

# PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

*One Hundred Fifty-Second  
Annual Assembly*  
OF THE  
*Grand Council of Cryptic Masons*  
OF THE  
*State of Missouri*

HELD  
JUNE 7, 2017  
CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI





# GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI 152<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS NECESSARY)

## Wednesday, June 7, 2017

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast – On Your Own
- 7:00 a.m. Registration (Credentials Committee) – All 3 Bodies – until 10:30 am (*Atrium*)
- 8:45 a.m. Flag Presentation by Heroes of '76/Pledge/Anthem (*Capitol/Truman*)
- 9:00 a.m. Grand Council Reception of Distinguished Guests – 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 2016-2017 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
- Grand Chorister Presentation (or as determined by GM)
- CMMR Presentation – Executive Secretary, CMMR
- 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
- 10:30 a.m. Formal Opening of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic  
Masons of the State of Missouri (*Capitol/Truman*)
- Preliminary Report of the Credentials Committee
- 11:00 a.m. Election of the 2017-2018 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

**Wednesday, June 7, 2017 (cont.)**

- 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. Grand Council Lunch and Learn – Open to All – Special Guest Speaker (*Lincoln*)
- 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 Saturday Grand York Rite Banquet**
- 3:30 p.m. Installation of the 2017-2018 Grand Council Officers, Open to Ladies and Guests
- 4:30 p.m. Close of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri  
Pictures
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner on Your Own
- 7:30 p.m. Grand Preceptory of Yeomen of York Meeting – Members Only (*Lincoln*)
- 7:30 p.m. Tall Cedars of Lebanon – Members Only (*Missouri*)
- 9:00 p.m. Grand Council Officer’s Meeting – Grand Line Officers, RDGMs, RDGLs (*TBA*)

**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri  
2016-2017**

**Elected and Appointed Officers**

Todd A. Schulze .....	Grand Master
Joseph P. Elsen .....	Deputy Grand Master
Aaron M. Shoemaker .....	Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Donald L. Trabue .....	Grand Treasurer
Kevin B. Sample.....	Grand Recorder
Christopher E. Tilley .....	Grand Captain of the Guard
Wayne B. Fryer .....	Grand Conductor of the Council
Donald MacCormick.....	Grand Marshal
Michael S. Smith .....	Grand Steward
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
William G. Snyder.....	Grand Lecturer

**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
Stan Bennett .....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 4
William G. “Kip” Davis, II .....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 5
Carlin L. Smittle.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 6
Harry L. Tripp, Jr. ....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 7
Michael S. Smith .....	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
Ronald E. Wood, Jr. ....	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
Vacant.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 6
Clifton W. Wofford .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 7
Kevin E. Weaver .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 8
Donald H. Vandegriffe .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 9

### Regional Deputy Grand Chaplains

Michael L. Dodd.....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 1
Vacant.....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 2
Donald L. Huggins .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 3
Matthew L. Quesenberry .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 4
Matthew D. Ruth .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 5
John W. Shoemaker.....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 6
Vacant.....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 7
Taz A. Meyer.....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 8
Mark A. Bean .....	Regional Deputy Grand Chaplain, Region 9

### Living Past Grand Masters

Everette L. Gloyd (1978-1979)	Kevin B. Sample, Honorary (2005)
Jack R. Clark, Sr. (1987-1988)	Albert H. "Sonny" Miller (2006-2007)
Lawrence R. Albright, II (1993-1994)	Donald L. Trabue, Honorary (2008)
C. Richard Carter (1995-1996)	Danny D. Smothers (2009-2010)
E. Allen Kohler, Honorary (1998)	James G. Haddox (2010-2011)
Bob L. Detherow (1998-1999)	George M. Merkle (2011-2012)
William J. Bowser (2000-2001)	William C. Woolsey (2012-2013)
LeRoy D. Unruh (2001-2002)	David C. Witte (2013-2014)
Richard J. Holmes (2002-2003)	Terry R. Struse (2014-2015)
Gary A. Phillips (2003-2004)	William G. Snyder (2015-2016)

## Standing Committees

### Address of the Grand Master

Terry R. Struse, Chairman  
William G. Snyder  
David C. Witte

### Credentials

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman  
Joseph P. Elsen  
James Joseph Hayes  
Robert L. Schmidt

### Finance and Accounts

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

Matthew D. Ruth

Donald L. Trabue, Ex-officio  
Kevin B. Sample, Ex-officio

### Jurisprudence

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

### Returns of Councils

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman  
Joseph P. Elsen  
James Joseph Hayes  
Robert L. Schmidt

## Special Committees

### Audit

Terry R. Struse, Chairman  
Stanton T. Brown, II  
Grand Council Advancing Line Officers

### Annual Assembly Planning

Michael E. Day, Chairman  
Joseph P. Elsen  
Aaron M. Shoemaker  
Christopher E. Tilley  
William C. Woolsey

### Buckeye Award

Stanton T. Brown, II, Chairman  
William G. Snyder

### By-Laws Review and Revision

Danny D. Smothers, Chairman  
Michael E. Day  
Harley L. Kropf

### Charity and Charity Endowment Fund

William G. Snyder, Chairman  
Michael E. Day  
Joseph P. Elsen  
Aaron M. Shoemaker

### Education

Kevin E. Weaver, Chairman  
Michael S. Smith  
Christopher E. Tilley

### Education: Grand Council Merit Award

William G. Snyder, Chairman  
Aaron M. Shoemaker  
Patrick D. West

### Education: Cryptic Education - Freemasonry 2.5

Christopher E. Tilley, Chairman  
Mark A. Dobson  
Michael S. Smith  
Kevin E. Weaver

### Education: Recruitment & Retention

Vacant

### Endowed Membership

David C. Witte, Chairman  
James G. Haddox  
Kevin B. Sample, Ex-officio  
Donald L. Trabue, Ex-officio

### Fraternal Correspondence

Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman  
Phillip A. Cole  
Michael S. Smith  
Christopher E. Tilley

General Grand Council Charity Committee

William J. Bowser, Chairman  
Danny D. Smothers  
David C. Witte

General Grand Council Endowed Membership

George M. Merkle, Chairman

Grand Master's Cryptic Day

Kevin B. Sample, Chairman  
Jerry L. Miles  
William G. Snyder

RDGM & Leadership Events

Michael E. Day, Chairman  
Wayne B. Fryer  
Michael S. Smith  
Christopher E. Tilley

RDGL & Instruction Events

Joseph P. Elsen, Chairman  
Aaron E. Rose  
Aaron M. Shoemaker  
Kevin E. Weaver  
Michael E. Wheeler

Regional Governance

Jeffery L. Fielder-Bey, Chairman  
Joseph P. Elsen  
Donald L. Huggins  
Harry L. Tripp, Jr.

Regional York Rite Conferences

William G. Snyder, Chairman  
Harry L. Tripp, Jr.  
Kevin E. Weaver  
Carlin L. Smittle

Ritual

William G. Snyder, Chairman  
Jerry L. Miles  
Gary A. Phillips  
Matthew L. Quesenberry  
Kevin E. Weaver

Social Media/Communications/Internet

Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman  
Donald MacCormick, Web Master  
David C. Witte  
Roy L. Gilkey

Time and Place

Michael E. Day, Chairman  
Joseph P. Elsen  
Aaron M. Shoemaker  
Christopher E. Tilley

Triennial

Michael E. Day, Chairman  
Joseph P. Elsen  
Aaron M. Shoemaker

Youth and Membership

Roger D. Salyer, Chairman  
Aaron M. Shoemaker  
Danny D. Smothers  
Christopher E. Tilley

Order of Silver Trowel

Roger D. Fleeer, Secretary/Treasurer



### 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 ..... Vacant
- 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..... Vacant
- Germany..... Vacant
- 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



Todd Alan Schulze  
Grand Master, 2016-2017

Todd was born on April 21, 1967 in St. Louis, MO., to Dr. Larry W. Schulze and Beverly Schulze. Todd is the oldest, having two younger sisters, Kimberly Boehme and Amy Chadakhtzian. He currently has three nieces and one nephew.

He attended the University of Missouri, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1990. He earned a Master of Business Administration in 1993 from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He initially was employed by John Hancock Investment Services and then AAA, Alton, IL office. Upon deciding that a change in career was desired, he attended Quinnipiac University School of Law in Hamden, CT., earning a Juris Doctor in 2001.

He returned to St. Louis to begin the practice of law. In 2002, he became an assistant public defender with the Office of the Missouri State Public Defender in Farmington, MO. In 2006, he relocated to Hannibal, MO., being promoted to the position of District Public Defender for Area 10-Trial Division. He is the supervising attorney over four other attorneys and three support staff employees. He remains employed in that capacity in Hannibal, MO. During his fifteen years as a public defender, he has defended the indigent charged with all types of state criminal offenses. He is currently licensed to practice law in both Missouri and Connecticut.

Todd's masonic journey began in 1995. He was raised in Crestwood Anchor Lodge No. 443, Crestwood, MO., where he is currently a member. He served as Worshipful Master of Crestwood Anchor Lodge during 2004-2005. He served as High Priest of Oriental-Rabboni Chapter No. 78, Illustrious Master of Hiram Council No. 1, and Eminent Commander of Ivanhoe Commandery, No. 8. He is also a proud member of Jeremiah Council No. 48 and Ascalon

Commandery No. 16. He is the recipient of the Lewis and Clark Award from both the Grand Council and Grand Commandery of Missouri. Todd was bestowed the honor of the Knight York Cross of Honor in 2012.

Todd is a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite-Valley of St. Louis, where he had conferred upon him the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 2007, and where he served as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in 2013. He is also a member of Bruce Harmon Hunt York Rite College, Limerick Council No. 88 of Knight Masons, Yeoman of York, Oriental Council No. 473 AMD, Royal Order of Scotland, SRICF, Alhambra Grotto MOVPER, Moolah Shrine AAONMS, and the Masonic Order of Athelstan—Court of Discovery No. 80.

## **ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER**

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

By the infinite wisdom and grace of The Great Architect of the Universe, we once again meet and share fraternal fellowship with one another. I bid fraternal greetings and salutations to all Companions of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. It is once again time for the Grand Master to report on the state of Cryptic Masonry in Missouri. As your Grand Master, pursuant to Art. II, Section 9, in conformity with the duties and requirements of my office, and the long-established traditions of all my esteemed predecessors, I now render an account of my stewardship of this venerable and noble institution, one which now spans over a century and a half. Much was accomplished during this past year, but much remains to be done.

### **Necrology**

As another year has come to pass, several of our Companions have been called from labor, to the House of our Father, to that House not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. While it is natural for us to grieve for the loss of those Companions, we should take comfort in the fact that our temporary loss is their eternal gain. Death, where is thy sting! I wish to make special mention of the passing of Most Illustrious Companion Teddie E. Harrison, Past Grand Master 1999-2000. He contributed much in his time among us. May he live on in our memory.

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.

### **Memorial Service**

by Very Illustrious Companion Kevin E. Weaver, Grand Chaplain

### **My Message this Year**

As many of you know, the theme of my year mirrored the acronym of our charity, Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF). I chose a theme for almost every letter as a device to communicate to the Companions that which I believed crucial for our longevity.

### Charity:

The letter “C” stands for **Charity**. It is incumbent upon all Freemasons to contribute to charity and support the welfare of our fellow man, especially a brother Freemason. After all, the cardinal virtues of Freemasonry are Faith, Hope and Charity.

### **Grand Master’s Coin**

In keeping with this benevolent aspiration, the Grand Council had struck a Grand Master’s commemorative coin, the fourth coin in a series of commemorative coins begun by Most Illustrious Companion David Witte, and continued during the years of Most Illustrious Companions Terry Struse and William G. Snyder. Donations for my coin and my predecessors’ coins have been generous and brisk. Proceeds for my coin will be donated to CMMRF, with a portion of those donations being retained to cover manufacture’s costs.

**I 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.** I wish to take this opportunity to recognize Most Illustrious Companion John Bridegroom, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Indiana. Through his fine craftsmanship, we are able to produce these coins.

### Membership:

Continuing on with an explanation of my acronym, we have the letter “M” for **Membership**. It is with great excitement that I report that cryptic masonry is growing stronger, especially in areas of the state of Missouri where membership has struggled.

