

**The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland**

Best Western Hotel - Westminster, Maryland

October 22, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Grand Convocation was opened in Ample Form by R.E. Robert B. Lumbert, Grand King, who the received and greeted the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Comp. Louis Frederick Bandell, Jr. Grand Honors were given to the Grand High Priest. The following officers were in their respective stations and places:

M. E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.	Grand High Priest
R. E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert	Grand King
R. E. Comp. John B. Maclay	Grand Scribe
R. E. Comp. Donald M. Miller	Grand Treasurer
M. E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman	Grand Secretary
R. E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele	Grand Captain of the Hosts
Ex. Comp. Randall L. Watson	Grand Principal Sojourner
Ex. Comp. Leland M. Linder	Grand Royal Arch Captain
Ex. Comp. Frederick A. Spicer	Grand Master of the Third Veil
Ex. Comp. Howard Culver	Grand Master of the Second Veil
Ex. Comp. Robert Penny	Grand Master of the First Veil
Ex. Comp. James J. Morgan	Grand Tyler
Ex. Comp. Gordon P. Grabus	Grand Chaplain
Ex. Comp. Robert E. Young	Asst. Grand Organist
Ex. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas	President, Board of Grand Inspectors.

Ex. Comp. Patrick A. Curtis was excused due to pressing obligations to the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Maryland. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by the MEGHP, and the Grand Chaplain gave the invocation.

**Past Grand High Priests**

Carl J. Wisner	1963
Clifton R. Friel	1996
Royce A. Watson	2002
Vernon H. Huebschman	2004
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III	2006
Louis F. Bandell, Jr.	2009
Louis F. Bandell, Jr.	2010

The above Past Grand High Priests were received at the Altar and greeted with Grand Honors, lead by MEHGP Bandell. MEPGHP Carl Wisner responded for the PGHP's, expressing gratitude for the courtesies extended. M. E. Comp Wisner commended MEGHP Bandell on his achievements and Leadership over this first two year tour of duty.

**Distinguished Royal Arch Visitors Present at the Grand Convocation  
Official Reception on October 23, 2010**

M. E. Companion Robert Benson	Grand High Priest – Delaware
M. E. Companion John Geas	Grand High Priest – New Hampshire
M. E. Companion George D. Jackson	Grand High Priest – West Virginia
M. E. Companion W. Francis Pugh	Grand High Priest – North Carolina
M. E. Companion Robert Thornborough	Grand High Priest – New Jersey
M. E. Companion Jeffrey M. Williamson	Grand High Priest – New York
R. E. Companion Vernon H. Huebschman	District Deputy G. G. High Priest – NE
R. E. Companion Edmund Harrison	General Grand King
R. W. Bro & M.E. Comp. Stephen J. Ponzillo III	Deputy Grand Master of Maryland

Grand Inspector for 2010 - <b>Spyridon G. Treklas, President</b>			
Concordia No. 1	<b>Gordon A. Davids</b>	Phoenix No. 7	<b>John M. Lister</b>
Chesapeake No. 17	<b>William P. Parsons</b>	Salem No. 18	Jodie C. Arnold
St. Johns No. 19	VACANT	Adoniram No. 21	<b>Wm E. Lautenschlager</b>
Talbot No. 22	<b>Leland P. Linder</b>	Enoch No. 23	<b>Ronald L. Aughenbaugh</b>
Mt. Vernon No. 25	<b>Kris Brown</b>	Ithiel No. 27	Dennis A Brekhus
Druid No. 28	<i>Roy C. Peterson</i>	Hayward No. 29	<b>Eugene D. Racz</b>
Carroll No. 31	Teddy R. Barkley, Jr.	James F. Allen No. 33	<b>James B. Coker</b>
Edenton No. 36	<b>Robert M. Penny</b>	Belvidere No. 39	<b>William J. Baldwin, Jr.</b>
Baltimore No. 40	<b>James J. Morgan</b>	Tuscan No. 42	<b>Jeffrey L. Dill</b>
York No. 44	Douglas B. Tayrian	At Large	<b>John B. Maclay</b>

Those shown in **BOLD** were present for the Grand Convocation/Grand Sessions Weekend

