Election Committee
- Acceptance of the Grand Council Officers Elect
- Report of the Grand Master Elect – w/Appointments
- Report of the Committee on Time and Place
- \* Address of the General Grand Master or Representative
- \* Address of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri
- 12:00 p.m. Grand Council Closed or Called from Labor until 3:00 pm
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Sponsored by Yeomen of York – Open to All – Special Presentation by  
Coyote Hill Christian Children’s Home (Carnegie)
- 1:30 p.m. Order of the Silver Trowel (Missouri)
- 3:00 p.m. Grand Council Resumes Labor (concludes remaining business, if any)  
***All Grand Council Awards will be given at the Grand York Rite Awards Banquet***
- 3:30 p.m. Installation of the 2016-2017 Grand Council Officers, Open to Ladies and Guests
- 4:30 p.m. Close of the 151st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of  
the State of Missouri
- Pictures
- 6:00 p.m. Family Feud Dinner/Entertainment
- 9:00 p.m. Grand Council Officer’s Meeting – Grand Line Officers, RDGMs, RDGLs (TBA)
- 9:00 p.m. Grand Commandery Practice – Grand Line Officers (Capitol/Truman)

**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri  
2015-2016**

**Elected and Appointed Officers**

William G. Snyder.....	Grand Master
Todd A. Schulze .....	Deputy Grand Master
Michael E. Day.....	Grand Principal Conductor of the Work (acting)
Donald L. Trabue .....	Grand Treasurer
Kevin B. Sample .....	Grand Recorder
Joseph P. Elsen .....	Grand Captain of the Guard (acting)
Aaron M. Shoemaker .....	Grand Conductor of the Council (acting)
Christopher M. Tilley .....	Grand Marshal (acting)
Wayne B. Fryer.....	Grand Steward (acting)
Jerry Bradford .....	Grand Lecturer (Resigned)
John S. Lambros .....	Grand Sentinel
Patrick D. West.....	Assistant Grand Sentinel
Matthew L. Quesenberry .....	Assistant Grand Sentinel
Stanton T. Brown, II.....	Assistant Grand Sentinel
Kevin E. Weaver .....	Grand Chaplain
Mark A. Dobson .....	Assistant Grand Chaplain
Ronald E. Wood, Jr. ....	Assistant Grand Chaplain
Byron E. Hams .....	Assistant Grand Chaplain
Thomas Leroy Truman .....	Assistant Grand Chaplain
John E. Schofield .....	Grand Organist - West
Steven C. Monrotus.....	Grand Organist - East
Daniel R. Quesenberry .....	Grand Chorister
Christopher E. Tilley .....	Grand Historian

**Regional Deputy Grand Masters**

Thomas E. Christine.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 1
Daryl L. Price.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 2
Jeffery L. Fielder-Bey .....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 3
Gentry E. Slone.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 4
Matthew D. Ruth.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 5
Stephen T. Thompson .....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 6
Clifton W. Wofford .....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 7
Christopher E. Tilley .....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 8
Michael C. Rohman .....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 9

## **Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers**

Jerry L. Miles .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 1
(Vacant) .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 2
Aaron E. Rose .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 3
Donald E. Gilkerson .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 4
David R. Phillips .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 5
Walter W. Doyle .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 6
Clifton W. Wofford .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 7
Kevin E. Weaver .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 8
Wayne B. Fryer .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 9

## **Regional Deputy Grand Chaplains**

(Vacant) .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 1
(Vacant) .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 2
Donald L. Huggins .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 3
(Vacant) .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 4
(Vacant) .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 5
John W. Shoemaker .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 6
Harry L. Tripp, Jr. ....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 7
(Vacant) .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 8
Mark A. Bean .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 9

## **Grand Guardians**

Roy L. Gilkey .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
David C. Witte .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
James L. Woodfin, Jr. ....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
John W.F. Hess .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
Ronnie E. Green .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
Steven C. Monrotus .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
Rocky E. Weaver .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
William C. Woolsey .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch
C. Brent Stewart .....	Guardian of the Ninth Arch

## Standing Committees

### Address of the Grand Master

Terry R. Struse, Chairman  
William C. Woolsey  
David C. Witte

### Credentials

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman  
Fred F. Stuecken, Emeritus  
J. Joseph Hayes  
Robert L. Schmidt  
Nathan D. Carrington

### Finance & Accounts

David C. Witte, Chairman  
Matthew D. Ruth  
Michael E. Day  
Bob L. Detherow

Donald L. Trabue, Ex-officio

Kevin B. Sample, Ex-officio

### Jurisprudence

Glenn E. Means, Chairman  
Walter W. Doyle  
C. Brent Stewart  
Jeffery L. Fielder-Bey  
Jeffrey A. Keevil

### Returns of Councils

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman  
Fred F. Stuecken, Emeritus  
J. Joseph Hayes  
Robert L. Schmidt  
Johnny L. Schlenker

## Special Committees

### Audit

Danny D. Smothers, Chairman  
Stanton T. Brown, II

### Annual Assembly Planning

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman  
Michael E. Day  
Harold F. Coots  
William C. Woolsey

### Buckeye Award

Stanton T. Brown, II, Chairman  
Jerry Bradford  
Johnny L. Schlenker

### By-Laws Review & Revision

David C. Witte, Chairman  
Todd A. Schulze  
Harley L. Kropf

### Charity & Charity Endowment Fund

John S. Lambros, Chairman

### Education

Kevin E. Weaver, Chairman

### Education: Grand Council Merit Award

William G. Snyder  
Patrick D. West  
Joseph P. Elsen

### Education: Cryptic Education - Freemasonry 2.5

Chris E. Tilley  
Mark A. Dobson  
Todd A. Schulze

### Education: Recruitment & Retention

Vacant

### Endowed Membership

Walter W. Doyle, Chairman  
James G. Haddox  
Kevin B. Sample, Ex-officio  
Donald L. Trabue, Ex-officio

#### Fraternal Correspondence

Charles M. Huey, Chairman

Todd A. Schulze

Johnny L. Schlenker

#### General Grand Council Charity Committee

William G. Buckner, Chairman

James G. Haddox

#### General Grand Council Endowed Membership

George M. Merkle, Chairman

#### Grand Master's Cryptic Day

Kevin B. Sample, Chairman

Jerry Bradford

Jerry L. Miles

William G. Snyder

#### RDGM & Leadership Events

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman

Aaron M. Shoemaker

Chris E. Tilley

#### RDGL & Instruction Events

Johnny L. Schlenker, Chairman

Michael E. Wheeler

Joseph P. Elsen

#### Regional Governance

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman

Michael E. Day

Donald L. Huggins

Harry L. Tripp, Jr.

#### Regional York Rite Conferences

Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Chairman

Dennis E. Fetter

Matthew B. James

William G. Snyder

#### Ritual

Jerry Bradford, Chairman

Matthew L. Quesenberry

Jerry L. Miles

Kevin E. Weaver

William G. Snyder

#### Royal Arch Mason Magazine

Roy L. Gilkey, Editor

#### Social Media/Communications/Internet

Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman

Dan McCormack, Web Master

David C. Witte

#### Time and Place

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman

Johnny L. Schlenker

Michael E. Day

#### Triennial

Johnny L. Schlenker, Chairman

Michael E. Day

Nathan D. Carrington

#### Youth and Membership

Roger D. Salyer, Chairman

Danny D. Smothers

Aaron M. Shoemaker

#### Order of Silver Trowel

Roger D. Fleer, Secretary/Treasurer

## Living Past Grand Masters

Everette L. Gloyd (1978-1979)  
 Jack R. Clark, Sr. (1987-1988)  
 Lawrence R. Albright, II (1993-1994)  
 C. Richard Carter (1995-1996)  
 E. Allen Kohler, Honorary (1998)  
 Bob L. Detherow (1998-1999)  
 Teddie E. Harrison (1999-2000)  
 William J. Bowser (2000-2001)  
 LeRoy D. Unruh (2001-2002)  
 Richard J. Holmes (2002-2003)

Gary A. Phillips (2003-2004)  
 Kevin B. Sample, Honorary (2005)  
 Albert H. "Sonny" Miller (2006-2007)  
 Donald L. Trabue, Honorary (2008)  
 Danny D. Smothers (2009-2010)  
 James G. Haddox (2010-2011)  
 George M. Merkle (2011-2012)  
 William C. Woolsey (2012-2013)  
 David C. Witte (2013-2014)  
 Terry R. Struse (2014-2015)

## Grand Representatives

### **Jurisdiction .....To Missouri United States of America**

Alabama ..... William G. Snyder  
 Alaska ..... Vacant  
 Arizona ..... Donald L. Huggins  
 Arkansas ..... Columbus Craft  
 California ..... Vacant  
 Colorado ..... Vacant  
 Connecticut ..... Richard J. Holmes  
 Delaware ..... Jack D. Brown  
 District of Columbia ..... Vacant  
 Florida ..... Vacant  
 Georgia ..... Vacant  
 Hawaii ..... James G. Haddox  
 Idaho ..... Vacant  
 Illinois ..... William B. Stephenson, Jr.  
 Indiana ..... Harley L. Kropf  
 Iowa ..... Aaron M. Shoemaker  
 Kansas ..... Danny D. Smothers  
 Kentucky ..... Bob L. Detherow  
 Louisiana ..... Robert W. Schlichter  
 Maine ..... Everette L. Gloyd  
 Maryland ..... William E. Brenneman  
 Massachusetts ..... Albert H. Miller

Michigan ..... John E. Schofield  
 Minnesota ..... Lewis C. Odneal  
 Mississippi ..... Daniel R. Quesenberry  
 Montana ..... Terry R. Struse  
 Nebraska ..... Vacant  
 Nevada ..... Barry V. Cundiff  
 New Hampshire ..... William C. Woolsey  
 New Jersey ..... Ronald E. Wood, Jr.  
 New Mexico ..... Norman G. Schlagenhauf  
 New York ..... Vacant  
 North Carolina ..... C. C. McLemore, III  
 North Dakota ..... Vacant  
 Ohio ..... Vacant  
 Oklahoma ..... James L. Woodfin, Jr.  
 Oregon ..... Steven C. Monrotus  
 Pennsylvania ..... Vacant  
 Rhode Island ..... Gale B. Morrison  
 South Carolina ..... Roy N. Thomas  
 South Dakota ..... Vacant  
 Tennessee ..... Kevin B. Sample  
 Texas ..... Alfred L. Mason  
 Utah ..... Vacant  
 Vermont ..... Glenn E. Means  
 Virginia ..... Vacant

Washington ..... Corey B. Huntsucker  
 West Virginia ..... Vacant  
 Wisconsin ..... Ted W. Harrison  
 Wyoming ..... Walter W. Doyle

**Jurisdiction .....To Missouri**

**Canada/Mexico**

Eastern Canada ..... Jack R. Clark, Sr.  
 Ontario Canada ..... David C. Witte  
 Western Canada .... Matthew L. Quesenberry  
 Mexico ..... Vacant

**Jurisdiction .....To Missouri**

**Other Jurisdictions**

Africa ..... Vacant  
 Brazil ..... Russell S. Hanson  
 Central America ..... Vacant  
 Croatia ..... Vacant

El Salvador ..... Vacant  
 England & Wales ..... LeRoy D. Unruh  
 France ..... Marion W. Dey  
 Germany ..... Teddie E. Harrison  
 Greece ..... George M. Merkle  
 Israel ..... Vacant  
 Italy ..... Vacant  
 Japan ..... Vacant  
 Panama ..... Vacant  
 Peru ..... Vacant  
 Philippines ..... Richard G. Harrison  
 Portugal ..... William J. Bowser  
 Puerto Rico ..... Vacant  
 Romania ..... William R. Brantley  
 Scotland ..... K. Trent Moreland  
 Taiwan ..... Vacant  
 Togo ..... Vacant  
 Virgin Islands ..... Vacant

## **BIOGRAPHY OF THE GRAND MASTER**

Most Illustrious Companion William G. Snyder was born in Kansas City, Missouri on August 16, 1953, the only son of Jeanette L. Thompson (1933-1976) of Independence, Missouri and William O. ("Bill") Snyder (1933-2004) of Kansas City. His father and mother established a grocery business near the Jackson County Courthouse in Independence, Missouri in 1965, after his father had worked for Safeway Stores as a clerk and store manager for 18 years. Bill began working at the age of 11 as a store cashier and clerk, and realized early on that his destiny was to become an attorney, not a grocer. Bill's father and his maternal grandfather introduced him to many local attorneys and judges as well as associates of President Truman's family in Independence. The family business, Jackson Square Super, was relocated to Kansas City in 1972 due to an Independence urban renewal project that closed the streets around the Courthouse. The grocery store was expanded in size and renamed as Snyder's Super, which is still in operation today after 45 years.

While in college, Bill became president of the Student Association, a position that he held 4 times, twice by election, twice by the occurrence of a vacancy in the position. He was inspired by the U.S. Senate candidacy of Congressman Jerry E. Litton and worked in that campaign in 1976. Shortly after Bill completed his studies at UMKC School of Law in 1980 and service on the UMKC Law Review, he discovered that his father was running for the Independence City Council. Bill became the campaign manager and by presenting his father's views to the voters on the need to undo the damage to Independence that had been done by that urban renewal project in the 1970's, his father was elected to two terms on the City Council and served as Mayor Pro Tem from 1986-1988. The modern open square and preservation of the County Courthouse in Independence as well as the improvements to many local highways were spearheaded by his father.

After law school, our young attorney worked as a law clerk to Circuit Judge Jack E. Gant and then as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney from 1981 to 1987 and was elected President of the Missouri Child Support Enforcement Association, 1984-1985. In 1987, Bill was hired to head up a new section in the Office of the County Counselor that led to 28 years in the laws concerning tax assessment, tax collection and real estate recording and title examination. Bill served as the County Counselor or chief county attorney from 2009 to 2011 and has continued to serve as an advisor to officials of Jackson County, Missouri after retiring in 2015.

Our current Grand Master started his Masonic journey in 1999 at Independence Lodge No. 76, followed by his exaltation in Independence Chapter No. 12, Royal Arch Masons, greeting in the Cryptic Rite in Independence Council No. 49, and knighting in Palestine Commandery No. 17. He served as Master of his home lodge from 2004-2005, and following service as High Priest, Illustrious Master and Eminent Commander at Independence, he received the honor of KYCH and was given the Lewis & Clark Award from the Grand Chapter and Grand Council. Joining the Scottish Rite in 2000, he served as Wise Master and is presently the Executive Secretary of the

Scottish Rite of Kansas City, coroneted with the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree in 2015, having received the York Rite honor of Order of the Purple Cross in 2013. He is also a past master of Kansas City Council No. 45. He is a past presiding officer of the Harry S. Truman York Rite College, Charlemagne Knight Masons Council, and Santa Fe AMD. He is also a member of the Red Cross of Constantine, the Yeoman of York, Scottish Rite Research Society, Royal Order of Scotland, Missouri Lodge of Research, SRICF, St. Thomas of Acon, Masonic Order of Athelstan, McDonald Lodge No. 324, and has served as Regional Deputy Grand Master and Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer for the Grand Council. He is a Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, A.F.&A.M. 2011-2012, and he participated in the initiation of Brother Clifton Truman Daniel, the eldest grandson of Most Worshipful Harry S. Truman.