### **Councils Under Dispensation**

It is with great pride that a new Council applied for a Charter and requested to begin labor under dispensation. Once the requisite application process was completed, I set the Companions of West Plains to work. With the application submitted by twenty-five (25) Companions in West Plains, MO., the future appears promising in Region 6 for York Rite Masonry in general and Cryptic Masonry in particular. I commend Illustrious Companion Andrew Dawson and his fellow Companions on all of their efforts and hard work in forming a new Council in West Plains. I further wish to recognize Very Illustrious Companion Carlin Smittle, Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 6. His participation and guidance was crucial in this process.

**It is my recommendation that the Grand Council vote to grant a Charter for West Plains Council No. 64, welcoming them into Cryptic Masonry.**

### Ritual:

We next come to the letter “**R**”, standing for **Ritual**. I am pleased to report that the efforts put forth by our Grand Lecturer, Most Illustrious Companion William G. Snyder, and all of my Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers throughout the state of Missouri to greatly increase the number of ritual cards earned by the Companions have been quite fruitful. Companions, this effort must continue unabated. One of the many attributes that sets this fraternity apart from others is our tradition. The one thing that best exemplifies that tradition is ritual. As I traveled about the state this year, I impressed upon the Companions the importance of learning the degree work and its affect upon candidates. If one is unimpressed with what they initially see during a degree, the probability that they will remain an active Companion in the future is reduced. During my official visits with various Councils, I was pleased at their ritual performance of opening and closing a Council without the use of ritual books. Keep up the good work!

### Fellowship:

The final letter is “**F**” for **Fellowship**. During my official visits this past year, I posed the question to the Companions asking what kept them coming back to convocations. I pose that same question to all of you now, and I ask you to answer the question silently. Why do you continue to come to convocations? Before answering this question, contemplate the following. Think back to when someone first presented you with a petition to sign. What caused you to knock at the door of the Lodge? Was it your father, grandfather, uncle, brother, cousin or friend? Afterwards, what inspired you to perhaps demonstrate your proficiency, volunteer to learn and perform ritual, serve as an officer? I maintain that the primary reason for creating this life-long bond between you and the Fraternity is the fellowship of your Companions, the inner comfort and solace you receive when you sit in a Lodge, Chapter, Council or Commandery where everybody knows your name. Of all the parts of this message I give you today, fellowship is the **MOST** important. If you create a hospitable experience for others, they will want to belong, to contribute, and to share this experience with others. Fellowship is the salve for what afflicts fraternities in general, and ours in particular. Remember Companions, give your new Companions something to do, position them so that they become personally invested in what the Fraternity does, and most importantly, tell them you are happy to see them.

### **Grand Master’s Cryptic Day**

The third annual Grand Master’s Cryptic Day was held at the New Masonic Temple in St. Louis, MO., on March 25, 2017. Grand Master’s Cryptic Day was conceived with the idea of fostering greater ties with the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and to remind all Companions that we are all Masons. We were honored to have in attendance Most Worshipful Brother (MWB) Richard L. Smith, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri. Twenty-five (25) new Companions were greeted as Royal and Select Masters during this event. The event was concluded with the conferral of the Super Excellent Master degree. Of particular historical significance, MWB Smith was a candidate of the class. I

wish to thank the Grand Lecturer, the Grand Recorder, my Regional Deputy Grand Masters, Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers, the outstanding cast comprised of Companions throughout the state of Missouri, and all those Companions without whose herculean assistance, this event could not have taken place.

**It is my recommendation that this state-wide event is perpetuated with the purpose to strengthen the ties that bind the Grand Lodge of Missouri and the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons together in brotherhood.**

### **State of the Cryptic Rite:**

#### **Suspensions - Revocations**

It being the duty and aspiration of every Grand Master to contribute positively to the number of Councils under a working charter in Missouri, it is with great sadness to report a situation requiring my exercise of authority as it relates to Charters so early on in my tenure. Failure of Chillicothe Council No. 28 to timely and annually submit annual reports and pay per capita dues resulted in my calling a convocation of this Council. The purpose of this ordered convocation was to allow the Companions of Chillicothe Council the opportunity to address their Council's chronic, long standing issues to me. What resulted was unexpected, insubordinate and un-masonic in character. Upon my arrival at the Council meeting location, myself and numerous other Companions accompanying me learned it was their intent to not appear as summoned, and of their refusal to send anyone to meet with us face-to-face.

Therefore, I ordered on September 28, 2016, pursuant to Article II, Section 11(7) of the Grand Council By-Laws, the Charter of Chillicothe Council No. 28 be arrested for good cause. I further directed the Grand Recorder to notify all Companions of that Council of their placement into the Missouri-At-Large Council, known as Marion Council Number 3, pursuant to Article VI, Section 60.

**It is my recommendation that the Grand Council vote to revoke the Charter of Chillicothe Council No. 28.**

#### **My Visitations and Travels**

I had the distinct honor and pleasure of traveling around the State of Missouri, participating in installations, conducting official visits and meeting so many great Companions. Your gracious and hospitable reception during my visits will be with me always. Below is a list of my travels for this past year.

June 9, 2016	Grand York Rite Session, Jefferson City, MO. Installation of Grand Council Officers. Grand Commandery Conclave.
June 18, 2016	Rolla Council No. 39, Rolla, MO. Installation of Officers-Installing Master.

- June 23, 2016 Job's Daughters. Grand Session, Jefferson City, MO. William G. Snyder—PGM as acting representative. Presentation of Grand Council donation and remarks.
- June 23, 2016 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, St. Louis, MO. Valley of St. Louis 4-Bodies meeting chaired as Venerable Master –pro tem.
- June 25, 2016 Liberty Council Installation, Liberty, MO. Grand Commander's Reception—Robert Schlichter.
- June 26, 2016 Rainbow Girls Grand Session, Springfield, MO. Michael E. Day—DGM as acting representative. Presentation of Grand Council donation and remarks.
- June 28, 2016 Shelby Chapter, June 28, 2016, Shelbina, MO. Conferral of MEM degree.
- July 7, 2016 Hannibal Chapter, Hannibal, MO. Conferral of Royal Arch degree.
- July 9, 2016 First Annual Grand Master's Templar Crusade, Jefferson City, MO. Jefferson City Lodge.
- July 16, 2016 KYCH Investiture, Jefferson City, MO. Cast member in conferral—Council Lecture.
- July 23, 2016 Region 8 York Rite Conference, Freedom Lodge, St. Louis, MO. Reception of GHP & GM.
- July 26, 2016 Official Visit, Shelby Council No. 59, Shelbina, MO.
- July 30, 2016 Region 1 York Rite Conference, St. Joseph, MO.
- August 5, 2016 Bruce Harmon Hunt York Rite College No. 162, St. Louis, MO. Degree conferral—Freedom Lodge, St. Louis, MO.
- August 6, 2016 Grand Council Officer's Meeting—Jefferson City, MO.
- August 20, 2016 Regional York Rite Conference—Kansas City, MO. Regions 3 and 4, Swope Lodge.
- August 27, 2016 Region 7 York Rite Conference, Farmington, MO.
- August 27, 2016 Crestwood Anchor Lodge No. 443, Crestwood, MO. Installation of Officers
- September 10, 2016 Regional York Rite Conference, Bolivar, MO. Regions 5 & 6; DGM Michael Day, presiding officer.
- September 24, 2016 Regional York Rite Conference, Jefferson City, MO. Region 9. Meeting of Audit Committee.
- September 26, 2016 Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri, Columbia, MO. Recognized distinguished guest during opening of Grand Lodge. Grand York Rite Jurisprudence meeting.
- September 28, 2016 Chillicothe Council No. 28—Companions summoned.
- October 1, 2016 Regional York Rite Conference, Kirksville, MO. Region 2.
- October 14-15, 2016 Scottish Rite Reunion, Valley of St. Louis.
- October 16, 2016 Crestwood Anchor Lodge No. 443—Family/Prospects function—Shrimp Boil.
- October 25, 2016 Shelby Council No. 56 Convocation, Shelbina, MO. Malta Commandery No. 79—Official Visit of Grand Commander.
- October 26, 2016 Hiram Council No. 1, St. Louis, MO. Official Visit—Grand Master.



- November 19, 2016 Ascalon Commandery No. 16, Commandery Orders—Full Form.
- November 26, 2016 Yeoman of York Annual Meeting, Annual Meeting—St. Louis, MO (Freedom Temple).
- November 26, 2016 Bruce Harmon Hunt York Rite College, Regular Stated Meeting—St. Louis, MO (Freedom Temple).
- November 28, 2016 Centralia Council No. 34, Official Visit—Columbia, MO.
- January 7, 2017 Grand York Rite Meeting—Jefferson City, MO.
- January 16, 2017 Rolla Council No. 39. Official Visit—Rolla, MO (Joint visit of Grand High Priest, Grand Master and Grand Commander.
- January 21, 2017 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, St. Louis, MO. Four bodies-Installation of officers.
- January 22, 2017 Grand Council Officers’ meeting, phone conference.
- January 28, 2017 Shelby Council No. 56, Shelbina, MO. Installation of officers—York Rite Bodies.
- January 29, 2017 Grand Council Officers’ meeting, phone conference.
- February 2, 2017 Trinity Council No. 47, Hannibal, MO. Monthly meetings—Hannibal York Rite Bodies.
- February 12, 2017 Grand Council Officers’ meeting, phone conference.
- February 20, 2017 Jeremiah Council No. 48, Webster Groves, MO. Official Visit.
- February 25, 2017 Missouri College SRICF, Winter Meeting, Columbia, MO.
- March 2, 2017 Trinity Council No. 47, Hannibal, MO. Official Visit.
- March 18, 2017 Grand York Rite Officers’ Meeting, Jefferson City, MO. Finance/Budget meeting.
- March 25, 2017 Grand Master’s Cryptic Day, St. Louis, MO.
- April 1, 2017 Grand York Rite Officers’ Meeting, Jefferson City, MO.
- April 9, 2017 Grand Council Officers’ meeting, phone conference.
- April 14-15, 2017 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, St. Louis, MO., Spring Reunion—Valley of St. Louis, honoring MWB Richard L. Smith.
- April 23, 2017 Breakfast with the Grand Master, St. Louis, MO., Moolah Shrine Temple.
- April 23, 2017 Grand Council Officers’ meeting, phone conference.
- April 29, 2017 Limerick Council No. 88, Knight Masons, Yeoman of York, Freedom Temple, St. Louis, MO.
- May 13, 2017 Masonic Order of Athelstan—Court of Discovery No. 80; Missouri College SRICF, Spring Meeting, Columbia, MO.
- May 17, 2017 Ascalon Commandery No. 16—Installation of Officers, New Masonic Temple, St. Louis, MO.
- May 21, 2017 Grand Council Officers’ meeting, phone conference.
- May 27, 2017 Bruce Harmon Hunt York Rite College, Regular Stated Meeting—St. Louis, MO (Freedom Temple).
- May 28, 2017 Order of DeMolay Annual Conclave, Hall of Fame & Masonic Recognition Dinner, Grand Council annual donation presentation.
- June 7, 2017 Grand York Rite Session, Grand Council Session, Jefferson City, MO.

## **The Branson 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. As I was unable to personally make the annual trip to the time capsule, Right Illustrious Companion Michael E. Day did so in my absence. He reported the site and marker to be in good shape. May this site continue to remain so for future generations.

**It is my recommendation that this site should be visited annually to ensure its upkeep. Should there ever come a time where the time capsule is endangered, my recommendation is to remove the capsule and place it under the care of the Missouri Lodge of Research.**

### **Edicts**

I issued no Edicts nor rescinded any Edicts during my term as Grand Master.

### **Dispensations**

- July 13, 2016      Granted Dispensation to Zabud Council No. 25 to hold a special election on July 25, 2016, in Springfield, MO, for the expressed purpose of electing a Master.
- October 22, 2016      Granted Dispensation to form West Plains Council U.D.
- January 10, 2017      Granted Dispensation to remove Sedalia Council No. 42 to the Lexington Masonic Temple, 126 ½ north 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Lexington, MO as part of the Sedalia Chapter and Commandery consolidation with Lexington. The Council will be required to submit by-laws changes as a follow-up action.