**Minutes of the Prior Semi-Annual Grand Convocation**

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand Secretary

The Semi-Annual Proceedings were posted to the Grand Chapter web site on the day following that meeting. At the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation the 2010 – 2011 Budget was established, the Officers for the coming Capitular Year were elected to be Installed at the Annual Grand Convocations; Summer Schools were announced for the Summer of 2010; Comp. John Grieve was qualified, elected, received the Past High Priest’s Degree, and was to be installed as MEHP of Tuscan Chapter No. 42, Towson, MD; the Constitution was amended to change the Chapter reporting date to October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for the condition of each Chapter as of August 31<sup>st</sup> of that year; RARA Committee was conducting a raffle to raise funds offering quilt; the Multi-Jurisdictional Festival was to be in Washington, DC in October 2010; The August Scene was to be held on August 7, 2010 in Odenton MD; The Trustees reported on the condition of their Fund (\$195,507.11); The Breast Plate Award was initiated with four recipients; Frederick A. Spicer, James B. Coker, Kenneth S. Wyvill, Carl A. Michel; the Lifetime Achievement Award was initiated being presented first to Comp. Alton G. Billmeier of Edenton Chapter No. 36.

**The Grand Secretary’s Report**

M. E. Companion Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand Secretary

Secretary

The Membership data was included in the report given in the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation. Several Chapters, while improving, not yet current on membership data. The improvement of the Chapters has been the result of a specific effort to bring them back from utter inactivity. Patience and cooperation is needed to continue their recovery.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland has issued 11 Waivers of Jurisdictions to the District of Columbia for Maryland residents to take membership in DC Chapters.

Updates have been made to the IRS for the recent officers, and the report forms have just been received for the coming year. The sole change in the report form at present will be the Grand High Priest. All other information is current.

The Constitution has been updated with the changes from the previous Annual and Semi-Annual Convocations. I have referred the amended text to the appropriate Companions for review. The 2009 Grand Convocation received a report from our late M.E. Comp. Randolph B. Sayre, stating the Constitution was then current and accurate. Once the amended Constitution is reviewed and any corrections made, it is my intention to post the document to the Grand Chapter of Maryland website as a .pdf so that every Companion may have access.

The General Grand Chapter has two awards that our Companions may apply for: the Sweetheart Award and the Ritual Award. The qualifications and application forms are available on the website.

## **The Grand Treasurer's Report**

R. E. Comp. Donald M. Miller, Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Treasurer stated that his Annual Report was given at the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation, and that together with the adoption of the new Budget and Budget year (December 1 – November 30) are also recorded there. R.E. Companion Miller stated that this was to be his last Grand Convocation as Grand Treasurer and thanked the Grand Chapter for the opportunity to serve in this officer.

## **Committee on Conference**

Comp. Robert Branan, Secretary, Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 25

The Committee reported that there were 33 voting members present, representing 14 of 19 Chapters of the Grand Chapter of Maryland.

## **Report of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest**

M. E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr. MEGHP

Companions,

I welcome you all, particularly those of you who have traveled many miles to the Semi-Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland here in Westminster. The friendships we have developed will bring a smile to our faces for many years to come. If you have any questions or concerns, please bring them to my attention.

## **NECROLOGY**

Since taking office, we have seen the passing of some giants of Royal Arch Masonry. Past Grand High Priests Carl J. Cicchetti, Sr., Randolph B. Sayre, and Honorary PGHP William G. Guley. We also lost our Grand Principle Sojourner, PHP Donald A. Adams. At this Annual Convocation, we are mourning the loss of our junior PGHP Royce R. Johnson who passed away on August 18, 2010. In addition to these Companions William E. Lautenschlager bid farewell to his beloved wife of 59 years Jeannette. It's not an easy road to say goodbye to your lifelong friend and our heartfelt prayers are extended to you who will continue to mourn. Our Father in Heaven knows of your pain and with the passage of time He will send you His comfort.

Our supplication echoes for PGHPs Bennie G. Owens and Maxwell V. Frye, Jr... We pray that the loving and ever powerful hand of the Great Physician will watch and comfort them. Excellent Grand Principle Sojourner, please conduct the Excellent Grand Chaplain to the Altar for appropriate prayers.

I have made almost 475 visits to Masonic related organizations since being installed as your Grand High Priest while putting over 45,000 miles on my vehicle including making over 20 visits out of state. During the past year, I have visited most every Chapter in Maryland. At these visitations I received both verbal and written reports detailing a clear agenda for each Chapter. These sessions were held in a relaxed atmosphere with emphasis on working with problems associated with their particular Chapter. One very interesting point associated with these visits was the answers to questions we posed, asking "What is the best thing we are doing?" and "What do we need to do better?"