Most Illustrious Companion Snyder was appointed to the Grand Council Advancing Line in May 2009 by Most Illustrious Companion Danny Dwight Smothers. During his year as Grand Master, Bill presided over the first two Grand Masters' Cryptic Day conferrals, with Grand Master Haywood and Grand Master Stewart of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, A.F. & A.M., and joined with them in building a closer relationship between the Grand York Rite and the Grand Lodge.

Bill is the proud step-parent of Alexandra Plattner, the daughter of the late Carrie Ann Plattner-Snyder. Bill is also the owner of the house at which his three adopted children, Kennedy, Bouvier and Fitzgerald Snyder maintain their residence, disguised as a Boston Terrier and two French Bulldogs, and secretly work for the betterment of Freemasonry. Our Grand Master also dabbles in planning to build a model train layout, several hundred model cars, read his comic book collection, while hoping to play a small amount of golf, and collecting JFK and RFK and Marilyn Monroe items to leave as an inheritance for his stepdaughter. By a previous marriage, Bill has a step-grandson, Anthony Tolliver, who he hopes will become a Mason in due time and inherit all of the Masonic collector items.

## **ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER**

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Fraternal Greetings to all Royal and Select Masters of the Cryptic Rite in the State of Missouri and its appendent and affiliated entities throughout the United States and the Masonic Universe, and to all members of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri within its Secret Vaults, and to all Illustrious, Very Illustrious, Right Illustrious and Most Illustrious Companions who have shared the responsibilities and privileges of the stations in the East of the Ninth Arch and heard the regular alarm of the mysterious Nine, and their families and friends, I bid you welcome.

As noted by one of my predecessors in the office of Grand Master, William Muse Campbell of St. Joseph, Missouri, "We are all plagiarists, everything we do has been done before; the only difference, perhaps, is in the manner of doing."

Thus, in thanking and greeting all of you, those companions present and those companions who are required to be elsewhere today, as well as those who have now journeyed to that heavenly treasure contained in that Secret Vault to which we all seek admission, I am continuing a long-established tradition in this Grand Master's Address. Nevertheless, it is truly heartfelt and this is small repayment to the many who shared their time and their efforts with me during my advancement to the Office of Grand Master and the honorific of "Most Illustrious". On one part of my tree on Ancestry.com, I am the great-grandson of a farmer, the grandson of a steelworker, and the son of a grocery store owner, my father who taught me to never give up on your dreams. On the other side, I am the great-grandson of a florist from Kentucky, the grandson of a foundry worker, and the son of a woman who gave me hope and courage as her only child. My father realized very early on in my work at his grocery store that I should become an attorney, as it might be the only way I could ever make a living.

I should note that I was given the opportunity to review most of the proceedings of our Grand Council from its establishment in 1864 through recent years. In doing so, I found that many good recommendations were made by past Grand Masters of the Cryptic Rite as well as by various committees of those years. I realized that once the Grand Master's Address is accepted, that is quite often the end of those recommendations but the problems that were meant to be addressed often continued unabated. I also came upon the Grand Master's Address presented at the 1923 Annual Assembly. This was an interesting year in history to me as it was the first grand session at which our Most Worshipful and Most Excellent Companion, Ray Von Denslow of Trenton, Missouri, was to serve as the Grand Recorder. I believe the remarks made at that grand session to be of relevance to us in our times and I have referenced some portions of that Address by Most Illustrious Companion, William Muse Campbell, in my remarks today.

I remain amazed at the dedication and resiliency of our fellow brothers, companions and templar knights throughout Missouri and the other States to which I had occasion to travel in the past seven years. I have many more friends and inspiring memories as I leave office than when I began my journey to this point, East of the Grand Ninth Arch. I specifically thank all of the past Grand Masters of the Grand Council, those Most Illustrious companions who cheerfully have offered counsel when asked, and said nice things about my year, at least when I was present.

### **Past Grand Masters**

In recognition of their valuable advice, I **reinstated an annual meeting of the Past Grand Masters**, which will usually coincide with the annual Grand Masters' Cryptic Day conferrals. Our two Cryptic Day events have been very successful but I recommend to the next Grand Master and Grand Lecturer that future events be hosted by the home council of the Grand Master or local council chosen by the Grand Master. Over time, this will serve to increase participation and increase the chances of more than a few local councils having the capacity to confer all of

the degrees. **I have also named several Past Grand Masters to a Committee on Nominations and recommend to the next Grand Master that these practices be continued.**

I thank Most Illustrious Companion Dan Smothers, who was given the wisdom to appoint me to the Advancing Line, and with that we must also thank Most Illustrious Companion David Carl Witte, who may have whispered my name to Grand Master Smothers for consideration. Before that and to be certain that all are fairly judged as the ones to blame for my having held this Office, I recognize the tireless efforts of other Grand Masters who caused, directly or indirectly, my advancement as an officer for a number of years: Most Illustrious Companions Teddie E. Harrison, Albert "Sonny" Miller, Willie Woolsey, Jim Haddox, and Honorary (and possibly Orner) Most Illustrious Companion Kevin Brian Sample. Then there must also be mention of our departed Most Illustrious Companions: Paul Kawakami, Stanton Thayer Brown, Robert Harris Bray, and Robert Wright, who amazed me with their work in the rituals of our Craft. All of them encouraged me in my Masonic life and to continue to serve in the Grand Council.

Due to renewed and strengthened ties to the Grand Lodge of Missouri in the past few years, I was blessed to be in attendance with a delegation of our past and present officers at the Cornerstone Rededication Ceremony in Jefferson City in July 2015. From the kindness of the Past Grand Master David Haywood, and our current Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, Charles Brent Stewart, I was given the privilege of expounding in the Freemason magazine upon some of my personal theories on the origins of the Royal and Select Master degrees, all in the hope of sparking interest, not only in the York Rite system, but also providing incentives for a new generation to join us as Freemasons. Even if those two enlightened Grand Masters had not given me that opportunity, I would still sing their praises as they both have done much to preserve and further Freemasonry in our times.

As many of you have learned, I have retired from my job as a government attorney after 35 years at Jackson County, Missouri. During my time as Grand Master, I was asked to take two additional post-retirement jobs, one as a consultant with the government, the other as the Executive Secretary of the Scottish Rite at the Valley of Kansas City.

Of course, there has been a price paid for such good fortune: I have had to be very active in both the York Rite and the Scottish Rite in 2015 and 2016 and I have confirmed that it is difficult to be in two places at the same time. From that involvement, I have developed the perspective that both forms of Freemasonry are absolutely essential to the future growth, prosperity and relevance of Freemasonry in Missouri. I do not view these as competing or exclusive systems of Masonic philosophy.

### **Membership Recruitment and Retention**

I recommend to the next Grand Master and the next Grand Lecturer that a great effort be made to reinstitute the ritual proficiency or certification program that was authorized by

Standing Resolution. To be clear, the program never went away, it is simply that several of us let it slip into disuse due to the distractions of other issues and breakdowns in the lines of communication. The Advancing Line and the Grand Recorder are united in recognizing the need to give new life to our profound and instructive ritual lessons.

We need to use the newly-created Council of Research established under Standing Resolution No. 10 as Grand Master's Council No. 0, to actually take the lead on the subject of the origins of the Royal and Select Master degrees, and teach the legends of olden times to new Masons in the blue lodges. Ultimately, as all of you have either said or already know, it all begins with the "blue" lodge -- the symbolic lodge as many prefer. Given a new generation that will be the heirs of whatever we leave to them as Freemasonry institutions, it is time to recognize that we may have to save our traditions, our legends and our moral teachings by changing the ways in which we bring that new generation to more than an electronic, superficial, and imperfect knowledge of our Craft, its meanings, its teachings and the beauty of the obscurity of its legends.

Let us be very clear on what I am saying: Ritual excellence alone will not save Freemasonry or the York Rite or any other Rite but without ritual, we are simply a very nice service club or social club, one that does not serve an eternal purpose or have a connection to that eternal road to immortality. We may do good works but all of those are nothing if not done with reverence for our Creator and love for all of humanity. I am not a great ritualist in any way, but I am also not an administrator, a money wizard, or a salesman. I am just another Freemason who happened to be appointed and elected to hold office. Perhaps, I should have been the city prosecutor in that television metropolis of Mayberry, North Carolina, or Osceola, Missouri where my father's family first settled in Missouri after their time in Ohio.

But I have faith, faith in the rightness of our cause and a hope that we can preserve that cause in all of its past and present glory, all to the Glory of the Great Architect. I see in the lessons of our Masonic rituals that essence which is relevant and important to the very survival of future generations.

It has been said that "the rising generation may not be nearly as virtuous as our failing memories try to convince us we were when we had come to their stage in life. . . . who shall assume that his position is the only perfect one and that his views are the absolute correct ones? It is almost an unpardonable sin for the parent to take the attitude that his ideal is the only one worth considering at all." This was said by William Muse Campbell in 1923. He went on to state, "It is easy to disagree with someone who sees things differently than you do, but it is another matter to put yourself in the other's place and view life from a different angle".

Grand Master Campbell went on to state, and I paraphrase this from 1923: Is Freemasonry "willing to accept the logical consequences of 'human brotherhood' if these are carried to a practical conclusion? For then, it must be admitted that the fraternal relationship does not and cannot stop at any political boundary or racial division. It must ignore all the artificial separations devised of creed or party, caste or class." We must realize that the new

generations that are on the horizon have a different perspective than those of my grandfathers. They want to know the "why" of traditions and rituals and do not have much patience for "you don't need to know". To them, a person of compassion and quality is a person of compassion and quality, and worthy of being in this brotherhood.

We need to realize that customs and traditions such as the Junior Warden of a lodge being the chief meal provider in Missouri lodges are relatively modern. Being the chief cook arose from experiences in World War II. That includes the passive membership solicitation concept advanced since World War I, wherein you could not ask a future brother to join. It was the thought of Masons of those days that we had gained too many members and the quality of the membership had been diminished.

In this age of instant knowledge, and unfortunately, a vast amount of misinformation, the Craft had best actively promote itself truthfully and positively, and be prepared to work to answer the questions those new members will have for us. We need to be able to state why we are Freemasons, why we are Scottish Rite, why we are York Rite, and even why some of us are active Shriners, and why any of it has any meaning for the balance of the 21st Century. Brotherly love, relief and truth best be understood and practiced by each of us, now and forever, if we are to save what we love.

I want to state my gratitude for my now nineteen-year-old step-daughter, Alexandra, who has become a true daughter to me in every way but DNA. Somehow, she claims that it is my tolerance for her faults that makes me a great father to her. That surprises me as I consider her to be perfect in every way. Aly cannot be in attendance today as she is working on her education and caring for our three fairly famous puppies, Kennedy, Bouvier and Fitzgerald. Next year, with the permission of the next Grand Master, I hope to bring Aly and the puppies to join us in our celebration.

The gift of Aly and those puppies was from the workings of a wonderful woman who passed to the heavenly side of the Universe on October 1, 2014. Carrie Ann Plattner was my world, my fondest dreams, and my greatest fan until her death. Carrie's family and many of you have tried to encourage me since that time with these three thoughts: She is better off now, she is out of pain and she is in a better place. As a Freemason and a Royal Master taught by our Grand Master Hiram Abif, I should accept all of that as being true.

But I know in my heart that I am not better off now, I am not out of pain, and I am not in a better place. There is not a day that goes by when I don't hear a song on the radio that reminds me of Carrie. Most recently, there is this newer John Legend song, "Cause all of me loves all of you". Well, you can imagine how it hits me.

Nevertheless, being an orphan and a widower, it is the family of freemasonry that has carried me in all that I have been able to do in recent times and I thank each of you, not only for myself but also in behalf of my lovely Carrie. A new page will be turned at the end of my time as Grand Master and I trust that I will continue to have your guidance and counsel in my future adventures.

## **Necrology**

Since we last met as a Grand Council, some of our companions have left our Earthly realm to live in that house not made with hands. Most recently, I had the opportunity at Fayette, Missouri to visit with Most Illustrious Companion William Gordon Buckner, Past Grand Master 1984-1984. I was able to receive his wisdom on several matters before he passed away this past month. As is the case with those other departed Grand Masters of this Secret Vault who were influences in my life, I have realized the great loss that all our members and their families endure when such remarkable men are called to another time and place.

Very Illustrious Companion Chaplain, please lead us in a few moments of remembrance and your well-chosen remarks for our fallen companions and our entire Masonic family.

## **Visitations**

During the past year, I have had the pleasure of traveling this beautiful State of ours visiting companions, installing officers and occasionally opening councils. A list has been provided to our Grand Recorder and eventually will be made a part of the record of my year in the proceedings and on the Grand York Rite website.

