

THE GRAND YORK RITE OF NEBRASKA 2019

Proceedings of

GRAND COUNCIL of CRYPTIC MASONS

April 5, 2019

held at Columbus , Nebraska

GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS IN NEBRASKA OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

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THE NEXT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD AT THE YOURNE CONFERENCE CENTER KEARNEY, NEBRASKA - FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

DONALD E. RIFE 136TH MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER



David Shaw was born in Colorado in 1960 and spent his formative years there. Upon joining the United States Air Force in 1980, he was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska as a computer programmer. After his honorable discharge from the service and having seen "The Good Life" up close for four years, he and his wife Marcella decided to stay in Nebraska and bring up a family.

He was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Omaha's Mizpah Lodge #302 in March of 2004 and became a member of the Omaha Valley of the Scottish Rite, Tangier Shrine, and the York Rite in that same year. He was appointed an officer in his Blue Lodge in 2005 and served in each chair successively from Junior Steward through Master, where he presided in 2011. He earned his individual proficiency card from the Grand Lodge of Nebraska in 2016. He has served in a number of capacities at Tangier Shrine including on the Appointed Divan as Captain of the Guard and as First Ceremonial Master. He was Chief of the Tangier Keystone Kops in 2007, and has, since 2006 served as the Editor of the Hot Sands, the monthly magazine of Tangier. A member the Omaha area York Rite Bodies, he is a Past High Priest of Omaha Chapter #1 Royal Arch Masons, Past Illustrious Master of Omaha Council #1, and member of Mt. Calvary Commandery #1.

He currently serves as Program Director of the 520th Software Maintenance Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, leading sustainment activities on software supporting Minuteman III ICBM warfighters. Having served on active duty for four years and some three decades as an Air Force Civil Servant, he is a patriot who is very proud to have served our great nation and will be forever thankful to the brave men and women who have secured and continue to preserve our liberties.

He is the very proud father of Laura and David, grandfather of McKenzie and Kennedy, and is very lucky to have been married to his awesome wife Marcy for 39 years.

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA -- APRIL 5, 2019

The One Hundred Thirty-Ninth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska was held at the Riverside Conference Center in Columbus, Nebraska, on Friday, April 5, 2019. Omaha Council No. 1 opened a Council of Cryptic Masons.

The M.I. Grand Master was given Grand Honors. He expressed his gratitude to the Companions for the opening of this Grand Council.

GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT

M.I. Grand Master
R.I. Deputy Grand Master
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
R.I. Grand Treasurer
R.I. Grand Recorder
R.I. Grand Chaplain
I. Grand Arch Supervisor
I. Grand Captain of the Guard
I. Grand Conductor of the Council
I. Grand Steward
I. Grand Sentinel

RECEPTION OF PAST MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS

The following Past M.I. Grand Masters were present, given Grand Honors and a most cordial welcome by Comp. David A. Shaw, M.I. Grand Master.

Comp. Robert L. Williams, 8	1986
Comp. Don R. Monnette, 5	1989
Comp. Jay H. Speck, 5Hon.	1993
Comp. John T. Parsons, 1	1997
Comp. James N. Karnegis, MD, 1	2002
Comp. James A. Clark, 4	2009
Comp. Jerry F. Bespalec, 4131st	2012
Comp. Anthony T. Johnson, 1	2013
Comp. Ronald D. Grass, 33	2014
Comp. Steven R. Barchus, 1	2015
Comp. Carl Plants, 4	2016
Comp. Donald Rife, 16	2017

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

The following Distinguished Companions were received, welcomed, escorted to the East, and given Grand Honors and a hearty welcome.

Grand Council Cryptic Masons of Minnesota

Companion Terrance Rybarczyk, Most Illustrious Grand Master

Companion Marvin W. Schendel, Most Illustrious Past Grand Master

Companion Charles Marston, Most Illustrious Past Grand Master

Companion Carl F. Lidstrom, Deputy Grand Master

Companion David Emery, Grand Captain of the Guard

Companion Ralph Luchsinger, Grand Sentinel

Grand Council Cryptic Masons of South Dakota

Companion Herbert Cook, Most Illustrious Grand Master

Companion Jon Gonsor, Most Illustrious Past Grand Master and Ambassador of South Dakota

Companion Stan Schwellenbach, Deputy Grand Master

Companion Bruce Crisman, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

Grand Council Cryptic Masons of Wyoming

Companion Wayne Long, Most Illustrious Grand Master

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska

Companion Brett Bennett, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska

Sir Knight Cecil Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander

General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International

Companion Anthony Johnson, North Central Regional Deputy General Grand Master

and personal representative of David Grindle, Most Puissant General Grand Master

Companion Terrance Rybarczyk, Right Puissant General Grand Marshal

Companion John T. Parsons, Past North Central Regional Deputy General Grand Master

Companion Ronald Grass, Ambassador of Nebraska

Companion Jon Gonsor, Ambassador of South Dakota

Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska

Right Worshipful Brother Ronald D. Stites, Deputy Grand Master and Personal Representative of the

Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Nebraska

Most Worshipful Brother John T. Parsons, Past Grand Master

Most Worshipful Brother James F. Brown, Jr., Past Grand Master

Most Worshipful Brother Michael Jones, Past Grand Master

Right Worshipful Brother James Carlton, Grand Senior Warden

PRESENTATION OF BANNERS

Omaha Council No. 1, Omaha, won the Edmund L. Peterson Banner for the greatest number of Greetings with ten (10) Greetings.

Gebal Council No. 12, Columbus for highest percentage of gain in membership of 5%.

CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Right Puissant Anthony Johnson, R.I. North Central Regional Deputy General Grand Master announced that Daniel Marr, Omaha Council No. 1 is the Cryptic Mason of the Year Award.

RECIPIENTS OF THE		
CRYPTIC MASON OF	F THE YEAR AWARD	
*1975 Thomas H. Blanchard, 1	*1998 Maynard Tatelman, 1	
*1976 Gale Q. Whitney, 23	*1999 Robert L. Ferguson, 29	
*1977 Paul R. Pierce, 8	*2000 Owen A. Howard, 6	
*1978 E.P. Baruth, 16	2001 Steven C. Smith, I, 1	
*1979 C. Ray Graham, 14	*2002 Donald O. Bickham, 16	
*1980 Otto H. Burkhardt, 19	*2003 John H. Lichty, Jr., 1	
*1981 Hiram A. Hearron, 1	2004 Paul J. Redwine, Jr., 9	
1982 Lloyd F. Bindle, 29	*2005 Donald L. Grazier, 1	
	*2006 Roscoe W. Bills, 20	
*1984 W. Dale Page, 7	2007 Roger W. Miner, 4	
*1985 Joseph H. Bennett, 1	2008 Gale R. Carel, 9	
*1986 Leo W. Stevens, 16	2009 James F. Brown, Jr.,4	
*1987 John W. Streeter, 12	2010 Michael Jones, 12	
1988 Jay H. Speck, 5	2011 Edward W. Nolte, 1	
*1989 C. Rex Watkins, 20	2012 Bryan Burrows, 27	
1990 Thomas A. Clark, 5	2013 Ronald D. Grass	
*1991 Merle P. Hayes,14	2014 James Batten	
*1992 Marion H. Wiles,5	2015 Frank Borden, Jr.	
*1993 Gerald D. Sorensen,8	2016 L. Cecil Smith	
*1994 Frank W. Smith, Jr., 9	2017 Fred Way, Jr.	
*1995 Warren W. Tiedtke, 33	2018 Walter Johnson	
*1996 Willard A. Still, 18	2019 Daniel Marr	
*1997 Lewis B. Halsey, 26		

^{*}Denotes Deceased.

PRESENTATION OF THE YOUTH SERVICE AWARD

Right Puissant Anthony Johnson, R.I. North Central Regional Deputy General Grand Master announced that *Denise Hamilton* is the winner of the Youth Service Award.

RECIPIENTS OF THE "YOUTH AWARD"			
*1985 Charles W. Yount, 20	2003 James D. Gunderson, 1		
*1986 E.P. Baruth, 16	2004 James R. Taylor, 1		
*1987 William G. Hurst, 4	2005 Thelma Domingo		
*1988 Leland S. Pennington, 12	2006 Marlin D. Palasek, 1 & 4		
1989 Richard Trail, 16	2007 Fred C. Way, Jr., 8		
*1990 James P. Franson, 4	2008 Robert L. Williams, 8		
*1991 Steven K. Jones, 20	2009 Scott Dodge		
1992 Louis C. Hurst, 4	2010 Robert L. Williams, 8		
*1993 Orval W. Cooley, 12	2011Bruce W. Wood		
*1994 Walter Miller, 1	2012 David Sieler		
*1995 James W. Wallingford, 26	2013 Bruce Anderson, 4		
1996 Marlin D. Palasek,4	*2014 Phil Edwards, 1		
1997 Ivan A. Vrtiska, 1	2015 Betty Garwood		
*1998 Roger L. Galusha, 24	2016 Kevin Grazier		
1999 Michael W. Stuhr, 1	2017 Grady Wells		
2000 Winfield Barber, 4	2018 Ronald Nielsen		
2001 Arthur E. Twyford, 7	2019 Denise Hamilton		
2002 Gene F. Wehrbein, 5			

^{*}Denotes Deceased

MEMBERS		
HIP OF ISH SODI		
*1991 Dale L. Mace, 4	1992 Leland L. Meisinger, 5	
*1991 Steven K. Jones, 20	*1992 Marion H. Wiles, 5	
*1991 C. Vernon Hovendick,33	1994 Clifford L. Morrow, 33	
*1991 Edward F. Wehrbein, 5	1994 Edward I. Morrow, 33	
*1991 Edwin J. Carter, 4	*1994 Fred R. Prell, 16	
*1991 Henry S. Greenwalt, 4	1994 John L. Hardy, 33	
*1991 Herbert H. Glancy, 4	1994 Kirby E. Hunt, 33	
1991 Jay H. Speck, 5	*1994 Morgan A. Hartman,	

	26
*1991 Kenneth O. Smith, 4	1995 Gerald D. Verbeek, 7
*1991 Raymond A. Lancaster, 5	*1995 Henry G. Lyddon, 7
*1991 Warren D. Lichty, Jr., 4	1995 John M. Dick, 7
*1992 Elsworth L. Abbott, 29	*1995 Ralph R. Yannone, 7
*1992 James O. Thone, 33	1995 Richard P. Don, 29

^{*}Denotes Deceased

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

The following Companions presented the Most Illustrious Grand Master with checks for the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation:

Occonoxee Council No. 16, McCook, Omaha Council No. 1, Hastings Council No. 8.

LADY OF THE COUNCIL

Previous Award Winners

2011 2016 2018

Mary E. Williams Wendy Johnson Melva Nickelson

Sally Bunnell Connie K. Smith

GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS BUSINESS MEETING

The M.I. Grand Master requested that the R.I. Grand Recorder call the roll of constituent Councils and named *Companion Anthony Johnson* as parliamentarian. Eleven (11) out of thirteen councils were represented, Hiram No. 7 & Temple No. 20 were not in attendance. There being a constitutional number of Councils present, the 139th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Nebraska was declared open for the regular order of business and the ballot box was declared open.