During the past Capitular year I have made visited the District of Columbia, North Carolina, New York and West Virginia where my reception was always warm and cordial. Our Right Excellent Grand King, Robert B. Lumbert has made some additional visits in my place.

My energies have been directed within our State, on such projects as the resurgence of James F. Allan Chapter No. 33, Talbot Chapter No. 22, Adoniram Chapter No. 21, Carroll Chapter No. 31 and Phoenix Chapter No.7. The principle Officers of this Grand Chapter along with many others are working diligently with these Chapters to see that they along with the remainder, prosper and not just exist. I hope that the Grand Chapter continues this initiative.

I have issued several dispensations this year to Phoenix, Chesapeake, James F. Allan, Carroll, York and Druid Chapters to alter their meeting times of dates.

There were also 11 requests for territorial jurisdiction requested from the Washington DC Bodies which were all approved.

Our membership continues to grow with new Brothers desiring further light. Since you installed me as your leader, we have Exalted over 200 new Brothers.

#### AWARDS

I have created two new Awards this year. The Breastplate Award which was presented to Excellent Companions James B. Coker, Carl A. Michel, Jr., Frederick A. Spicer and Kenneth S. Wyvill. These awards were presented in May to coincide with Subordinate Chapter Installations.

The other Award is being presented to Companions who have contributed significantly to the growth of Capitular masonry for at least 25 years. The "Lifetime Achievement Award Sash" was presented on May 11<sup>th</sup> to Dr. Alton G. Billmeyer on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> year as a Blue Lodge Mason. The remainder of those selected to receive this award will now be presented at the Altar.

Carl J. Wisner presented by Joseph F. Chalker  
Norris E. Cartwright, Sr. presented by Arthur H. Tawes Jr.  
James J. Morgan, Jr. presented by Frederick A. Spicer  
William E. Lautenschlager presented by James B. Coker  
Robert E. Young presented by Richard P. Naegele  
Bennie G. Owens will be presented his at a later date

The Grand High Priests Award is being presented this year to two very hard working Companions who in two completely different ways have made our royal craft prosper. The first is Companion Arthur H. Tawes, Jr. who in addition to being one of the mainstays of the York Rite Bodies in Salisbury drove all the way from Crisfield to the recent Multi-Jurisdictional Festival in Washington DC. The other is Companion James C. Davis who has cheerfully taken over the responsibilities of being the Editor of our Royal Arch Magazine. JC is a very busy man working at the Scottish Rite Office, being active in DeMolay activities, currently serving as an Office in Druid Chapter as well as caring for his wife Sheila.

The Triple Tau Award is presented to those who have made significant contributions this past year. As our R.E Grand Secretary has said it a "What have ya done for me lately" award. I making this presentation knowing that that analogy may be true but some others have been working for quite some time.

This year's recipients are; Spyridon G. Treklas,  
Joel Klomski,  
Grover Dan Brewer  
Arthur R. Dickerson, Jr.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1 – In spite of the efforts of our President of Grand Inspectors, Spyridon G. Treklas, the Board of Grand Inspectors are not making their reports and functioning as they should as a whole. There are however, Grand Inspectors who do a stellar job and these are not included in these remarks. They are not welcomed in their assigned Chapters with the dignity befitting their office. One Inspector has told me that he is somewhat ashamed by the Collar and Jewel he wears with no Apron of his office. These problem need to be addressed. Perhaps the time has come to look into Districts throughout the state.

2 – The precept of traveling out of state is to make new friends and gain ideas to try in your jurisdiction. I therefore strongly recommend that the Grand High Priest in his second year allot a portion of his Out of State traveling expenses to the Grand King in order that he may have an opportunity to gather ideas for his administration.

3 – The decision of the Grand Encampment to raise initiation fees by one and one half times that of Chapter has caused the beautiful lessons of Capitular Masonry to be degraded and not seem as important as that of Commandery. This is truly unfortunate as the Chapters work as well as the Councils are filled with beautiful portrayals and lessons which should on no account be overlooked or undermined. I therefore recommend that a Catechism be reinstated to teach our new Brothers the details of the important instruction through which they are passing. The decision is not completely motivated by the actions of Grand Encampment. The Catechism was deleted around 1955 as a incentive to attract new Royal Arch Masons and make it easier. I don't see that this has been successful. Furthermore, there is a mood of newer masons to learn as much about our fraternity as they can.

