



Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Ohio

Overview

2007 Annual Grand Assembly Sept. 30-October 2 - Independence Holiday Inn Independence

The Grand Council officers received delegates and guests at a reminiscent Lake Wobegon reception in the Holiday Inn in Independence Sunday evening, September 30, following a devotional service conducted by Grand Chaplain John R. Selders.

About twenty out-of-state visitors were welcomed by Grand Master James B. Parker IV at the opening session Monday morning. Among them there were two representatives of the Grand Council of England and Wales. M.W. Grand Master Michael A. Himes, Grand High Priest James M. McDonald, Grand Commander Bruce D. Basil, Eminent Prior Alan D. Hart and Scottish Rite Deputy for Ohio Neil M. Smalley and about 50 other Ohio grand officers were greeted.

Grand Master Parker reported on his activities for the year and several committee reports were made in addition to those pre-printed and distributed at registration. The roster booklet containing each Council's officers and Past Masters was also distributed. A complete review of the session will be included in the proceedings which will be mailed to Masters and Recorders about the first of the year.

All proposed legislation passed. This included B-35, Master may sign annual report in lieu of Recorder; B-43.09, York Rite Festival Procedure; B-47.13a, Life Membership application age defined; B-65, Uniform By-Laws, amendments require Grand Master's approval; B-67.03, Standing Resolutions require Grand Master's approval; R-9.09 Council may select the two months to be dark; R-51, Recognition of Council of Anointed Kings; and ceremonies to install appointed Grand Officers were added to the installation of Grand Council officers in Section VI. The new language is printed on four pages to be temporarily appended to the code.

Richard L. Harless delivered a memorial to Past Grand Master and Grand Treasurer David L. Stickel, and Douglas A. Habegger followed with a memorial to Past Grand Master James H. Wamer, both of whom died this year.

After lunch Richard B. Jackson, King of the Council of Anointed Kings, conferred the Order of the Silver Trowel in the hotel on 33 Illustrious Masters, 5 Past Masters, and 10 distinguished guests. Running concurrently in the hotel was a leadership seminar for Council officers and ladies provided by Camp Ho-Mita-Koda.

A representative from Metro Parks spoke on common Ohio animals at the ladies brunch hosted by Barbara Parker Monday morning.

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More than 260 attended the grand banquet Monday evening. Twelve-year-old Tiffany Desini captured the heart of the audience as she spoke of her experiences at Camp-Ho-Mita-Koda and hopes of returning as a counselor. She said the Grand Council campership enabled her to attend.. Representatives of Rainbow, Job's and DeMolay gave interesting short talks and York and Scottish Rite leaders brought greetings. Banquet ceremonies ended before 9:00 p.m. to allow time to visit the hospitality rooms sponsored by the Third, Fourth, Seventh and Eighth Arches.

Tuesday morning opened with the official meeting of the Grand Council Benevolent Fund, Inc. now known also as the *Diabetic Kids Fund*. Delegates voted to contribute \$37,500.00 to the six diabetic camps. On the recommendation of the Benevolent Committee they added a one-time bonus of \$21,000.00 to be distributed among the camps based on activity. In accordance with the by-laws, Bobby G. Campbell was named President of the fund.

Awards presented by the Grand Master included the Walcutt Bible to York Council No. 115 for a net membership gain of 26 and percentage gain of 15.3%. The Ross Black bible went to Akron Council No. 80 with the highest percentage gain of 19.4%. The Purple Quill will be presented to 65 outstanding Recorders. Fifty-eight Councils had no suspensions for non-payment of dues. Twenty-six Councils are being recognized for their publications. The Arch Inspectors will present these certificates at Council assemblies. A complete list of awards will appear in the proceedings.

Arch Inspectors recognized the achievements of: 1-Genoa 138 (2); 2-Sidney 70; 3-Hamilton 19; 4-Ashland 128 (2); 5-York 115; 6-Bosworth 46 (3); 7-Geneva 145; 8-Akron 80; and 9-Zanesville 12, by awarding the Arch gavels.

Credentials committee chairman E. Glenn Arnold reported that 366 companions attended, which included 68 Illustrious Masters, 30 Deputy Masters, and 21 P.C.W. Ladies registration surpassed 100.

Bobby G. Campbell (Adoniram 131) was installed Grand Master, Fred A. Boggs (Loyalty 146) Deputy Grand Master, and William E. Laughlin (Norwalk 24) Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. Robert R. Rettig was elected Grand Treasurer and Merlyn E. Meredith was reelected Grand Recorder. Robert K. Rhinehart (Niles 130) was elected Grand Sentinel and Edwin G. Herrick (Ashland 128) replaced Laughlin as Inspector of the Fourth Arch, and Johnny J. Kuhn (Bosworth 46) was named Inspector of the Sixth Arch..

The 2008 annual grand assembly will be October 5-7.

M  edith
Grand Recorder

NB 1 - All requests for special dispensation are to be sent to the Arch Inspector.

NB 2 - The I.R.S. will require every organization, regardless of size, to submit an electronic report next year.(990-N) The Council fiscal year ends May 31, 2008. It is due Oct. 15, 2008. Once I.R.S. regulations become defined and the form finalized we will advise how the Council report is to be handled. The Council identification number is printed on the cover of the annual report.