May 12, 2015	DGM/GPCW dinner meeting
May 13, 2015	Grand Council Installation 2015-2016 Officers
May 14, 2015	Grand Chapter RAM
May 15, 2015	Grand Commandery KT MO
May 16, 2015	Lodge of Research Midyear meeting and luncheon Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
May 17, 2015	Appointed Executive Secretary Kansas City Scottish Rite
May 24, 2015	DeMolay State Conclave Jefferson City (Sent PMIGM Smothers)
June 1, 2015	Ivanhoe Lodge: KC YR Installations
June 13, 2015	Attended Royal Order of Scotland Tulsa OK
June 14, 2015	Attended Royal Order of Scotland Tulsa OK
June 15, 2015	Liberty YR Installations
June 20, 2015	MO Priory No. 17 KYCH Jefferson Lodge Jefferson City, GM Snyder presented Council Oration in conferral of 15 candidates
June 24, 2015	SR KC Valley LOP meeting WGS - Exec Secretary
June 25, 2015	Job's Daughters Jefferson City MO
June 27, 2015	Cryptic Regions 3 & 4 York Rite Conference, Ivanhoe Lodge KCMO
June 28, 2015	Rainbow Springfield MO, Sent VEDGC Schlichter & GHP Lloyd as representatives

July 3, 2015	MO Capital Cornerstone Rededication Ceremony at Jefferson City, Procession with PMIGM Bowser, DGM Schulze & VIC Joe Elsen as well as officers of Grand Council UD, PHA
July 4, 2015	Private Event WGS @ KBS Hallsville compound
July 11, 2015	YR Cryptic Region 5 & 6 Conference Algabil-Freedom Lodge St. Louis
July 18, 2015	YR Cryptic Region 1 & 9 Conference Jefferson Lodge Jefferson City
July 25, 2015	Grand Masters' Cryptic Day Conferrals Columbia MO with Grand Master David W. Haywood
July 25, 2015	SR KC Valley LOP meeting WGS - Exec Secretary: Also represented Grand Council and CMMRF
July 29-Aug 1, 2015	YRSCNA Louisville KY: represented Grand Council & CMMRF
August 7-9, 2015	Grand Council of Illinois 8/7 to 8/9 (Sent DGM Schulze)
August 7-9, 2015	SR Orient Officers Meeting Lake of the Ozarks
August 8-9, 2015	Red Cross Annual Assembly
August 14-16, 2015	Grand Council of IOWA Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
August 22, 2015	St Thomas of Acon - GM advanced to Office of Marshal in Acon @ Columbia MO, GM was presented with Order of Secret Vault from General Grand Council, Court of Discovery Athelstan Represented Grand Council & CMMRF, and SRICF
August 23-25, 2015	Supreme Council SR SJ Washington DC 33 Conferrals GM received 33 <sup>rd</sup> Degree
August 26, 2015	SR KC Valley LOP meeting WGS - Exec Secretary
August 29, 2015	HST YRC & Charlemagne KM Council Buckner MO, GM Snyder elected EC of KM Council
September 11, 2015	Grand Council Officer Meeting @ BOLIVAR
September 12, 2015	Cryptic Regions 5 & 6 York Rite Conference BOLIVAR MO
September 17-19, 2015	Travel to SW/SC Gen Grand York Rite Conference, GM participated in conferral of Order of Secret Vault from General Grand Council
September 26, 2015	MO Grand Lodge: represented Grand Council & CMMRF
September 27, 2015	MOGL Event-Columbia-Sunday Distinguished Guest Dinner
September 28, 2015	MOGL-Grand Session-Columbia- Monday
September 29, 2015	MOGL-Grand Session-Columbia-Tuesday-Installation MOLOR Breakfast Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
October 1, 2015	KCCH Investiture St. Joseph Valley SR 6 PM Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
October 3, 2015	Independence No. 76 Installation (Installing SD) 2 PM
October 9, 2015	Travel Day to STL GM/evening dinner with officers in St. Louis area
October 9, 2015	GM meetings with St. Louis/Eastern MO officers

October 10, 2015	Ascalon Commandery Conferrals St. Louis MO Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
October 16, 2015	SR Reunion KC Meet and Greet Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
October 17, 2015	SR Reunion KC Valley Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
October 17, 2015	MO ILLINOIS Conferrals Grand Chapter 2ND ANNUAL (Sent DGM Schulze)
October 23, 2015	Joplin SR Reunion Represented Grand Council & CMMRF; PMIGM Albright
October 24, 2015	Joplin SR Reunion Represented Grand Council & CMMRF; PMIGM Albright
October 31, 2015	HST YRC & Charlemagne KM Buckner
November 6-7, 2015	SRICF Louisville KY
November 13, 2015	Meetings with GYR Regional St Louis
November 14, 2015	MO ORIENT SRF Board Meeting St Louis Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
November 14, 2015	MO SR Orient 33 <sup>o</sup> Conferral St Louis
November 21, 2015	SRKC Court of Honour Dinner Theatre Event 5 PM Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
December 10-12, 2015	Attended IAAO Legal Seminar Boston MA: visited with area Freemasons, YR & SR
December 26, 2015	St. John the Baptist Day Events
January 30, 2016	HST YRC & Charlemagne KM Buckner/ Rescheduled
February 10-15, 2016	AMD Masonic Week Crystal City VA Hyatt Regency Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
February 26, 2016	Meeting with Grand Recorder; acting Grand Marshal Shoemaker
February 27, 2016	St Thomas of Acon @ Columbia MO Represented Grand Council & CMMRF, Masonic Order of Athelstan Represented Grand Council & CMMRF, SRICF Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
March 4, 2016	Senator Mary Groves Bland Memorial Service; Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
March 5, 2016	Grand Chapter RAM Grand Masters Class Columbia MO Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
March 23, 2016	SR KC Stated Dinner Meeting Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
March 23, 2016	Hiram Council #1 Elections Night Directed RDGM to preside due to vacancy caused by Decision of GM
March 24, 2016	Independence #49 Table Council/Official Visit
March 26, 2016	Rolla Council #39 Degree Conferral/Official Visit
March 28, 2016	Centralia Council #34 Stated Meeting Official Visit
March 31- April 1, 2016	SR SJ USA Workshop Phoenix AZ Represented Grand Council & CMMRF w/PMIGM Bowser
April 8, 2016	SR Multi-State Reunion: Des Moines SR IOWA Represented Grand Council & CMMRF

April 9, 2016	Grand Officers Meeting Jefferson City MO (DGM Schulze presided)
April 9, 2016	Fayette MO, AMD and KM; Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
April 14, 2016	Opened Carthage Council #41 Stated Meeting Official Visit
April 16, 2016	Grand Officers Meeting St Louis MO; including hotel contract negotiations 2019 2020 2021
April 17, 2016	MOGL Grand Master's Breakfast St Louis MO Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
April 23, 2016	Grand Council Officers Meeting Columbia MO
April 23, 2016	Grand Masters' Cryptic Conferrals Columbia MO
April 23, 2016	Past Grand Masters Advisory Council Meeting
April 30, 2016	Harry S Truman YRC & Charlemagne KM Council; Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
May 7, 2016	Attended Zabud #25 Degree Conferral SED
May 14, 2016	SRICF & Masonic Order of Athelstan Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
May 20-21, 2016	Missouri AMD Ingathering MOLOR 75th Year Event Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
May 29-30, 2016	2016 Conclave DeMolay MO Jefferson City Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
June 4, 2016	Red Cross of Constantine @ Buckner MO Represented Grand Council & CMMRF
June 7, 2016	Grand York Rite of MO Grand Master's Council #0 Research Council Meeting
June 7, 2016	GM Grand Council Briefing
June 8, 2016	Grand Chapter RAM MO
June 8, 2016	DGM/GPCW Dinner Meeting (2nd Annual)
June 8, 2016	Grand Council Officers Meeting 9 at night
June 9, 2016	Grand Council MO
June 10, 2016	Grand KT MO
June 11, 2016	Grand KT MO

### Dispensations

In this electronic age, I note that dispensations were often requested by email communications, rather than formal letters. It is time to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, even though we dearly love the formality of the past. I **recommend that the Office of the Grand Recorder develop and make available on any authorized Grand Council or Grand York Rite of Missouri website, a form for requesting a dispensation and stating the required documentation and information.** It will serve to maintain a proper record as well as give the Grand Master and

Grand Recorder the information needed for a proper dispensation to be issued. I ask that the next Grand Master cause this to be discussed with the Grand Recorder and, once any concerns are addressed and resolved, to order it to be done. As I have said to the Grand Recorder on several occasions during my year, it is his duty "to observe the will and pleasure of the Grand Master."

October 21, 2015 East Gate Council No. 51 was granted a dispensation to meet jointly with Shekinah Council No. 24 on October 21, 2015 at 903 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106 starting at 7:00 p.m.

December 10, 2015 York Council No. 40 was granted a dispensation to hold its monthly stated assembly on Monday, December 14, 2015, at 7:00 pm, at the Freedom Masonic Temple, located at 4557 Lemay Ferry Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63129, for their annual Regional Holiday Party. This will replace their stated assembly on Monday, December 21, 2015, at 7:30 pm, at Beacon Lodge in Hazelwood, Missouri.

December 14, 2016 Granted a dispensation for Hiram Council No. 1, York Council No. 40, and Jeremiah Council No. 48 to meet collectively on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Freedom Masonic Lodge, 4557 Lemay Ferry Rd. St. Louis, MO 63129, for a joint open Holiday meeting, and counting for the December assemblies for each Council.

February 1, 2016 Waived the 2015 Annual Return late fees for Carthage Council No. 41.

February 20, 2016 Waived the 2014 Annual Return late fees for Trinity Council No. 47.

### **By-Laws**

November 29, 2015 Approved the By-Laws changes for Westport Council No. 38, (1) Article 1 Paragraph 2 changed to read the stated meeting shall start at 7:00 p.m. or immediately after the meeting of Harry D. Brown Jr. Chapter No. 284. (2) Article 2, paragraph 1: The annual election shall be in the month of August. (3) Article 2, paragraph 2: The annual installation of officers shall be in the month of October.

February 8, 2016 Approved the By-Laws changes for York Council No. 40, changing their meeting date from the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. to the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

## **Edicts**

I issued no "Edicts" this year but did continue the policies of many of the past Grand Masters as well the policy regarding IRS compliance issues.

## **Decisions**

I also made a number of what we like to call "Decisions" and which used to be reduced to a written record for the proceedings.

February 18, 2016      I decided that a person expelled from the Craft by the Grand Lodge by reason of criminal actions should also be expelled from the ranks of the Grand Council and its subordinate councils. As it happens, there is no by-law of this Grand Council that requires a member such as a past illustrious master to remain in good standing as a Master Mason or Royal Arch Mason, and providing for the immediate expulsion. Therefore, I found that as the approved Ritual requires a member to be both a Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason in good standing, such Ritual was a part of the laws of this Grand Council for purposes of the continued benefit of membership. Due to the shocking and bizarre criminal conduct of this person, confessed and adjudicated, as well as his breach of fiduciary duties to our Craft, I also decided and ordered that this former brother and companion's name should be and will be struck from the available proceedings and records of this Grand Council.

Jurisprudence has concurred with this Decision and, believing it to be solidly based, we have not found it necessary to amend our Grand Council bylaws to this effect. We will proceed to open the Grand Council for its formal session in the Grand Secret Vault and I will extend my remarks as to the State of the Craft, written and oral, to the companions only, during our secret time.

March 13, 2016      I have decided that no member of this Grand Council may serve simultaneously as the "Illustrious" Master of more than one local council, following Grand Lodge Bylaws, in the absence of a bylaw of the Grand Council.

## **Time Capsule**

It is a recent tradition that the presiding officers of the three Grand York Rite bodies make an annual pilgrimage to the site of a time capsule and marker near Branson, Missouri.

I am pleased to report that the marker and time capsule appear to be in good shape and of continued relevance to the future of the Grand York Rite. Although this was clearly well-intentioned by those involved in the donation of the site and the contents of the time capsule, and I intend no disrespect to its creators, it should be realized now that if there are any artifacts in that time capsule worth saving for future generations, these should be removed and delivered to the Missouri Lodge of Research for preservation. I recommend to the next Grand Master that he spend both his time and automobile expense on visiting Freemasons and Cryptic Masons, not lonely markers, unless he happens to be near Branson. I further recommend that at the earliest possible time, the contents of the marker be placed with the Missouri Lodge of Research.

## **State of the Craft**

At the outset, I am asking, requesting and directing each of you present today to maintain all of what I am about to cover as confidential Masonic communications, under the penalty of all of your prior obligations. I expect you to be discreet in what you choose to pass on to your local membership but most importantly, I require that you recognize that loose lips can sink ships. Many of you will have some pause at this point as at least part of what I am going to say today is already printed in the Preliminary Proceedings. Well, your families may have read the Preliminary Proceedings but I ask that you to adhere to our confidentiality as to any further points that I make today and not to expound or expand upon any details of what has been printed now or in the Final Proceedings. This is similar to the admonition found in those cipher books with our ritual which I suspect that many of the spouses probably have read in their leisure time.

## **The Advancing Line of the Grand Council**

As some of you may have heard by now, two vacancies arose in the Grand Council Advancing Line during my year. My good friend, Rt. Illustrious Companion Johnny L. Schlenker, resigned on July 2, 2015 due to not being able to continue to afford the honor of the office of Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. As many of you know from experience, there is no efficient or cost-effective way to get from his hometown of Cape Girardeau to anywhere in the State of Missouri. Johnny has continued to be a good resource for the Grand Council in the Cape area. However, his resignation led us to review the Grand Council bylaws. By law, I cannot make a permanent appointment to fill a vacancy in the position of Deputy Grand Master or Grand

Principal Conductor of the Work. Our by-laws direct us to provisions of the Bylaws of the General Grand Council. Those provisions no longer exist and in accordance with our bylaw provision that when silent, Grand Lodge by-laws may be used as the law of the Grand Council, I made a temporary appointment by doing what Grand Lodge does: I temporarily advanced the remaining officers, subject to your ratification at this Annual Assembly. With the concurrence of the remaining Advancing Line officers, I appointed Chris Tilley of St. Louis as the acting Grand Steward. I have shared this with many of the local councils and all appear to be in agreement or at least accepting of my action.

However, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, our acting Grand Captain of the Guard, Nathan D. Carrington, resigned due to the loss of his employment and economic hardship that would arise if he continued in the Advancing Line. As with Right Illustrious Companion Johnny Schlenker, we are hopeful and expect that Nathan will continue to be involved in support of the Grand Council and Cryptic Masonry.

Thus, by concurrence of the Advancing Line, I have made a further temporary advancement of the line and appointed a new acting Grand Steward, with the result that we opened today with the following slate of officers:

Grand Master	William G. Snyder
Deputy Grand Master	Todd A. Schulze
Acting Grand Principal Conductor of the Work	Michael Day
Acting Grand Captain of the Guard	Joe Elsen
Acting Grand Conductor of the Council	Aaron M. Shoemaker
Acting Grand Marshal	Chris E. Tilley
Acting Grand Steward	Wayne Fryer

### **Election Ballot**

Thus, to simplify the election balloting, it is my determination that if you happen to mark "X" to advance the line, the result will be construed by me today as follows:

Grand Master	Todd A. Schulze
Deputy Grand Master	Michael Day
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work	Joe Elsen
Grand Captain of the Guard	Aaron M. Shoemaker
Grand Conductor of the Council	TBA by next GM
Grand Marshal	TBA by next GM
Grand Steward	TBA by next GM

Therefore, if you do not wish to advance the line as described, you will need to write in a name for each position, from Grand Master to Grand Captain of the Guard. Please do not mark the "X" in that situation or the ballot will be deemed to be "spoiled" and not counted.

### **Finances and Administration**

As it so often comes to pass in Masonic organizations, those elected officials who are required to serve as executive and administrative staff do begin to believe that they will live forever. Thus, no plans are made for succession or even to teach any other living person on how those jobs need to be done.

### **Immortality and Grand Council Officers**

We are blessed that we have such young folks as our Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer who have apparent immortality. Nonetheless, I recommend to the next Grand Master that he appoint a couple of Deputy Grand Treasurers to learn the details of the job. To avoid the necessity of a bylaw change creating those Deputy positions formally at this time, I think that they can be entitled initially as "assistants to the Grand Treasurer" or "assistants to the Finance Committee". I recommend to the next Grand Master the appointment of an Investment Policy Committee to learn from our Grand Treasurer about how he likes to handle our investments and to develop clear, rational policies consistent with that practice, and make any suggestions for improvements. I also recommend to the next Grand Master that a Committee on Administration be appointed to assist the Grand Recorder and several others in drafting a procedures manual for the Grand Council and/or Grand York Rite regarding membership records and membership record systems, and the general practices necessary to make the York Rite membership experience worthwhile for each member.