All of these recommendations are controversial and careful study and sincere discussion needs to be initiated.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My Companions, I sincerely thank you for your support in your Chapters. We are definitely making strides forward and bringing sufficient numbers of new Royal Arch Masons to light. Some Chapters, which just a short while ago were presumed DOA, are beginning to shine. We must continue to be enthusiastic and visible to our candidates and new Companions and encourage them to come back.

I cannot by mere words express my gratitude to those dedicated Companions who have traveled the many miles to bring the lessons of Royal Arch Masonry to our Blue Lodge Brethren. They have been so recognized as members of the Society of Capitular Kings and as such, have my deepest appreciation.

It has been a sincere joy and pleasure to serve with MIGM Richard P. Naegele and REGC Thomas G. Heimiller. We have at times worked independently but the unity we have exhibited has always been for the good of each other and for all of masonry. I will treasure these two years for the rest of my life.

The success of the York Rite can be summed up in nine words....Jack Young, Ron Belanger, Jack Biggs and Tom Velvin. These Grand Masters, through their spirit of cooperation, and display of unity have resulted in visible progress. They have allowed the heads of the Collateral Bodies to enter lodges in regalia to be recognized. They have permitted York Rite Presentations in our lodges and Masters pins to be presented at Installations. Grand Master Velvin is now allowing participation in Flag Ceremonies. For this we are sincerely grateful.

This address would not be complete without expressing my appreciation to our Right Excellent Grand King, Robert B. Lumbert, our Most Excellent Grand High Priest-Elect. You have been a pillar of strength for me by attending most of our Grand Visitations, by conferring many degrees through our state, making visits for me out of state and by serving on important committees. I wish for you great success and accomplishment as you assume the stewardship of responsibility in this Grand Chapter and I pledge to you my services for the fulfillment of your programs.

Also, the paths of service have been made lighter these last two years by the presence and contributions of my wife, Melis. She has been a rock on which I have leaned many times. She has traveled with me to all but one jurisdiction.

She has been instrumental in coordinating the Ladies Programs at the Grand Sessions. In Phoenix and Adoniram Chapters, she has provided refreshments and on many occasions and served them as well. I just can't imagine anyone serving in this position without this strong support.

Finally, and most importantly I thank God Almighty for His constant presence. He has blessed me so richly in so many ways. Along with our safety and good health, He has given me the ability to memorize ritual and deliver it proficiently. He has opened my mind to ideas which we have implemented. He has influenced me to write and speak. I give Him credit for all things that have improved this Grand Chapter these last two years and so to Him be all Glory Praise, Laud, Honour and Dominion Forever.

Zealously, Respectively and Fraternally,  
Louis F. Bandell, Jr.  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Motion to accept by R. E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, seconded by Ex. Comp. Leland M. Linder, passed unanimously.

**Address of the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master**

M. E. Comp. Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. RWDGM

M. E. Comp. Ponzillo brought the greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, M. W. Brother and Companion Thomas. M. Velvin. All were reminded of the Grand Lodge Grand Communication in November. A new promotional program was announced that would commence in January 2011. The will be a series of radio and television advertisements. These ads were to be on local radio stations and presented on both Comcast and Verizon Cable Television channels. Each spot would include an announcement of a statewide Open House in every Lodge building in Maryland. Every Chapter was asked to support the local Lodges by being present and adding to the scope and color of Freemasonry. Every Mason should be prepared to respond to questions from non-Masons about the advertisements: the history, government, activities, and philosophy of Freemasonry. The time is ripe, given several successful books and motion pictures making pleasant references to our beloved Fraternity, to bring our light out into the public eye, and invite all in to see what challenges we offer.

**Report of the Awards Committee**

Ex. Comp. James B. Coker, Chairman

The Committee reported that it nominated, and the MEGHP sent forward to the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, the name of

**Ex. Companion Patrick A. Curtis  
Bronze Medal for Meritorious Service**

In consideration of Companion Curtis's many and distinguished service in Freemasonry, that include six years as a Grand Inspector for the Grand Lodge of Maryland; distinguished as a Knight Commander Court of Honor by the Scottish Rite of Maryland; recent election as Deputy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Maryland; presiding officer of the three York Rite Bodies in Camp Springs, and serving as Secretary/ Recorder there also; being elected to member and the Line of the Francis Scott Key Priory of Knights of the York Cross of Honor; service as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland, and most recently completing five years selfless service as Grand Lecturer of the Grand Chapter of Maryland. As Comp. Curtis was absent attending to duties with the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, the presentation was left to the District Deputy General Grand High Priest to arrange at an appropriate time and place.