The M.I. Grand Master appointed the following Companions to serve as tellers: *Companions Steve Barchus, Chairman, John Parsons and Dan Marr.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND RULES

The Order of Business will be as shown in the printed program for the Assembly, or as may be revised by the Illustrious Grand Master. The committee further recommends:

The business meeting shall be conducted by "MASONIC TRADITION", not by "Robert's Rules of Order".

The Illustrious Grand Master shall appoint a *Parliamentarian for the Annual Assembly*. The Parliamentarian shall advise the Illustrious Grand Master as to rules and procedures in conducting the business of the Assembly.

Committee Reports shall be given by the Chairman or designated member from the podium at the Grand Recorder's table unless otherwise directed by the Illustrious Grand Master.

All Proposed Amendments must be submitted to the Grand Recorder in writing prior to the opening of the Annual Assembly. One of the signers of any Amendment brought to the floor for discussion shall state the position of the signers prior to the ballot.

Dais Officers may speak from the East on any motion, resolution, committee report, or other matter. Members of the Grand Council may speak from the microphone near the Grand Recorder's desk. In order to obtain the floor, a member first must be recognized by the officer presiding, and then state his name and Council before addressing the Grand Council.

No Companion shall speak more than twice on any motion or other matter unless permission is granted by the officer presiding. The order in which members shall be recognized to speak shall be determined by the officer presiding.

Time limits for speaking on any item of business may be imposed if the officer presiding so announces. When the Grand Council is considering the decision and formal recommendations of the Illustrious Grand Master, the Illustrious Grand Master shall first announce his position. The Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee then shall announce the position of that Committee. Discussion shall then be opened, with the Illustrious Grand Master permitted to speak, followed by members of the Grand Council.

The method of voting on any item of business shall be determined by the Illustrious Grand Master or other officer presiding.

Questions of procedure not provided for by the Grand Council Law, or these rules, shall be determined by the Illustrious Grand Master.

Fraternally Submitted

Dennis Newman, Grand Recorder

Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Nebraska

It was moved and seconded that this report be adopted. Motion carried.

RECEPTION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

The R.E. Grand Recorder was requested to call the roll of the Grand Representatives of the Grand Council of Nebraska. The Grand Representative stood to be recognized.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS OF CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

The M.I. Grand Master invited the Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Work and Recorders from the constituent councils that were present to approach the East facing west. They were greeted by their respective Grand Officer and given a hearty welcome.

ADDRESS OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER

I am pleased to welcome you to 139th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska. We are honored by the presence of so many distinguished visitors from other jurisdictions, and as always, it is a great pleasure to see so many friends, both old and new.

I wish to express my thanks to my home Council, Omaha #1, for opening the Grand Council today. I was very proud and appreciative of your actions.

To Most Excellent Companion Brett Bennett and Right Eminent Sir Knight Cecil Smith, I thank you for your friendship, camaraderie, and leadership throughout this year as the Grand High Priest of

the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska and the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska respectively. Our paths crossed a number of times during our travels and I feel lucky to have served alongside you during this year. Congratulations on your very successful tenures as inspiring state-wide leaders.

To the Grand Officers of the Grand Council, I thank you for your service and most especially for the stalwart support I received from all of you throughout the year. The Grand Council is in good hands going forward, and I look forward to seeing the great things each of you will do in the future.

Travels and Visits

Zerubbabel Council #27, Chadron

Adoniram Chapter #5, Plattsmouth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Nebraska, Kearney Damascus Council #14, Superior Degree Conferral, North Platte Degree Conferral, Papillion (twice) Gebal Council #12. Columbus Grand Council Session of Iowa Grand Council Session of Minnesota Grand Council Session of North Dakota Grand Council Session of South Dakota Grand Master's Banquet, Kearney Hastings Council #8, Hastings Hiram Council #7, Fremont Installation of Omaha Council #1 Lincoln Council #4, Lincoln Nebraska DeMolay State Conclave Occonoxee Council #16, McCook Omaha Council #1, Bellevue Raboni Council #9, Beatrice Super Excellent Master Degree in Des Moines Triad Council #16, Tekamah Zabud Council #6, North Platte

On April 14, 2018 I attended the installation of the officers of Omaha Council #1 in Papillion. The installation was conducted with dignity and in accordance with the ceremony prescribed in the Constitution and Law of the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons in Nebraska.

Dan Marr was installed as Illustrious Master and he gave an earnest and comprehensive preview of the plans he has made for the Council for the coming year, including procuring Council polo shirts, continuing the "Dark Social" on the third Thursday of August (as has been the custom of Council #1 for many years), and holding a Friendship Get-together to introduce prospective members to Cryptic Masonry in particular and York Rite Masonry in general. He is also founding a Masonic Research Group to meet before or after the monthly Council meeting where members can read, research, report on, and discuss a myriad of Masonic topics; there will also be an online presence for those who cannot attend in

person. He will also create a Lodge Visitation Committee to visit area Blue Lodges in Cryptic regalia and give, with the permission of the Worshipful Master of course, a brief presentation on Cryptic Masonry to the lodge. He also stated that he will encourage members to choose and learn a part in our initiation ritual and perform it at the York Rite Festival to be held in the Fall of 2018 in Papillion. In short, Illustrious Companion Marr laid out a complete and well-rounded plan which addresses Membership, Fellowship, Financial, and Ritualistic concerns. Omaha Council #1 is in good hands and under strong leadership.

Also in attendance were Deputy Grand Master Ed Nolte, Grand Recorder Dennis Newman, and Grand Arch Supervisor Dan Marr (who was installed as Illustrious Master of Omaha Council #1). Past Illustrious Grand Masters Steven R. Barchus and Anthony T. Johnson were also in attendance. I took this opportunity to install Tim Peters as Grand Chaplain, with the able assistance of Past Illustrious Grand Master AJ Johnson as Installing Grand Marshal. All grand officers have now been duly installed.

On April 21, 2018 I had the honor to represent all Nebraska Cryptic Masons at the annual Grand Session of the Grand Council of North Dakota in Fargo. I was provided traditional recognition and honors and was accorded the opportunity to bring greetings from our Companions to the members of the Grand Council of North Dakota. I invited them to our Grand session in April of 2019 in Columbus.

Regional Deputy General Grand Master – North Central, Right Puissant Companion Anthony T. Johnson (also a Past Illustrious Grand Master of Nebraska) was in attendance and brought greetings from the General Grand Master, Most Puissant Companion David A. Grindle. He gave a short, but interesting presentation to the Companions present. He encouraged everyone to check out the newly designed General Grand Council website, and noted that members can subscribe to a weekly newsletter, the Weekly Decryption, which touches on all sorts of subjects of interest to Cryptic Masons. He also announced that there is a push to produce and air television commercials in support of the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. Next, he reminded us that Cryptic Masonry is the link that ties the Master Mason Degree to the Royal Arch and that we have a great history and we need to share it. The Right Puissant Companion then spoke about the generation knows as Millenials, and that we need to understand what they hold dear and what they are looking for. He suggested we read the book "41 Million Men: The Importance Of The Millennial Generation To Freemasonry." As a note of interest to Nebraskans, also in attendance was the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska, Sir Knight L. Cecil Smith.

Just prior to the address of the Illustrious Grand Master, the body voted to donate \$100 to the North Dakota Grand Commandery's Holy Land Pilgrimage fund. I found this interesting in that the Council is not a Christian rite. I include this note not to judge, but simply to make note of something I found interesting.

Illustrious Grand Master Ronald L. Penfold gave his address in which he thanked the Companions for the privilege and honor to serve as their Illustrious Grand Master. He also paid tribute to Damon Anderson, a Companion who died in 2003 and whose name adorns the Council in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He finished by again thanking the body.

I was also able to witness the installation of the 2018-2019 Grand Officers, and noted the unique way they hold their installation. After the incoming Illustrious Grand Master Stanley H. Wicker was

installed into office, rather than presenting each remaining officer for installation individually as we do here in Nebraska, the Installing Officer simply directed the Installing Marshal to invest all of the officers with the jewels of their office and they were seated en masse. Of course there is nothing wrong with that, but I found it interesting and note that it illustrates this is yet another great reason to travel to other jurisdictions – to see and experience the fascinating little differences practiced by our Brethren from other areas.

On May 12, 2018 I had the great pleasure to travel to the beautiful Des Moines Valley Scottish Rite building to take the Super Excellent Master degree, put on by our Iowa Companions. The degree was incredibly impressive. It was enacted very well and left a powerful impression on me. The lessons the degree teaches are important and still timely even though it was written many years ago – a testament to the fact that Masonry in general and York Rite Masonry in particular are as relevant today as the day they were first performed. I was excited and proud to see no less than 15 Nebraska Cryptic Masons in attendance. This group can form the core of Companions, along with those Companions that have taken the degree in the past, that revive this degree in Nebraska, a degree that I understand hasn't been done in Nebraska for some 15 years. It took me some 14 years to finally take the degree, but I am very happy to have finally done it.

On May 14, 2018, I attended my home Royal Arch Chapter (Omaha Chapter #1) meeting at the Benson Masonic Center inside the John J. Mercer lodge building. It was a special night because the Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion Brett R. Bennett made his official visitation. Also in attendance was the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska, Right Eminent Sir Knight L. Cecil Smith. Most Excellent Companion Bennett was very gracious to give grand honors to me and Right Eminent Sir Knight Smith. Masonic unity, not just within the York right, but also among all the bodies of Masonry in Nebraska is strong.

On June 22, 2018 I attended the 148th Grand Session of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota in St. Cloud with Most Illustrious Grand Master Clifford H. Isley presiding. I was the only Nebraska Grand Officer in attendance (just a statement of fact, not a judgment of any other Grand Officers). Past Illustrious Grand Master Anthony T. (AJ) Johnson was also in attendance. I was duly received with the representatives of other Grand jurisdictions and given grand honors. The session began with prayer, the recitation of a poem in honor of our nation's flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. There were 11 Minnesota councils represented. Two were absent, but a quorum was declared. Also in attendance were representatives from Wisconsin and Washington, DC. The roll call of representatives to Grand Councils showed there were 20 present. The Illustrious Grand Master then welcomed sitting officers of subordinate Councils – in attendance were six Illustrious Masters, four Deputy Masters, three Principal Conductors of the Work, and seven Recorders. The minutes of the 147th Grand Session were duly read and approved by unanimous vote.

The Credentials Committee reported that eleven councils were represented by a total of 52 voting members. The Nominating Committee presented their recommendation of Grand Officers for the upcoming year, the Illustrious Grand Master appointed a committee of tellers, and gave instructions on the use of the ballot which consisted of two halves – one for casting ballots for officers, and one for voting in the Grand Session. He then declared the ballot box open.