### **Decisions**

- Sept. 28, 2016      Pursuant to Article II, Section 11(7), I hereby arrest the Charter of Chillicothe Council Number 28. RDGM Darryl Price of Region 2 is directed to retrieve the Charter, and all regalia at the earliest possible time. Once retrieved, he shall notify the Grand Recorder and me. The Charter and regalia shall be returned and placed in the care of the Grand York Rite office.

In confirmation of the conversation conducted this evening in Chillicothe, I hereby direct you to draft a letter notifying those Companions that their Charter is arrested, effective immediately.

In addition, advise that all the Companions of that Council will now be placed in a Missouri-At-Large Council, known as Marion Council Number 3,

pursuant to Article VI, Section 60. Dues shall be in accordance with Article VI, Section 60(2).

### By-Laws Changes

July 26, 2016 Approved by-laws changes for Independence Council No. 49, to wit:

SECTION 1. STATED ASSEMBLIES. The Stated Assemblies of this Council shall be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. **except for November and December, when they shall be held on the Second Thursday in joint session with Independence Chapter number 12 Royal Arch Masons at 7:30 p.m.** No Stated Assembly will be held during the months of July and August.

SECTION 1. PETITIONS AND FEES. Petitions for the Degrees shall be on the form prescribed by the Grand Council, and shall be accompanied by a fee of **\$50.00**.

SECTION 2. ANNUAL DUES. The Annual Dues of this Council shall be **\$40.00** plus the Grand Council Per Capita Tax. The Dues are due and payable on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of January and shall become delinquent if not paid by the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of July, following.

March 14, 2017 Approved the by-laws changes for Zabud Council No. 25, to wit:

CURRENT WORDING ARTICLE III Sections 2-3 and 5

Section 2. The duties of the Treasurer shall be as prescribed in Section 1 of this article and for his services he shall receive the sum of Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars per annum.

Section 3. The duties of the Recorder shall be as prescribed in Section 1 of this article and for his services, he shall receive the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) for each member reported in good standing as of December 31. This sum may be pro-rated and paid monthly during the year.

Section 5. The duties of the Sentinel shall be as prescribed in Section 1 of this article, and for his services, he shall be paid the sum of One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) for each Assembly at which he acts a Sentinel.

PROPOSED:

Delete Section 2 in its entirety.

Section 3 Amended to the following and to become new Section 2 with subsequent sections renumbered

Section 2. The Recorder, upon submission of valid proof, may be reimbursed up to the amount of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per annum for his expenses incurred in the performance of his duties.

Delete Section 5 in its entirety. All remaining sections remain unchanged except for those renumbered.

#### CURRENT WORDING Article V Sections 1 and 2

Section1. The fee for the Degrees of Royal, Select and Super Excellent Master shall be Five Dollars (\$5.00) in excess of the Greeting fee established by the Grand Council of Missouri which must accompany the petition.

Section 2. The dues of each member of this Council shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00) together with any additional fees, per capita or taxes that may be assessed by the Grand Council of Missouri from time to time. Said dues are payable annually in advance on January 1.

#### PROPOSED:

Section1. The fee for the Degrees of Royal, Select and Super Excellent Master shall be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) in excess of the Greeting fee established by the Grand Council of Missouri which must accompany the petition.

Section 2. The dues of each member of this Council shall be Fifteen Dollars (15.00) together with any additional fees, per capita or taxes that may be assessed by the Grand Council of Missouri from time to time. Said dues are payable annually in advance on January 1.

All other sections of Article V to remain the same.

March 14, 2017 Approved by-laws changes for Westport Council No. 38, to wit:

Article 1 Para 2: The stated assemblies of this Council shall be held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM or immediately after the meeting of Harry D. Brown Jr. Chapter #284. The meetings of July and August may, by a vote of the members, be dispensed with. The meeting place shall be Swope Park Masonic Lodge 8521 Oldham Rd. Kansas City, Mo.

Proposed change: The stated assemblies of this Council shall be held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM or immediately after the meeting of Harry D. Brown Jr. Chapter #284. The meetings of July and August may, by a vote of the members, be dispensed with. No meeting shall be held on the eve of or the day of the meeting of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of Missouri. The meeting place shall be Swope Park Masonic Lodge, 8521 Oldham Rd. Kansas City, Mo.

The remainder of the article shall remain the same.

REASON: Due to financial constraints, we must give up one meeting date at the lodge.

### **The Advancing Grand Council Line**

The stability of the Grand Council advancing line has recently become an issue, presenting challenging obstacles and distractions to the long-range planning and development for the improvement and longevity of Cryptic Masonry in Missouri. In September 2016, Right Illustrious Companion Michael E. Day tendered his resignation from the line as Deputy Grand Master citing serious health concerns. While it was with great sadness and trepidation to have received such a notice, I nonetheless accepted his resignation. I know I speak for all Companions when I extend my wishes to RIC Michael Day the very best in all his future endeavors. God speed, RIC Day.

The loss of RIC Day by the advancing line created a terrible void. Thus, pursuant to the authority granted to me as Grand Master, and pursuant to Art. II, Section 11(b), I ordered that each Grand Line Officer was to assume the responsibilities and duties of the office immediately above them. As such, this placed RIC Joseph P. Elsen in the difficult position of performing the duties of Deputy Grand Master for the remainder of the term. VIC Aaron Shoemaker was also assigned the duties of the Principal Conductor of the Work for the remainder of the term. To complete the Grand Line, and after consulting with the remaining advancing Grand Line officers, I appointed VIC Michael S. Smith of Region 8 of St. Louis as acting Grand Steward of the Grand Council.

I cannot express how proud I am of the Grand Line officers and their efforts put forth during this difficult time. All have acted in an exemplary manner and have served you, the Companions and this Grand Council admirably. With the appointments to the line by MIC William G. Snyder and myself, I am confident that stability is secured in the Grand Council advancing line. I am confident that harmony now prevails and all is in order.

The By-laws do not permit me to make the aforementioned appointments permanent. Thus, by concurrence of the Advancing Line, and the appointment of a new acting Grand Steward, we opened this Grand Council today with the following slate of officers:

Grand Master.....Todd A. Schulze  
 Acting Deputy Grand Master.....Joseph P. Elsen  
 Acting Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.....Aaron M. Shoemaker  
 Acting Grand Captain of the Guard.....Christopher E. Tilley  
 Acting Grand Conductor of the Council.....Wayne B. Fryer  
 Acting Grand Marshal.....Donald MacCormick  
 Acting Grand Steward.....Michael S. Smith

**It is my recommendation that the officers seated here today constitute the advancing Grand Council Line.** I move for the adoption of this portion of the Grand Masters address recommending approval of the officers now seated as the advancing Grand Line of the Grand Council.

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

**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.....Joseph P. Elsen  
 Deputy Grand Master.....Aaron M. Shoemaker  
 Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.....Christopher E. Tilley  
 Grand Captain of the Guard.....Wayne B. Fryer  
 Grand Conductor of the Council.....Donald MacCormick  
 Grand Marshal.....Michael S. Smith  
 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.

**Time and Place**

In continuation of investigating the quality and competitiveness of our present location by my predecessor MIC William G. Snyder, and by my order, I directed the Grand Recorder to issue a “Request for Proposal” (RFP) to several hotel venues throughout the state of Missouri. The purpose was to ascertain the cost-effectiveness, quality and competitiveness of the existing contract with our present venue. As we have a fiduciary responsibility to render due diligence for all expenditures of the Grand Council, especially one as large a caliber as the venue for our Grand Session, I made it known that unless and until the Grand Council was satisfied with the RFP produced and the forthcoming responses of the several venues to that RFP, no authorization would be given by me empowering the Grand Recorder to sign a hotel contract.

As directed, the Grand Recorder created a masterful and well drafted RFP to several venues located throughout the state of Missouri. Upon receipt of all RFP responses, a Grand York Rite Officers' meeting convened to review and discuss the findings. After a thorough presentation and explanation by the Grand Recorder, as well as a constructive discussion by the Grand York Rite officers attending, and following a Grand Council officers' meeting to further discuss the findings, I granted permission, pursuant to Art. II, Section 16A, for the Grand Recorder to sign a contract for the Grand Sessions of 2019, 2020 and 2021, with options to continue at our present location in 2022 and 2023.

In addition to the agreement by the Grand York Rite Bodies to enter in to a three-year contract with an optional two-year extension, a super committee was formed consisting of two representatives from each Body. Their purpose is to determine the scope of future Grand Sessions, given the ever-changing demographic occurring within York Rite Masonry in Missouri. This super committee is tasked with exploring the viability of continuing the Grand Sessions in their present form, if change is needed, and if so, what are their resulting recommendations to the Grand Officers. Submission of their findings and recommendations are expected in 2018.

**It is my recommendation that great effort be made to ascertain and recognize the changing forces affecting the membership of Cryptic Masonry in the state of Missouri, and to implement strategies that address those changes accordingly.**

### **Finance and Budget – Per Capita Increase**

I am pleased to report the Grand Council is operating with a surplus budget this year, due to the passage of the amendment to Art. IV, Section 22 (3) raising the per cap dues to \$25.00.

**It is my recommendation to the incoming Grand Master that at least 50% surplus realized from the per capita increase be reinvested. This practice facilitates the replacement of revenues the Grand Council was forced to expend during previous budgets, and represents sound, fiscal policy.**

### **Past Grand Master's Jewel**

During my year, I ordered a search be conducted to commission a new design for the Past Grand Master's jewel. We enlisted the services of RIC John Bridegroom, creator of our Grand Master's commemorative coins. Following input by the Grand Officers and several Past Grand Illustrious Masters, a design was finalized. It is a handsome jewel, one befitting the service of all Most Illustrious Companions who wear it. The jewels will be in production and should be ready for our Grand Session. Several jewels were ordered allowing for Past Grand Illustrious Masters to purchase the new jewel, should they so desire.

### **Archival Preservation**

Preservation of artifacts from Councils long past, photographs, and items donated to the Grand Council is paramount for this Body. With that in mind, I am pleased to report of efforts being made towards that end with the assistance of the Missouri Lodge of Research. In years

past, the Grand Council incurred the cost of storage of these items. This is no longer the case. I commend the Grand Recorder in his efforts to secure a more sound location for the care and preservation of irreplaceable articles of our fraternal history.

**It is my recommendation that this effort continues uninterrupted, so as to preserve the history of this, our great fraternity.**

### **Regional York Rite Conferences**

For the first time in recent memory, all regional York Rite conference dates were set and announced at Grand Session of 2016. The timely announcement of all the conferences for the ensuing year made for efficient planning and time management on the part of all involved. While the programs of the individual conferences varied in content from each other, a variety of topics and issues were presented and discussed during each one. A total of seven (7) Grand York Rite Regional conferences were held, beginning July 23, 2016, in Region 8-St. Louis, MO., and concluding on October 1, 2016, in Region 2-Kirksville, MO.

**It is my recommendation that these regional conferences continue, but with the emphasis on the concept that the Regional Deputy Grand Masters and Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers plan the program presented, and designing the program so as to address the issues and interests of their respective regions.**

### **IRS Compliance—Form 990-N**

A continuing problem among some of the Councils in Missouri has been and remains to be IRS compliance through an annual filing of their 990-N. Failure to file a 990-N annually will could result in the loss of their tax-exempt status. All Councils must file a 990-N annually.

**I recommend to the incoming Grand Master that a finance subcommittee be formed comprised of Past Grand Masters for the purpose of compliance oversight.**

**I further recommend implementation of a mandatory orientation/tutorial program for all the Recorders of the Councils.** This will supply them with the requisite knowledge of how to file, as well as the possible penalties for noncompliance.

**In addition, I recommend that the incoming Grand Master set forth penalties for noncompliance, once fully vetted by the Grand Council and advice of the jurisprudence committee.**

### **Membership Records and MMS**

Efforts are presently underway by our Grand Recorder to incorporate our record keeping and reporting systems with the membership system utilized by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA. It is hoped that this will ultimately lead to the creation and distribution of a membership card, using a bar code, one similar to cards now used by the Scottish Rite. A uniform system is sorely needed to improve the accuracy of membership numbers. Such a system will ultimately eliminate the requirements of annual reports by constitute Councils.