The MEGHP added a comment that this award was a very difficult choice because another Companion so distinguished himself by his constant services to any and all who asked his help. Ex. Comp. Randall L. Watson was a most worthy nominee who lacked only the years of service that others had given. The MEGHP expressed his personal gratitude, high regard and esteem for Companion Watson.

During the Grand Chapter Convocation, the MEGHP permitted the Most Illustrious Grand Master, R.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele to have the floor. In his role as MIGM of the Grand Council, Comp. Naegele introduced the Most Puissant General Grand Master Joseph Vale. Together they introduced Comp. Robert Penny of Easton, Maryland as the 2010 recipient of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD. Companion Penny was singled out for his decades of service on the Eastern Shore preserving the York Rite identity in his own town of Easton, and also assisting whenever needed in Denton, Salisbury and Cambridge, Maryland.

**The Multi-Jurisdictional Festival**

M. E. Comp. Howard Coleman, Grand Secretary/DC

**Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the District of Columbia  
The 2010 Multi-Jurisdictional Festival  
October 2, 2010**

The 2010 Multi-Jurisdictional Festival was held at the Scottish Rite Temple, 2800 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. on October 2, 2010. Most Excellent James W. Mitchell, Grand High Priest, opened the Grand Chapter in ample form at 8:35 a.m. The Grand Secretary, Howard F. Coleman stated that he had the necessary dispensations. Mt Ex. Mitchell opened Columbia Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 and Mt. Pleasant Royal Arch Chapter No. 13 in ample form to allow them to elect candidates to receive the degrees at the Multi-Jurisdictional Festival. Columbia Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 elected two candidates to receive the degrees. Mt. Pleasant Royal Arch Chapter elected six candidates to receive the degrees. Mt. Ex. Mitchell closed Columbia and Mt Pleasant Chapter in ample form. He then resumed labor in the Royal Arch and stated the Maryland would be conferring the Mark Master Degree, the District of Columbia would be conferring the Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degree and Virginia would be conferring the Royal Arch Degree

According to the sign in sheets the following Jurisdiction had the following numbers of companions present:

Maryland had 12 companions present.

Virginia had 21 companions present.

Columbia Royal Chapter No. 1 had three (3) members present.

Mt. Vernon Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 had four (4) members present.

William R. Singleton Royal Arch Chapter No. 4 had seven (7) members present.

Washington Potomac Royal Arch Chapter No. 8 had one (1) member present.

Mt Pleasant Royal Arch Chapter No. 13 had 14 members present.

Sojourner Kilwinning Royal Arch Chapter No 17 had three (3) members present.

Fiat Lux Royal Arch Chapter No. 19 had two (2) members present.

**Maryland had the following Candidates present:**

**Joseph M Woods**

**William D. Gordon**  
**Stephen Sigwart**  
**Anil C. S. Rao**  
**Donald Wilson**  
**Eugene VanPelt**  
**Philip Newcomer**  
**Daniel Kepler**  
**Raymond Denmark**  
**Daryl Leger**

Virginia had the following Candidates present:

Ian H. McIntyre  
Nicholas S. Harrison  
Allen E. Morgan  
Sean J. Turner  
James A. Solomon  
Elvin McCormick  
Ernest Edmonds  
Peter Bernard

Columbia Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 had the following Candidates present:

Neil Metha  
Christopher D. Boesen

Mt. Vernon Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 had the following Candidate present:

Nicholas J. Sampongma  
Rudolf Jackson

William R. Singleton Royal Arch Chapter No. 4 had the following Candidates present:

Joseph F. Vidulich  
Charles H. McCrary  
Nicholas Wistner  
Joseph D. Kristovich  
William C. Cook only Royal Arch Degree  
Bailey Wood only Royal Arch Degree

Mt. Pleasant Royal Arch Chapter No. 13 had the following Candidates present:

Daniel P. Rodgers  
Christopher D. Glass  
Christopher S. Burt only Royal Arch Degree  
Edward Challita  
Remy L. Demarcy  
Avi Levi  
Leonel Q. Quijano  
David Y. Yao

The degree conferral started at 9:15 a.m with the following Grand Chapter conferring the various degrees.