The Illustrious Grand Master then gave his report. He noted that his report was included in the preprinted reports handed out to all in attendance, and made extensive additional comments which I paraphrase here. He began his report by noting that this was not his first rodeo, but rather it was his last. He started on this path in 1986 when he was appointed Junior Deacon of his Blue Lodge. He, like most of us, was excited by Freemasonry and did extensive reading on the subject, attended Grand Lodge conferences, and asked numerous questions, among which was this: "What are all these officers?". He was elected and installed as Master of his lodge in 1991 and has served in that office four times over the years. In 1992 he was asked by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota to serve as a regional Grand Lodge Education Officer, then as an area deputy, and also as a Grand Lodge District Representative. In 1998 the Grand Master appointed him in the Grand line in a one year appointment. In 2000 he was appointed to the Grand Commandery line and in 2002 was in the Grand line for Job's Daughters. In 2012 he was asked to get into the advancing line for the Grand Commandery to which he said "No", thinking that nobody would nominate him, much less vote for him, but lo and behold, he was nominated and elected as the Deputy Grand Commander. This became a common theme in the Grand York Rite of Minnesota, where he noted he was asked to "fill in for one year" and then was elected to the advancing line. The Most Illustrious Grand Master then noted that he has served as the head of the Grand Commandery, Grand Council, and Grand Chapter, joining a tiny club, which he noted was very humbling. In 1986 he would have said it could never happen, but as he said "Well, never happens!" He noted that he has learned a lot along the way including: 1) You can't get everything done that you want to get done; 2) Not everybody will support what you are doing (most will though); 3)You will always have more supporters than non-supporters; 4) If you can put your finger on one thing you accomplished then you had a good year. On that note, he reported that the Grand Council had a wonderful year. They lost a net of 14 members (as he noted, a tiny number). Degree work was performed in every corner of the state. Local Councils are enthusiastic. He mentioned that they must keep this going. They started doing a Road Show, talking about York Rite, no written script, and it can be made to fit any situation at hand; in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, a city of 13,138, they got 12 petitions when they put on the Road Show, just talking about what York Rite has to offer. He then spoke on the importance of education, noting that they are really working on it - their program is online, and subordinate Councils can participate as a whole. This is a relatively new program. Most Illustrious Companion Isley then talked about Masonic unity. The York Rite works well together, and they sell themselves as a unit. Ritual is blended together; Blue lodge degrees don't mean as much without our ritual – it fills in the gap, and you get Hiram Abiff to talk to you! He then spoke about regional York Rite Centers, saying "you can have all three meetings on one night, for example, opening Chapter at 6:00, Council at 6:15, and Commandery at 6:30. Next, he talked about the Representatives program. In his words, it was falling apart and they are trying to fix it by finding out who wants to be a representative to another jurisdiction and removing deceased members who are on the list. They are working on it. Next, he mentioned some issues, including rumblings that Council is holding back membership from Commandery. He noted that they must stay united as the York Rite. There are reports of talk in the Blue Lodges about who is better, York Rite or Scottish Rite. As he said, "We are the same people! I hope it is not state-wide, just a small pocket. It is damaging to the Blue Lodges." He then thanked the Grand York Rite officers, past and present.

Next was the Grand Treasurer's report, followed by the Budget Committee report which were preprinted. The budget for 2018-2019 increased the donation to youth groups by \$50. The Trustees then gave their report, which was pre-printed. The Jurisprudence Committee reported on one Resolution for the Constitution, noting that the committee checked the format and only the format, noting that there is a form available from the Grand Recorder (which has been sent to each Council) which is a worksheet

to submit proposed legislative changes. The resolution had a first reading, a second reading, a motion to accept, and then was voted on and passed. The Grand Recorder's business report was then presented and altar cloths were presented for the greatest percentage gain for Large and Small Councils.

The Illustrious Grand Master announced that the Thrice Illustrious Master degree would be conferred that afternoon. Next, he discussed the Knights of Ish-Sodi award which means "Man of my choice" and is given to up to eleven members each year upon nomination from their local Council. There were two nominations from subordinate Councils. Next, the Illustrious Grand Master recognized officers of the Minnesota Grand Lodge, sitting Blue Lodge Masters, Scottish Rite officers, the KYCH leader, Thrice Illustrious Master leaders, HRAKTP, Red Cross of Constantine, Rosicrucians, York Rite College, and York Rite appendant body leaders. Distinguished guests from other jurisdictions were then afforded the opportunity to address the assembly. These included the Illustrious Grand Masters of Iowa and Nebraska (yours truly), and representatives of the Grand Council of South Dakota, the North Central York Rite, and Connecticut. Honorary memberships were then conferred on visiting dignitaries.

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) awards were then reported on, with Nebraska in first place in the North Central area, followed by Minnesota. They then passed a hat to make up the difference, and Past Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska AJ Johnson and I pitched in, the result being that Minnesota surpassed Nebraska's total. One individual and two constituent Councils reached the \$1000 threshold and received extender bars. The committee chairman then gave what he called a "pep talk", reading from the CMMRF tri-fold, discussing lapel pin levels, the Council plaque, and extender bars. A motion was made to accept the remaining pre-printed reports which passed. The tellers made their report on the election of officers and they were instructed to destroy the ballots.

Next the MIGM-elect made remarks, saying the was humbled to be voted into office and discussed the reorganization of the Representative program, noting that a number of state positions need to be appointed. He then spoke on the importance of education, and finally announced his appointed officer corps.

Right Puissant Regional Deputy General Grand Master Anthony T. Johnson gave his address, calling everyone's attention to the Weekly Decryption online newsletter. He then spoke on the importance of the Representatives program and encouraged the use of technology to contact representatives of other jurisdictions. He said "My job is to serve you and to share good ideas with other jurisdictions." He noted that General Grand Council is an international organization, and that we need to share with our Brothers throughout the world. He closed with a promise of help: "Call me if you need any assistance."

Next came the address of the representative of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota which included a call for civility in all we do – it is, after all in our ritual. We can have a difference of opinion and still be civil. He noted the importance of research and education and gave a plug for the Philalethes Society, mentioned the importance of the Representatives program, and noted that in Cryptic Masonry you can learn to be a Masonic leader, encouraging new Masons to become the High Priest and Illustrious Master of their local York Rite bodies a preparation for becoming the Master of their Blue Lodge. Finally, he gave his congratulations to the current officers and best wishes to the next officer line.

On July 28, 2018 I was thrilled to attend and participate in the conferral of the Royal and Select Master degrees in North Platte. I was joined by Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work Walter Johnson, Right Illustrious Grand Recorder Dennis Newman, Illustrious Grand Arch Supervisor Dan Marr, and Past Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska and North Central Regional Deputy General Grand Master Anthony T. Johnson.

I was graciously received with grand honors and had the opportunity to introduce the aforementioned Grand Officers, General Grand Officer, and Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska Right Eminent Sir Knight L. Cecil Smith. The festivities began with a formal opening, prayer, and pledge of allegiance. The degrees were performed expertly and mostly from memory with very little prompting. This was an excellent example to show not only the new companions just taking the degrees, but also to those members who have been around for some time, but have not seen our powerful ritual delivered in this very impressive manner. I hereby laud and praise the companions (almost exclusively from Bellevue and Plattsmouth) who put on the degrees and thank them for the thousands of hours they have spent learning and presenting these parts.

On September 22, 2018 I had the great pleasure of attending the annual session of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of South Dakota held in Sioux Falls. Other officers of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska present were Grand Recorder Right Illustrious Dennis Newman and Illustrious Companion Dan Marr, our Grand Arch Supervisor. Other Nebraska companions present were L. Cecil Smith, the Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska (also the Grand Principal Sojourner of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska), Most Excellent Companion Brett Bennett, the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, Excellent and Eminent Companion Lavern Joe Work II, the Eminent Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Nebraska as well as Grand Captain of the Host of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, and Right Puissant Anthony T. (AJ) Johnson, the North Central Regional Deputy General Grand Master and Past Illustrious Grand Master Of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska (and many other titles – too many to mention here, even in this extremely long report).

When the companions had assembled in the meeting room, the Illustrious Grand Master Stephen Butterfield ordered the Grand Sentinel to close the doors. There were 36 people present – 20 South Dakota companions and 16 out of state visitors. The Illustrious Grand Master ordered the Grand Conductor of the Council to open the Bible and asked the Grand Chaplain to offer a prayer, which he did. The Illustrious Grand Master then directed the Grand Recorder to make introductions. First were the Past Illustrious Grand Masters from other jurisdictions, followed by the Past Illustrious Grand Masters of South Dakota. Next were Illustrious Grand Masters of other jurisdictions. I was graciously introduced and given the public grand honors in accordance with Masonic tradition and protocol. Next the present General Grand Council officers were introduced, they being the aforementioned Right Puissant Anthony T. Johnson, and General Grand Marshal Terry L. Rybarczyk (who is also the Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Minnesota).

Most Illustrious Companion Stephen Butterfield then asked for all sitting Illustrious Masters of subordinate Councils to come forward to be recognized. There were no Illustrious Masters present. Next the Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Work, and Recorders were asked to come forward to be recognized. A number of companions came forward and were thanked by the Illustrious Grand Master.

Next the Deputy Grand Master asked for all first-time attendees to stand and led the convocation in giving them a hearty welcome. Finally, the Illustrious Grand Master asked all military veterans to stand and he saluted us for our service and noted that he was also among our number.

The report of the Illustrious Grand Master followed. He opened his remarks by saying that he did not travel as much as he would have liked to, but that in his attendance at various Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite and other meetings he met friends everywhere he went. Friends that he could call on when he needed them. He noted in particular how much he enjoyed the South Dakota Jobs Daughters state assembly. He lamented the fact that he lost "a couple good friends" during the year and concluded his remarks with the words "Masonry is Good Stuff!"

Following the report of the Credentials Committee, the Illustrious Grand Master asked for a report of the Nominating Committee. The Grand Recorder read that committee's report. There was a motion from the floor to swap the nominees for Grand Captain of the Guard and the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to avoid the situation where the current Grand Captain of the Guard would, if all went according to tradition, be the Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council and the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery during the same year. The motion passed and it was my impression that everyone in the chamber thought this was the best way to handle the situation.

The Illustrious Grand Master then entertained a motion to accept all Grand Officer Reports as printed. That motion and another to accept the Grand Recorder's report as printed each passed. Next the Grand Treasurer gave his report and noted that a number of subordinate Councils are not making reports or paying their per capita. He went over the income statement and the balance sheet line by line and made sure that everyone understood each item in his report. This was a very good way of doing business in my opinion. The Grand Council then voted on the budget presented by the Grand Treasurer which was an unbalanced budget, projecting a shortfall of \$2,135.

The Grand Council voted on two New Business Items, both of which passed. The first was to close the bank account of the Thrice Illustrious Master's Council and have the Grand Council handle those funds and set them aside in a separate account under the Grand Treasurer's purview and control. The second item was to allocate \$1600 in total: \$1200 to fund assistance to the Grand Recorder and \$400 for the purchase of new membership cards.

The Illustrious Grand Master then recognized the Right Puissant Regional Deputy General Grand Master for the North Central Region, Anthony T. Johnson who reminded all assembled that "the General Grand Council represents you," and it exists to get you whatever you need. He recognized and thanked the General Grand Council Ambassadors present (which included Right Illustrious Companion Carl F. Lidstrom from Minnesota). He then waxed eloquent on the subject "Five Types of Masons" for about seven minutes. The five types are 1: A brand new member who is excited and is looking for things to do; 2: Mentors who are excited about helping Type 1 members; 3: Men who are burnt out because they received no assistance in trying to mentor the newest members and became overwhelmed; 4: Disgruntled members who still show up, but only because they feel obligated to do so, not because the really want to; 5: The one who shows up to complain and be disruptive. The gist of his presentation was that we need to make sure that Types 1 and 2 get the help and assistance they need, thereby avoiding them becoming Types 3, 4, and 5. We also need to "whisper good council" in the ear of Types 3, 4, and 5 and

help them to once again become excited. He closed his remarks by thanking the South Dakota Companions for their excellent hospitality.