In none of these instances is this suggesting that the members of these committees or the deputy grand treasurers are qualified to become successors to either position. Instead, they can serve to provide continuity and institutional history. Right now, as we have already experienced in the past, any abrupt change in either position, Grand Recorder or Grand Treasurer, by resignation, removal by opposition, or death, inevitably leads to chaos and the loss of records, time and money unnecessarily. Do I truly have to remind all of what happened when Bruce Harmon Hunt died? It is time now to prepare for the future. Do none of us recognize the lessons taught in the First Degree Lecture in Missouri about our mortality and the teachings of Hiram Abif in the Royal Master Degree?

## **Our History**

In that light, it is not surprising that for nearly twenty years, the Grand Council has been paying for a storage unit for records left behind by that deceased Grand Recorder. Several Grand Masters of this Grand Council directed that the storage unit be cleared out and proper disposition be made of those records and possible artifacts. I am greatly pleased to report that this process has been initiated by our Grand Recorder and, yes, there were some incredibly valuable and historically important records and artifacts in that storage unit. These are now in the process of being saved properly and will be loaned to the Missouri Lodge of Research for inventory and display until other plans can be made for these items. Once all items have been removed, the monthly expense of that storage will be terminated. We still have some items for which a rent is paid but those are at a Lodge in Columbia. In time, proper disposition will also be made of those items with the help of the Missouri Lodge of Research. I commend our Grand Recorder and his anonymous assistant who undertook the initiation of this great endeavor.

### **Council of Research: Grand Master's Council No. 0**

For this and many other reasons of historical value, I recommend to the next Grand Master that he encourage the further development of our new Council of Research and cause it to be a worthy ally with the Grand Lodge and the Missouri Lodge of Research in historical preservation. During this next year, I, along with several other volunteers, are going to attempt to photograph and preserve portraits and photographs of past Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery officers that are deteriorating in lodge buildings across this State. Those photos that we take will be added to the Grand York Rite website and any items that local councils or lodges wish to have placed on loan with the Missouri Lodge of Research or our Council of Research will be properly preserved and protected. I also recommend that this Council of Research be renamed as Weston Council No. 2. In doing so, we follow the example of Palmyra Chapter and honor our second council's role in our history.

### **Dues Notices, Dues Cards, and Annual Returns**

It is no secret that there are some local councils which cannot meet regularly due to a lack of the requisite number or due to the inability to properly open and close or confer degrees, without assistance. In some instances, the death of a local recorder who never planned to die is the cause of the issues. However, in most of these afflicted councils, the local recorder and master work to see that the members pay their dues, receive their dues cards, and that an annual return with the proper per capita check is filed on a timely basis with the Grand Recorder. They also work to see that IRS compliance is met by filing their 990-N. However, there are some local councils that have been subjected to punishment by their own masters and recorders who

fail to send out dues notices, won't issue dues cards, won't file annual returns or pay the per capita. Worse, some have lost tax exempt status for their York Rite bodies or lodges by utterly ignoring the IRS. We have the shocking and continuing situation of a council that has gone nearly 26 years without issuing dues notices, dues cards to dues paying members, filing its annual returns, or paying the per capita fees. It is time to bring this malady to an end.

### **A Holding Council: Taking Care of Business**

Accordingly, you have before you a proposal to create a "holding council", presently known as Grand Master's Council No. 0. This will permit us to place the members of any council that is in this sad condition in the holding council, thus not losing their good standing or membership in appendent bodies requiring York Rite membership.

I recommend that you adopt this proposal. I further recommend that this Council be renamed as Marion Council No. 3 to honor our third council's role in history.

### **Local Dues & Per Capita**

It has been said that once you look at the numbers, you are already in trouble. We have collectively ignored the numbers that were provided in the past, or at least failed to comprehend the meaning of those numbers. We have an existing bylaw that states that the minimum dues amount for a local council is \$4.50. Clearly, as per capita is now far greater, someone should have sought the enactment of an amendment to make that "per capita plus \$4.50." No council should put itself in the position of paying more in per capita than it charges for its dues to its members. That can be addressed in due time, perhaps at the next Grand Assembly.

As you may have noted, there is a proposal for an increase in the per capita. In 2013, we projected that if current trends held, the person appointed in 2013 would be leading fewer than 1800 members in 2020. As it is, 2020 is actually now. We need a real membership plan, one that involves recruitment of quality people to the ranks of the blue lodges, then into the York Rite and Scottish Rite. We can endeavor to recruit only from our existing blue lodge members as eventually the same crisis of a large "die-off" of members over 80, then successively large numbers of members reaching 80, will occur at all levels. We have to find a way to recruit men under 60, 50, 40, 30 and even under 25.

### **Time & Place: The Handy Hotel Conundrum**

In like manner, if we had looked at our "numbers", we would have realized that we have a trend of diminishing attendance and participation in the Grand York Rite sessions each year. In particular, this impacts the Grand Council in the event that whatever hotel or meeting venue we use decides to enforce the terms of any event contract for a minimum number of room

nights and minimum number of meals sold. While meeting the needs of our existing voting members who do come to the Grand Assembly, we have to plan for reaching younger members who become officers of local councils.

The Advancing Line of the Grand Council, in consultation with the Grand Recorder, has directed the Grand Recorder to issue an RFP or similar solicitation for various hotels and meeting venues to offer terms for consideration by the Grand Council before the Grand Council's part of the rather ubiquitous Time & Place Committee may execute any future contract. The RFP will be issued after we have the numbers from this event. Please understand that the existing multi-year contract, executed without a prior vote of this Grand Council as to its specific terms, was duly executed by the Time & Place Committee some time ago, without the participation of the current Grand Recorder, with terms for 450 room nights and an average of nearly \$10,000 in meals to be sold. I find no fault in the contract being signed as it is true, as our Grand Treasurer has told me, "this hotel works with us". However, there is, in fact, no correlation contractually between the room nights and meals sold. In other words, it is not true that if we come up short on the minimum rooms purchased and sell more meals, there is an offset to our favor.

Thus, it is concerning that for several years, we have barely surpassed 300 room nights, well short of 450, and never came close on the meals sold. All this is past history and no one needs to be blamed or excoriated for this situation. Obviously, if you change the room and meal numbers, any hotel may want to have a higher basic rate for the room nights. Thus, we need to know for certain what our best deal can be. We cannot simply rely on the convenience of this location or the cheapness of the rooms and other perks and hope that the current ownership of this hotel never changes to a less forgiving management. I have great confidence in the Time & Place Committee carrying out effective negotiations for 2019, 2020 and 2021, particularly now that it has been given specific guidance by the Advancing Line.

I recommend that the next Grand Master appoint the Grand Recorder as Chair of the Grand Council's Time & Place Committee as the current bylaws name the Grand Treasurer first and thus, in absence of a specific designation by the Grand Master, the first-named officer would be the chair by default. I trust that our Grand Treasurer does not want that responsibility added to his many duties. I also suggest that the next Grand Master ask that the Grand Recorder report to the Grand Master the name of the presently unknown "assistant" permitted to be appointed to this Committee under the bylaws.

This contract process and timing issues that concern the Grand Recorder may necessitate that a vote by the membership on a hotel contract for 2019, 2020 and 2021 would have to occur at a special Grand Assembly later this year, perhaps at the Grand Lodge Building just before the Grand Lodge opens in September 2016. The Office of the Grand Recorder is very aware of the financial consequences that could occur with the just a change of one person in charge of the existing hotel. This is not, repeat, not a suggestion or requirement that we move away from lovely Jefferson City for our future Grand sessions but we should at least know that we are, in

fact, not a product of imagination, getting the best deal and the best terms, with a reduced financial consequence to the Grand Council.

It has also been suggested that we might want to occasionally have an alternate site for the Grand Assembly, perhaps every three to four years, so that our families can be educated on local sites other than prisons and our very corrupt State Capital and enjoy other entertainment and meal venues. As we transition to younger members from the local councils and younger families in attendance, it should be clear that changes are inevitable. For now, I suggest that we leave the immediate details of negotiations to this Committee until we can come up with a better process for years beyond 2021. However, we must insist that no contract should be executed without the approval of this Grand Council.

### **Membership Records & YRIS & the Grand Lodge**

I further recommend to the next Grand Master that the Grand Recorder be directed and authorized to initiate discussions with the Grand Lodge of Missouri, A.F. & A.M., regarding the possible use of the new Grand Lodge membership system, including the possibility of a joint Grand Council/Grand Lodge membership card, using the bar code or similar process for this purpose. I recommend strongly against converting our local council records to the YRIS system, given the shifting sands and unreliability presented by the ultimate controllers of that system who appear to have no allegiance to the concept of Grand Lodges or Grand Councils nor to the sovereignty of those Grand bodies.

### **Charitable Endowment Funds and a Foundation**

The discussion about the hotel situation leads to the next concern. The Grand Council has never established a tax-exempt 501 c 3 charitable foundation for collection and retention of its charitable funds. All of you can probably guess this but let's state it plainly and clearly: In its present form, that Bruce Harmon Hunt Fund could be subjected to garnishment by a judgment creditor as an asset of the Grand Council, which operates as a 501 c 10 organization. It is not that difficult to establish a not-for-profit entity and obtain 501 c 3 tax-exempt determination. Several of our members were involved with the creation of the Missouri Lodge of Research Foundation so we have ready access to resources. The Grand Council's Charity Foundation could easily be given approval by the IRS to conduct not only charitable activities, but to support Masonic education and Masonic history efforts such as our Council on Research.

It is inconceivable that this has not yet been done. The Grand Commandery has had an Education Foundation for a number of years that protects some of its charitable and education funds. It is time for the Grand Council to do what is right and, I suggest that you begin to do it now. I am recommending that the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Recorder be directed and authorized to initiate the creation of such a Foundation and initiate tax-

exemption determination, with a vote to be held at the next regular Grand Assembly for the transfer of the Bruce Harmon Hunt Charity Endowment Fund and similar funds to that Foundation, along with approval of the governance of the Foundation.

### **Charity Calendar Book: Why Not?**

This leads me to a challenge to each of you as the representatives of our total membership. Several years ago, the Grand Council raised significant funds for the Charity Endowment Fund by the sale of what we will call a "Pick 3" Calendar Book. Most of you recall how it worked. Those that are new to our Assembly can easily learn how it works from Most Illustrious Bill Bowser. Sales went very well for a few years, and the "winners" were regularly paid as required. Then, it went straight into oblivion and the program was dropped.

There is no good excuse for what occurred or did not occur in later years. It is time to reinstitute this fine program. We need to sell 1000 calendars to make this program work. Once these are printed, we can distribute them by mail to local councils, to members volunteering to sell or purchase, or hand these out at the Regional York Rite Conferences. We need each of you to try to sell at least five of these calendars at \$20 each.

Our Grand Treasurer can create a satellite checking account under the Grand Council's IRS number and collected for the Charity Endowment Fund for the receipt of the collections and disbursement to winners. The disbursement checks can be signed by a person designated by the Grand Master as chair of this endeavor and a deputy Grand Treasurer appointed for that purpose. I will recommend to the next Grand Master that this program be reinstituted but I see no reason to engage in it if none of you will help.

### **Grand Council Merit Award ("Merit Council")**

I further recommend to the next Grand Master that a small portion of the funds raised from the Charity Calendar sales be directed, annually, to local charities in the community of those councils that achieve the honor of Grand Council Merit Award Council of the Year. This would serve as an incentive for local councils to be more active in seeking what I will call Merit Council status. I further recommend to the next Grand Master that the Award form be amended in a form to be recommended by the Education Committee and its subcommittees for approval by the Grand Master.

### **Grand Master Coins**

I further recommend to the next Grand Master that the Collector Coin program be continued in four-coin sets as these are proving to be popular collector's items and can be used to benefit CMMRF and either the MO Lodge of Research or our new Council on Research.

Indeed, the next Grand Master and next Grand Lecturer may wish to require these as "challenge coins" this next year. At \$20 each, the coins are higher quality than that used by some grand lodges for grand master coins. I commend our friend in Indiana, John Bridegroom, a future Grand Master of the Grand Council of Indiana (or as they say in Indiana, a future Most Illustrious Grand Master) for his workmanship and his attention to detail in working with the Grand Recorder to make designs submitted come to reality. The Grand Masters' Cryptic Day Pins are also produced by Bridegroom and should also become collector's items.

### **Grand Master's Recommendations for Consideration at this Grand Assembly**

As noted in 2014 by Grand Master Witte, I ask that each of the Advancing Line Officers find the time to read the recommendations of all of the past Grand Masters between 1976 and now, and make at least one of their recommendations your next brilliant idea. There is a real tendency in Freemasonry, by caprice or happenstance, to lose track of such recommendations and to continue the insanity of not trying to find solutions to known problems.

This year, unlike all my predecessors for the past 11 years, I did NOT issue an edict stating that Councils could meet together without special dispensation for the purpose of conferring degrees and official visits. First, it was ostensibly made a standing resolution at the 2014 Grand Assembly with the adoption of Grand Master Witte's recommendations. However, that did not appear to be recognized in the proceedings as I believe that the next Grand Master issued the edict again. Accordingly, you have before you a by-law amendment to address this and with its adoption, no edicts will have to be issued on this point by the next Grand Master. I do believe that any council in a joint meeting situation should have at least one of its top three officers present for that meeting in order to constitute an "opening" of that council but if not amended today to that effect, I would still recommend the adoption of this bylaw.

I note further that it was recommended and adopted as a standing resolution that a 2013-2014 edict on providing a copy of 990 or its future equivalent with the Annual Return of a Council as a standing resolution to assist in keeping the Grand Council and the York Rite in compliance with Federal tax laws and Homeland Security requirements. Lest this be forgotten, I recommend and move the adoption of the 2013-2014 edict as a standing resolution today.

As to the Charity Endowment Fund, I recommend and move that the Grand Master 2016-2017, Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer be directed and hereby are authorized to initiate the establishment of a tax-exempt educational and charitable foundation forthwith, consistent with Masonic and Cryptic policies and practices, subject to final approval at the next regular Grand Assembly.

I further recommend and move that the Grand Master and Grand Treasurer be directed and authorized to take all steps necessary to reinstitute the Charity Calendar Program, including the creation of any necessary checking account or access for receipt of proceeds and disbursements to winners.