## **Grand Council / General Grand Council Merit Awards**

I encourage all Companions to inquire about the several merit awards offered by the Grand Council and General Grand Council, International. Forms are available on the Grand York Rite website. Please give careful consideration to any fellow Companions whom you observe performing services above and beyond. Inquire with your Regional Deputy Grand Masters and Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers for more information. Keep in mind that in order for their meritorious service to be recognized, someone must officially and timely nominate them.

### **Leadership—Growth and Development**

Several years ago, an administrative guide was created for distribution for all Grand York Rite officers. Contained within its pages was a composite of advice on how to approach issues which confront Grand Line officers, as well as illustrative suggestions on how to prepare yourself when in the leadership role. It is time that such an administrative guide be updated and tailored specifically for the Grand Council and its officers. We speak often of the importance of mentorship and communication among the Craft. An updated version of this administrative guide would accomplish that. It should specify what is expected of each Grand Line officer in their respective stations, thereby contributing to improved growth and development for each Companion of the Grand Council as they advance through the line. This guide should provide guidance and serve as a primer for all serving on the Grand Line, especially to the newly appointed Very Illustrious Companion. Guidance and input from the Grand Recorder and Past Grand Masters will ensure that the depth of historical knowledge and experience will be utilized to a maximum.

**I hereby recommend and encourage that the incoming Grand Master order the formation of a committee tasked with the assignment of producing an administrative guide which outlines the duties, responsibilities and expectations of advancing Grand Line officers.**

### **Grand Officer Communications**

Beginning earlier this year, the Grand Council instituted biweekly conference calling. This form of communications accomplished three goals. First, it exponentially reduced the time spent and cost incurred in holding numerous meetings; meetings which would involve lengthy travel and realizing of high fuel costs. Secondly, it greatly improved the timeliness of communications among the Grand Line Officers. Third, and most importantly, it provided a forum whereby all Grand Line officers had an opportunity to be heard and contribute to the conversation. This is so essentially necessary for the growth and development of the new Grand Line officers.

**It is my recommendation that not only should these teleconferences continue, but efforts should be made to begin video conferencing on at least a monthly basis. This practice could be expanded to allow Regional Deputy Grand Masters and Regional Deputy Grand Lectures to meet with the Grand Master and other Grand Line officers.**

## Closing Remarks

And so, my year as your Grand Master is about to end. Words are insufficient to express the honor, the excitement and gratitude I feel for having been elected to serve for this past year. I shall never forget the warmth, the brotherhood and fellowship shown me during my travels.

I wish to thank all of the Most Illustrious Companions who cheerfully have offered counsel when sought. I also wish to specifically thank MIC William G. Snyder and MIC David C. Witte, for all their mentorship, guidance and support as I advanced through the line, and during my term as Grand Master.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize MIC William Woolsey and his family for all the assistance provided to me during my term. Thank you Tina and Tara. They took the place of my mother in attending to banquet and event planning. My mother Beverly was unable to assist me during my year due to family and work constraints. They both did an outstanding job on creating the “man basket”, one of the many raffle items available during this session. Proceeds for the “man basket” will go to the Alzheimer’s Association, a terrible affliction affecting so many, including relatives of mine.

I want to recognize our Grand Recorder, MIC Kevin B. Sample. Without his knowledge and expertise, extreme difficulty and confusion among the Craft would have resulted. He is to be commended for his outstanding job in the organizing and planning of this Grand Session.

Another Companion deserving of commendation is MIC James Haddox. Jim demonstrated his belief in my abilities when he appointed me to the Grand Line. I thank him for being my installing Grand Master, as well as introducing me at the start of this session.

I owe a debt of gratitude to VIC Grand Chaplain Kevin E. Weaver. I consider Kevin one of my primary inspirations for becoming more involved in Freemasonry. Additionally, I send out appreciation for all the inspiration and assistance rendered me by MIC Richard J. Holmes.

I wish to thank MWB Glenn E. Means, chairman of jurisprudence. He provided outstanding and timely analysis and advice on a variety of issues arising this past year, all from his current home in Texas. Glenn, I thank you very much for your service during my year.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all my Regional Deputy Grand Masters and Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers. I graciously thank you all for your service. Without all of your outstanding assistance, it is next to impossible for the Craft to function.

I will conclude with the following thoughts taken from one of our prayers. May the Supreme Grand Master graciously preside over all our Councils, and all of us. May our secret retreat ever continue to be the resort of the just and merciful, the seat of the moral virtues and the home of the Select. Companions, I thank you. God bless.

Sincerely and Most Fraternaly submitted,



Todd Alan Schulze  
Grand Master 2016-2017

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

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

### PRELIMINARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

*(from the floor)*

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

*(from the floor)*

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

Companions, the Committee has reviewed the Address of MIC Todd Alan Schulze, Grand Master 2016-2017, and finds that the Grand Master has skillfully discharged his duties and provided a worthy report of his accomplishments and travels in behalf of the Grand Council and the Cryptic Rite.

The Committee recommends approval of the Grand Master's Address as to form and propriety of content.

The next Grand Master is encouraged to study this Address as well as the preceding addresses of Grand Masters David Carl Witte, Terry Robert Struse, and William Gene Snyder for guidance in the course of his term.

Fraternally submitted,  
Terry Robert Struse  
William G. Snyder, Chairman

David Carl Witte

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

### PRELIMINARY REPORT OF JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

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

Greetings: The Jurisprudence Committee has reviewed the Edicts issued, Dispensations granted, and By-Laws changes approved for subordinate Councils and all other relevant matters pertaining to the business of the Craft acted upon by the Grand Master. In our opinion, the Grand Master has complied with the Statutory duties, responsibilities, and inherent powers of his office. Our Grand Master is to be commended for his specific interest and attention to the Craft.

The Committee on 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 Companion Todd A. Schulze, Grand Master, for a successful year. In our estimation, you have performed your duties and responsibilities remarkably well.

Fraternally submitted,

Jeffery L. Fielder-Bey  
C. Brent Stewart

Jeffrey A. Keevil  
Glenn E. Means, Chairman

I move the adoption of this first part of the Report.

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

## LEGISLATION FOR ACTION AT GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY IN 2017

### Item No. 1.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

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

**ARTICLE 34. NEW COUNCILS, Sec. 34. Councils, U.D. Must Forward Returns.** Every Council under dispensation shall, thirty days before the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council, forward to the Grand Recorder, its letter of dispensation, books of records, and its annual returns, including a copy of the latest IRS Form 990 or a copy of the acceptance of the electronic submission of a Form 990N, and also a copy of its proposed By-Laws.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** At the 2016 Annual Grand Assembly, the Grand Masters' Address, in referencing IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under Sec. 501 (c), contained a statement, "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." The Grand Masters Address was approved by the Grand Council. No further mention of the standing resolution is mentioned in the proceedings.

Subsequent to the 2016 Annual Assembly, Standing Resolution No 11 (Adopted June 9, 2016) was prepared and printed in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri.

Members of the Jurisprudence Committee have a concern that Standing Resolution No. 11 should have been adopted as a standing resolution separate from the approval of the Grand Master's address or more appropriately adopted as an amendment to the By-laws. Therefore, this proposal to amend the By-Laws and Rescind Standing Resolution No. 11 is submitted.

Failure of an organization (Council) to file annually an IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under Sec. 501(c), for 3 consecutive years results in a withdrawal of the tax exempt status of the organization (Council). The withdrawal of a subordinate organization (Council) tax exempt status places the parent organization's (Grand Council) tax exempt status in jeopardy. It also places the organization whose tax exemption is

withdrawn subject to income taxes at the State and Federal level and places the organization's County property tax exemption at risk.

Fraternally submitted,  
Kevin B. Sample, PM  
Poplar Bluff Council No. 27

Glenn E. Means, PM  
Independence Council No. 49

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

**Item No. 2.**

PROPOSAL TO AMMEND THE **BY-LAWS** OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

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

**ARTICLE V. CHARTERED COUNCILS, SEC. 61. Annual Returns.** The returns of each Council shall be made up to and including December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, on forms furnished by the Grand Recorder. They shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder, with a copy of the latest IRS Form 990 or a copy of the acceptance of the electronic submission of a Form 990N, no later than the first day of March of each year. Failure...(remainder unchanged).

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** At the 2016 Annual Grand Assembly, the Grand Masters' Address, in referencing IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under Sec. 501 (c), contained a statement, "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." The Grand Masters Address was approved by the Grand Council. No further mention of the standing resolution is mentioned in the proceedings.

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subject to income taxes at the State and Federal level and places the organization's County property tax exemption at risk.

Fraternally submitted,  
Kevin B. Sample, PM  
Poplar Bluff Council No. 27

Glenn E. Means, PM  
Independence Council No. 49

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

### **Item No. 3.**

#### **Standing Resolution No. 12**

***Whereas***, pursuant to Article I, Grand Council, SEC.3 (9) And, finally, to consider and do whatsoever it may regard as necessary, or appertaining to the well-being and perpetuation of Cryptic Masonry in the State of Missouri.: and

***Whereas***, our Symbolic Lodges in the State of Missouri can submit for an award to be received at the Grand Lodge Session when they increase their membership by 5%: and

***Whereas***, it is appropriate and furthers the growth of Cryptic Masonry in Missouri in recognizing and honoring Councils that have increased their membership,

***Now Be It Resolved***, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri create Council Growth Awards to be presented at the Annual Grand Assembly for Councils that have increased their membership by 5%, 10%, and 15% during the year. The award to be a printed Certificate to be signed by the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder.: and

***Be It Further Resolved***, that the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri should also recognize by a similar Certificate the Council that has increased its membership by the largest percentage during the year.

Fraternally submitted,  
Brad Fowler, PCW, Westport Council No. 38

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

### **Item No 4.**

#### **Granting of Charter**

West Plains Council U.D. has submitted a request for the granting of a Charter. They have worked extremely hard and diligently met all the requirements set forth in Article V. *New Councils* of the By-Laws. Therefore, in accordance with Article V. *Chartered Councils*, SEC. 35, ***Charters, Granted at Annual Assembly***, it is recommended that a Charter be granted to West Plains Council No. 64, West Plains, Missouri by this Grand Assembly.

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

**Item No 5.**

**Chillicothe Council No. 28**

Shall the Arrest of the Charter of Chillicothe Council No. 28 stand.

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

Move that the complete Report of the Jurisprudence Committee be received, approved and printed in the final Proceedings.

Fraternally submitted,  
Jeffery L. Fielder-Bey  
C. Brent Stewart

Jeffrey A. Keevil  
Glenn E. Means, Chairman

*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:*

The Committee on Finance and Accounts recommends the following:

- The Grand Council of Cryptic Mason’s should explore purchasing Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and eliminate the By-Law requirement of bonding the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer.
- Require the purchase of a General Grand Life membership with the purchase of an Endowed Membership in the Grand Council.
- Invest budget surpluses and unspent monies in mutual funds with the majority invested in income-generating funds.

**2017-2018 Grand Council Budget**

**Income**

Per Capita, Membership (1,606 @ \$27.60)	\$ 44,325.00
Per Capita, Endowed Membership	2,450.00
Greeting Fees (75 @ \$7.00)	525.00
Misc Income	250.00
General Fund Interest Income	750.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 48,300.00</b>

**Expenses**

Grand Master Expenses	\$ 3,000.00
Grand Treasurer Expenses	1,000.00
Grand Recorder Salary	5,000.00
Clerical Assistant Salary	5,000.00
Employment Taxes	800.00
Bonding Insurance	100.00
Grand Lecturer Expenses	750.00
Audit Committee	1,000.00
Office Expenses	4,000.00
Printing Services	500.00
Office Rent	1,900.00
Storage Rent	450.00
General Grand Council Per Capita (2,250 @ \$2.50)	5,625.00
Annual Assembly	2,050.00
Grand Officer Expenses	1,000.00
Past Grand Master Jewel	500.00
Triennial Fund (2,250 @ \$0.06)	135.00
Emerging Leaders Fund (1,606 @ \$0.10)	161.00
South Central Contingency	500.00
MMS Annual Maintenance Fee	400.00
MMS One-Time Conversion Fee	1,000.00
Web Master	250.00
Miscellaneous	250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,371.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 48,300.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 35,371.00</b>
<b>Investment Funds</b>	<b>\$ 12,500.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 429.00</b>

Fraternally submitted,  
David C. Witte, Chairman  
Mike Day

Bob L. Detherow  
Matthew D. Ruth

*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 May 20, 2017, your Committee on Returns of Councils obtained the following information in this report. We DID NOT physically examine the Returns but received the information from Debbie Hanson, Grand Recorders, Assistant.