Most Excellent Louis F. Bandell, Jr. read the dispensation which was required to be read from the Grand Lodge of Maryland so that they could be part of this Multi-Jurisdictional Festival this year. Maryland conferred the Mark Master Degree in a very proficient manner with Rt. Ex.

Robert Lambert, Grand King, conferring from the East.

The District of Columbia conferred the Past Master Degree in an excellent manner with Mt. Ex.

Robert B. Bussler conferring from the East with Mt. Ex. Harold Grainger acting as secretary.

The District of Columbia conferred the Most Excellent Master Degree in an excellent manner with Mt. Ex. Robert B. Bussler in the East.

The Companions stood for the blessing of food before proceeding to the dinning hall for lunch.

There were approximately 90 for lunch which was provided for by Friendship Chapter, OES.

After lunch the degree team from Virginia lead by Rt. Ex. Randall Johnson, Grand Lecturer, conferred the Royal Arch Degree in a most impressive manner. Rt. Ex. Thomas K. Staples was the Principal Sojourner who did an outstanding performance in his station.

After the degrees, Mt. Ex. Mitchell, Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia, called the following for remarks. He first called on Mt. Ex. Louis F. Bandell, Jr., Grand High Priest of Maryland who stated how important it was for the candidates to return to their individual chapters to see the work done according to their jurisdictions and that they should seek to be come active members in their chapters.

Mt. Ex. Dale Gurney, Past Grand High Priest from Virginia, who stated how good it was to see the work done according to the various jurisdictions and that the candidates should see the degrees done according to the ritual in their respective jurisdictions.

Mt. Ex. Vernon Huebschman, Deputy General Grand High Priest Northeastern Region, who stated how good it was to see a large class as that was present to day seeking more light in masonry. He encouraged the candidates to seek out various parts in conferring the degrees. He also thanked all present in making this a great day for the Royal Craft.

Mt. Ex. Mitchell, Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia, closed the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia in ample form at 4:05 p.m.

2010 Multi-Jurisdiction Festival Minutes Page 3 of 4 Pages

Howard F. Coleman  
Grand Secretary

The above was provided by the courtesy of M. E. Comp. Howard Coleman, PGHP and Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the District of Columbia.

It was agreed that the 2011 Multi-Jurisdictional Festival would be held in Virginia, but at a site other than the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. The Fees and schedule of this excellent location had become prohibitive. At Maryland's request, the organizing group accepted a suggestion to move from the first Saturday in October which has become the regular date for the Annual Harvest Home Day at Bonnie Blink. The date will be September 24, 2011.

#### **The August Scene**

Due to a number of overwhelming circumstances the 2010 August Scene was cancelled.

#### **Visiting Dignitaries**

M.E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.

Each of the visiting Grand High Priest present were called West of the Altar, and there greeted and extended Grand Honors by the MEGHP. Certificates of Honorary Membership were bestowed on our guests. MEGHP Francis Pugh of North Carolina, a person friend and traveling companion of MEGHP Bandell responded for the visitors. MEGHP Pugh expressed for all gratitude and appreciation of the hospitality and warmth provided by all the Companions present.

#### **Time & Place**

R. E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, Grand King & Committee

The Time & Place Committee reported that the 2011 York Rite Grand Sessions would be held in Bowie, Maryland on the weekend of October 21 – 23, 2011. It was pointed out that date was not constitutionally correct and could not be accepted by the Grand Chapter. The Constitution currently states that the Session be held on the Fourth Friday and following Saturday of October, with the order of meetings to be determined by the Grand Presiding Officers. There was no objection stated to the location, but the committee was requested to revisit the matter with the hotel to see if the dates could be changed. ( The Committee did make the necessary inquiry and the hotel did amend the contract to the proper dates.)

#### **General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International**

R.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, DDGGHP/NE

R.E. Comp. Huebschman brought the greetings of the Most Excellent General Grand High Priest Emory J. Ferguson, and his Line of Officers. He stated that R.E. Comp. Edmund Harrison, General Grand King, would be attending the Session Banquet on the following evening. The Triennium will be held in Raleigh, NC, in August 2011. All Past Grand High Priests, the MEGHP are voting members and eligible to be present as such. Comp. Huebschman reminded the member of the Sweetheart Award that may be presented to our Ladies, and that the Form was available on the General Grand Chapter web site.