I also want to thank all of those men and women who assisted in this year and the planning and operation of this Annual Assembly. To avoid this being like an Academy Awards show, I have or will thank many of you by personal notes or call upon you at later functions. Nevertheless, all of you can be proud of your efforts and know that I appreciate what you have done for all of us. You can also be certain that I will be asking for your help in the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely and Most Fraternally,



William Gene ("Bill") Snyder  
Grand Master 2015-2016

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **PRELIMINARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS**

*(from the floor)*

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS**

*(from the floor)*

Terry R. Struse, Chairman

### **PRELIMINARY REPORT OF JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE**

*To the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

The Jurisprudence Committee finds that the Grand Master has complied with the Statutory duties of his office as regards the various By-law changes as requested by Constituent Councils and his approval or disapproval of same.

We find that the orders and dispensations issued by him are within the inherent powers of his office.

The Committee on Cryptic Masonic Jurisprudence thanks the Grand Master for the honor and privilege of being selected to serve this Grand Council during his year. His recommendations will be referred to the appropriate committees for review and we express the hope for his continued successes in the years ahead.

Our congratulations to Most Illustrious William G. Snyder, Grand Master. In our estimation you have performed your duties and responsibilities remarkably well.

Fraternally submitted,  
Walter W. Doyle  
Jeffery L. Fielder-Bey  
Jeffrey A. Keevil  
C. Brent Stewart  
Glenn E. Means, Chairman

***Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

## **PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR ACTION AT GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY IN 2016**

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE VI, Chartered Councils, SEC.48 OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC 48. Councils, Special Assemblies.** Special Assemblies may be held at the pleasure of the Master, but the object of such special Assembly must be distinctly stated in a notice which is to be sent to all resident members, by US Mail or other electronic or digital means, or through newspaper notices inserted ~~three~~ ten days in advance of said Special Assembly, and no other business shall be transacted but that for which the Special Assembly was called.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To bring **SEC. 48** to the same notice timeframe as stated in **SEC. 55**. Regarding the timely notice to members of a change in meeting time or place and business to be conducted. Also to allow such notice be delivered via email or other electronic or digital means.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Glenn E. Means, PIM, Independence Council No. 49

***Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE VI, Chartered Councils, by adding SEC. 48A OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC 48A. Councils, Joint Assemblies.**

(1). Joint Assemblies may be held at the pleasure of the Master, by, among and between chartered Councils without a formal dispensation requesting change of meeting dates, times or locations. Joint Assemblies are a temporary change as distinguished from a permanent change governed by SEC. 55. Joint Assemblies require the same notice requirements to members as SEC. 48 and also assuring that prior notice is given to the Grand Recorder and the Grand Master.

(2). Councils meeting under Joint Assemblies may conduct any and all business during any joint Assembly as would have been conducted had they been meeting separately and at their home domiciles. Each Council must have a quorum as required by SEC. 65, one of whom is an officer that is qualified to open/close his Council in order to conduct any business other than for official visits and conferrals.

(3). Councils are further permitted to hold Special or Joint Assemblies within any Grand Lodge of Missouri Symbolic Lodge in their District where a Council does not exist to confer degrees or for other instructional/educational purposes benefitting the Craft upon written approval from the Worshipful Master of that Lodge and providing prior notice is given to the Grand Recorder and Grand Master.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To allow for joint Assemblies without requiring a Special Dispensation from the Grand Master each time for each Council. Also, to allow a council to visit a Lodge to confer degrees or for other instructional/educational purposes.

Fraternally submitted,

William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49

Glenn E. Means, PIM, Independence Council No. 49

***Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE VI, Chartered Councils, SEC. 49 OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC 49. Councils, Transaction of Business.** All business of the Council must be transacted at a stated Assembly, or at a Special or Joint Assembly of which said due notice of the meeting and of the business to be transacted shall have been given to each resident member of the Council.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To include Joint Assemblies in the transacting of Council business.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Glenn E. Means, PIM, Independence Council No. 49

**Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other**

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE II, SEC.11(11)(b) and REPEAL SEC.11(11) (c) OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC. 11(11)a.** Any office of the Grand Council that becomes vacant upon the death, by resignation of the incumbent, or by any cause which permanently incapacitates him from the discharge of his duties.

(b). ~~The Grand Master fills all vacancies in the appointive officers by appointment and subsequent installation. However, the Grand Master may not fill vacancies in the elective officers except the offices of Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder.~~ The Grand Master shall by temporary appointment fill all vacancies which may occur in the offices of the Grand Council, provided however, that a vacancy in the office of Grand Master shall be filled as provided in the **Grand Council By-Laws, Article II, SEC. 12**

~~(c). The case of a vacancy in the advancing line of Grand Officers refer to the General Grand Council Constitution Section 5, page 4, and Grand Council by laws, Article II, Section 12, Paragraph D.~~

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To revise SEC 11(11)(b) to allow the Grand Master to temporarily fill any vacancies in the offices of the Grand Council until the next Annual Assembly.

To repeal (delete) SEC.11(11)(c) as the references do not exist either in the General Grand Council Constitution or the Grand Council By-Laws.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Todd A. Schulze, PIM, Hiram Council No. 1

**Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other**

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE III, SEC. 18(9), SEC.18(9)(5) and SEC.18(9)(6) OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC. 18(9). The Committee on Time and Place** shall consist of the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder, and one designated by them as an assistant who, following the approval of the Report of the Committee on Time and Place at the Annual Assembly, will be empowered by this Grand Council:

[Sec's 18(9)(1) through Sec's 18(9)(4) remain unchanged]

**SEC. 18(9)(5).** To ~~enter into and~~ negotiate contracts with facilities selected as the headquarters while keeping in mind the financial bearing of the membership and this Grand Jurisdiction.

**SEC. 18(9)(6).** The Grand Recorder, in accordance with Article II. SEC.14 (6) to sign or otherwise execute, or in his absence or unavailability, to be signed or otherwise executed by a Grand Officer designated by the Grand Master, such contracts in the name of and in behalf of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, after satisfying the requirements of Article II, SEC.16A. Grand Council Contracts: and,

**SEC. 18(9)(7)** remains unchanged.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To allow the Senior Grand Council officers the opportunity to participate in the selection of the time and place and the planning of their Grand Assemblies. To also insure the provisions of Article II. SEC.16A concerning signing or executing financial contracts obligating the Grand Council are followed.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Todd A. Schulze, PIM, Hiram Council No. 1

**Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other**

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE IV, *Miscellaneous*, SEC. 22 *Revenue of the Grand Council*  
(3) OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS  
FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC. 22(3).** Each Chartered Council shall pay the sum of ~~twelve dollars (\$12.00)~~  
seventeen dollars (\$17.00) for each name borne on its rolls on December 31 of each year plus,  
the per capita dues of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International, except those  
whose dues have been regularly remitted.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To provide the Grand Council with the necessary revenue to  
operate.

Fraternally submitted,  
David C. Witte PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Todd A. Schulze, PIM, Hiram Council No. 1  
Matt Ruth, PIM, Adoniram Council No. 62

**Action Taken: *Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE IV, *Miscellaneous*, SEC. 22 *Revenue of the Grand Council*  
(4) OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS  
FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC 22(4). B** Each Chartered Council shall pay the sum of ~~seven dollars (\$7.00)~~ twenty-five  
dollars (\$25.00) for each candidate greeted during the year.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To provide the Grand Council with the necessary revenue to  
continue to operate.

Fraternally submitted,  
David C. Witte PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Todd A. Schulze, PIM, Hiram Council No. 1  
Matt Ruth, PIM, Adoniram Council No. 62

**Action Taken: *Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

**PROPOSAL TO RENUMBER** ARTICLE VI, Chartered Councils, SEC. 60A of the **BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO SEC. 61A**

~~SEC.60A~~ SEC.61A. Any Council not having its annual return submitted by March 8 (eight) of each year will lose all voting privileges at Grand Council and the Grand Recorder will hold all payments to that Council until the annual return is in and fees paid for that year. *Added 5/17/01)*

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To renumber Current SEC. 60A to SEC. 61A as it properly belongs with SEC 61. *Annual Returns*

Fraternally submitted,

Glenn E. Means, PIM, Independence Council No. 49

William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49

**Action Taken:** *Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other*

**PROPOSAL TO REPEAL AND REPLACE** ARTICLE VI, Chartered Councils, SEC. 60. *Extinct Councils, Status of Members*; OF THE **BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

~~**SEC.60. Extinct Councils, Status of Members.** When the charter of a Council shall have been surrendered or arrested, the members thereof in good standing shall, upon payment to the Grand Council of such dues, if any, as may be owing to such Council, be entitled to a certificate of such good standing from the Grand Recorder having charge of the books and effects of the Council: Provided, however, that in the case of the arrest of the charter, the Grand Master may suspend, and the Grand Council may prohibit the issuing of such certificates to those whose actions or neglect of duty may have caused arrest of the charter.~~

**SEC.60. Missouri-At-Large Council.** An unnumbered Council, known as Missouri-At-Large Council shall be recognized as a holding Council under the authority of the Grand Council of Missouri. Creation of said council shall not be subject to the previous sections of Article V, but shall be by enactment of law. A charter shall be issued by the Grand Secretary and held by the Grand Master while he remains in office and passed to his successor. All members in good standing of any Missouri Council which shall cease to exist due to either the surrender, revocation or annulment of its Charter, and who do not request a Certificate of Good Standing from the Grand Recorder in order to petition for membership to join another Council within six months, shall be automatically considered members of Missouri-At Large Council, and subject to its regulations. Missouri-At-Large Council shall be governed, in lieu of by-laws, by the following regulations.

1. **Officers:** The officers of Missouri-At-Large Council shall be the Grand Officers of the Grand Council, except the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder. The officers shall be considered temporary members of the Council during their term of office. The Treasurer and Recorder of Missouri-At-Large Council shall be Past Grand Masters appointed annually by the Grand Master and shall be considered temporary members of the Council during their terms of office. Installation as a Grand Council Officer shall be considered installation to the same Missouri-At-Large Council office with no further or official declaration. Installation of the Treasurer and Recorder shall be at a time and place as suitable. The officers shall not be assessed dues, shall not be considered dual members due to their temporary membership, nor shall they be permitted to request demits from Missouri-at-Large Council. The officers' duties shall be the same as the equivalent officers of all other Chartered Councils. The officers shall conduct all business of the Council.

2. **Dues:** The dues for Missouri-At-Large Council shall be fifteen (15) dollars per year plus the annual dues and per capita assessments to the Grand Council. Dues may be remitted by the officers if such remission is, in their opinion, justified.

3. **Degree Conferral Restricted:** Missouri-At-Large Council shall not accept petitions for the degrees or for affiliation, and shall not confer degrees.

4. **Certificates of Good Standing and Demits:** Requests for Certificates of Good Standing and requests for demit from Missouri-At-Large Council shall be received and granted by the recorder, provided that all other provisions of Article X of the Grand Council by-laws are fulfilled.

5. **Meetings:** The officers shall have at least one business meeting, each year, either by personal attendance, conference call or virtually, for the purpose of conducting the business of the Council, including review and approval of the expenses paid by and other actions performed by the recorder.

6. **Reports:** The Recorder of Missouri-At-Large Council, in addition to submitting the Annual Return, shall make a report at each annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council detailing the members and actions of the Council.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To create a "holding council" to be used to temporarily transfer membership of those members whose home Council ceases to exist. This allows the continuation of Council membership until a new home can be acquired, rather than lose Council membership altogether.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Todd A. Schulze, PIM, Hiram Council No. 1

**Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other**

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND** ARTICLE VI, Chartered Councils, SEC. 62. *Extinct Councils, Dues From Members of.* And SEC. 63. *Extinct Councils, Membership Transfer from.* OF THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~; additions appear underlined)

**SEC. 62. *Extinct Councils, Dues From Members of.*** ~~A member of an extinct Council is not liable for dues after the Council becomes extinct. But~~ The Grand Council has the right to collect from members all dues chargeable against them up to the time the Council became extinct, and to discipline all those who refuse or neglect to pay the same.

**SEC. 63. *Extinct Councils, Membership Transfer from.*** When a Council has ceased to exist, any member thereof in good standing becomes a member of Missouri-At-Large Council.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To amend SEC's. 62 and 63 to include and accommodate Missouri-At-Large Council.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, PIM, Independence Council No. 49  
Todd A. Schulze, PIM, Hiram Council No. 1

***Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Currently, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons is projected to have 1785 dues paying members when dues notices are mailed this Fall. Below is a list of some raw facts that must be considered when looking at the financial situation of the Grand Council:

- The average age of membership is 75
- Eight years ago the average age of the Grand Council was 67
- Actuarially, our average member has 11.8 years to live
- 10% of our membership is under 50
- 20% of our membership is under 60
- 40% of our membership is over 80
- More of our members are over 90 than under 40
- Our membership has declined by 50% over the last eight years

The Committee on Finance and Accounts can make recommendations to solve short-term budget shortfalls, but to resolve the long-term financial issues of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, will require a restructuring of business operations and growth in membership. The time for business, as usual, is over if we want to survive.

The Committee on Finance and Accounts recommends that the Grand Council begin the restructuring process now and not make any long term financial commitments until the Grand Officers have a plan in place to combat the decline in membership of our subordinate Councils.

The Committee is recommending the following budget for the ensuing year:

<b>2016-2017 Grand Council Budget</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Per Capita, Membership ( <b>1,785 @ \$14.60</b> )	\$ 26,061.00
Per Capita, Endowed Membership	\$ 2,400.00
Greeting Fees (75 @ \$7.00)	\$ 525.00
General Fund Interest Income	\$ 750.00
Audit Allocation	\$ -
Printing Proceedings Allocation	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,736.00</b>
<b>Salaries and Allowances</b>	
Grand Master Expenses	\$ 3,000.00
Royal Arch Mason Magazine Editor Honorarium	\$ -
Grand Treasurer Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
Grand Recorder Salary	\$ 5,000.00
Clerical Assistant Salary	\$ 5,000.00
Employment Taxes	\$ 950.00
Bonding Insurance	\$ 100.00
Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ 750.00
Audit Committee	\$ 2,000.00
New Companion Rituals	\$ -
Office Expenses	\$ 4,300.00
Printing Services	\$ 500.00
Office Rent	\$ 1,900.00
Storage Rent	\$ 1,200.00
General Grand Council Per Capita ( <b>2,350 @ \$2.50</b> )	\$ 5,875.00
Annual Assembly	\$ 2,050.00
Grand Officer Expenses	\$ 1,000.00

Past Grand Master Jewel	\$ 500.00
Royal Arch Magazine	\$ -
Triennial Fund (2,350 @ \$0.06)	\$ 144.00
Emerging Leaders Fund (1,785 @ \$0.10)	\$ 180.00
YRIS Support	\$ 500.00
Web Master	\$ 250.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ -
Unencumbered Audit Expense	\$ -
Unencumbered Printing Proceeds Expense	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,449.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 29,736.00</b>
<b>Total Salaries and Allowances</b>	<b>\$ 36,449.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (6,713.00)</b>

To eliminate this shortfall in the near future, the Committee recommends the adoption of the following by-law changes.