As of this date there are 32 Councils. The Returns of 26 were turned in on time. The 6 Councils who were late will be assessed penalties.

Chillicothe Council No. 28 had its charter pulled.

Marion Council No. 3 was Chartered.

West Plains Council U.D. (will be No. 64)

Sedalia Council No. 42 Moved to Lexington, Mo

NOTE: All Councils need to make sure that their Recorders are computer literate as we move forward with MMS.

Fraternally submitted,

Joseph P. Elsen

Robert L. Schmidt

James J. Hayes

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman

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

## PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

June 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017

*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, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

**General Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, General Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		<b>\$ 59,258.48</b>
Receipts:	Grand Secretary, etc.	\$ 17,265.44
	Interest Earned	\$ 189.54
	Increase in Market Value, etc. American-Income	\$ 552.58
	Increase in Market Value, etc. American-Balanced	\$ 489.75
Total Receipts:		<u>\$ 18,497.31</u>
Disbursements:	Jefferson Act. #xxxx9328	\$ 5,550.65
	Jefferson Act. #xxxx4544	\$ 19,148.88
	Jefferson Act. #xxxx4155 (Debits)	\$ 3,740.30
Total Disbursements:		<u>\$ 28,439.83</u>
Excess of Disbursements over Receipts:		<u>\$ (9,942.52)</u>
<b><u>Balance, General Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 49,315.96</b>

**Statement of Assets - General Fund, March 31, 2017**

Interest Checking Account #xxxx9328, Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.06 %	\$ 1,007.03
Interest Checking Act. #xxxx4544, Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.06%	\$ 924.80
Interest Checking Act. #xxxx4325, Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.05%	\$ 7.50
Monery Mkt. Act. #xxxx4155, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$ 19,167.24
Jefferson CD #xxxx0927, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 1.25%,Matures 4/3/18	\$ 17,787.41
American Balanced Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 4,976.54
American Income Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 5,445.44
<b><u>Total Assets, General Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>	<b>\$ 49,315.96</b>

**General Fund (Special Account)**

<b><u>Total Assets, General Fund (Special Account), June 1, 2016</u></b>		<b>\$ 36,606.82</b>
Receipts:	Interest Earned	\$ 196.04
	Increase in Market Value, etc. American Balanced Fund	\$ 1,484.71
Total Receipts:		<u>\$ 1,680.75</u>
Disbursements:		\$ -
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		<u>\$ 1,680.75</u>
<b><u>Balance, General Fund (Special Account), March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 38,287.57</b>

**Statement of Assets - General Fund (Special Account), March 31, 2017**

Monery Mkt. Act. #xxxx4155, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$ 401.13
American Balanced Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 15,086.81
CD #xxxx0708, Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 1.10%,Matures 4/10/19	\$ 22,799.63
<b><u>Total Assets, General Fund (Special Account), March 31, 2017</u></b>	<b>\$ 38,287.57</b>

**Endowed Membership Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, Endowed Membership Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		<b>\$ 118,802.49</b>
Receipts:	Memberships (20)	\$ 8,850.00
	Interest Earned	\$ 514.32
	Increase in Market Value, etc. American Fund-Income	\$ 6,594.02
Total Receipts:		<u>\$ 15,958.34</u>
Disbursements:		\$ -
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		<u>\$ 15,958.34</u>
<b><u>Balance, Endowed Membership Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 134,760.83</b>

**Statement of Assets - Endowed Membership Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxxx4155,Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$ 12,714.23
CD#xxxx1055,Providence Bank,Jefferson City,1.10%,Matures 12/30/17	\$ 64,981.20
American Income Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 57,065.40
<b><u>Total Assets, Endowed Membership Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>	<b>\$ 134,760.83</b>

**Charity Endowment Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, Charity Endowment Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		<b>\$ 127,553.61</b>
Receipts: Various Contributions	\$ 200.00	
Interest Earned	\$ 1,083.65	
Increase in Market Value, etc. American-Balanced	\$ 1,150.02	
Total Receipts:	<u>\$ 2,433.67</u>	
Disbursements:	\$ 800.00	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		<u>\$ 1,633.67</u>
<b><u>Balance, Charity Endowment Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 129,187.28</b>

**Statement of Assets - Charity Endowment Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxxxx4155,Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$ 2,992.65	
American Balanced Fund (thru Jefferson Bank-Jefferson City)	\$ 20,750.02	
CD#xxxxx4500,Providence Bank,Jefferson City,1.10%,Matures 10/7/17	\$ 31,172.60	
CD#xxxxx3910,Providence Bank-Jefferson City,1.00%,Matures 10/7/17	\$ 40,222.65	
CD #xxxxx2161, Hawthorn Bank, Jefferson City, 1.50%, Matures 2/7/2019	\$ 34,049.36	
<b><u>Total Assets, Charity Endowment Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 129,187.28</b>

**Supply Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, Supply Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		<b>\$ 8,883.13</b>
Receipts: Inventory Sales	\$ 5,054.11	
Interest Earned	\$ 29.05	
Total Receipts:	<u>\$ 5,083.16</u>	
Disbursements:	\$ 1,121.97	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		<u>\$ 3,961.19</u>
<b><u>Balance, Supply Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 12,844.32</b>

**Statement of Assets - Supply Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxxxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jeffers on City, 0.36%	\$ 12,844.32	
<b><u>Total Assets, Supply Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 12,844.32</b>

**Triennial Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, Triennial Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		<b>\$ 327.94</b>
Receipts: Interest Earned	\$ 0.81	
Total Receipts:	<u>\$ 0.81</u>	
Disbursements:	\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		<u>\$ 0.81</u>
<b><u>Balance, Triennial Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 328.75</b>

**Statement of Assets - Triennial Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxxxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$ 328.75	
<b><u>Total Assets, Triennial Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 328.75</b>

**Leadership Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, Leadership Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		<b>\$ 675.98</b>
Receipts: From Councils	\$ 105.90	
Interest Earned	\$ 1.68	
Total Receipts:	<u>\$ 107.58</u>	
Disbursements:	\$ -	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		<u>\$ 107.58</u>
<b><u>Balance, Leadership Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 783.56</b>

**Statement of Assets - Leadership Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxxxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$ 783.56	
<b><u>Total Assets, Leadership Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		<b>\$ 783.56</b>

**Audit Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, Audit Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		\$	5,171.75
Receipts: Interest Earned	\$	1.68	
Total Receipts:	\$	1.68	
Disbursements:	\$	-	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		\$	1.68
<b><u>Balance, Audit Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		\$	5,173.43

**Statement of Assets - Audit Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxxxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$	5,173.43	
<b><u>Total Assets, Audit Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		\$	5,173.43

**Proceedings Fund**

<b><u>Total Assets, Proceedings Fund, June 1, 2016</u></b>		\$	4,982.94
Receipts: Interest Earned	\$	12.82	
Total Receipts:	\$	12.82	
Disbursements:	\$	-	
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		\$	12.82
<b><u>Balance, Proceedings Fund, March 31, 2017</u></b>		\$	4,995.76

**Statement of Assets - Proceedings Fund**

Money Market Act.#xxxxx4155,Jefferson Bank - Jefferson City, 0.36%	\$	4,995.76	
Total Assets, Proceedings Fund, March 31, 2017		\$	1,995.76

**Total Assets, All Funds, March 31, 2017** **\$ 375,677.46**

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

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

**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 still 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.

As with the paragraph above, I will restate the following from last year’s report, which appears to have gone unnoticed and more distressingly unread and unobserved during the current year. “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.” Nothing has changed this year and we do not anticipate this practice changing in the years to come. We strongly encourage Council Recorders to follow protocol in order that the actions required by the Grand Master can be appropriately recorded.

In addition to the expected protocol mentioned above, it must be clearly understood that District and Grand Line Officers (unless commissioned by the GM for specific purposes) do not have the authority to communicate requests for dispensations, to grant dispensations, authorize relocations or to speak on behalf of the Council Master or Recorder. We appreciate the help in facilitating communications, but official requests must come from the appropriate channels and follow the by-laws of the Grand Council and the by-laws of the subordinate Council.

This year the Grand Master started a review for Cryptic Commissions of Grand Representatives. We anticipate the completion of this process early this year.

On November 7, 2016, by order of the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder sent notices to all of the membership of Chillicothe Council No. 28 for which we had address information, advising them of the Arrest of the Charter, and inviting them to move their membership should they so choose. The following Companions’ membership was transferred to Sedalia Council No. 42 due to that Council’s relocation to Lexington, at their request: David Martin of Bogard, MO and Gerald L. Heins, Sr. of Carrolton, MO. We received about 4 notices of bad addresses and no other response. The failure to receive a response from the other members resulted in a loss of 60 Cryptic Freemasons.

Late Annual Returns: This year the following Councils filed late returns and some were assessed penalties: Shekinah Council No. 24 due to circumstances beyond their control; Jasper Council No. 30; Ezra Council No. 32; Rolla Council No. 39; Sedalia Council No. 42 (due to relocation and loss of Recorder); Bonne Terre Council No. 43; Kirksville Council No. 44 (new Recorder); East Gate Council No. 51 (due to death of Recorder); and Adoniram Council No. 63.

Councils not filed as of the date of this report: Fidelity Council No. 35; Neosho Council No. 46 (turn-over of Recorders); and Trinity Council No. 47. Marion Council No. 0 filed no return as it has no membership and the Recorder is yet to be designated.

On August 15, 2016, each Subordinate Council, Grand Officer, Regional Deputy Grand Officer and Past Grand Master was officially informed of the increase in the 2017 Grand Council per capita. Grand Council per capita for 2017, due with your 2017 Annual Returns will be \$27.60. It is not appropriate for Councils to attempt to wait to collect 2018 dues in order to be able to pay 2017 per capita. If Councils are operating this way, you are causing your Councils serious financial harm and it is entirely inappropriate.

Dues: Another issue for some is the definition of dues. In accordance with **ARTICLE IV, SEC. 22. Revenue of the Grand Council.** (3) Each Chartered Council shall pay the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) 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. (Other Grand Council fees and assessments are not

addressed for this discussion). Additionally, in accordance with **SEC. 42. By-Laws of Subordinate Councils.** Each subordinate Council chartered by this Grand Council shall adopt By-Laws for its government; provided that the same shall conform to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Council. Such Council shall in its By-Laws fix the time of its stated Assemblies, set the fees for the degrees, the annual dues of members, the time for the election of officers and such other provisions as may be deemed necessary for its government. Council dues therefore, those “dues” collected from the membership on an annual basis, is a total of Grand Council per capita and fees along with the subordinate Council “annual dues”, not just the local fees which are “added” to Grand Council per capita.

Financial Statements: The following Councils either failed to submit or filed an incomplete Financial Statement: Fidelity Council No. 35; Trenton Council No. 37; Carthage Council No. 41; Sedalia Council No. 42 (due to relocation and new Recorder); Neosho Council No. 46 (due to new Recorder); Trinity Council No. 47; Liberty Council No. 50; East Gate Council No. 51 (due to death of Recorder); and West Plains Council No. UD (new Council with no assets).

CMMR Donations: The following Councils reported no contributions to CMMR or the Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund: Hiram Council No. 1; Cape Council No. 20; Zabud Council No. 25; Jasper Council No. 30; Fidelity Council No. 35; Trenton Council No. 37; Rolla Council No. 39; Carthage Council No. 41; Sedalia Council No. 42; Kirksville Council No. 44; Kansas City Council No. 45; Neosho Council No. 46; Trinity Council No. 47; Jeremiah Council No. 48; Independence Council No. 49; Liberty Council No. 50; East Gate Council No. 51; Harmony Council No. 53; Lebanon Council No. 56; Bert S. Lee Council No. 58; Adoniram Council No. 63; and West Plains Council UD.

In contrast Shelby Council No. 59 had the highest participation rate per member.

