

**The Grand York Rite
Freemasonry
Wyoming
2011
Proceedings**



**Douglas, Wyoming
September 15-18 2011**

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

Wyoming Grand York Rite Annual Sessions
Douglas, Wyoming
16 September 2011

At 10:30 A.M., Most Illustrious Grand Master Charles L. Smith, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Michael L. James and Right Eminent Grand Commander Donald L. York opened the Grand York Rite annual Sessions.

A benediction was offered, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

Introductions:

Commandery:

James E. Erickson – Eminent Grand Recorder, Grand Commandery of Colorado
Burney Brandel – Eminent Grand Senior Grand warden, Grand Commandery of Colorado
Kenneth Morris – Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Nevada

Grand Encampment:

Richard Butterfield – Southwest Department Commander, Grand Encampment
Knights Templars of North America – personal representative of Most Eminent
Grand Master William H. Koon II

General Grand Chapter:

Arthur F. Easley - Ambassador to Idaho, for the General Grand Chapter R.A.M.
International
Thomas R. Nance- Ambassador to Wyoming, for the General Grand Chapter R.A.M.
International
David Salberg - Right Excellent Deputy General Grand High Priest, Northwest
Region
Louis Bartrand – Right Excellent General Grand High King, General Grand Chapter
R.A.M. International personal - representative of The Most Excellent General Grand
High Priest Ed Harrison

Council:

Forrest Ryan – Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons
of Washington
Ricky L. Benish – Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado, personal representative of Most
Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado,
Dexter Koons

General Grand Council:

Harland H. Goodchild – Ambassador to Wyoming for the General Grand Council of
Cryptic Masons International
Gary D. Skillern – Right Puissant General Grand Captain of the Guard of the
General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, personal representative of
The Most Puissant General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic
Masons International, George Sellars

Wyoming Appendant Bodies:

Stanley N. McIrvine – Intendant General, Division of Wyoming,
Red Cross of Constantine
T. Mark Micholson – Potentate Korien Shrine

John L. Farmer – Deputy of the Supreme Council Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, Orient of Wyoming

Grand Lodge of Wyoming:

Clarence Vranish – Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Wyoming personal representative of The Most Worshipful Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Wyoming Allan G. Pierce

At 11:00 A.M. the Masonic introductions were completed and Most Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Wyoming Donald L. York introduced Mr. Anthony Reynolds of the City Council of Douglas who welcomed the Grand York Rite of Wyoming to Douglas. He presented a Proclamation from the City of Douglas as follows:



Upon finishing the proclamation, he presented an appreciation coin to each of the heads of the York Rite Bodies.

Devine Services and Necrology

Narrator Philip Buchholz, Prelate Alvin Young, MEGHP Michael L. James, MIGM Charles W. Smith, REGC Donald L. York and RWDGM Clarence Vranish recited the Rose Service acknowledging the following Companions and Sir Knights who laid down their working tools and joined the Great Architect of the Universe.

Carl T. Allison	Peter Angeloff	William W. Clapp
Leonard H. Clark	Walter Crook	Charles W. Edwards
Louis W. Engstrom	Dennis M. Floyd	Elton C. Fusselman
Lyndel P. Guice	Van E. Hicks	John Jacobs
Jes R. Jensen	A. Michael Juniker	Norman A. Laudon
Brent H. Lee	Robert Lucas	Robert A. Martens
Eugene B. Martin	John W. Messenger	Dale J. Morris
Clark L. Rounds	Clyde L. Stephens	Rob Roy Tillett
Eldon D. Triggs	Albert Winzenried	

Time and Place:

At 1145, MIGM Smith asked for the time and place report which was given by RIDGM Lloyd Hashimoto. Companion Hashimoto moved that the report be accepted – seconded and passed.

September 13-16, 2012 - Jackson, Wyoming
September 12-15, 2013 - Sheridan, Wyoming
September 11-14, 2014 - Cody, Wyoming
September 17-20, 2015 - Riverton, Wyoming

Comp Gary Skillern made a motion that the Perpetual Life report be accepted as written in the pre-printed reports—seconded and passed.

RWDGM Clarence Vranish thanked the Companions on behalf of the MWGM Allen Pierce for the honors and hospitality that he had received and hoped we would have a most productive session.

At 11:50 A.M. the public opening was closed.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE
YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
Douglas, Wyoming- September 17, 2011**

To: The Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Wyoming, the Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Wyoming, the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Wyoming, Officers, and members of the York Rite Bodies of Wyoming;

On February 9th 2011 a check from Doug Brunner of A.G. Edwards and Sons Investment Company was written to the Wyoming York Rite Perpetual Membership Program in the amount of \$360.53 for the interest for the year. This was a very small amount of interest on \$41,000. I deposited the money in the checking account intending to disperse it to the constituent bodies.

For the second time, since the beginning of this program, we had no gains in Perpetual Members for the year. We still have a total of \$41,450.00 invested, but as of June 30th, 2011, the account value was \$41,426.65 which is below our original invested capital. I still have the \$360.53 which I never did send to the constituent bodies because of the small amount of

money involved. The income was just 0.89% for the year so the bodies would have gotten less than \$20.00 on every \$100.00 they should have gotten (based on our 5% interest need). Right now, the fund projects an estimated annual income of just \$4.00.