### **PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Article IV, Miscellaneous, Section 22. Revenue of the Grand Council. Paragraph (3) be amended by replacing the words “twelve dollars (\$12.00)” with the words “seventeen dollars (\$17.00)”.

**THIS SECTION CURRENTLY READS:** Each Chartered Council shall pay the sum of twelve dollars (\$12.00) for each name borne on its rolls on December 31 of each year, plus the per capita dues of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International, except those whose dues have been regularly remitted.

**IF ADOPTED, THIS SECTION WILL READ:** Each Chartered Council shall pay the sum of seventeen dollars (\$17.00) for each name borne on its rolls on December 31 of each year, plus the per capita dues of the General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons, International, except those whose dues have been regularly remitted.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To provide the Grand Council with the necessary revenue to continue to operate.

***Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Article IV, Miscellaneous, Section 22. Revenue of the Grand Council. Paragraph (4) be amended by replacing the words “seven dollars (\$7.00)” with the words “twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)”.

**THIS SECTION CURRENTLY READS:** Each Chartered Council shall pay the sum of seven dollars (\$7.00) for each candidate greeted during the year.

**IF ADOPTED, THIS SECTION WILL READ:** Each Chartered Council shall pay the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each candidate greeted during the year.

**Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other**

*Proposal to Accept the Revised Budget should either of the two proposals be adopted:*

**Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other**

Fraternally submitted,

David C. Witte, Chairman, PM, Independence Council No. 49

Todd Schulze, PM, Hiram Council No. 1

Matt Ruth, PM, Adoniram Council No. 63

*(Move for adoption of Committee Report as a whole:)*

**Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other**

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RETURNS OF COUNCILS**

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Companions,

On April 20, 2016 your committee on Returns of Councils obtained the information in this report. We DID NOT physically examine the returns but received the information from Debbie Hanson, Grand Records Assistant.

Of the 31 Councils only 21 had returns in by this date. All were neatly done with some information incomplete. Some pages were missing, including the page of audit and signatures. All who were delinquent in reporting will be assessed penalties.

There were no mergers of Councils.

At the beginning of the year there were 2473 members. Of which, 102 were 50 year members, 317 endowed members, and 83 remitted dues.

It is difficult to prepare a preliminary report, by date due when more than 1/3 of the Councils were delinquent in reporting.

Fraternally Submitted

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman

## PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

June 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

COMPANIONS: All funds are invested in and/or thru banking institutions in Jefferson City. All bank accounts are interest bearing, with no service charges, with amounts being maintained at less than \$250,000 in any one banking institution. Investments in common stock or equal securities in nationally known corporations traded on the New York Stock Exchange, as allowed by Sec. 135 of the By-Laws is being utilized (American Balanced Fund and American Income Fund).

I present herewith my report of the receipts, disbursements and the financial condition of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri for the fiscal year, June 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

### General Fund

#### Total Assets, General Fund, June 1, 2015

Receipts:	Grand Recorder, etc.	\$ 17,360.76	\$ 59,430.47
	Interest Earned	\$ 190.40	
	Increase in Market Value, etc. American-Income	\$ 25.35	
	Increase in Market Value, etc. American-Balanced	\$ 115.80	
Total Receipts:		\$ 17,692.31	
Disbursements:	Jefferson Act. #xx9328	\$ 2,817.67	
	Jefferson Act. #xx4544	\$ 20,053.50	
	Jefferson Act. #xx4155	\$ 3,149.49	
Total Disbursements:		\$ 26,020.66	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:			\$ (8,328.35)
<u>Balance, General Fund, March 31, 2016</u>			<u>\$ 51,102.12</u>

### Statement of Assets- General Fund

Interest Checking Account #xx9328, Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.05%	\$ 189.35	
Interest Checking Act. #xx544, Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.05%	\$ 704.25	
Interest Checking Act. #xx325, Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.02%	\$ 7.50	
Money Mkt. Act. #xx4155, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.28%	\$ 23,210.53	
CD #xxx7548, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 1.00%, Matures 1/3/2017	\$ 17,610.83	
American Balanced Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 4,486.80	
American Income Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 4,892.86	
<u>Total Assets, General Fund, March 31, 2016</u>		<u>\$ 51,102.12</u>

### General Fund (Special Account)

#### Total Assets, General Fund (Special Account), June 1, 2015

Receipts:	Interest Earned	\$ 225.32	\$ 36,030.28
	Increase in Market Value, etc. American Balanced Fund	\$ 351.04	
Total Receipts:		\$ 576.36	
Disbursements:		\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:			\$ 576.36
<u>Balance, General Fund (Special Account), March 31, 2016</u>			<u>\$ 36,606.64</u>

**Statement of Assets- General Fund (Special Account)**

Money Mkt. Act. #xx4155, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.28%	\$ 399.96	
American Balanced Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 13,602.10	
CD #xxx8054, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City,1.00%,Matures 10/10/2016	\$ 22,604.58	
<b>Total Assets, General Fund (Special Account), March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 36,606.64</b>
<b>Endowed Membership Fund</b>		
<b>Total Assets, Endowed Membership Fund, June 1, 2015</b>		<b>\$ 120,082.46</b>
Receipts: Memberships (6 )	\$ 2,845.00	
Interest Earned	\$ 445.07	
Increase in Market Value, etc. American Fund-Income	\$ 302.52	
Total Receipts:	\$ 3,592.59	
Disbursements:	\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		\$ 3,592.59
<b>Balance, Endowed Membership Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 123,675.05</b>

**Statement of Assets - Endowed Membership Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxx4155,Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.28%	\$ 8,862.34	
CD#xxx1055,Providence Bank, Jefferson City,1.00%,Matures 9/30/2016	\$ 56,425.53	
American Income Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 58,387.18	
<b>Total Assets, Endowed Membership Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 123,675.05</b>
<b>Charity Endowment Fund</b>		
Total Assets, Charity Endowment Fund, June 1, 2015		<b>\$ 126,590.43</b>
Receipts: Various Contributions	\$ 270.40	
Interest Earned	\$ 1,158.54	
Total Receipts:	\$ 1,428.94	
Disbursements:	\$ 600.00	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		\$ 828.94
<b>Balance, Charity Endowment Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 127,419.37</b>

**Statement of Assets - Charity Endowment Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxx4155,Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.28%	\$ 3,490.87	
CD#xxx3910,Providence Bank-Jefferson City,1.00%,Matures 7/6/2016	\$ 48,982.34	
CD#xxx4500,Providence Bank, Jefferson City,1.00%,Matures 7/6/2016	\$ 41,398.58	
CD #xxx2161, Hawthorn Bank, Jefferson City, 1.50%, Matures 2/7/2019	\$ 33,547.58	
<b>Total Assets, Charity Endowment Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 127,419.37</b>

**Supply Fund**

Total Assets, Supply Fund, June 1, 2015		<b>\$ 7,736.86</b>
Receipts: Inventory Sales	\$ 3,029.96	
Interest Earned	\$ 21.49	
Total Receipts:	\$ 3,051.45	
Disbursements:	\$ 264.77	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		\$ 2,786.68
<b>Balance, Supply Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 10,523.54</b>

**Statement of Assets - Supply Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.28%	\$ 10,523.54	
<b>Total Assets, Supply Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 10,523.54</b>

**Triennial Fund****Total Assets, Triennial Fund, June 1, 2015**

Receipts:	From General Fund	\$ -	\$ 169.97
	Interest Earned	\$ 0.39	
Total Receipts:		\$ 0.39	
Disbursements:		\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:			\$ 0.39
<b>Balance, Triennial Fund, March 31, 2016</b>			<b>\$ 170.36</b>

**Statement of Assets - Triennial Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.28%

	\$ 170.36	\$ 170.36
<b>Total Assets, Triennial Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 170.36</b>

**Leadership Fund****Total Assets, Leadership Fund, June 1, 2015**

Receipts:	From Councils	\$ 145.80	\$ 412.96
	Interest Earned	\$ 0.97	
Total Receipts:		\$ 146.77	
Disbursements:		\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:			\$ 146.77
<b>Balance, Leadership Fund, March 31, 2016</b>			<b>\$ 559.73</b>

**Statement of Assets - Leadership Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.28%

	\$ 559.73	\$ 559.73
<b>Total Assets, Leadership Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 559.73</b>

**Audit Fund****Total Assets, Audit Fund, June 1, 2015**

Receipts:	Interest Earned	\$ 0.97	\$ 1,570.53
Total Receipts:		\$ 0.97	
Disbursements:		\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:			\$ 0.97
<b>Balance, Triennial Fund, March 31, 2016</b>			<b>\$ 1,571.50</b>

**Statement of Assets - Audit Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.28%

	\$ 1,571.50	\$ 1,571.50
<b>Total Assets, Audit Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 1,571.50</b>

**Proceedings Fund****Total Assets, Proceedings Fund, June 1, 2015**

	Interest Earned	\$ 3.57	\$ 4,977.82
Total Receipts:		\$ 3.57	
Disbursements:		\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:			\$ 3.57
<b>Balance, Proceedings Fund, March 31, 2016</b>			<b>\$ 4,981.39</b>

**Statement of Assets - Proceedings Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.28%

	\$ 4,981.39	\$ 4,981.39
<b>Total Assets, Proceedings Fund, March 31, 2016</b>		<b>\$ 4,981.39</b>

**Total Assets, All Funds, March 31, 2016****\$ 356,609.70**

Fraternally submitted,  
Donald L. Trabue, HPGM, Grand Treasurer

## **REPORTS OF THE GRAND RECORDER**

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Companions, much has been done, and there is much yet to do. Following this narrative, you will find the statistical reports of the Grand Recorder's office. It would be of benefit to the grand officers and others to actually review and study these reports as they provide much information as to the overall financial and physical health of the subordinate Councils of the Grand Council of Missouri.

Over the years, with the changing of subordinate Recorders and changes in technology, with what might have once been considered usual and customary communicative protocol, we are experiencing a loss of understanding of Masonic protocol with regard to sending official correspondence to the Office of the Grand Master and his committees. Sometimes when things change, some things need to remain the same. Council Recorders are sending requests for Dispensations and By-Laws changes directly to the Grand Master or Jurisprudence Committee. We would urge and respectfully request that normalized communications be reinstated – by sending your requests to the Grand Recorder's office wherein they will be appropriately distributed and tracked through to completion. We find this necessary when documenting and approving actions to be properly recorded by all involved.

Unfortunately, we have not tackled the task of reviewing Cryptic Commissions and anticipate this moving forward over the next year.

Annual Returns: This year twelve returns were received late this year: Zabud 25; Jasper 30; Ezra 32; Centralia 34; Trenton 37; Carthage 41 (serious health issues); Sedalia 42 (due to extenuating circumstances); Neosho 46 (serious health issues); Jeremiah 48; Liberty 50; East Gate 51; and Harmony 53. Only one return remains outstanding – Chillicothe 28. Although not properly recorded on the annual return, one Cryptic Mason was expelled this year.

Endowed Members: Some Recorders seem to voice concern about how Grand Council Endowed Memberships and General Grand Council Endowments are calculated. Most of these concerns would be alleviated with a simple read-through of the Annual Return Instructions with regard to those items. Our office remains willing and able to address any questions you might have about the completion of the returns.

Audits: I would direct the Grand Officers' (as well as appropriate committees) attention to several items in the statistical reports – Councils who report no Cash on Hand; no Paraphernalia value; Councils who show an indebtedness; and Councils whose dues are extremely low or even less than Grand Council per capita. Several Councils failed to record the amount of their annual dues. RDGM's should take notice of those Councils who failed to record any CMMR or CEF donations and provide education. It would appear that we have lost track of the Penny-a-Day stickers the office provides for these charity donations. Finally, I would refer

to the Grand Master and appropriate committees the list of Treasurers and Recorders who are not bonded, and whose Councils failed to submit an annual audit. We must start reviewing and addressing these statistical reports and what appears to be failures on the part of the Councils, although we are sure most of these items could be remediated through training and education for the officers by the appropriate Grand Council officers.

One final note about Annual Returns and Monthly Reports – Recorders are reminded to record the full names of members they are reporting. Nicknames and Initials are not acceptable. The Grand Recorder's office would appreciate attention be given to properly recording membership information and work with us to correct both sets of records.

This year, the Grand York Rite web site underwent a complete makeover and background rebuild under the design and engineering of our web master. We also updated our social media notifications. We extend to I.C. Donald MacCormick our most sincere appreciation for his hard work and dedication. Such devotion must not go unrewarded. We encourage everyone to "subscribe" to the Grand York Rite email distribution list and Like us on Facebook so you can receive the timeliest notices. Additionally, the newly revised Calendar of Events is open to everyone to post their events of import, Official Visits by Grand Officers, and especially degree work which will be moderated and if approved by the committee members, posted usually in less than 24 hours. There are a number of very useful forms and documents located under the Document Library which I would direct everyone to. If you find something missing, let me know and we will bring it up to date and post it for everyone's use.

Monthly Reports: Many Council Recorders are not filling out monthly reports. This next year, updates will be provided monthly to the Grand Master and RDGM's as to those who are not providing these reports. Companions, the timely and accurate submission of Monthly Reports will make your efforts in completing the Annual Returns a breeze. We have created an easy to use form that will be just as useful to you as it is to us. There was one minor fix applied this year thanks to the watchful eye of the Recorder of Poplar Bluff Council No. 27 and the Recorder of Kirksville Council No. 44.

On another and probably sensitive note, the list of missing committee reports in the preliminary proceedings is long and distinguished, not to mention embarrassing and unprofessional. The Grand Recorder's office sets a deadline for the submission of committee reports and other documents which are to be printed in the preliminary proceedings. We are unsure if the committees are functioning but the lack of reporting should be referred to the incoming Grand Master for remediation. The result of this lack of submission and of untimely submissions of reports generates much in the way of chaos in preparing for the grand sessions. On another note, it is imperative that the Education Committee for 2016-2017 immediately update the Grand Council Merit Award Application and provide it to the Grand Recorder's office and the RDGM's as soon as possible following the Annual Assembly.

On the subject of our storage facilities, due to a renewed working relationship with the Grand Lodge of Missouri and the Missouri Lodge of Research, R.:I.:C.: Hanson and I have

started cleaning out the downtown Columbia storage facility. The Missouri Lodge of Research has graciously agreed to store and even properly display some of our historic artifacts and documents. We have already taken one truckload to the Grand Lodge building. Over the next two months, we hope to completely vacate this facility. Then we hope to start migrating storage items from the Columbia Masonic Lodge to the Lodge of Research. Most Worshipful Brother John W.F. Hess has been most accommodating to the Grand York Rite and we wish to thank him and MWB C. Brent Stewart for helping to finally bring all of this together. Hopefully, in the very near future, some of the Grand York Rite's most historic and important documents and items will be on display for all to see.