The Illustrious Grand Master then opened the floor for comments from visiting dignitaries. I took the opportunity to thank him and all the companions of South Dakota for their hospitality and friendship and invited everyone to join us in Columbus, Nebraska on April 4, 5, and 6 of 2019 for our Grand York Rite session. Right Illustrious Companion Carl Lidstrom brought greetings from the Illustrious Grand Master of Minnesota and announced that their Grand Session will take place in Rochester, Minnesota in June of 2019. Right Illustrious Companion Prince D. Selvaraj, the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Ontario, Canada thanked all for their hospitality. The Illustrious Grand Master then presented honorary memberships to a number of visiting companions.

The Illustrious Grand Master-elect Herb Cook gave his remarks, thanking the Grand Council for electing him, stating that "I don't always remember everyone's name but we acknowledge each other as friends." He then related some of his history and experiences in the York Rite, noting that when he first contemplated joining the York Rite, he knew about the Royal Arch (a little) and also know about the Knights Templar (again, a little), but had never heard of Cryptic Masonry – but is so glad he found out about it because it is one of the best organizations in Masonry. He then announced the time of the installation of the 2018-2019 Grand Council officers.

The session having come to a close, I took the opportunity to chat with some of the Companions from all over the North Central region and bade them a fond farewell, hoping to meet again soon in friendship, harmony, and brotherhood.

On October 6, 2018 I attended the conferral of the Royal and Select Master degrees during a Council and Commandery Festival held at the Papillion Lodge. Past Illustrious Grand Master Anthony T. Johnson was gracious enough to introduce me to the assembled Companions and I had the opportunity to introduce the Grand Council officers present who included Grand Recorder Dennis Newman, Grand Arch Supervisor Dan Marr, Grand Captain of the Guard Jeffrey Coleman, and Grand Conductor of the Council Mike Lagueux. Also present were Past Illustrious Grand Masters of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska Steven R. Barchus and Carl Plants. It was a pleasure to be joined by the sitting Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, Brett Bennett, and the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska, Cecil Smith. I also had the distinct pleasure of introducing the Right Puissant District Deputy General Grand Master Anthony T. Johnson and led the assembled Companions in giving him the grand honors.

The degree work was first rate, and there were eight candidates for the degrees from Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, and Hastings. It was a very successful day, and the Companions performing the work are to be commended.

On January 31, 2019 I attended the Grand Master's Banquet at Grand Lodge in Kearney. The fellowship was excellent and it was great to catch up with other brothers and companions from around the state and other jurisdictions, as well as making new friendships. The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Patrick D. Barger welcomed everyone and presented a number of awards. After dinner, the entertainment was truly world class. Maestro Edward Polochick on piano paired up with Anton Miller

on violin. They gave a masterful performance which brought everyone present to their feet for a rousing standing ovation. This was a very enjoyable evening in every sense of the word.

On February 1, 2019 I attended the 162nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Nebraska. Other Grand Council officers present were the Deputy Grand Master Right Illustrious Companion Edward Nolte, Grand Treasurer Right Illustrious Companion Bruce Anderson, Grand Recorder Right Illustrious Companion Dennis Newman, Grand Arch Supervisor Illustrious Companion Dan Marr, Grand Captain of the Guard Illustrious Companion Jeffrey Coleman, and Grand Steward Illustrious Companion Frank Borden. Past Grand Illustrious Companions Steve G. Lyne, Jay H. Speck, John T. Parsons, Anthony T. Johnson, Steven R. Barchus, Carl Plants, and Donald E. Rife. Other Nebraska Grand York Rite presiding officers present were the Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, Most Excellent Companion Brett R. Bennett, and the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska, Right Eminent Sir Knight L. Cecil Smith. At the pubic opening, Right Eminent Sir Knight L. Cecil Smith brought greetings on behalf of all the appendant bodies. This is continued proof of the Masonic unity present in Nebraska. As has been the custom since at least 2010, during the tyled meeting every brother joined in a re-obligation of the Master Mason degree. Also during the tyled meeting, the Grand Master was gracious enough to introduce the leaders of the Grand York Rite bodies, the Red Cross of Constantine, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction, Shriners, National Sojourners, and Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis. After introducing the lead officers of each organization, the Grand Master asked the other officers of those organizations to stand and it was gratifying to see that there were more York Rite representatives than any other group. This shows the intimate connection between the York Rite and Craft Masonry and that York Rite members are also engaged and dedicated Blue Lodge Masons.

On February 11, 2019 I attended the memorial service for Donald L. Grazier at the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. Don was a Mason, a Shriner, member of the Scottish Rite, and a number of other Masonic bodies. He was also a very dedicated York Rite Companion. Past Illustrious Grand Masters present included Most Illustrious Companions Jay Speck and Steven Barchus. Grand Captain of the Guard Illustrious Companion Jeffrey Coleman was also in attendance. Other Grand York Rite lead officers there to honor our brother were Most Excellent Companion Brett R. Bennett, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska and Right Eminent Sir Knight Cecil Smith, the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska. Also in attendance was Most Worshipful Rex Moats, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska. The service was very moving, and I was very proud to honor my friend and brother Don and celebrate his life with so many of his family and friends. I feel I was lucky to know him and will miss him.

Visits to Subordinate Councils

During my official visits to the Councils throughout Nebraska, I was always received with open arms and brotherly love. In no particular order, I present an account of some of the happenings during my various visits. For the most part the name of the Council is omitted; there is no intention to highlight one Council over any others, these are simply some of the more memorable happenings to me.

An hour before the meeting I met with five Companions (and one of their ladies) at a local restaurant where we had the opportunity to meet each other and become acquainted (or reacquainted for those I

had met before) in a comfortable environment. Two of the members were a few minutes late because they were at the County Fair Board meeting, asking to use the fairgrounds later that year at no charge for the local Shrine Club's Circus which shows that these York Rite Masons are also active Shriners. This denotes that Masonic unity is strong all across Nebraska.

I was received in form and given grand honors for which I thanked the companions. I then thanked them for their hospitality and praised them on their opening and reception ceremony. I introduced the Grand officers present, and led the Council in giving them a hearty welcome. I then gave some brief remarks, challenging the Companions to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their local Council related to membership, ritual, finances, and fellowship, I further challenged them to devise plans to improve each of those areas. I also reminded the companions that they constitute the Grand Council – that we Grand officers are their servant leaders; that they (of their representatives) are the ones who can bring legislation, make and second motions, discuss them and then to vote on those motions. I encouraged them to be involved at the next Grand session, at the very least giving their opinions on issue to their representatives.

When I asked if there were any questions or comments, the Recorder asked me to go through the signs given during the opening. I rehearsed the signs, noted that they come from the ritual of the Royal and Select Master degrees, and spoke on the meanings of each sign. Next we had an open discussion of how to get new members and then how to keep them active and interested.

I was asked what my local Council (Omaha #1) does in some of the areas I challenged them to think about. I gave the example of how we try to encourage fellowship by our "Dark Social" where we meet at a restaurant for purely social interactions in a relaxed environment (no ties, no talk of York Rite business). I praised them for having dinner before their meetings and encouraged them to continue this time of breaking bread together.

I declared the Council closed and we then repaired to the fellowship area of the building and enjoyed ice cream and a time of fellowship. More than one Companion said that he wanted to continue opening, rather than just sitting around the table and holding their meetings and I encouraged them to pursue that.

The Council was opened in form with each officer position filled. There was one Companion on the sidelines. The Illustrious Master led the meeting efficiently and ensured that all Council business was addressed. I was then received in due form. The Council followed the Ceremony of Reception. After having the Conductor of the Council present the Past Illustrious Grand Masters in attendance to the East facing West, I had the honor and pleasure of introducing and we gave them grand honors. They each declined my invitation to address the assembled Companions and were again seated among the Companions. We all gave a hearty welcome to other Grand Council officers present, who also declined my invitation to make any remarks.

After thanking the Companions for their hospitality and acknowledging their excellent reception, I noted the fine work they did in opening the Council. After challenging the Companions to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their local Council related to membership, ritual, finances, and fellowship, I further challenged them to devise plans to improve each of those areas.

The Council members had dinner with the Beauceant ladies at a local restaurant before the meeting.

The Beauceant meets in the other lodge room while the monthly York Rite meeting takes place in the main lodge room. They had cake and coffee together after the meetings. I commended them in this and encouraged them to continue to have that time of fellowship before and after their meetings.

The Council had two new members (brought in during the Chapter and Council Festival held last year in North Platte) who were sitting as Conductor of the Council and Steward. I commended them on getting involved and encouraged them to continue to be involved.

We left the restaurant and arrived at the Masonic Temple where Council was opened. Since there were not enough members present to fill all the chairs, I took the opportunity to sit as Conductor of the Council during the opening. The meeting was conducted efficiently by the Illustrious Master. The Recorder read some old correspondence about pending legislation for 2018 grand session (raising per capita). He noted that they may need to raise dues in their local Council if their fundraising efforts don't improve.

The Grand Sentinel, Illustrious Companion Harry Waggoner, gave a report on the Grand York Rite sessions held in April of 2018 in Kearney, noting the legislation that passed and the election and installation of the various Grand York Rite officers. He presented the pre-printed reports from Grand York Rite and copies of the programs of installation for Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery to the Recorder to be laid up in the archives of the Council.

I noted that on arriving in a number of cities, I was pleased to see a York Rite logo in addition to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons logo on the city welcome sign.

I established that this subordinate Council is proficient in opening, closing, and reception of the Illustrious Grand Master. Business was conducted efficiently and throughout the meeting there was a genuine show of brotherly love and friendship.

Once again I was pleased to be in attendance with Most Illustrious Companion Jay H. Speck, Past Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, along with Most Excellent Companion Brett R. Bennett, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska and Right Eminent Sir Knight L. Cecil Smith, the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska.

After making some further remarks, I opened the floor to questions or comments. The first question was "Will the group from the Eastern part of the state come out again this year to do degree work?" I reported that our Grand Arch Supervisor Dan Marr was working with the Grand Chapter's Grand Lecturer A. J. Johnson, PIGM, to determine a date when that will happen and told them that we will keep them updated on this undertaking. Next I asked them how close they were to being able to do their own degree work. After some discussion and input from a number of the Companions, it became clear that they could put on the degree at that time, but felt they need to do more practicing to make the presentation impressive to the candidates.

I was asked "Can we get some direction and training on how to put on the degrees?" I reported that the Grand Arch Supervisor is working on holding a School of Instruction at a centrally located venue, probably in Hastings. These questions and the ensuing discussions were great feedback about what the

Grand Council can do for the subordinate Councils and this also serves as proof of the desire to learn the ritual and to present it properly and impressively.

The sense of true amity among the members of this Council was evident in their relaxed but always respectful interaction with each other and the lively exchange of suggestions and ideas. It was obvious that the longer-serving members were actively mentoring the newer members, and this is a great reminder of how important this is to maintain and advance our beloved fraternity. These attitudes and actions are not unique to the Companions of this Council. Indeed, I have seen them in action in each of the several York Rite bodies I have had the pleasure to visit throughout the state. I only mention it here to document a point in time when I was privileged to witness a fine example of Masonry in action, truly making good men better.