At this time, we have a total of 35 members who are life members in all three bodies, 4 who are members of two bodies and 8 who are members of one body. There are also 14 memorials for all three bodies, 3 memorials for two bodies and 5 memorials for one body. This means that we now have 47 members currently and 22 memorials. In total we have had 69 people who have held a life membership in at least one body (49 of those have had life memberships in all three bodies. That means 70 members have committed over \$41,000 to the program.

I have decided not to disperse the money to the constituents until after the annual meeting in September.

Let's hope we can continue to get new Life Members in the future and let's keep working to promote this very worthwhile program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary D. Skillern, President
Michael B. Johnson, Treasurer
Robert O. Finley, Secretary

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Wyoming Grand York Rite Sessions- 2011 Concluding Banquet – September 17

MEPGHP and REPGC G. Gil Curry emceed the awards and recognition at the banquet concluding the annual sessions of the Grand York Bodies of Wyoming. A fine cartoon titled "The Jackalope" was shown for the enjoyment of all. At 6:30 PM dinner was served. During the dinner, two raffles were conducted. The first raffle raised \$365.00 which is to be divided amongst the three bodies and the second raffle was for a quilt and raised \$536.00 which is being donated to RARA.

Grand Commandery:

Companion Curry turned the ceremony over to SK Richard Butterfield, Southwest Department Commander, Grand Encampment K. T. of North America; EPGC Donald L. York; and EG Recorder James L. Sturdevant. SK Butterfield extended the greetings of Most Eminent Grand Master William H. Koon II. SK Butterfield then talked about the Knight Templar Cross of Honor and asked all past recipients of same to stand and come forward. SK Butterfield awarded this year's Knight Templar Cross of Honor to SK Jack C. Cook. SK Butterfield then awarded EPGC Donald L. York his Certificate of Service and a beautiful plaque. SK York expressed his thanks for all those who had helped him attain this award and for a successful year. SK T. Mark Mickelson was then called forward and introduced as the Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Wyoming for 2011-2012.

Grand Council:

Companion G. Gil Curry asked for Most Illustrious Past Grand Master Charles W. Smith and Companion Gary Skillern, Right Puissant General Grand Captain of the Guard, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International to come to the podium. PIGM Smith talked about the Youth Leadership award and its importance to our fraternity. The Youth Leadership award for the 2010-2011 year was awarded to Companion Calvin Van Zee Laramie Council No. 2. Companion Van Zee was not in attendance and will receive his award at a future date in Laramie Council No. 2. PIGM Smith then talked about the Cryptic Mason of the year award and expounded on the many accomplishments of this year's recipient. PIGM Smith then made the Cryptic Mason of the year award to Companion William A. Biggs of Wyoming Council No. 1.

Companion Biggs was not in attendance and PIGM Smith will attend a meeting of Wyoming No.1 and make the presentation in person. PIGM Smith asked for PIGM Otto Uecker to approach the podium and assist in presenting the Illustrious Grand Master's Wyoming Cryptic Council Award. Sheridan Council No. 3 was this year's award recipient. Companion Uecker read the citation while PIGM Smith made the presentation. Companion Gray Skillern, Right Puissant General Grand Captain of the Guard, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International -with his usual flair-said it was time to recognize PIGM Charles W. Smith. Comp Skillern is the personal representative of The Most Puissant General Grand Master for the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International, George Sellars and he brought greetings from Companion Sellars. Companion Skillern congratulated PIGM Charles W. Smith for a successful year and presented him with his Certificate of Service and a beautiful plaque. Companion Curry pointed out that Companion Skillern had just been made a national officer at the recent Triennial in Raliegh, North Carolina.

Grand Chapter:

Companion Curry announced it was time for the Grand Chapter awards. Companion Louis Bartrand, Right Excellent General Grand King, General Grand Chapter R.A.M. International arose to present the awards from the General Grand Chapter of R.A.M. International. He brought greetings from the General Grand Chapter and from The Most Excellent General Grand High Priest Ed Harrisson and congratulated MEPGHP Michael L. James for a successful year. Companion Bartrand talked about the Distinguished Service Award (Bronze) and its significance. He asked all recipients of this award to rise and join him in front. MEPGHP James then came forward and read the citation for this year's recipient and then asked Companion Jack Shuler of Darius Chapter No. 10 to come forward and receive the Distinguished Service Award for 2010-2011. He pinned the award to Jack's lapel. A very emotional moment was observed as each past recipient shook Companion Shuler's hand. Companion Bartrand then presented MEPGHP Michael L. James with his Certificate of Service and praised him for a most successful year.

MEPGHP Michael L. James, EPGC Donald L. York and PIGM Charles W. Smith thanked everyone for coming and congratulated all the awardees. RWDGM Clarence Vranish, representing MIGM Allen Pierce, was called forward and he brought greetings from the MWGM of the Grand Lodge of A. F. &A. M. of Wyoming. He talked about this great fraternity and thanked the Grand York Rite Bodies of Wyoming for all their hospitality and recognition.



MEPGHP Michael L. James presenting Companion John F. Shuler the Bronze Meritorious Service award for 2010-2011



Companion Gary Skillern, Right Puissant General Grand Captain of the Guard
For the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International
(MEPGHP Wyoming, Skillern was appointed to his position at the last Triennial)

Presenting PIGM Charles W. Smith with his plaque for his service 2010-2011