This year, Debbie Hanson was trained in and is now making full membership database changes as they occur, processing monthly reports and reconciling annual returns from the past several years in an attempt to finally reconcile our membership records with the records of the subordinate councils. This office would not function without her dedication. She is to be commended for her tireless efforts and her willingness to help us all get things back on track, as well as keep me on track with things I have let slip. I also thank RIC Russell S. Hanson for his assistance in continuing the business partnership that the leadership of the Grand York Rite agreed to when we developed the current business plan. I could not do this job without him.

Finally, this year I was able to attend all but one of the Regional York Rite Conferences. It was apparent from the feedback that my attendance was productive and warranted. I appreciate the opportunity to participate and look forward to attending future conferences if invited to participate. With so many changes in Recorders and in some cases a loss of institutional knowledge, the Grand Master has suggested that the Grand Recorder develop a training program which can be given during Regional York Rite Conferences, and possibly even develop a full blown training session at our next grand sessions. This would be a great opportunity for us to share with new (and old) Recorders background information and guidance in how to maintain membership records, communicate with the grand bodies, communicate with other Councils, and even potentially provide education and instruction on how to conduct routine administrative functions which have been lost to time or simply not handed down to our most dedicated Companions. We encourage feedback as to your need for such a program.

Fraternally and Most Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin B. Sample, Grand Recorder  
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri

***Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other***

## STATISTICS

Number of Chartered Councils	31
Number of Members, December 31, 2014	2453
Number Greeted	85
Number Affiliated	3
Number Reinstated	12
Total Gains	100
Number Dimitted	34
Number Suspended for Un-Masonic Conduct	0
Number Expelled	0
Number Suspended by Lodge or Chapter	38
Number Suspended by Council NPD	68
Number Died	89
Total Losses	229
<b>Total Members, December 31, 2015</b>	<b>2324</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>129</b>

## FINANCIAL RECAPITULATION

Through May 31, 2016

2015-2016 Grand Council Budget	2015-2016 Recap	2015-2016 Budget
Income		
Per Capita, Membership	\$ 25,778.05	\$ 36,750.00
Per Capita, Endowed Membership	\$ 2,382.22	\$ 2,250.00
Greeting Fees	\$ 595.00	\$ 525.00
General Fund Interest Income	\$ 387.21	\$ 600.00
2013-2015 Audit Allocation	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,200.00
2013-2015 Printing Proceedings Allocation	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 32,742.48</b>	<b>\$ 47,325.00</b>
Salaries and Allowances		
Grand Master Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Grand Treasurer Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Grand Recorder Salary	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Clerical Assistant Salary	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Employment Taxes	\$ 913.52	\$ 1,100.00
Bonding Insurance	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Audit Committee	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 2,000.00
New Companion Rituals	\$ -	\$ 750.00
Office Expenses	\$ 2,534.60	\$ 4,300.00
Printing Services	\$ 121.50	\$ 2,000.00
Office Rent	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,900.00
Storage Rent	\$ 969.00	\$ 1,200.00
General Grand Council Per Capita	\$ 2,395.00	\$ 5,250.00
Annual Assembly	\$ 774.79	\$ 2,400.00
Grand Officer Expenses	\$ 67.69	\$ 600.00
Past Grand Master Jewel	\$ 64.20	\$ 450.00
Triennial Fund	\$ 157.50	\$ 157.50
Emerging Leaders Fund	\$ -	\$ 202.20
YRIS Support	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Web Master	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Meeting Expenses	\$ 377.49	\$ 500.00
Unencumbered Audit Expense	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,200.00
Unencumbered Printing Proceeds Expense	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,575.29</b>	<b>\$ 47,709.70</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 32,742.48</b>	<b>\$ 47,325.00</b>
<b>Total Salaries and Allowances</b>	<b>\$ 33,575.29</b>	<b>\$ 47,709.70</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (832.81)</b>	<b>\$ (384.70)</b>

No.	Council	Location	Chartered	EIN	Illustrious Master	Deputy Master	Principal Conductor of the Work	Recorder
1	Hiram	St. Louis	July 17, 1883	23-7550888	Charles M. Huey	Taz Meyer	Darren Beck	Michael D. Kassel
9	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	October 7, 1871	23-7550889	Larry E. Chambers	Patrick C. Squires	Alvin K. Patterson	William W. Mier
20	Cape	Cape Girardeau	October 6, 1871	23-7550890	Charles M. Huey	Dennis W. Houck	Johnny L. Schlenker	Alfred L. Mason
24	Shekinah	Kansas City	April 27, 1892	23-7550891	Frank Kaffenberger	Laurent Paul Emile-Ergas	Martin George Morford	Aaron E. Rose
25	Zabud	Springfield	April 25, 1894	44-0520296	John C. Kuehn	Donald Charpentier, Jr.	Kevin Michael Ritter	Dale Mills, II
27	Poplar Bluff	Poplar Bluff	April 24, 1895	23-7550893	Earlie Wilson	James N. Leslie	Bill A. Humble	Tony J. DePriest
28	Chillicothe	Chillicothe	April 21, 1897	23-7550894				Melvin L. Gregg
30	Jasper	Joplin	April 25, 1900	23-7550895	William J. Sherman	Robert Gilmore	Rodney Trimble	Royce P. Wahl, Jr.
32	Ezra	Jefferson City	April 23, 1902	23-7550896	Jeffrey S. Stacey	Harold F. Coots	Michael C. Rohman	Donald L. Trabue
34	Centralia	Columbia	April 28, 1908	23-7550897	Ronald L. Skiles	Mark A. Bean	Lucas Gable	William R. Brantley
35	Fidelity	Mountain Grove	April 26, 1920	23-7550898	Andrew Jay Dawson	Robert G. Rogers	Jon R. Mattson	E. Joe Slater
37	Trenton	Trenton	April 25, 1921	23-7550900	Otis Gearl Scholl	John Robert Fredricks	Michael Greenlee	Otis G. Scholl, Jr.
38	Westport	Kansas City	April 25, 1921	43-6071585	Mark Schmidt	Thomas Schmidt	William Jennens	Roy N. Thomas
39	Rolla	Rolla	April 10, 1922	23-7144150	James B. Stephenson	William D. Woolsey	James W. Woods	Donald H. Vandegriffe
40	York	St. Charles	April 10, 1922	23-7550902	Walter L. Wilson	Christopher E. Tilley	Michael S. Smith	John E. Trower
41	Carthage	Carthage	April 10, 1922	23-7550903				James Ray Leonard
42	Sedalia	Sedalia	April 10, 1922	23-7550904	Ralph Britz	Frank Bell	Bret Manuel	Troy Bartley
43	Bonne Terre	Bonne Terre	April 21, 1924	23-7550905	Anthony J. Tomlinson	Michael R. Stevens	John P. Martin	James L. Woodfin, Jr.
44	Kirkville	Kirkville	April 22, 1929	23-7550906	James Furman	Seth Shumaker	Ashley W. Young	Thomas C. Yunick
45	Kansas City	Kansas City	April 24, 1944	23-7550907	Donald MacCormick	Ivory Graham	Charles Connor	Steven M. Anderson
46	Neosho	Neosho	April 22, 1946	23-7550908	William Tilton	Rex Tilton	Larry Shane McNelly	Glenn Clifton
47	Trinity	Hannibal	April 25, 1949	23-7550909	Roger McGregor	William Snell	Clement Gunn	Roger McGregor
48	Jeremiah	Webster Groves	April 24, 1950	23-7144151	William J. B. Mathis	Wilford G. Soutrea, Jr.	Dwight E. Wyatt	Robert L. Sanders
49	Independence	Independence	April 24, 1950	23-7550910	Stan Bennett	Marl A. Dobson	Richard A. Riepe	Larry F. Walters
50	Liberty	Liberty	April 24, 1950	23-7550911	Michael E. Wheeler	Dale E. Ahle	David William Cox	Don E. Gilkerson
51	East Gate	Kansas City	April 24, 1950	23-7550912	Steve Anderson			Forrest G. Lowe
53	Harmony	Bethany	April 19, 1974	23-7396156	Clifford W. Addison	Jackson D. Daniel	Randall L. Klingensmith	Dan G. Daniel
56	Lebanon	Lebanon	May 9, 1990	43-1697678	James E. Portwood	Thomas E. Sams	Richard Carl Simons	William E. Brenneman
58	Bert S. Lee	Springfield	May 17, 2001	90-0053587	Jim Watson	CC McLeomore, III	Clark McLeomore	John Shoemaker
59	Shelby	Shelbina	February 28, 2006	90-0324713	Jerry L. Miles	Charles Hawkins	Martin Eugene Lund, Jr.	Darrell A. Wilham
63	Adoniram	Webb City		47-1583565	Matthew David Ruth	James A. Furgerson	William G. Davis, II	Kaleb L. Forkner
	TOTAL							

No.	Council	Election of Officers	Stated Assemblies	Annual Return Received	01. 2014 Membership	02. Greeted	03. Admitted	04. Reinstated	05. Total Gains	06. Total Mbrship	07. Dimitted	08. Suspension for UnMasonic Conduct	09. Expelled	10. Suspension by Lodge or Chapter	11. Suspension for Non Payment of Dues	12. Died	13. Total Losses	14. Total Year End Membership 2015
1	Hiram	4th Wed in March	4th Wednesday	30-Jan-16	47	5	0	1	6	53	1	0	0	0	5	3	9	44
9	St. Joseph	1st Wed in Nov	1st Wednesday	22-Feb-16	214	3	0	1	4	218	0	0	0	0	4	10	14	204
20	Cape	1st Wed in Dec	1st Wednesday	1-Mar-16	69	1	1	0	2	71	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	67
24	Shekinah	3rd Wed in June	3rd Wednesday	29-Feb-16	64	4	0	0	4	68	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	67
25	Zabud	4th Mon in Mar	4th Monday	23-Apr-16	257	8	1	4	13	270	0	0	0	9	10	9	28	242
27	Poplar Bluff	2nd Thurs in Nov	2nd Thursday	29-Feb-16	55	4	0	2	6	61	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	58
28	Chillicothe	3rd Mon in Dec	3rd Monday		10					10								10
30	Jasper	1st Tues in Sept	1st Tuesday	28-Mar-16	57	1	0	0	1	58	3	0	0	0	0	2	5	53
32	Ezra	1st Mon in April	1st Monday	30-Apr-16	79	0	0	0	0	79	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	76
34	Centralia	4th Mon in Nov	4th Monday	28-Apr-16	155	2	0	0	2	157	0	0	0	3	3	11	17	140
35	Fidelity	3rd Fri in Jan	3rd Friday	22-Feb-16	40	6	0	0	6	46	1	0	0	5	0	0	6	40
37	Trenton	3rd Thurs in May	3rd Thursday	30-Apr-16	45	2	0	0	2	47	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	39
38	Westport	1st Mon in Aug	1st Monday	26-Feb-16	45	0	0	0	0	45	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	43
39	Rolla	3rd Mon in April	3rd Monday	29-Feb-16	144	6	0	0	6	150	0	0	0	0	28	1	29	121
40	York	3rd Mon in March	3rd Monday	19-Feb-16	39	0	1	0	1	40	0	0	0	2	1	2	5	35
41	Carthage	3rd Thurs in Dec	3rd Thursday	14-May-16	108	3	0	0	3	111	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	104
42	Sedalia	1st Wed in Dec	1st Wednesday	21-May-16	42	0	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	40
43	Bonne Terre	2nd Tues in May	2nd Tuesday	16-Feb-16	82	3	0	0	3	85	1	0	0	0	5	5	11	74
44	Kirkville	2nd Thurs in Dec	2nd Thursday	26-Feb-16	189	7	0	1	8	197	4	0	0	15	0	3	22	175
45	Kansas City	1st Mon in May	1st Monday	26-Feb-16	30	1	0	0	1	31	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	28
46	Neosho	3rd Mon in March	3rd Monday	25-May-16	60	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
47	Trinity	1st Thur in Oct	1st Thursday	27-Feb-16	20	0	0	1	1	21	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	15
48	Jeremiah	3rd Mon in March	3rd Monday	16-May-16	128	3	0	0	3	131	4	0	0	0	0	3	7	124
49	Independence	4th Thur in April	4th Thursday	14-Feb-16	150	14	0	0	14	164	1	0	0	0	7	9	17	147
50	Liberty	3rd Mon in May	3rd Monday	30-Mar-16	142	1	0	0	1	143	5	0	0	0	0	6	11	132
51	East Gate	1st Thur in June	3rd Thursday	30-Apr-16	24	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
53	Harmony	3rd Tuesday in Feb	3rd Tuesday	31-Mar-16	20	3	0	0	3	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
56	Lebanon	3rd Tues in April	3rd Tuesday	20-Feb-16	56	2	0	2	4	60	1	0	0	1	0	2	4	56
58	Bert S. Lee	1st Thurs in June	1st Thursday	19-Feb-16	28	1	0	0	1	29	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	27
59	Shelby	4th Tues in Dec	4th Tuesday	27-Feb-16	34	3	0	0	3	37	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	35
63	Adoniram	2nd Wed in April	2nd & 4th Wed	1-Mar-16	20	2	0	0	2	22	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	21
	TOTAL				2453	85	3	12	100	2553	34	0	0	38	68	89	229	2324