Official Actions of the Grand Master

I will now address the paragraphs of Chapter IX of the Constitution and Law of the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, which lay out the powers and duties of the Grand Master.

- 1. Powers of the Grand Master
- a. I received no request to issue special dispensations to elect or to install officers of a council at a time other than fixed by law.
- b. I received no request to authorize a council to receive and ballot upon petitions for degrees of Cryptic Masonry at a special assembly and that petitions may be received and balloted upon there at.
- c. I received no request to authorize any council to confer the degrees of Cryptic Masonry in a city or town within this jurisdiction, other than where such council is located.
- d. I issued special dispensation for a Omaha Council #1 to temporarily move their charter to Columbus, Nebraska for the purpose of opening the Grand Council Session.
- e. I received no request to confer the several degrees of Cryptic Masonry on sight.
- 2. No vacancies occurred in the offices of the Grand Council, so there was no need to fill such vacancies.
- 3. I did appoint representatives near other recognized Grand Councils and receive and accredit such representatives from them. Please refer to the Grand Recorder's report for specifics.
- 4. I appointed Illustrious Companion Dan Marr as Grand Arch Supervisor.

In relation to Chapter XI Formation Of Councils:

- 1. I received no request to grant a letter of dispensation to a competent number of petitioners, empowering them to open a Council of Cryptic Masons.
- 2. There was no need to transfer any Council which has decided to surrender its charter, or any Council whose charter may have been suspended, to any locality in this jurisdiction desiring a Council.

Recommendations Related to the Grand Council

Schools of Instruction should be held annually, one in the western half of the state and the other in the eastern half to exemplify the work (including the floor work) for the education of the Craft and to encourage them to perform ritual work within their local Councils. I thank our Grand Arch Supervisor, Illustrious Companion Dan Marr for working this year to lay the groundwork on this, and I highly recommend that this foundation be built upon in future years.

Review all standing committees to determine their progress and if they are in fact necessary. I lay no implication that there are committees that are no longer needed, but I feel that the make up and actions of each committee be reviewed periodically.

Continue the system of Representatives of Grand Jurisdictions near Nebraska and encourage the representatives to try to attend the Grand Session of the body they are assigned to, or at the very least communicate with their counterpart and report to the Illustrious Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, and if warranted, make a brief oral report at the Grand Session.

State of the Craft and Recommendations for Local Councils

The state of the craft in Nebraska varies throughout the state. During my visits to constituent Councils, I have challenged the Companions to make an honest appraisal of the health of their Council, focusing on a number of key areas: 1) Membership, 2) Ritual Work, 3) Finances, 4) Fellowship, and 5) Philanthropy. There are only a very few Councils that I would score high in all of these areas, but that was not the point – I wanted each Council to judge their own achievements and abilities in all of these areas and then take action to improve in each one of them.

I make the following recommendations to the local Councils:

Councils should get new members involved as soon as possible – don't have the same people hold the same offices for years. Let new members breath new life into the body. I realize that due to considerations of continuity, the Recorder and Treasurer offices might be exempt from this, but it up to the local York Rite body to decide what is best for the present and future of their group.

Continue to foster Masonic unity throughout the state.

Use the opening for your Council at least every three months. This reminds everyone what the degrees are about, encourages participation, and is a recognition that our ritual is what sets us apart. We should be proud of it and eager to participate.

Be active in your local Blue Lodge – this is the only place York Rite Masonry can get new members. Wear Council regalia and when brethren ask what this is, be ready to explain the importance and relevance of Cryptic Masonry.

Do your own degree work, or join with other Councils within the area to put on the degrees. If your Council just isn't ready to do an entire degree alone, consider asking for assistance from the York Rite College or the Grand Arch Supervisor.

Ask your membership 1) what they want and 2) why they are not active. If you don't ask, how will you know, and if you don't know, how are you ever going to improve the situation?

Closing Remarks

It is an extremely humbling experience to be elected to any leadership position, and even more so when made the state-wide leader of an organization that means so much to me. I have had the extreme

honor of representing each Companion in Nebraska during my travels throughout the state and to other jurisdictions. For the gracious welcomes I have received everywhere I have gone, I am truly thankful. For the help and support of Past Illustrious Grand Masters, Grand Officers, mentors, and companions, I am truly appreciative and honored by your counsel and assistance, and most importantly your friendship.

This has been an experience and honor I will never forget. I am so proud to be a York Rite Mason, and I am so proud of the York Rite Masons in Nebraska. I know in my heart that this hallowed organization will continue for generations to come, but that future is not guaranteed – it is in our hands. Let us not shrink from doing what is required from each of us.

Finally, to my Most Super-Excellent Companion, my wife, friend, and helpmeet Marcy, I offer my deepest thanks for not only allowing me to go on this journey, but to be beside me all the way. Your support, encouragement, and love have made everything in my life brighter and better. Thank you!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
David A. Shaw
Illustrious Grand Master 2018-2019
It was moved and seconded that this report be placed on file. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER

I would like to thank everyone for the support I received during this past year as your Grand Recorder. A special thanks to Doc and Jeanne Karnegis and Bruce Anderson for all their help and support in maintaining the records. I want to thank all the Grand Officers and all the companions throughout Nebraska for their patience and their support as I continue to learn the job. I appreciate help and guidance that I have received.

I hereby submit my report for the year ending December 31, 2018.

The Grand Council issued Multi-Year pins to the following Companions in the year of 2018:

John Dale Hastings No. 21 05/04/1967 50 yr 03/04/18

GRAND COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT

	TOTAL	Council Proposed- 2018	Actual- 2018
	Starting Balance	\$450.50	\$450.50
	Receipts	,	7 100100
	Recorpts		
501	Dues	\$10,000.00	\$9,934.10
502	Fees	\$200.00	\$60.00
503	Reinstatements	\$50.00	\$50.00
504	Bond Premium	\$60.00	\$59.00
505	Charities	\$640.00	\$493.00
506	Sale of Supplies	\$300.00	\$72.00
507	Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00
508	Annual Grand Session	\$3,000.00	\$2,464.68
510	Perpetual Life Membership	\$1,200.00	\$2,764.69
512	Investment Redemptions	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
514	Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$248.40
	Total	\$16,950.00	\$16,145.87
	Total plus starting balance	\$17,400.50	\$16,596.37
	Disbursements		
551	Grand Officers Expense	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
552	Annual Meeting Expense	\$3,000.00	\$2,319.40
553	Triennial	\$300.00	\$0.00
554	Grand Secretary Salary	\$5,008.00	\$4,359.03
555	Grand Secretary Travel	\$256.00	\$87.82
556	Treasure Travel	\$150.00	\$27.20
557	Bond Premium & Fidelity	\$160.00	\$0.00
558	Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00
559	Personal Property Insurance	\$832.00	\$177.92
560	Supplies for Resale	\$300.00	\$191.43
561	Office Supplies	\$300.00	\$139.25
562	Equipment Replacement	\$50.00	\$0.00
563	Postage	\$500.00	\$96.00
564	Rent	\$1,160.00	\$779.47
565	Telephone	\$250.00	\$88.42
566	Perpetual Life Membership	\$1,200.00	\$2,735.79
567	General Grand Dues	\$1,800.00	\$1,667.50
568	Philanthropies	\$600.00	\$493.00
570	Past Grand Officer Jewel	\$75.00	\$18.23

571	Youth	\$300.00	\$300.00
572	Memorials	\$20.00	\$0.00
574	Equipment Rental & Maintenance	\$700.00	\$530.11
576	Utilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
578	Workman's Comp.	\$112.00	\$0.00
579	Taxes (Fed/Unempl/State)	\$992.00	\$964.78
580	Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$205.12
	Total	\$19,565.00	\$15,180.47
	Receipts less Disbursements	-\$2,164.50	\$1,415.90

GRAND YORK RITE OF NEBRASKA INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO – MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY

GRAND YORK RITE ENDOWMENT Joint account of all three Grand York Rite Bodies

Grand Chapter \$51,284.16 Grand Council \$45,585.93 Grand Commandery \$45,585.93

Morgan Stanley Account Value Dec. 31, 2018 \$142,456.02

YORK RITE PUBLIC RELATIONS FUND

Balance in Bank of the West Dec. 31, 2017	\$4,608.81
RECEIPTS:	
Interest Earned	\$2.52
Funds transferred	\$25.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$27.53
DISBURSEMENTS:	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$778.97
Balance in Bank of the West, Dec. 31, 2018	\$3856.36

COUNCIL RETURNS

Seven (7) Councils failed to have a greeting this year compared to Eleven (11) last year.

Number of Chartered Councils, December 31, 2017		13
Number Greeted	21	
Number Admitted	1	
Number Reinstated	2	
TOTAL GAIN	24	
Number Demitted	5	
Number Died	29	
Number Suspended	18	
TOTAL LOSS	52	
NET LOSS	28	
Number of Cryptic Masons, December 31, 2017		672
Number of Cryptic Masons, December 31, 2018		644
Number of Chartered Councils, December 31, 2018		<i>13</i>

Fraternally,

Dennis H. Newman,

R.E. Grand Recorder

REPORT OF THE GRAND ARCH SUPERVISOR

Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions All:

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Officers and Companions it was my pleasure to act as your Grand Arch Supervisor this year. This year I've had the opportunity to visit several Councils around the Eastern half of the state, and have had conversations with several Past Illustrious Grand Masters about the work in Councils that I've not been able to personally visit.

Our festivals in the Omaha area and North Platte have been done very well. We have a large group of men who work hard to learn their parts and put on our degrees, and they deserve a good deal of praise.

However, in general, the work done for opening and closing Councils during business meetings offer us an area that could use improvement.

Most, if not all, of us have experienced times when we don't have enough people to open our Council. Unfortunately, all too often I've seen Councils call it a night when that happens. I've heard things like: "We don't have enough to open, so everyone can go home." or "We don't have enough to open, so let's go have dinner". I think that these scenarios simply compound the problem.

If a Council doesn't have enough people to open, I would hope that they would use that time to practice opening. Even though you can't "officially" open to conduct business, you can put people in important chairs and go through the ritual work. Perhaps we don't need to practice every month, but it should be done frequently enough that the ritual work isn't forgotten.

If there are only four or five companions who show up for meetings, I would expect that those four or five companions would be VERY good at opening and closing, because they've done it over and over.

With this approach, when the Council does recruit someone new, that new companion steps into a Council that inspires them to become active and stay active. If a new companion joins a Council where many people need to read from the book, it's going to be hard to inspire that new companion to help in revitalizing our organization.

If your Council needs any help with ritual work, whether it's for degree work or simply for opening and closing, don't hesitate to reach out to the Grand Secretary. We have men who would be happy to help if called upon.

The following Councils should receive certificates for opening and closing;

Omaha Council #1

Lincoln Council #4

Adoniram Council # 5

Zabud Council #6

Hastings Council #8

Damascus Council No. 14

Occonoxee Council # 16

The following Councils need to be acknowledged for receiving the Grand Illustrious Master or his

Representative;

Omaha Council #1

Lincoln Council #4

Adoniram Council # 5

Zabud Council #6

Hastings Council #8

Damascus Council No. 14

Occonoxee Council # 16

The following Councils should receive certificates for degree work;

Omaha Council #1

Respectfully & Fraternally,

Daniel Marr

Grand Arch Supervisor

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Nebraska

It was moved and seconded that this report as presented be approved. Motion carried.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Illustrious Grand Master and Companions,

It is my pleasure to present the proposed budget for the calendar year 2019.