Charity Endowment Fund Donations: The following Councils reported no contributions to the Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund: Hiram Council No. 1; St. Joseph Council No. 9; Cape Council No. 20; Shekinah Council No. 24; Zabud Council No. 25; Jasper Council No. 30; Fidelity Council No. 35; Trenton Council No. 37; Rolla Council No. 39; Carthage Council No. 41; Sedalia Council No. 42; Kirksville Council No. 44; Kansas City Council No. 45; Neosho Council No. 46; Trinity Council No. 47; Jeremiah Council No. 48; Independence Council No. 49; Liberty Council No. 50; East Gate Council No. 51; Harmony Council No. 53; Lebanon Council No. 56; Bert S. Lee Council No. 58; Shelby Council No. 59; Adoniram Council No. 63; and West Plains Council UD.

In contrast York Council No. 40 has the highest participate rate per member.

I would remind Recorders, although it is not codified in our laws, annual dues notices should have line items for the suggested voluntary contributions for the charities that are supported by the Grand Council. Such line items should include, but may not necessarily be limited to Cryptic Masons Medical Research (CMMR) with a suggested contribution of \$3.65. The Grand Recorder will issue each Subordinate Council a number of Penny-a-Day stickers to affix to the dues card of each Companion that donates at least \$3.65 to CMMR. Subordinate Council Recorders will affix such stickers to the Companion’s dues card and send it to the Companion. Contributions collected are to be forwarded to the Grand Recorder, the check written to the charity for which it was collected and in a timely and efficient manner.

**Bonding:** The following Councils reported that the Treasurer and Recorder are NOT bonded: Cape Council No. 20; Jasper Council No. 30; Ezra Council No. 32; Fidelity Council No. 35; Trenton Council No. 37; Westport Council No. 38; Rolla Council No. 39; York Council No. 40; Carthage Council No. 41; Sedalia Council No. 42; Kirksville Council No. 44; Kansas City Council No. 45; Neosho Council No. 46; Trinity Council No. 47; Jeremiah Council No. 48; Independence Council No. 49; Liberty Council No. 50; East Gate Council No. 51; Harmony Council No. 53; Lebanon Council No. 56; Bert S. Lee Council No. 58; Shelby Council No. 59; Adoniram Council No. 63; and West Plains Council UD. Although there is no requirement by law that bonds be established, I'm sure everyone can appreciate the necessity of ensuring your organizational officers who are responsible for your financial health are bonded.

**Audits:** The following Councils did not file an Audit as part of their Annual Return: Fidelity Council No. 35; Trenton Council No. 37; Carthage Council No. 41; Sedalia Council No. 42; Kirksville Council No. 44; Neosho Council No. 46; Trinity Council No. 47; Liberty Council No. 50; and East Gate Council No. 51.

**Audits:** (repeat from last year, nothing has changed) 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.

Russell S. Hanson, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery, and I are pleased to report that early this year we completed the removal of all GYR storage items from the downtown Columbia storage facility. The Missouri Lodge of Research has taken delivery of all items deemed of any value to the GYR. A very special word of appreciation goes to Most Worshipful Brother John W.F. Hess who has started reviewing and indexing all of the historic annual returns and is posting some of the details of those returns on the MOLOR web site. Palmyra Chapter No. 2, with the approval of M.:E.:C.: Robert W. Schlichter, High Priest, granted the Secretary (and Grand Recorder) approval to buy storage boxes for which all of the historic annual returns can be filed and indexed. This effort is still under way and we hope to hear more about this progress in Saturday's Lodge of Research Lunch Presentation by MWB Hess.

**Marion Council No. 0:** I would encourage the Grand Council Officers to review the formation of this chapter and complete the process.

Lady Debbie Hanson continues to be the most valuable asset to the Grand York Rite of Missouri. This office would not function without her dedication. She is to be applauded, not only for putting up with both Russell and me, but for all the hard work she does and the "voice of reason" when Russell and I need counseling. I again thank RIC Russell S. Hanson for his

continued assistance in 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.

Companions, the winds of change are upon us all. The officers of the Grand Council authorized the Grand Recorder to begin working with Robert W. Bigley, KGC, Assistant Secretary / Office Administrator for the Grand Encampment to move our membership records to the Masonic Membership Solution (MMS). I am pleased to report that our records were re-indexed into the format needed for import into MMS and have been delivered to his office. The impact is significant and I will attempt to iterate some of those changes.

1. The Grand Encampment expects to have all of our data uploaded into MMS within a couple of months.
2. There will be a training session on Thursday night, September 14, 2017 at the South-Central York Rite Conference to be held in St. Louis. All Council Recorders or their IT support are **STRONGLY** encouraged to attend.
3. Council Recorders will have until December 31, 2017 to correct their membership records.
4. There will be no Annual Return for 2017, in the form that you are used to. Councils will be billed based on their membership records in the same fashion as the Grand Commandery did this year. If Council Recorders do not complete the validation of their membership records, this will have a significant financial impact on the per capita and fees billed by the Grand Council in January.
5. Monthly Reports will be discontinued, but Council Recorders (or their IT support) will be required to log into their membership database no less than monthly. Reports of those failing to manage their records will be forwarded to the Grand Master and the RDGM's for their follow-up action.

This action on the part of the Grand Council of Missouri will accomplish several very important tasks; to once and for all get an accurate membership database; to clean up the Royal Arch Mason Magazine mailing list to ensure everyone who is supposed to receive the magazine gets it and to remove those who have been removed from our rolls so we are not overpaying for our quarterly subscriptions; and to finally create a repository of membership records so when we lose a Council Recorder, the new guy doesn't have to completely rebuild everything, something Recorders like Gentry Slone and Matthew Ruth can really appreciate.

Companion Recorders, this will not be without some growing pains. Debbie and I (and Russell) will be there to support you in remediating the anomalies which we will surely find. This will be for the betterment of Cryptic Freemasonry in Missouri and I for one am really excited about this.

On a completely different note, by order of the Grand Master of the Grand Council, the Grand Secretary/Recorder developed a very detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2019, 2020, and 2021 years with an option for 2022 and 2023. This RFP was distributed to the Visitor and Convention Bureaus in each major metropolitan area in the State of Missouri, the State Visitor and Convention Bureau, and to known or recommended (by grand officers) hotels. We received responses from 10 facilities, of which none met our requirements due to dates unavailable or a complete and total failure to respond to the designated minimum requirements. Following presentation of the results to all three grand lines, the responses of each entity, and some very



lengthy and passionate discussion, the Grand Secretary/Recorder was authorized to negotiate with Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City (the only hotel who came close to meeting our requirements) to see if we could come to agreement on the failed terms. After months of negotiating and with the approval of all three grand lines, a final contract for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 years was agreed to and signed by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery. We did not win our request for the two following options years but I was offered a job by two convention bureaus.

The result of all of this, as excruciatingly painful as it was on this Grand Secretary/Recorder, was that the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery did its due diligence in developing a very detailed requirement, soliciting that requirement, reviewing all responses to the RFP, negotiating with a facility authorized by all three presiding grand officers and finally signing a contract for our grand sessions. We hope, on behalf of all three grand bodies, that we have officially and professionally represented our offices and the responsibilities bestowed upon us.

Now comes the time for consideration of what the future will hold for us. A new Super Committee consisting of two advancing line officers from each grand line will meet in August 2017 to start discussions of what future grand sessions will look like, and to start developing a new RFP for the follow-on years. The new RFP needs to be developed and distributed now if we hope to be able to shop new hotels and better rates, something that needs to be done no less than 5 years in advance – we are already behind the curve. If you have suggestions on what improvements can be made, please reduce your suggestions to writing and forward them to the Grand Secretary/Recorder's office no later than August 1.

I thank RIC Russell S. Hanson, Grand Recorder, MIC William G. Snyder and MIC Todd A. Schulze for their advice and even legal counsel regarding the above process.

Finally, I am developing a presentation for the Region 3 York Rite Conference this fall which will address the administrative aspects of a Secretary/Recorder. I am very pleased to have been asked and I feel that this program will be most useful to all Secretaries/Recorders. I encourage all who can to attend.

Fraternally and Most Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin B. Sample, HPGM, 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	<b>31</b>
Number of Members, December 31, 2015	<b>2314</b>
Number Greeted	66
Number Affiliated	40
Number Reinstated	31
Total Gains	<b>110</b>
Number Dimitted	33
Number Suspended for Un-Masonic Conduct	0
Number Expelled	2
Number Suspended by Lodge or Chapter	9
Number Suspended by Council NPD	108
Number Died	72
Total Losses	219
<b>Total Members, December 31, 2016</b>	<b>2205</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>109</b>

## FINANCIAL RECAPITULATION

Through May 31, 2017

*(Not Available at Time of Printing)*

No.	Council	Location	Chartered	EIN	Illustrious Master	Deputy Master	Principal Conductor of the Work	Recorder
1	Hiram	St. Louis	July 17, 1883	23-7550888	Taz A. Meyer	Darren A. Beck	Thomas G. Cupples, Jr.	Michael D. Kassel
3	Marion	At Large	June 9, 2016					
9	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	October 7, 1871	23-7550889	Patrick C. Squires	Alvin E. Patterson	Carl V. Keith	William W. Mier
20	Cape	Cape Girardeau	October 6, 1871	23-7550890	Charles Huey	Dennis W. Houck	Johnny L. Schlenker	Alfred L. Mason
24	Shekinah	Kansas City	April 27, 1892	23-7550891	Laurent Paul Emile-Ergas	Martin George Morford	Cameron Michael Briggs	Aaron E. Rose
25	Zabud	Springfield	April 25, 1894	44-0520296	Donald G. Charpentier, Jr.	Kevin M. Ritter	James H. Whitman	Dale Mills, II
27	Poplar Bluff	Poplar Bluff	April 24, 1895	23-7550893	Gary Dennie Kitchen	James N. Leslie	Bill A. Humble	Tony J. DePriest
30	Jasper	Joplin	April 25, 1900	23-7550895	David R. Phillips	Robert Blake Gilmore	Rodney Trimble	Royce P. Wahl, Jr.
32	Ezra	Jefferson City	April 23, 1902	23-7550896	Harold F. Coots	Jeffrey Scott Stacey	David E. Perkins	Donald L. Trabue
34	Centralia	Columbia	April 28, 1908	23-7550897	Mark Bean	Curtis Rickman	Russell Bradshaw	Ronald L. Skiles
35	Fidelity	Mountain Grove	April 26, 1920	23-7550898				E. Joe Slater
37	Trenton	Trenton	April 25, 1921	23-7550900	Otis G. Scholl	John R. Fredricks	vacant	Otis G. Scholl, Jr.
38	Westport	Kansas City	April 25, 1921	43-6071585	Thomas Schmidt	William Jennens	vacant	Roy N. Thomas
39	Rolla	Rolla	April 10, 1922	23-7144150	William David Woolsey	James W. Woods	Kirby Aaron Moreland	Donald H. Vandegriffe
40	York	St. Charles	April 10, 1922	23-7550902	Walter Lawrence Wilson	Michael Scott Smith	Glenn Barry Parker	John E. Trower
41	Carthage	Carthage	April 10, 1922	23-7550903	Victor Robert Hinds	David Loyd Grubb	Dale Lockwood	James Ray Leonard
42	Sedalia	Sedalia	April 10, 1922	23-7550904				Troy Bartley
43	Bonne Terre	Bonne Terre	April 21, 1924	23-7550905	John P. Martin	David L. Leirer	Michael R. Stevens	Ken Ferrari
44	Kirksville	Kirksville	April 22, 1929	23-7550906	James Furman	David Dodd Powell	Ashley William Young	William Joseph King
45	Kansas City	Kansas City	April 24, 1944	23-7550907	Ivory Graham	Charles Conner	Kevin Shields	Steven M. Anderson
46	Neosho	Neosho	April 22, 1946	23-7550908				Glenn Clifton
47	Trinity	Hannibal	April 25, 1949	23-7550909				Roger McGregor
48	Jeremiah	Webster Groves	April 24, 1950	23-7144151	Wilfred G. Souticea, Jr.	Dwight E. Wyatt	James Robert Fiete	Robert L. Sanders
49	Independence	Independence	April 24, 1950	23-7550910	Richard A. Riepe	Matthew Quesenberry	Donald MacCormick	Larry F. Walters
50	Liberty	Liberty	April 24, 1950	23-7550911	Dale Edwin Ahle	Joseph Scott Russell	Thomas R. Swearengin	Don E. Gilkerson
51	East Gate	Kansas City	April 24, 1950	23-7550912	Joseph Heilig	Glenn Bray	Mitch Carter	Forrest G. Lowe
53	Harmony	Bethany	April 19, 1974	23-7396156	Adam Loyd Klingensmith	Randall Lee Klingensmith	Jacob Lee Klingensmith	Dan G. Daniel
56	Lebanon	Lebanon	May 9, 1990	43-1697678	Thomas Edward Sams	John David Wall	Dale Ray Roller	William E. Brenneman
58	Bert S. Lee	Springfield	May 17, 2001	90-0053587	Gary Mathews	Clark McLemore	CC McLemore, III	John Shoemaker
59	Shelby	Shelbina	February 28, 2006	90-0324713	Charles Hawkins	Martin E. Lund, Jr.	Daryle Lee Wallace	Darrell A. Wilham
63	Adoniram	Webb City	May 15, 2014	47-1583565	William Gottfried Davis, II	Mark Richard Hegen	Anthony Keith Robertson	Kaleb L. Forkner
UD	West Plains	West Plains			Andrew Jay Dawson	Jon Robert Mattson	Al Eugene Church, Jr.	Daniel Ray Hatley
	TOTAL							