No.	Council	15. Greeting Fees	16. Per Capita	17. 2014 Debits	18. Total Per Capita and Fees	19. Remissions, Inability to Pay	20. Remissions, 50 year	20. Remissions, 50 year	21. Living Life Members	21. Living Life Members	22. General Grand Council Endowed Mbrs	22. General Grand Council Endowed Mbrs	23. 2014 Credits
1	Hiram	\$ 35.00	\$ 620.40	\$ -	\$ 655.40	0	1	1	7	\$ 98.70	5	\$ 10.00	\$ -
9	St. Joseph	21.00	2,876.40	-	2,897.40	11	19	19	34	479.40	0	-	-
20	Cape	7.00	944.70	-	951.70	8	11	11	3	42.30	0	-	-
24	Shekinah	28.00	944.70	45.00	1,017.70	0	0	0	16	225.60	1	2.00	-
25	Zabud	56.00	3,412.20	-	3,468.20	3	50	50	23	324.30	4	8.00	-
27	Poplar Bluff	28.00	817.80	-	845.80	9	2	2	5	70.50	1	2.00	-
28	Chillicothe	-	141.00	-	141.00	-	-	-	1	14.10	0	-	-
30	Jasper	7.00	747.30	-	754.30	3	1	1	14	197.40	0	-	13.10
32	Ezra	-	1,071.60	-	1,071.60	8	12	12	6	84.60	2	4.00	-
34	Centralia	14.00	1,974.00	-	1,988.00	0	31	31	55	775.50	0	-	13.00
35	Fidelity	42.00	564.00	15.00	621.00	0	2	2	1	14.10	1	2.00	-
37	Trenton	14.00	549.90	294.20	858.10	1	13	13	2	28.20	1	2.00	-
38	Westport	-	606.30	-	606.30	0	6	6	1	14.10	0	-	-
39	Rolla	42.00	1,706.10	28.10	1,776.20	4	10	10	24	338.40	3	6.00	-
40	York	-	493.50	9.00	502.50	4	1	1	6	84.60	2	4.00	-
41	Carthage	21.00	1,466.40	-	1,487.40	0	14	14	2	28.20	1	2.00	-
42	Sedalia	-	564.00	10.30	574.30	0	0	0	6	84.60	0	-	-
43	Bonne Terre	21.00	1,043.40	-	1,064.40	8	2	2	11	155.10	2	4.00	-
44	Kirksville	49.00	2,467.50	15.00	2,531.50	1	13	13	8	112.80	2	4.00	-
45	Kansas City	7.00	394.80	56.20	458.00	0	7	7	0	-	0	-	-
46	Neosho	-	846.00	30.00	876.00	7	12	12	2	28.20	0	-	-
47	Trinity	-	211.50	-	211.50	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-
48	Jeremiah	21.00	1,748.40	15.00	1,784.40	3	3	3	29	408.90	1	2.00	-
49	Independence	98.00	2,072.70	26.30	2,197.00	2	10	10	20	282.00	2	4.00	-
50	Liberty	7.00	1,861.20	-	1,868.20	0	12	12	22	310.20	0	-	-
51	East Gate	-	338.40	-	338.40	2	-	-	2	28.20	0	-	-
53	Harmony	21.00	324.30	-	345.30	0	2	2	0	-	0	-	-
56	Lebanon	14.00	789.60	15.00	818.60	1	2	2	10	141.00	2	4.00	-
58	Bert S. Lee	7.00	380.70	-	387.70	1	0	0	6	84.60	1	2.00	-
59	Shelby	21.00	493.50	75.00	589.50	1	1	1	1	14.10	0	-	-
63	Adoniram	14.00	296.10	-	310.10	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	-
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 595.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,768.40</b>	<b>\$ 634.10</b>	<b>\$ 33,997.50</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>\$3,341.70</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>\$4,469.70</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$ 62.00</b>	<b>\$26.10</b>

No.	Council	24. Total Credits	25. Amount Owed Grand Council	Late Fees	Total Amount Owed Grand Council	Paid	2nd Payment	Date 2nd Payment	Total All Payments	2015 Credits	2015 Debits
1	Hiram	\$ 122.80	\$ 532.60	\$ -	\$ 532.60	\$ 498.40	\$ -		\$ 498.40	\$ -	\$ -
9	St. Joseph	902.40	1,995.00	-	1,995.00	1,995.00	-		1,995.00	-	-
20	Cape	310.20	641.50	-	641.50	683.80	-		683.80	42.30	
24	Shekinah	227.60	790.10	-	790.10	253.60	113.50	6-May-16	367.10		423.00
25	Zabud	1,079.60	2,388.60	30.00	2,418.60	2,368.40	-		2,368.40		50.20
27	Poplar Bluff	227.60	618.20	-	618.20	618.20	-		618.20	0.00	
28	Chillicothe	14.10	126.90	-	126.90	-	-		-		126.90
30	Jasper	266.90	487.40	15.00	502.40	500.50	-		500.50		1.90
32	Ezra	370.60	701.00	30.00	731.00	731.00	-		731.00	0.00	
34	Centralia	1,225.60	762.40	30.00	792.40	762.40	-		762.40		30.00
35	Fidelity	44.30	576.70	-	576.70	576.70	-		576.70		
37	Trenton	227.60	630.50	30.00	660.50	652.50	-		652.50		8.00
38	Westport	98.70	507.60	-	507.60	507.60	-		507.60	0.00	
39	Rolla	541.80	1,234.40	-	1,234.40	1,192.10	-		1,192.10		42.30
40	York	159.10	343.40	-	343.40	339.40	-		339.40		4.00
41	Carthage	227.60	1,259.80	45.00	1,304.80	1,273.90	-		1,273.90		30.90
42	Sedalia	84.60	489.70	45.00	534.70	479.40	-		479.40		55.30
43	Bonne Terre	300.10	764.30	-	764.30	782.40	-		782.40	18.10	
44	Kirkville	314.20	2,217.30	-	2,217.30	2,231.40	-		2,231.40	14.10	
45	Kansas City	98.70	359.30	-	359.30	359.30	-		359.30		
46	Neosho	296.10	579.90	45.00	624.90	-	-		-		624.90
47	Trinity	-	211.50	-	211.50	253.80	-		253.80	42.30	
48	Jeremiah	495.50	1,288.90	45.00	1,333.90	1,278.90	-		1,278.90		55.00
49	Independence	455.20	1,741.80	-	1,741.80	1,780.10	-		1,780.10	38.30	
50	Liberty	479.40	1,388.80	15.00	1,403.80	1,417.90	-		1,417.90	14.10	
51	East Gate	56.40	282.00	-	282.00	282.00	-		282.00		
53	Harmony	28.20	317.10	15.00	332.10	332.10	-		332.10		
56	Lebanon	187.30	631.30	-	631.30	631.30	-		631.30		
58	Bert S. Lee	100.70	287.00	-	287.00	289.00	-		289.00	2.00	
59	Shelby	42.30	547.20	-	547.20	526.05	-		526.05		21.15
63	Adoniram	-	310.10	-	310.10	310.10	-		310.10		
	TOTAL	\$8,985.20	\$25,012.30	\$ 345.00	\$25,357.30	\$23,907.25	\$113.50		\$24,020.75	\$ 171.20	\$ 1,473.55

No.	Council	Cash on Hand 12/31/15	Real Estate & Investments	Paraphernalia	Uncollected Dues	Indebtedness	Total Value of Council	Annual Dues	CMMR Donations	CEF Donations	Treasurer Bonded	Recorder Bonded	Audited
1	Hiram	\$ 2,814.81	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,314.81	\$ 38.00	\$ -	\$ -	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	St. Joseph	6,864.30	66,000.00	500.00	420.00	-	73,784.30	20.00	73.05	32.05	Yes	Yes	Yes
20	Cape	1,813.57	-	-	-	-	1,813.57	35.00	23.65	17.25	No	No	Yes
24	Shekinah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Zabud	339.61	-	4,000.00	-	-	4,339.61	23.00	107.00	78.45	Yes	Yes	Yes
27	Poplar Bluff	601.39	-	5,000.00	-	-	5,601.39	23.00	40.15	40.15	Yes	Yes	Yes
28	Chillicothe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Jasper	1,164.00	15,962.00	592.33	209.00	-	17,927.33	19.00	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
32	Ezra	4,263.63	12,090.45	3,000.00	-	-	19,354.08	25.00	25.55	31.15	No	No	Yes
34	Centralia	14,064.42	-	-	432.00	-	14,496.42	36.00	177.50	65.70	Yes	Yes	Yes
35	Fidelity	1,068.48	25,000.00	2,500.00	-	-	28,568.48	15.00	-	-	No	No	Yes
37	Trenton	1,548.55	-	-	699.58	-	2,248.13	25.00	-	-	No	No	No
38	Westport	99.98	-	-	-	-	99.98	41.00	32.85	-	No	No	Yes
39	Rolla	1,562.48	-	-	-	-	1,562.48	24.35	-	-	No	No	Yes
40	York	1,303.38	857.54	1,000.00	-	-	3,160.92	36.10	-	-	No	No	Yes
41	Carthage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
42	Sedalia	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.00	-	-	No	No	No
43	Bonne Terre	4,918.12	-	-	-	-	4,918.12	25.00	35.00	18.25	Yes	Yes	Yes
44	Kirkville	16,961.34	11,590.41	-	-	415.56	28,136.19	30.00	77.10	106.95	No	No	Yes
45	Kansas City	3,029.76	-	-	-	-	3,029.76	37.00	-	-	No	No	Yes
46	Neosho	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	No	No
47	Trinity	1,006.77	-	-	-	-	1,006.77	25.00	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
48	Jeremiah	3,776.02	-	10,000.00	-	-	13,776.02	45.00	-	-	No	No	Yes
49	Independence	6,088.02	10,000.00	-	-	-	16,088.02	29.00	1,188.75	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
50	Liberty	2,487.35	53,514.56	-	-	4,200.00	51,801.91	22.10	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
51	East Gate	504.00	-	-	-	-	504.00	21.00	-	-	No	No	No
53	Harmony	156.20	-	-	-	-	156.20	16.00	-	-	No	No	No
56	Lebanon	3,819.07	-	-	-	-	3,819.07	20.00	-	-	No	No	Yes
58	Bert S. Lee	1,845.24	-	500.00	-	-	2,345.24	25.00	-	-	No	No	Yes
59	Shelby	579.47	-	1,000.00	-	-	1,579.47	24.50	-	-	No	No	Yes
63	Adoniram	210.35	-	-	-	-	210.35	25.00	-	-	No	No	Yes
	TOTAL	\$ 82,890.31	\$ 195,014.96	\$ 28,592.33	\$ 1,760.58	\$ 4,615.56	\$ 303,642.62		\$ 1,780.60	\$ 389.95			

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Danny D. Smothers, Chairman

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ANNUAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BUCKEYE AWARD**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Stanton T. Brown, II, Chairman

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS REVIEW AND REVISION**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

David C. Witte, Chairman

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARITY AND CHARITY ENDOWMENT FUND**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

John S. Lambros, Chairman

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Companions: The Chair deeply regrets the confusion caused during this year. It was my intent to simplify the award, to eliminate the "Classes" of the award and to return to the original forms with some "extra credit" being given for service for the Masonic library as a Council Day. Between revisions and communications, that final form never made it to the Grand Recorder's desk, and I have been unable to retrieve it from my files.

The reason was simple enough: before the changes were made in MIC Witte's year, we had the most participation of the Councils that we had ever had. During that year, the participation dropped significantly, and has never substantially recovered. It was hoped that by returning to the original qualifications, eliminating the whole aspect of competition and returning the Award simply to distinguish outstanding service, we would have better results. With MIC Snyder taking over the award next year, I am in hopes that we find those results once again!

The awards:

2014-15

Independence Council No. 49	First Class	Michael G. Long
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2015-16

Hiram Council No. 1	First Class	Taz A. Meyer
York Council No. 40	Second Class	W. Lawrence Wilson
Jeremiah Council No. 48	Third Class	Jamell Mixon
Independence No. 49	Second Class	Stanley Bennett

Fraternally submitted,  
Kevin E. Weaver, Chairman

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: GRAND COUNCIL MERIT AWARD

*(Addressed in the Address of the Grand Master)*

William G. Snyder, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: CRYPTIC EDUCATION – FREEMASONRY 2.5**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Chris E. Tilley, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Vacant, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP**

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Companions, this year we had five (5) new companions that took out endowed membership since June 2015. As of this writing we have a total of 512 endowed members. This gives us a total value of \$112,586.76 for the year. We currently have 325 living and 187 deceased endowed members.

I want to commend Companion Trabue on his vigilance in watching the funds of this Grand Council, making sure that we continue to have a growth in this fund. As you can see, we have 187 deceased endowed members, therefore, these deceased Companions are caring on a legacy for their Council after they are dead and gone. Companions, would you consider supplying your Council with funds to carry on your legacy after you gone?

Sometime this year, there was bad information being given out concerning the costs for becoming an Endowed Member. It is a minimum charge of \$300.00 or 20 time your dues. Add nothing and take nothing away. If your Recorder has problems calculating your cost to be an Endowed member please call and I will help work you through it, or simply follow the directions on the Endowed Membership Application which can be found in the Grand York Rite web site Document Library.

Fraternal submitted,  
Walter Doyle, Chairman

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL CORESPONDENCE

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Missouri remain in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Missouri and many foreign jurisdictions. We currently remain part of the General Grand Councils of Cryptic Masons International. This committee has received no requests for recognition from other jurisdictions. The committee thanks the Most Illustrious Grand Master for his confidence in making this appointment and charging this committee with it responsibilities.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Charles M. Huey, Chairman  
Todd A. Schulze  
Johnny L. Schlenker

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Companions: For the period March 16, 2015 through May 15, 2016 the amount that Missouri contributed to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation was \$3,217.40 (\$1,892.05 - last year). Currently, Missouri ranks twenty-second with respect to other jurisdictions and twelfth since the inception of the program. Our grand total is \$126,445.33

Extenders have been awarded to:

St. Joseph Council No. 9  
Independence Council No. 49

No triangular plaques were awarded during this period.

The top four councils for this period were:

Independence Council No. 49	\$1,238.75
St. Joseph Council No. 9	\$1,039.50
Zabud Council No. 25	\$ 107.00
Kirksville Council No. 44	\$ 100.70

If a council contributes at least \$1.00 per member it is entitled to receive the 100% certificate. Unfortunately, it is up to the Council to make this known when remitting funds.

Total amount of CMMRF grants awarded to Indiana University School of Medicine:

\$4,303,964.86.

Fraternally submitted,  
William Gordon Buckner, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

George M. Merkle, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GRAND MASTER'S CRYPTIC DAY**

*To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri:*

Companions, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grand Master's Cryptic Day was held on April 23, hosted by Centralia Council No. 34, located at Columbia, MO. The Council was opened in due and proper form by I.:.C.: C. Brent Stewart, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri seated in the East, and M.:.I.:.C.: William G. Snyder, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri seated in the West.

We Greeted seven new Royal and Select Masters of the Cryptic Council, along with eight new Super Excellent Masters. They are our future and our future looks bright.

I want to express my most sincere thanks to all who participated, helped with setup, cast, crew, music, Columbia Assembly No. 18 Rainbow Girls for lunch, Centralia Council No. 34 R&SM for hosting the event, and of course our distinguished guests. It was a good day for Cryptic Freemasonry in Missouri.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grand Master's Cryptic Day will be held on April 22, 2017, location to be announced, as long as it meets with the incoming Grand Lodge Grand Master's schedule. It has been suggested to leadership that the event be moved around the state, potentially hosted by the Grand Master's home Council.

Fraternally submitted,  
Kevin B. Sample, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RDGM AND LEADERSHIP EVENTS**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RDGL AND INSTRUCTION EVENTS**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Johnny L. Schlenker, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL GOVERNANCE**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL YORK RITE CONFERENCES**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RITUAL**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Jerry Bradford, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ROYAL ARCH MASON MAGAZINE**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Roy L. Gilkey, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TRIENNIAL**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Johnny L. Schlenker, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND MEMBERSHIP**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Roger D. Salyer, Chairman