	TOTAL	Proposed 2019
		\$681.84
	Starting Balance	3001.0 4
	Receipts	
501	Dues	\$9,300.00
502	Fees	\$200.00
503	Reinstatements	\$50.00
504	Bond Premium	\$60.00
505	Charities	\$640.00
506	Sale of Supplies	\$125.00
507	Interest	\$0.00
508	Annual Grand Session	\$3,000.00
510	Perpetual Life Membership	\$1,200.00
512	Investment Redemptions	\$2,700.00
514	Miscellaneous	\$0.00
	Total	\$17,275.00
	Total plus starting balance	\$17,956.84
	Disbursements	
551	Grand Officers Expense	\$1,500.00
552	Annual Meeting Expense	\$2,200.00
553	Triennial	\$300.00
554	Grand Secretary Salary	\$5,008.00
655	Grand Secretary Travel	\$99.00
556	Treasure Travel	\$49.50
557	Bond Premium & Fidelity	\$200.00
558	Transfers	\$0.00
559	Personal Property Insurance	\$1,055.00
560	Supplies for Resale	\$300.00
561	Office Supplies	\$300.00
562	Equipment Replacement	\$50.00
563	Postage	\$300.00
564	Rent	\$1,160.00
565	Telephone	\$90.00
566	Perpetual Life Membership	\$1,200.00
567	General Grand Dues	\$1,800.00
568	Philanthropies	\$600.00

570	Past Grand Officer Jewel	\$75.00
571	Youth	\$300.00
572	Memorials	\$20.00
574	Equipment Rental & Maintenance	\$200.00
576	Utilities	\$0.00
578	Workman's Comp.	\$107.00
579	Taxes (Fed/Unempl/State)	\$992.00
580	Miscellaneous	\$0.00
	Total	\$17,905.50
	Receipts less Disbursements	\$51.34

Respectfully Submitted, Jay 74. Speck, Chairman

It was moved and seconded that this report be adopted. Motion carried.

CHARTERS & DISPENSATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Officers and Companions all:

The Grand Council issued no dispensations for new Councils that were working under dispensation.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank D. Smutny, Chairman

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CODIFICATION OF THE LAW

The following report is submitted for the Codification of the Law Committee which includes PGHPs Ron Grass, Don Monettee and Anthony T. (AJ) Johnson (Chairman). As Chairman, I would like to thank the other two PGIMs that served with me this 2018-2019 year.

The committee was not asked to review the bylaws, nor did the Grand Illustrious Master request any assistance for any actions he may have performed over the year. The Committee was presented a resolution from last year that carried over for review concerning changing the bylaws and constitution to allow for an elected jurisprudence committee. As Chairman I provided recommendations for clarification of the resolution and with the assistance and review of the committee, we have determined it still in the proper format to send to Councils for their review prior to the Grand Annual Assembly to be held from the 5th of April in Columbus Nebraska.

No other items were presented to the Codification of the Law Committee so I request V/R

Authory 7. (A9) Johnson, Chairman

Codification of the Law Committee

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Illustrious Grand Master:

Your Committee on Credentials respectfully makes the following report to the Grand Session held in Columbus, Nebraska on April 5, 2019.

10 Grand Officers were present.

11 Past Grand Officers were present.

8 Out of State Officers and Visitors

All constituent bodies were represented except; Hiram No. 7, Temple No. 20

47 Ballots Issued

52 Registered

Respectfully submitted,

James Michaelson, Chairman

It was moved and seconded that this report be accepted. Motion carried.

ENTERTAINMENT OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

M. I. Grand Master, Officers and Companions all:

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve on this committee along with Companion Jay Speck. It is a great pleasure to renew acquaintances with old friends and companions from neighboring Grand York Rite jurisdictions, as well as meeting new visiting companions. We also have the pleasure of welcoming other distinguished Masonic visitors from Nebraska, including Grand Lodge officers, representatives from the Shrine Centers and Scottish Rite Valleys across the state, ladies from the Order of the Eastern Star and Social Order of the Beauceant, and from our youth groups.

At the last Grand Session we had 71 guests in attendance. We hope to see another good crowd at our upcoming session in April.

Respectfully submitted,

John 7. Parsons, KCT, Chairman

DOINGS OF THE GRAND OFFICERS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS & REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Distinguished Guests, Officers and Companions;

Grand Councils are putting their proceedings on their website instead of sending them out to Grand Councils.

Fraternally Submitted,

Dennis Newman, Chairman

It was moved and seconded that this report be received and placed on file. Motion carried.

GREAT PLAINS RENDEZVOUS

No report at this session.

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL PHILANTHROPY REPORT

No report at this session.

JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Jurisprudence committee met on April 4, 2019 to consider the address that is on pages 4 - 16 of the pre-printed report. The beginning of the report and up to the section of 'Official Actions of the Grand Master' were his welcome, travels and report of his travels and required no action but was moved and seconded for the acceptance. Motion carried.

The section on 'Official Actions of the Grand Master' were reviewed.

1 Powers of the Grand Master, parts a, b, and c received no requests.

No action required but moved and seconded for the acceptance. Motion carried.

Part d, special dispensations, of moving the Charter of Omaha #1 to Columbus for the purpose of opening the Grand Council session, the Grand Master had authority to do this. Moved and seconded for acceptance. Motion carried.

- # 1-e had no requests to confer degrees on sight and #2 no vacancies occurred in the offices of the Grand Council. No action required but moved and seconded for acceptance. Motion carried.
- # 3 appointing representatives near other recognized Grand Councils. The Grand Master had authority to do this. Moved and seconded for acceptance. Motion carried.
- # 4 appointing Companion Dan Marr as Grand Arch Supervisor.

The Grand Master had authority to do this. Moved and seconded for acceptance. Motion carried.

Sections- Chapter XI Formation of Councils - Recommendations Related to the Grand Council - State of the Craft - Recommendations for Local Councils and Closing Remarks required no action but moved and seconded for acceptance. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted Donald E. Rife Chairman

It was moved and seconded that this report be approved in its entirety and place on file. Motion carried.

NECROLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Grand Officers and Companions

As of the composition of this dedication to Companions lost since our last Annual Session, thirty-four have

passed from our midst.

Roy I. Anderson	Kurt L. Blazek	Clarence R. Cafferty
Ross Campagna	Joseph A Chapman	William E Christensen
Roland S Coker	John F. Dale	Leslie A Evert
Charles A Folsom	Richard S Goble	John C Gustafson
Weldon D Jacobs	Ron E Johnson	Eugene P Jorgensen
A. Gary Keeling	Marvin G Kyes	Earnest G Lehmkehler
Robert E Lindly	Noland J. McIntosh	Hollis Miller
Leland A Monson	Gary L. Murphy	Alexander Murray
Kenneth E Neff	Harry D Ostegard	Robert J. Piper
Charles F. Putman	Daniel J. Rife	Robert F. Ross
Jonnie R. Sabata	James E Stansberry	Stanley A Suck
Thomas Swedlund	Gerald D Verbeek	•

Just as our Cryptic degrees are based on a concept of "hidden", as derived from the definition of the term cryptic' so too must we have faith that our Companions, who have sought refuge in that celestial lodge above, have not been captured in those underground vaults of our earthly existence. We cannot express our thoughts of the memory of our departed Companions any better than that heard by Adoniram from Hiram Abif, when he states: "your work is accepted and, in due-time, you shall receive your reward". Companions, we received our reward in the brotherhood shared, memories made, and lives bonded to these our fallen Companions. Let us take seriously the lessons imparted by our Cryptic degrees and honor our lost Companions by continued dedication to those very precepts.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Peters Grand Chaplain

It was moved and seconded that this report be received and placed on file. Motion carried.

PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Companions:

The PLM Committee is charged with investing the funds generated by the purchase of perpetual life memberships by members of the three bodies that compose the Grand York Rite of Nebraska. The Committee consists of nine members: three elected by the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; three elected by the Grand Council, Cryptic Masons; and three elected by

the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar. Currently, the funds are invested through the Garlock Group of RBC Wealth Management. Quarterly Reports are reviewed and an annual meeting is held to review the investment portfolio and make necessary changes. The PLM Committee presents the results of investment decisions made during the 2018 year in the accompanying tables.

PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND ACCOUNT SUMMARY FOR 2018

Total Grand York Rite Contributions to Fund Prior to Year 2018	\$ 218,382.46
ADD: Total Grand York Rite Contributions to Fund during Year 2018	2,690.00
Total Grand York Rite Contributions to Fund since Inception	\$ 221,072.46
Total PLM Fund Value as of January 1, 2018	\$ 257,950.35
Total PLM Fund Value as of December 31, 2018	\$ 240,303.71
Decrease in Fund Value During Year 2018	\$ -17,646.64
Percentage decrease in Fund Value During Year 2018	<u>-6.84%</u>

DISTRIBUTION OF PLM INVESTMENT ACCOUNT IN YEAR 2018

GRAND YORK RITE BODY	<u>A</u>	MOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska ¹	\$	2,773.46	38.48%
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Nebraska ²	\$	1,880.78	26.08%
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Nebraska ³	\$	2,554.76	35.44%
Total Distributions	\$	7,209.00	

NOTES:

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLMs BY GRAND YORK RITE BODY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

	NUMBER	NUMBER	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
GRAND YORK RITE BODY	<u>LIVING</u>	<u>DEAD</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DEAD</u>
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska	145	512	657	78.0%
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Nebraska	122	400	522	77.0%
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Nebraska	<u>118</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>496</u>	76.0%

¹ One new PLM purchased during 2018.

² One new PLM purchased during 2018.

³ One new PLM purchased during 2018.

Total Members <u>385</u> <u>1290</u> <u>1675</u>

HISTORICAL ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS & END-OF-YEAR FUND VALUES

DISTRIBUTION			FUND
YEAR	Al	MOUNT	<u>VALUE</u>
2007	\$	5,347.65	\$ 122,643.84
2008	\$	5,066.21	\$ 104,796.40
2009	\$	4,665.70	\$ 123,256.89
2010	\$	4,535.42	\$ 134,582.38
2011	\$	4,340.84	\$ 139,095.01
2012	\$	3,935.30	\$ 153,345.18
2013	\$	6,637.88	\$ 187,794.23
2014	\$	4,688.33	\$ 199,842.96
2015	\$	5,000.00	\$ 193,918.88
2016	\$	6,706.97	\$ 223,565.51
2017	\$	7,738.50	\$ 257,950.35
2018	\$	7,209.00	\$ 240,303.71

PLM COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

There were no changes in the distribution policy at the 2018 meeting for the PLM Committee. The PLM funds sustained losses in late 2018, as did most all market investments. In spite of this, the PLM Committee voted to continue the target 3% payout, resulting in a distribution of \$7,209.00 to the Grand York Rite bodies of Nebraska.

Respectfully Submitted,

James A. Carlton, on behalf of:

Chapter Members: Reginald Kuhn, Mike Jones, and Edward Nolte **Council Members:** Walter Johnson, A.J. Johnson, and Hugh Nehls **Commandery Members:** James Carlton, Fred Way, Jr., and Donald Rife

Ex-Officio: Dennis Newman and Bruce Anderson

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Grand Recorder made a motion that all visiting dignitaries who are not already honorary members of this Grand Jurisdiction be made members. Motion carried.