No.	Council	Election of Officers	Stated Assemblies	Annual Return Received	01. 2015 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 2016	15. Greeting Fees
1	Hiram	4th Wed in March	4th Wednesday	25-Feb-17	44	4	0	0	4	48	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	45	\$ 28.00
3	Marion	Grand Session	Grand Session		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
9	St. Joseph	1st Wed in Nov	1st Wednesday	10-Feb-17	204	3	0	0	3	207	1	0	0	0	4	6	11	196	21.00
20	Cape	1st Wed in Dec	1st Wednesday	27-Feb-17	67	2	0	0	2	69	2	0	0	0	7	4	13	56	14.00
24	Shekinah	3rd Wed in June	3rd Wednesday	22-May-17	67	0	0	0	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	66	-
25	Zabud	4th Mon in Mar	4th Monday	1-Mar-17	242	12	0	1	13	255	3	0	0	7	18	4	32	223	84.00
27	Poplar Bluff	2nd Thurs in Nov	2nd Thursday	1-Mar-17	58	4	1	0	5	63	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	59	28.00
30	Jasper	1st Tues in Sept	1st Tuesday	8-Mar-17	53	1	0	0	1	54	0	0	0	0	3	6	9	45	7.00
32	Ezra	1st Mon in April	1st Monday	31-Mar-17	76	4	0	0	4	80	1	0	0	0	4	5	10	70	28.00
34	Centralia	4th Mon in Nov	4th Monday	27-Feb-17	140	1	0	0	1	141	1	0	0	1	0	4	6	135	7.00
35	Fidelity	3rd Fri in Jan	3rd Friday		40	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	-
37	Trenton	3rd Thurs in May	3rd Thursday	1-Mar-17	39	0	0	0	0	39	2	0	0	0	5	3	10	29	-
38	Westport	1st Mon in Aug	1st Monday	1-Mar-17	43	1	0	0	1	44	4	0	0	0	3	2	9	35	7.00
39	Rolla	3rd Mon in April	3rd Monday	5-Apr-17	121	4	0	0	4	125	1	0	1	0	11	3	16	109	28.00
40	York	4th Tues in March	4th Tuesday	6-Feb-17	35	1	0	0	1	36	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	34	7.00
41	Carthage	3rd Thurs in Apr	3rd Thursday	6-Feb-17	104	0	0	0	0	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	-
42	Sedalia	1st Wed in Dec	1st Wednesday	26-May-17	40	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	39	-
43	Bonne Terre	2nd Tues in June	2nd Tuesday	17-Mar-17	74	0	0	0	0	74	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	71	-
44	Kirksville	2nd Thurs in Dec	2nd Thursday	5-Apr-17	175	0	0	0	0	175	0	0	0	0	25	2	27	148	-
45	Kansas City	1st Mon in May	1st Monday	1-Mar-17	28	5	0	27	32	60	1	0	0	0	3	2	6	54	35.00
46	Neosho	3rd Mon in March	3rd Monday		60	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	-
47	Trinity	1st Thur in Oct	1st Thursday		15	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	-
48	Jeremiah	3rd Mon in March	3rd Monday	1-Mar-17	124	3	0	0	3	127	1	0	0	0	0	3	4	123	21.00
49	Independence	4th Thurs in May	4th Thursday	27-Feb-17	147	13	0	0	13	160	5	0	0	0	8	7	20	140	91.00
50	Liberty	4th Sat in June	3rd Monday	1-Mar-17	132	2	0	0	2	134	4	0	0	0	14	8	26	108	14.00
51	East Gate	1st Thur in June	1st Thursday	10-Apr-17	24	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	21	-
53	Harmony	3rd Tuesday in Feb	3rd Tuesday	27-Feb-17	23	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	22	-
56	Lebanon	3rd Tues in April	3rd Tuesday	20-Jan-17	56	3	0	3	6	62	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	61	21.00
58	Bert S. Lee	1st Thurs in May	1st Thursday	21-Feb-17	27	0	11	0	11	38	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	37	-
59	Shelby	4th Tues in Dec	4th Tuesday	6-Feb-17	35	1	3	0	4	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	7.00
63	Adoniram	2nd Wed in April	2nd & 4th Wed	4-May-17	21	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	-
UD	West Plains	1st Tues in Jan	1st Tuesday	27-Feb-17	0	2	25	0	27	27	4	0	0	0	0	1	5	22	14.00
	TOTAL				2314	66	40	31	110	2451	33	0	2	9	108	72	219	2205	\$462.00

No.	Council	16. Per Capita	17. 2015 Debits	18. Total Per Capita and Fees	19. Remissions, Inability to Pay	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. 2015 Credits	24. Total Credits
1	Hiram	\$ 657.00	\$ 34.20	\$ 719.20	1	\$ 14.60	0	\$ -	8	\$ 116.80	6	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ 146.40
3	Marion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0	-	-	-
9	St. Joseph	2,861.60		2,882.60	15	219.00	21	306.60	41	598.60	0	-	-	1,124.20
20	Cape	817.60		831.60	5	73.00	11	160.60	2	29.20	1	2.50	42.30	307.60
24	Shekinah	963.60	423.00	1,386.60	0	-	0	-	15	219.00	1	2.50	-	221.50
25	Zabud	3,255.80	50.20	3,390.00	5	73.00	46	671.60	26	379.60	4	10.00	-	1,134.20
27	Poplar Bluff	861.40		889.40	14	204.40	2	29.20	6	87.60	0	-	-	321.20
30	Jasper	657.00	1.90	665.90	1	14.60	2	29.20	15	219.00	1	2.50	-	265.30
32	Ezra	1,022.00		1,050.00	2	29.20	11	160.60	6	87.60	2	5.00	-	282.40
34	Centralia	1,971.00	30.00	2,008.00	1	14.60	26	379.60	54	788.40	0	-	-	1,182.60
35	Fidelity	584.00		584.00		-	-	-	2	29.20	0	-	-	29.20
37	Trenton	423.40	8.00	431.40	0	-	17	248.20	1	14.60	1	2.50	-	265.30
38	Westport	511.00		518.00	0	-	5	73.00	1	14.60	0	-	-	87.60
39	Rolla	1,591.40	42.30	1,661.70	7	102.20	10	146.00	22	321.20	2	5.00	-	574.40
40	York	496.40	4.00	507.40	5	73.00	2	29.20	7	102.20	1	2.50	-	206.90
41	Carthage	1,518.40	30.90	1,549.30	2	29.20	15	219.00	2	29.20	1	2.50	-	279.90
42	Sedalia	569.40	55.30	624.70	0	-	0	-	5	73.00	0	-	-	73.00
43	Bonne Terre	1,036.60		1,036.60	0	-	0	-	11	160.60	2	5.00	18.10	183.70
44	Kirksville	2,160.80		2,160.80	2	29.20	13	189.80	9	131.40	3	7.50	14.10	372.00
45	Kansas City	788.40		823.40	0	-	7	102.20	0	-	0	-	-	102.20
46	Neosho	876.00	624.90	1,500.90		-	-	-	2	29.20	0	-	-	29.20
47	Trinity	219.00		219.00		-	-	-	0	-	0	-	42.30	42.30
48	Jeremiah	1,795.80	55.00	1,871.80	3	43.80	2	29.20	29	423.40	6	15.00	-	511.40
49	Independence	2,044.00		2,135.00	3	43.80	9	131.40	24	350.40	1	2.50	38.30	566.40
50	Liberty	1,576.80		1,590.80	2	29.20	13	189.80	20	292.00	0	-	14.10	525.10
51	East Gate	306.60	30.00	336.60	3	43.80	0	-	2	29.20	0	-	-	73.00
53	Harmony	321.20		321.20	0	-	5	73.00	0	-	0	-	-	73.00
56	Lebanon	890.60		911.60	0	-	5	73.00	10	146.00	2	5.00	-	224.00
58	Bert S. Lee	540.20		540.20	3	43.80	0	-	6	87.60	1	2.50	2.00	135.90
59	Shelby	569.40	21.15	597.55	2	29.20	1	14.60	1	14.60	0	-	-	58.40
63	Adoniram	306.60		306.60	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-
UD	West Plains	321.20	-	335.20	0	-	0	-	2	29.20	0	-	-	29.20
	TOTAL	\$32,514.20	\$1,410.85	\$34,387.05	76	\$1,109.60	223	\$3,255.80	329	\$4,803.40	35	\$ 87.50	\$171.20	\$9,427.50

No.	Council	25. Amount Owed Grand Council	Late Fees	Total Amount Owed Grand Council	Paid	2nd Payment	Date 2nd Payment	Total All Payments	2016 Credits	2016 Debits	Cash on Hand 12/31/16	Real Estate & Investments	Paraphernalia
1	Hiram	\$ 572.80	\$ -	\$ 572.80	\$ 626.60	\$ -		\$ 626.60	\$ 53.80		\$ 3,057.30		\$ 3,000.00
3	Marion	-	-	-	-	-		-					
9	St. Joseph	1,758.40	-	1,758.40	1,758.40	-		1,758.40			8,748.59	81,366.60	500.00
20	Cape	524.00	-	524.00	580.90	-		580.90	\$ 56.90		2,680.87		
24	Shekinah	1,165.10	45.00	1,210.10	397.10	-		397.10		813.00	190.49		
25	Zabud	2,255.80	-	2,255.80	2,285.00	-		2,285.00	\$ 29.20		675.55		
27	Poplar Bluff	568.20	-	568.20	565.70	-		565.70		2.50	603.74		5,000.00
30	Jasper	400.60	15.00	415.60	413.70	-		413.70		1.90	863.00	18,495.00	
32	Ezra	767.60	15.00	782.60	782.60	-		782.60			4,544.51	12,210.84	3,000.00
34	Centralia	825.40	-	825.40	825.40	-		825.40		0.00	11,126.05	8,400.00	25,000.00
35	Fidelity	554.80	-	554.80	-	-		-		554.80			
37	Trenton	166.10	-	166.10	166.10	-		166.10	\$ 0.00				
38	Westport	430.40	-	430.40	401.20	-		401.20		29.20	538.83		
39	Rolla	1,087.30	30.00	1,117.30	1,145.70	-		1,145.70	\$ 28.40		8,744.42		
40	York	300.50	-	300.50	300.50	-		300.50			1,424.61	853.07	1,000.00
41	Carthage	1,269.40	-	1,269.40	1,095.00	-		1,095.00		174.40			
42	Sedalia	551.70	30.00	581.70	581.70	-		581.70	\$ 0.00				
43	Bonne Terre	852.90	15.00	867.90	857.90	-		857.90		10.00	5,659.27		
44	Kirksville	1,788.80	30.00	1,818.80	1,986.40	-		1,986.40	\$ 167.60		15,073.61		
45	Kansas City	721.20	-	721.20	721.20	-		721.20	\$ 0.00		3,049.76		
46	Neosho	1,471.70	-	1,471.70	-	-		-		1,471.70			
47	Trinity	176.70	-	176.70	-	-		-		176.70			
48	Jeremiah	1,360.40	-	1,360.40	1,375.00	-		1,375.00	\$ 14.60		4,536.87		10,000.00
49	Independence	1,568.60	-	1,568.60	1,548.60	-		1,548.60		20.00	6,244.18	10,000.00	
50	Liberty	1,065.70	-	1,065.70	1,094.90	-		1,094.90	\$ 29.20				
51	East Gate	263.60	30.00	293.60	293.60	-		293.60	\$ 0.00				
53	Harmony	248.20	-	248.20	248.20	-		248.20			9.05		
56	Lebanon	687.60	-	687.60	702.60	-		702.60	\$ 15.00		4,515.14		3,000.00
58	Bert S. Lee	404.30	-	404.30	596.10	-		596.10	\$ 191.80		2,101.76		500.00
59	Shelby	539.15	-	539.15	553.75	-		553.75	\$ 14.60		618.10		1,500.00
63	Adoniram	306.60	45.00	351.60	306.60	-		306.60		45.00	212.80		
UD	West Plains	306.00	-	306.00	306.00	-		306.00					
	TOTAL	\$24,959.55	\$255.00	\$25,214.55	\$22,516.45	\$-		\$22,516.45	\$601.10	\$3,299.20	\$85,218.50	\$131,325.51	\$52,500.00