Comp. Huebschman then introduced the 2011 recipients of the General Grand Chapter Ritual Award: R. E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, Ex Comp. Frederick A. Spicer, Ex. Comp. Randall L. Watson, Ex. Comp. William C. Eppig and Ex. Comp. Jeffrey L. Dill. These Companions, with Comp. Huebschman, represent the largest number of recipients of this award in any state to this date. This speaks the general love of Ritual Work instilled by our Grand Lodge, and the dedication of these Companions to the Degrees conferred in our Chapters. More applications are in process and will be in place for the next Annual Convocation.

#### **Special Presentation**

M.E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.

In one of his final gestures as MEGHP, Comp. Bandell assisted by MIGM Naegele conferred membership in the Society of Capitular Kings (SOCK) upon Ex. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas, aka Spyros, for his generous service and abundant good humor. The award was in the now traditional form of a pair of red socks, denoting membership in a body that has no ceremonies, no dues, no meetings but exists to recognize those who give so much to York Rite Masonry in Maryland.

The Grand Chapter was then Called Off to organize the installation of Officers for 2011.

The Installing Grand High Priest was PGHP Steven J. Ponzillo, III, assisted by the Installing Grand Captain of the Hosts, PGHP Clifton R. Friel.

The following Officers were installed in their respective Stations and Places:

M.E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert	Grand High Priest
R. E. Comp. John B. Maclay	Grand King
R. E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele	Grand Scribe
R. E. Comp. John M. Lister	Grand Treasurer
M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman	Grand Secretary
R. E. Comp. Randall L. Watson	Grand Captain of the Hosts
Ex. Comp. Gordon P. Grabus	Grand Chaplain
Ex. Comp. John A. Rafine	Grand Principal Sojourner
Ex. Comp. David W. Theilman	Grand Royal Arch Captain
Ex. Comp. William E. Lautenschlager	Grand Master of the Third Veil
Ex. Comp. Howard E. Culver	Grand Master of the Second Veil
Ex. Comp. Robert W. Hamilton	Grand Master of the First Veil
Ex. Comp. James J. Morgan, Jr.	Grand Sentinel
Ex. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas	President, Board of Grand Inspectors
M. E. Comp. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.	Grand Lecturer

Following the Installation of the Line, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Robert B. Lumbert offered his thoughts on the beginning of the new Capitular Year. To set the tone of the coming year, M.E. Comp. Lumbert donned a red top hat to mark the change of administrations. Comp. Lumbert expressed his thanks to MEGHP Bandell and Huebschman for their assistance in preparing for his term of office. He offered his special thanks for the advice and example of Ex. Comp. James Morgan through their years of association in Concordia Chapter No. 1.

The MEGHP noted that the Grand Chapter of Maryland has traveled its own rough and rugged road. Some Chapters were now doing fairly well, some were improving, some were struggling, some were almost dormant. Recent activity in Carroll Chapter in Westminster lend new energy to those working to renew York Rite Masonry in Maryland. It was noted that the work of a few local Companions, with the generous assistance of those who regularly travel to help when called, can be very fruitful and inspiring. The Grand High Priest note that we were currently enjoying the good effects of the Fervency & Zeal program of the past several years in the local Lodges, the Grand Commandery's Flag Presentations at Lodge Installations, and the coming Membership Program instituted by the Grand Lodge to bring new potential members to our doors.

M.E. Comp. Lumbert announced a Rookie of the Year Program for those in their first two years of membership to celebrate their attendance at our Convocations, and participation in Ritual Work. There would also be a program of Chapters Certifying for Degree Work.

The MEGHP asked that Chapter communications provide details of upcoming meeting, that a liaison is provided from each Chapter to keep the MEGHP informed of upcoming events, and that a York Rite calendar be developed. To this end, each Chapter was given a questionnaire to be completed and returned to the MEGHP.

Finally, and in a friendly remembrance of the instructions of another Grand High Priest, and another BOB, the MEGHP ordered that:

1. Everyone was to be named BOB.
2. Ice cream was always to be served at refreshments.
3. If you weren't having fun, go home.

The Grand Chapter of Maryland was then closed in Ample Form by Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lumbert.

Fraternally submitted,

M.E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman  
Grand Secretary