TIME & PLACE OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The 2020 Grand Session will be at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska April 16-18.

ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS

Comp. Steve Barchus, Chairman of the tellers, reported to the M.I. Grand Master that the ballots were counted and the following were elected:

Comp. Edward W. Nolte, 1	M. Ill. Grand Master
Comp. Walter A. Johnson, 6	R. Ill. Deputy Grand Master
Comp. Jeffrey M. Coleman, 1	R. Ill. Grand Principal Cond. of the Work
Comp. Bruce T. Anderson,4	R. Ill. Grand Treasurer
Comp. Dennis A. Newman, 1	R. Ill. Grand Recorder
The following officers were appointed:	
Comp. Timothy Peters, 1	R. Ill. Grand Chaplain
Comp. Anthony Johnson, 1	Ill. Grand Arch Supervisor
Comp. Michael D. Lagueux, 4	Ill. Grand Captain of the Guard
Comp. Frank L. Borden, Jr., 14	Ill. Grand Conductor of the Council
Comp. Daniel Marr, 1	Ill. Grand Steward
Comp. Jonathan Paz, 1	Ill. Grand Sentinel

It was moved and seconded that this report be accepted and the ballots be destroyed. Motion carried.

Companion Anthony Johnson, North Central Regional Deputy General Grand Master and personal representative of David Grindle, Most Puissant General Grand Master. Comp. AJ brought greetings. He stated that is here for the companions and please ask him any questions. He will attempt to answer. He encouraged anyone who would like to attend the emerging leaders conference at the North Central Conference please let him know. It is free to attend.

He also discussed other programs offered by the General Grand Council. Life membership is a way to support the General Grand Council and also support you own jurisdiction.

He talked about the General Grand Council newsletter. It is available either in hard copy or electronic.

He thanked the Illustrious Grand Master for all the courtesies extended to him and he enjoyed his time in Nebraska.

INSTALLATION OF GRAND COUNCIL OFFICERS

Comp. Dave Shaw welcomed everyone to the installation and introduced the following installing officers:

Comp., Anthony T. Johnson, *PMIGM*Installing Officer Comp., Steven R. Barchus *PMIGM*Installing Marshal Comp. Ronald Grass, *PMIGM*Installing Chaplain

Comp. John Parsons, *PMIGM*.....Installing Recorder Jennifer Grass.....Installing Musician

The Installing Officer asked the Installing Recorder to call the roll of Officers to be installed for the ensuing year. As their names were called, they and their ladies entered the Assembly room, after which they assumed the obligation and were presented the Jewels of their office and escorted to their stations by the Installing Marshal. The Grand Marshal then proclaimed the Officers of the Grand Council duly installed in their respective stations for the ensuing year.

Edward W. Nolte M.I. Grand Master I. Dep. Grand Master Walter A. Johnson R.I. Gr. Prin. Cond. of the Work Jeffrey M. Coleman Bruce T. Anderson R.I. Grand Treasurer R.I. Grand Recorder Dennis A. Newman Timothy Peters* R.I. Grand Chaplain Anthony Johnson I. Grand Arch Supervisor I. Grand Captain of the Guard Michael D. Lagueux I. Grand Cond. of the Council Frank L. Borden, Jr. I. Grand Steward Daniel Marr I. Grand Sentinel Jonathan Paz

Most Illustrious Past Grand Master Dave Shaw was presented with his jewel and apron.

The M.I. Grand Master thanked the Installing Officers for a fine job & introduced his wife Linda and invited all the Grand Officers to introduce their ladies.

Attest:

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true and complete record of the Proceedings of the One Hundred Thirty-ninth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska, held at Columbus, Nebraska, April 5, 2019, and printed under my direction.

WITNESS MY HAND and seal of the GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS IN NEBRASKA, this 4th day of May 2019.

Dennis A. Newman. R. I. Grand Recorder

GRAND COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 2018-2019

BUDGET & FINANCE: Jay H. Speck, Chairman; John Parsons, Ronald D. Grass.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS: Frank Smutny, Chairman; Joseph Charbonneau, Robert Williams.

CODIFICATION OF THE LAW: Anthony Johnson, Chairman; Don Monnette. Ron Grass

CREDENTIALS: Frank Smutny, Chairman; LaVern Work, II, Jonathan Paz

ENTERTAINMENT OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS: Chairman; John T. Parsons, Chairman; Jay H. Speck, James Brown, Jr.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS: Dennis Newman, Chairman; Cecil Smith, David A. Portwood.

^{*} To be installed later

GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL PHILANTHROPY: Arthur C. Highman., Chairman; James Clark, Kirby Hunt.

GRAND ARCH SUPERVISOR: Daniel Marr

JURISPRUDENCE: Don Rife, Chairman; all Living Past Most Ill. Grand Masters. *NECROLOGY*: Timothy Peters, Chairman; Kenneth Bunnell, Joseph Charbonneau.

PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Walter Johnson, Chairman; Anthony Johnson, Hugh Nehls

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

MASTER WORKMEN: Fred O. Wyant, 26; Joseph H. Belden; Jerry F. Belpalec, Frank L. Borden, Jr., Donald E. Rife, David A. Shaw.

ORDER OF THE SILVER TROWEL

The Order of the Silver Trowel of Nebraska was opened at 1:10 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the Riverside Conference Center, Columbus, Nebraska, by T.I. Ron Grass. There were 16 members and visitors present. The degree of Thrice Illustrious master was conferred on:

Jonathan Paz, 1 Franklin Husky, 4 Jason Jenson, 14

The degree team consisted of: Ed Nolte, Master; Steve Barchus Sr. Warden; Carl Plants, Jr. Warden; Cecil Smith, Steward. AJ Johnson, King David

The current balance in the T.I. Savings account with Bank of the West as of December 31, 2017 is \$345.09.

Comp. A.J. Johnson moved that the current officers, with the exception of the Recorder advance one position. Approved.

Thrice Illustrious Master Edward W. Nolte installed the following officers for the 2019-2020. He was assisted by Comp. Ron Grass as Marshall.

T.I. Master Frank Borden, Jr.
T.I. Senior Warden Joe Work, II.
T.I. Junior Warden Carl Plants

T.I. Recorder/Treasurer Bruce T. Anderson

T.I. Prelate Cecil Smith
T.I. Steward Anthony Johnson
T.I. Sentinel Edward Raper

The order was closed at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Bruce 7. Anderson

Bruce T. Anderson

PAST THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS

The Thirte inc	DI MICOD MILIDI LIM
*1946-1948 Harold H. Thom	*1977 U. Wesley Fox
*1949 Herbert T. White	*1978 Harry A. Tollander
*1950 (Hon) Carl R. Greisen	*1979 Edward H. Lockwood
*1950 Clarence M. David	1987 Don R. Monnette
*1951 Charles W. Reeve	1988 Robert L. Williams
*1952 James W. Gillette	*1989 J. Robert Syme
*1953 George A. Stevens	*1990 Gordon B. Pinney
*1954 Edward W. Lowder	1991 Theodore J. Johnson
*1955 Thomas D. Williams	*1992 Robert M. McDonald
*1956 Willard C. Boldt	*1993 Virgil L. Tubach
*1957 Jack Watson	*1994 Gerald D. Sorensen
*1958 Charles F. Adams	*1995 Donald O. Bickham
*1959 LaVerne Jay Smith	1996 Fred O. Wyant
*1960 Robert E. Lund	1997 Donald C. Kemper
*1961 Brisben J. Hofer	*1998 Henry S. Greenwalt
*1962 Glenn H. Ault	*1999 Fred R. Prell
*1963 C. Harold Edwards	2000 Frank D. Smutny
*1964 Louis V. Sylvester	2001 Robert E. Wunder
*1965 August H. Boldt	2002 Mervin W. Titchen
*1967 Garvis E. Burrell	2003 James N. Karnegis
*1968 Eugene S. Whitney	2004 Marlin D. Palasek
*1969 Eugene L. Petterson	2005
*1970 Gail Q. Whitney	2006 Roger Miner
*1971 Ehm J. Sorensen	2007 James A. Clark
*1972 Donald W. Larkins	2008 Donald L. Grazier
*1973 Lillard S. Jensen	2009 Rick Harris
*1974 Richard T. Albright	*2010 John H. Dale
*1975 Curtis M. Maynard	2011 Steven C. Smith, I
*1976 Morton P. Steyer	2012 Richard Harris
*1980 Doane O. Trail	2013 Jerry Bespalec
*1981 Maurice W. Hall	*2014 Larry Zwart
*1982 Harley G Lofton	2015 Edward Nolte
*1983 Dale C. Wilson	2016 Thomas Michaelson
1984 Gail Axen	2017 Donald Rife
*1985 Gerald Reeves	2019 Ron Grass
*1986 Robert C. Franklin	

THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS RECORDER		
*Carl R. Greisen	1946-1950.	
*Harold H. Thom	1951-1972.	
*Ralph R. Carleton	1972-1979.	
*Floyd R. McKenzie	1979-1990.	
Jay H. Speck	1990-2005	
Robert Wunder	2006	
John F. Dale	2007	
Steven C. Smith, I	2008	
Richard Harris	2009	

*Denotes Deceased

EXTINCT COUNCILS

Name Location Date of Becom		Date of Becoming
		Extinct
Alpha Council No. 2	Nebraska City	December 10, 1889
Tuscon Council No. 15	Pawnee City	December 12, 1906
Solomon Council No. 10	Sutton	December 16, 1908
Robert Livingston Council No. 21	Plattsmouth	August 19, 1913
Jacob A. Hood Council No. 11	Schuyler	March 16, 1914
Tyrian Council No. 13	York	December 16, 1914
Loup Valley Council No. 25	St. Paul	December 12, 1923
Arbor Lodge Council No. 28	Nebraska City	December 8, 1953
*Temple Council No. 20	Scottsbluff-Temple, No. 20	July 2, 1975
*Cana Council No. 31	Sidney-Una, No. 32	February 18, 1978
*Ionic Council No. 17	Ord – Hastings, No. 8	July 22, 1978
*Geo W. Lininger Council No. 23	Long Pine – Shiloh, No. 30	March 22, 1985
*Una Council No. 32	Alliance – Temple, No. 20	December 31, 1985
*Cypress Council No. 22	Wymore – Raboni, No. 9	November 3, 1989
*Furnas Council No. 3	Auburn – Adoniram No. 5	June 30, 1996
*Boaz Council No. 29	Falls City – Adoniram No. 5	October 31, 2002
*Custer Council No. 18	Broken Bow – Zabud No. 6	January 1, 2005
*Naomi Council No. 26	Geneva – Hastings No. 8	August 15, 2015
Triangle Council No. 19	Norfolk	September 6, 2016

^{*}Consolidated

PAST MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL CRYPTIC MASONS IN NEBRASKA