No.	Council	Uncollected Dues	Indebtedness	Total Value of Council	Annual Dues	CMMR Donations	CEF Donations	Treasurer Bonded	Recorder Bonded	Audited
1	Hiram			\$ 6,057.30	\$ 55.00			Y	Y	Y
3	Marion									
9	St. Joseph	420.00		91,035.19	20.00	7.30		Y	Y	Y
20	Cape			2,680.87	36.00			N	N	Y
24	Shekinah			190.49	15.00	10.95		Y	Y	Y
25	Zabud			675.55	26.00			Y	Y	Y
27	Poplar Bluff			5,603.74	24.00	36.50	36.50	Y	Y	Y
30	Jasper			19,358.00	19.00			N	N	Y
32	Ezra			19,755.35	25.00	40.15	40.15	N	N	Y
34	Centralia	1,505.00		21,031.05	37.00	65.60	58.75	Y	Y	Y
35	Fidelity									
37	Trenton									
38	Westport			538.83	57.00	7.30	3.65	N	N	Y
39	Rolla			8,744.42	37.85			N	N	Y
40	York			3,277.68	36.10	47.45	47.45	N	N	Y
41	Carthage				37.60			N	N	N
42	Sedalia									
43	Bonne Terre			5,659.27		39.50	25.25	Y	Y	Y
44	Kirkville			15,073.61	50.00			N	N	N
45	Kansas City			3,049.76	48.00			N	N	Y
46	Neosho									
47	Trinity									
48	Jeremiah			14,536.87	45.00			N	N	Y
49	Independence			16,244.18	30.00			N	N	Y
50	Liberty									
51	East Gate				26.00			N	N	N
53	Harmony			9.05	18.90			N	N	Y
56	Lebanon			7,515.14	40.00	-		N	N	Y
58	Bert S. Lee			2,601.76	38.00			N	N	Y
59	Shelby			2,118.10	38.00	109.50		N	N	Y
63	Adoniram			212.80	25.00			N	N	Y
UD	West Plains							N	N	Y
	TOTAL	\$1,925.00	\$-	\$245,969.01		\$364.25	\$211.75			

## REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Terry R. Struse, Chairman

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ANNUAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Michael E. Day, Chairman

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BUCKEYE AWARD

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

Companions, the Committee recommends adoption of this Award for Most Improved Ritualist in the Cryptic Rite as an annual award to given by the Grand Lecturer upon recommendation of the Ritual Committee and the approval of the Grand Master, commencing with the 2017-2018 term, with a presentation to be made at the 2018 Grand Session. The next Grand Lecturer is encouraged to well consider the use of the ritual teaching techniques of the late Stanton Thayer Brown, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, particularly in training and edifying Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers.

Fraternally submitted,  
Stanton T. Brown, II, Chairman

William G. Snyder

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

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

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Danny D. Smothers, Chairman



## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARITY AND CHARITY ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Companions, there is a strong need for the establishment of a Grand Council 501 (c) 3 foundation to support Masonic charities in general and Cryptic Mason Medical Research Foundation, in particular, as well as funding for the work of the Missouri Lodge of Research and the Council on Research in preserving Masonic history to the fullest extent possible. The continuing use of a dedicated, charitable allocations fund that does not easily lend itself to protection of the fund from the claims of creditors or liability judgments and does not facilitate deductible contributions for many contributors should be addressed in a serious and thoughtful process that includes actual advice from legal and tax experts on the subject. Such a foundation would ensure the continuation of the success of the Grand Master's Coin Program and set the stage for the development of other charitable fundraising projects. The Committee recommends that the next Grand Master assign this task to this Committee of creating a plan and action schedule for the 2017-2018 term and a presentation with further recommendations for consideration by the Annual Assembly in 2018.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, Chairman

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

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

Companions, the members of the Education Committee were requested to produce opinion papers centered on the topic of our thoughts on the importance of Freemasonry in our personal lives and our commitment thereto. Sadly, due to time constraints and the balancing of work schedules, educational study, family, faith and Masonic lives, we were unable to complete that assignment.

The committee did, as individuals, offer guidance to our local Councils in the way of instruction and support as we were requested by them.

We trust that the incoming Grand Master will allow us to continue in other ways, and that perhaps new leadership of this Committee is both warranted and necessary as we move into his term.

Fraternally submitted,  
Kevin E Weaver, Chairman  
Christopher L. Tilley

Michael S Smith

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

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

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

Companions, Councils qualifying for this award for presentation at the 2017 Annual Assembly or other part of the Grand Session have been reported in due form. The Committee recommends that the 2017-2018 form be issued or posted by July 15, 2017 and that the next Grand Master should charge this Committee with instruction of the Regional Deputy Grand Masters and Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers in ways of encouraging subordinate councils to seek this award.

Council Name	No.	Master	Term	RDGM	Region
Hiram	1	Taz Alexis Meyer	2016-2017	Smith	8
St. Joseph	9	Larry E. Chambers	2016-2017	Price	2
Cape	20	Charles Matthew Huey	2016-2017	Tripp	7
Zabud	25	Donald George Charpentier, Jr.	2016-2017	Smittle	6
Kansas City	45	Ivory Graham	2016-2017	Fielder-Bey	3
Independence	49	Richard Alan Riepe	2016-2017	Bennett	4
West Plains	UD	Andrew Jay Dawson	2016-2017	Smittle	6

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, Chairman  
Patrick D. West

Aaron Michael Shoemaker

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

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

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

Companions, this year’s Council lunch and learn is an idea to provide some Education at the Grand York Rite. We decided to start with a younger speaker to try and attract more attendees. We welcome your feedback or thoughts to help us in the future.

Our speaker this year is RWB Robert Johnson. RWB Robert is the Managing Editor of the Midnight Freemason blog. He is a Freemason out of the N.E. District of Illinois. He currently serves as the Secretary of Waukegan Lodge No. 78 where he is a Past Master. He also serves as the District Deputy Grand Master for the 1st N.E. District of Illinois. Brother Johnson currently produces and hosts weekly Podcasts *Whence Came You*, and Masonic Radio Theatre which focus on topics relating to Freemasonry. He is also a cohost of *The Masonic Roundtable*, a Masonic talk show.

We plan to have a speaker every year and build this into a Council tradition. We also hope moving forward that all of our Councils will attempt Education at each meeting of some sort. A

great place to start your education would be out of the purple book. This book provides plenty of Ritual and Historical Education. Newly installed Masters it is your responsibility to provide More Light and education to the Companions.

Fraternally submitted,  
Chris E. Tilley, Chairman

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

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

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Vacant, Chairman

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

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

David C. Witte, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL CORESPONDENCE**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

William J. Bowser, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grand Master's Cryptic Day was held on March 25, 2017, hosted by Hiram Council No. 1, located at St. Louis, MO. The Council was opened in due and proper form by the officers of Hiram Council No. 1.

We Greeted 12 new Royal and Select Masters of the Cryptic Council, including our Most Worshipful Brother Richard L. Smith, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, along with 14 (I believe) new Super Excellent Masters. They are our future and our future looks bright.

I want to express my most sincere thanks to Companions Michael Smith and Christopher E. Tilley who relieved me of the joyful pain of coordinating this event this year. Also, thank you to all the Companions who stepped up to participate in the degree work, helped with setup, cast, and crew. It was another good day for Cryptic Freemasonry in Missouri.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Master's Cryptic Day will be held on March 24, 2018, location to be announced. The incoming Grand Lodge Grand Master has already confirmed this date in his schedule.

Fraternally submitted,  
Kevin B. Sample, Chairman

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

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

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Michael E. Day, Chairman

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

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Joseph P. Elsen, Chairman

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

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Jeffery L. Fielder-Bey, Chairman

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

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

Companions, the Committee recommends that the next Grand Master charge this Committee with the task of outlining not just a plan or schedule of Regional York Rite Conferences and the present practice of Grand York Rite presiding officer receptions being concomitant therewith, all being consistent with whatever agreement the next Grand Master reaches with his counterparts in the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery as to scheduling for the 2017-2018 term, but also to outline alternative schedules for future years as well, including the creation of a Grand Council Round Robin ritual competition, and regional events for instruction in the Approved Ritual and educational discussions of the origins and purposes of the Cryptic Rite.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, Chairman

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

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RITUAL

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

Companions, the Committee is generally pleased with the efforts made by the Grand Recorder in the preservation of the adopted Ritual. The Committee was asked to review a phrase found on Page 51 of the current Ritual dated May 13, 2009 (the one with the purple cover) at the fourth line found thereon, specifically “On be as”. It was generally agreed that this phrase was derived by an inadvertent carryover of cipher text for “On being asked”. The Grand Recorder concurred in this finding and was authorized and instructed to make necessary administrative corrections of this typographical error in future editions of the Ritual.

Grand Lecturer Recommendations: The Grand Lecturer 2016-2017 recommends to the next Grand Master and the Office of the Grand Recorder that there should be study of whether the approved and corrected Ritual can be made available on a limited charge basis for “print on demand” (as is done by the Grand Council of Iowa via Amazon) through the Grand Council’s website or the Grand York Rite website, protected by user names and passwords issued or approved by the Office of the Grand Recorder, thereby avoiding the need for expensive republication charges and limiting hard copy availability to a lower number at a higher price for those wishing to have the more convenient published size.

The Grand Lecturer also recommends to the next Grand Master and the next Grand Lecturer that the Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers should be provided specific instruction by the next Grand Lecturer, and required to obtain at least one certification per year, and thereafter charged to encourage, instruct and properly examine officers and prospective officers of subordinate councils for certification on opening and closing of a council, as well as conferral of degrees.

The Grand Lecturer further recommends to the next Grand Master that preservation of the history of the Cryptic Rite in Missouri and related artifacts and documents is essential to an understanding of and educative elements of our Ritual, and that the next Grand Master charge the Grand Historian with this task for the 2017-2018 term, and that said Grand Historian be authorized to obtain the cooperation of the Appointed officers of the Grand Council in this undertaking and implementation of the Council on Research.

The Grand Lecturer further recommends that the Past Grand Masters be given an opportunity by the next Grand Master to act in support of the annual Grand Masters’ Cryptic Day, and that the Committee assigned to the planning of this annual conferral be charged with consideration of whether all three Cryptic degrees should be conferred each and every year, particularly when all Grand Lodge advancing line officers are already Cryptic Masons, and to ensure that proper Cryptic education is provided to the candidates, similar to that recommended by the Education Committee of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

Fraternally submitted,  
William G. Snyder, Chairman  
Gary A. Phillips  
Kevin Earl Weaver

Jerry L. Miles  
Matthew Lee Quesenberry

**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)*

Michael E. Day, Chairman (should be Joseph P. Elsen, Chairman)

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TRIENNIAL**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Michael E. Day, Chairman

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND MEMBERSHIP**

*(No Report Available at Time of Printing)*

Roger D. Salyer, Chairman