Gail Axen, 19, P.O. Box 123, Stanton 68779-0123	(98th) 1979
Robert L. Williams, 8, 1000 Showboat Blvd., Hastings 68901-8423	(105^{th}) 1986
Don R. Monnette, 3, Rt. 2, Box 45, Humboldt 68379-9418	(108^{th}) 1989
Theodore J. Johnson, 9, 1514 Doyle Lane, Beatrice 68310-4711	(112 th) 1993
Jay H. Speck, 5, 606 Chicago Ave., Plattsmouth 68048-2061	(Hon.) 1993
Edward I. Morrow, 33, 1419 "I" St., Tekamah 68061-1230	(113 th) 1994
Frank D. Smutny, 24, 206 Wainwright, Grand Island 68802-8374	(114 th) 1995
John T. Parsons, 1, 1512 Beechwood Ave., Papillion 68133-2506	(116 ^{th)} 1997
Kirby E. Hunt, 33, 524 N. 9th St., Tekamah 68061-1169	(117^{th}) 1998
James N. Karnegis, 1, 20975 Bonanza Blvd., Elkhorn, NE 68022-1838	$(121^{st}) 2002$
Fred O. Wyant, 26, 316 Nebraska Ave. York, 68467-3662	(124th) 2006
Steven G. Lyne, 16, 1404 West H. Street, McCook, 69001-2970	(125th)2007
Robert E. Wunder, 4, 1820 NW 44th St. Lincoln, 68524	$(126^{th}) 2008$
James A. Clark, 9, 896 County Road 2350, Crete	$(127^{th}) 2009$
Steven C. Smith, I, 1, 215 Heavenly Dr., Omaha, 68154-2135	$(128^{th}) 2010$
Marlin D. Palasek,1&4,4859 So. 96th Plaza, Apt. #5,Omaha,68127-2345	$(129^{th}) 2011$
Jerry F. Bespalec, 9, 1140 Grove Avenue, Crete, 68333-2350	(130th) 2012

Anthony T. Johnson, 1 2613 Alberta Ave, Bellevue, NE 68147	(131st) 2013
Ronald Grass, 33 420 N 13th St, Tekamah, NE 68061	(132nd) 2014
Steven Barchus, 1 1521 S 94th St, Omaha, NE 68124	(133rd) 2015
Carl Plants, 4 6134 NW 6th St., Lincoln, NE, 68521	$(134^{th}) 2016$
Donald Rife, 16 35405 US Hwy 34, Stratton, NE 69043	$(135^{th}) 2017$
David Shaw, 1 3916 N Potsdam Ave #3136, Sioux Falls, SD 57104	$(136^{th}) 2018$

PAST ILLUSTRIOUS MASTERS WHO HAVE ENTERED INTO THE NINETH ARCH

Name	Date of Death	Number	Years Served
John Blake, 3	January 10, 1876	1 st	1872
Edwin F. Warren, 2	9-Jul-23	2^{nd}	1873
Charles Goodman, 1	January 11, 1895	$3^{\rm rd}$	1875, 1876
Robert W. Furnas, 3	1-Jun-05	4^{th}	1877
(Under the control of Grand Chapter 1878 - 1886)			
Alfred G. Hastings, 4	July 10, 1894	5 th	1886
Eben K. Long, 1	June 27, 1922	6^{th}	1887
Frank H. Young, 6	24-Dec-17	7^{th}	1888
Samuel P. Davidson, 5	8-Dec-28	8 th	1889
Frank H. Young, 6	24-Dec-17	9 th	1890
James Gilbert, 1	31-Dec-00	10 th	1891
Charles C. Rittenhouse, 8	24-Jul-37	11 th	1892
Jefferson H. Foxworthy, 4	October 27, 1897	12 th	1893
Henry A. Tutron, 6	10-Dec-08	13 th	1894, 1895
Charles J. Phelps, 11	24-Aug-15	14 th	1896
James Tyler, 4	1-Nov-19	15 th	1897
John J. Mercer, 3	25-Feb-15	16 th	1898
Daniel H. Wheeler, 1	27-Nov-12	17^{th}	1899
James A. Grimson, 11	5-Mar-23	18 th	1900
George W. Lininger, 1	8-Jun-07	19 th	1901
William I. Ritter, 1	20-Oct-30	20^{th}	1902

Arthur Truesdell, 7	3-Sep-20	21 st	1903
Gustave Anderson, 1	2-Oct-11	22 nd	1904
Lorenzo D. Woodruff, 4	1-Jan-19	$23^{\rm rd}$	1905
Charles C. Cannon, 11	4-Feb-18	24^{th}	1906
John E. Simpson, 1	16-Dec-64	25^{th}	1907
Fredrick J. Schaufelberger, 8	20-Nov-47	26^{th}	1908
Francis McGiverin, 7	7-Mar-30	27^{th}	1909
John W. Mitchell, 14	27-Aug-21	28^{th}	1910
George S. Powell, 1	20-Dec-15	29 th	1911
Chauncey L. Wattles, 20	22-Mar-45	30^{th}	1912
Lewis E. Smith, 23	10-Jul-65	31 st	1913
Charles P. Philbrick, 22	October 22,1929	32^{nd}	1914
August J. Albers, 7	11-Sep-47	33^{rd}	1915
John F. Kutz, 6	13-Oct-37	34^{th}	1916
William Pieper, 4	10-Mar-56	35^{th}	1917
Herbert A. Senter	23-May-24	36^{th}	1918
Barthold Koehler, 26	11-Dec-26	37^{th}	1919
Carroll D. Evans, Sr., 12	12-Aug-38	38 th	1920
Fredrick W. Tyler, 4	2-Feb-52	39 th	1921
John T. Dysart, 1	1-Jan-45	40^{th}	1922
Benjamin F. Pittman, 27	7-Feb-50	41 st	1923
Harry S. Villars, 5	21-Dec-40	42 nd	1924
George S. Ticknor, 1	8-Aug-27	43^{rd}	1925
Clarence M. Davis, 17	January 2,1958	44 th	1926
Seward E. Cogswell, 24	15-Apr-38	45 th	1927
James W. Wynkoop, 4	27-May-39	46 th	1928
Louis F. Schonlau, 1	12-Oct-44	47^{th}	1929
Charles G. Montgomery, 6	25-Jul-38	48 th	1930
Clendeen W. Mitchell, 27	17-Sep-49	50^{th}	1932
Roy W. Hunter, 14	10-Aug-48	51 st	1933
Vioney B. Trimble, 8	8-Nov-39	52 nd	1934

Paul A. Wilcox, 1	18-Mar-44	53 rd	1935
Harley V. Styer, 4	30-Nov-65	54 th	1936
Lewis W. MacDonald, 23	16-Dec-39	55 th	1937
William M. Sloan, 26	17-Dec-72	56 th	1938
W. Carleton Rector, 12	31-Oct-59	57 th	1939
Virgil L. Johnson, 9	7-Aug-56	58 th	1940
Guy A. Brown, 26	27-Dec-67	59 th	1941
John J. Loomis, 4	21-Mar-45	60 th	1942
Ellis W. Cass, 1	30-May-46	61 st	1943
Robert E. Lund, 12	14-Nov-76	62 nd	1944
Walter R. Raecke, 24	9-Apr-60	63 rd	1945
Linden S. Crain, 4	13-Mar-68	64 th	1946
Osborne P. Simon, 16	7-Mar-58	65 th	1947
Herbert T. White, 1	12-Oct-75	66 th	1948
Clarence A. Pittman, 12	5-May-65	67 th	1949
Edward E. Carr, 6	16-Sep-59	68 th	1950
Jack Watson, 4	30-Jan-59	69 th	1951
Warren D. Lichty, Sr., 27	22-Dec-79	70^{th}	1952
Charles W. Reeve, 1	7-Feb-75	71 st	1953
Carl L. Greisen, 6	29-Jun-95	Hon 72 nd	1954
Fred Fouts, 24	18-Mar-62	73 rd	1954
Brisben J. Hofer, 16	8-Apr-66	74 th	1955
Alfred F. Walter, 1	11-Mar-85	75 th	1956
Wilfred C. Boldt, 6	15-Jan-67	76 th	1957
Charles F. Adams, 24	17-Apr-80	77 th	1958
Harold H. Thom, 1	14-Jun-74	78 th	1959
Eugene S. Whitney, 9	12-Jan-75	79 th	1960
Edward H. Lockwood, 20	23-Sep-94	80 th	1961
Archie W. White, 7	27-Oct-01	81 st	1962
Harvey A. Smith, 1	7-Mar-81	82 nd	1963
J. Adolf Wensien, 3	8-Dec-73	$83^{\rm rd}$	1964

Earl W. Schultz, 32	15-Jan-83	84 th , 85 th	1965, 1966
Harley G. Lofton, Sr., 16	26-Jun-98	86 th	1967
Clarence Isaacson, 19	1-Mar-85	87 th	1968
C. Harold Edwards, 3	12-Mar-89	88 th	1969
Louis V. Sylvester, 1	4-Dec-97	89 th	1970
Donald G. Hafer, 20	25-Apr-97	90 th	1971
Russell E. Ellis, 6	26-Feb-87	91 st	1972
Curtis M. Maynard, 8	7-Aug-83	92 nd	1973
Wayne W. Reese, 4	9-Jun-90	93 rd	1974
Morton P. Steyer, 1	Feb. 14, 1997	94 th	1975
Wayne L. Campbell, 20,	26-Oct-95	95 th	1976
Doane O. Trail, 16	16-Jan-95	96 th	1977
Ralph R. Carlton, 1	22-Jan-81	Hon 97 th	1978
J. Herb Price, 7	6-Nov-01	97 th	1978
Harry A. Tollander, 1	Feb. 22, 1997	99 th	1980
Delbert V. Clark, 6	25-Apr-83	100 th	1981
Richard N. Nielsen, 7	1-Apr-90	101 st	1982
Robert M. McDonald, 16	13-Jun-99	104 th	1985
Gordon B. Pinney, 27	23-Dec-10	106th	1987
Dale C. Wilson, 1	19-Apr-89	Hon 106 th	1987
Morgan A. Hartman, 26	4-Sep-08	107 th	1988
Floyd R. McKenzie, 7	9-Jun-91	Hon 107 th	1989
Warren D. Lichty, Sr., 27	23-May-12	109th	1990
Bert C. Keith, 6	31-Jul-92	110 th	1991
Steven K. Jones, 20	9-Nov-92	Hon 111 th	1992
Virgil L. Tubach, 4	17-Nov-01	111 th	1992
Fred R. Prell, 16	19-Jul-06	115th	1996
Henry S. Greenwalt, 4	1-Nov-05	118th	1999
William G. Hurst, 4	8-Aug-07	119 th	2000
Viron E. Baxter, 16	10-Jul-15	120th	2001
John F. Dale	6-Mar-18	122nd	2003

Roger L. Galusha	25-Apr-07	123rd	2004
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GRAND RECORDERS		
*Edwin F. Warren	November 20, 1872 - November 14, 1873	
*William R. Bowen	November 14, 1873 - May 6, 1899	
*Francis E. White	May 7, 1899 - December 16, 1925	
*Lewis E. Smith	December 16, 1925 - December 3, 1946	
*Carl R. Greisen	December 3, 1946 - April 8, 1969	
*Ralph R. Carleton	April 8, 1969 - April 11, 1980	
*Floyd R. McKenzie	April 11, 1980 - April 5, 1990	
Jay H. Speck	April 5, 1990 – April 6, 2006	
Bruce T. Anderson	April 6, 2006 – April 7, 2017	
Dennis A. Newman	April 7, 2017 to present	

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