

## THE GRAND YORK RITE OF NEBRASKA 2017

Proceedings of

# GRAND CHAPTER of ROYAL ARCH MASONS APRIL 6, 2017

held at Kearney, Nebraska

## GRAND CHAPTER R.A.M. OF NEBRASKA OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017

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Comp. Bruce T. Anderson, PGHI	P, 6R.E. Grand Secretary
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Comp. Thomas M. Michaelson, 6.	R.E. Grand Lecturer
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Comp. Brett Bennett, 5	901 Starview Lane, Lincoln, NE 68512E. Grand Captain of the Host
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Comp. Jonathan Paz, 61	E. Grand Principal Sojourner
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Comp Lavern Work, II, 5	E. Grand Master, Third Veil
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Comp. Daniel J. Marr, 61	E. Grand Sentinel
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Comp. Reginald Kuhn, 6	E. Grand Musician
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THE NEXT ANNUAL CONVOCATION WILL BE HELD AT "YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER - KEARNEY, NE APRIL 6, 2018

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## ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE, INC P.O. BOX 128, GREENFIELD, IN 46140-0128

70th Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter Red Lion on the River, Portland, Oregon, August 23, to August 29, 2017 Information at triennial.org

### ANTHONY T. JOHNSON 150TH GRAND HIGH PRIEST



AJ Johnson was born on 15 November 1963 in Keokuk Iowa. He grew up the majority of his life in a small down of seventy-five people called Stillwell Illinois. While growing up he was a jack of all trades and worked on farms, repairing engines, doing carpentry and other laborer type jobs until he graduated for Southeastern High School in Augusta Illinois. Right after graduation he joined the United States Air Force in hopes of being able to obtain an education. In the Air Force he was trained to be an Aircraft Armament Systems Technician (fancy name for bomb loader) and he did that job for twelve years until the Air Force decide to reorganize and then he was re-trained to be a Targeting Intelligence Specialist. He performed that job for another fifteen years and finally retired from the Air Force after twenty-seven years and at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant in 2006. After retiring from the service he returned back to the base and worked as a government contractor for a couple of years and then finally became an Air Force civilian. He currently works as the Division Chief of Intelligence and Scenario Development being the bad guy in a lot of major Combatant Command exercise. Since arriving in Omaha in 1998 Companion Johnson has been active in the community being a Team Captain for the Christmas in April Program which changed to Rebuilding Together. He was on their Board of Trustees for three years. He has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Omaha Home for Boys.

Companion Johnson's Masonic record indicates that he was originally raised in Denver Lodge in

Illinois and maintains a life time membership there. After arriving in Omaha, he also became a member of George W. Lininger Lodge and has served twice as its Past Master. He is also a Past High Priest of Florence Chapter and Past Illustrious Master of Omaha Council, In the Council he is serving as the Grand Arch Supervisor and has also served as the one hundred thirty-second Grand Illustrious Master of Nebraska. By the end of 2017 he will be the Past Commander of Mount Calvary Commandry and will be serving as the Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandry. He is also served four times as Worthy Patron of Adah Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

Companion Johnson has affiliations with the other appendant Masonic bodies; a thirty-third degree Inspector General Honorary in the Omaha Valley Scottish Rite, past Director of the Clown Unit at Tangier Shrine in Omaha, member of the Sneh Bo' Aire Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees, Eminent Viceroy of the Coeur De Lion Conclave of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, Past President of the Local national Sojourners Chapter and Past Commander of the Heroes of 76 Joseph Warren Camp, the Royal Order of Jester, the Royal Order of Scotland and the Chancellor of the York Rite College number one hundred thirty-eight. In the Grand Chapter, he served six years as the Grand Lecturer and was first installed as the Grand Principle Sojourner and advanced through the line to Grand High Priest.

# GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED FORTY NINTH CONVOCATION KEARNEY, NEBRASKA - APRIL 7, 2017

The One Hundred Forty Ninth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska was held at the Younes Convention Center, Kearney, Nebraska, on Friday, April 7, 2017.

The opening of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was done by the Grand Chapter officers, Most Excellent Companion Anthony Johnson, Most Excellent Grand High Priest presiding. Before the Grand Chapter was opened, Comp. Anthony Johnson, M.E. Grand High Priest, was escorted to the East and given Grand Honors. The remaining Grand Officers were introduced and took their respective stations.

#### GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS PRESENT

Comp. Anthony T. Johnson, 61	
Comp. David Shaw, 1	R.E. Grand King
Vacant	
Comp. Dennis Newman, 61	R.E. Grand Treasurer
Comp. Bruce T. Anderson, PGHP, 6	
Comp. Mervyn Moeller, 6	R.E. Grand Chaplain
Vacant	R.E. Grand Lecturer
Comp. Brett R. Bennett, 5	E. Grand Captain of the Host
Comp. Jonathan Paz, 61	E. Grand Principal Sojourner
Comp. Michael Jones, 18	E. Grand Royal Arch Captain
Comp. Lavern Work, II, 5	E. Grand Master Third Veil
Comp. Jeffrey M. Coleman, 1	E. Grand Master Second Veil
Vacant	
Comp. Daniel Marr, 61	E. Grand Sentinel
None	E. Grand Musician
Absent: Arthur Stricker, Tom Michaelson, Ed Morava	

#### RECEPTION OF PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS

The following Past M.E. Grand High Priests were introduced by the R.E. Deputy Grand High Priest and welcomed by the M.E. Grand High Priest and given Grand Honors.

M.E. Comp. Keith J. Herbster, 6	112 <sup>th</sup>	1978
M.E. Comp. Jay H. Speck, 3	Hon.	1994
M.E. Comp. Fred O. Wyant, 33	128th	1994
M.E. Comp. James N. Karnegis, 1	130 <sup>th</sup>	1996
M.E. Comp. James A. Clark, 17		2001
M.E. Comp. John T. Parsons, 61		2003
M.E. Comp. Bruce T. Anderson, 64		2005
M.E. Comp. Ronald D. Grass, 24	142 <sup>nd</sup>	2008
M.E. Comp. Jerry F. Bespalec, 17		2009
M.E. Comp. James F. Brown, Jr, 6	144 <sup>th</sup>	2010
M.E. Comp. Steven R. Barchus, 61	145 <sup>th</sup>	2011
M.E. Comp. Edward W. Nolte, 1	146 <sup>th</sup>	2012
M.E. Comp. Donale E. Rife, 35	149th	2015
Absent were: M.E. Companions Gail Axen, Kirby Hunt, Marlin D. Palasek, 6 & 1,		
Bryan Lee, 3, Mervin W. Titchen, 15, Edward I. Morrow, F. Wayne Bowman,		
Robert Wunder, 6, Theodore Johnson, 6, Steven C. Smith, I, 1.		

#### RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

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

#### Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Colorado

E. Comp. Robert D. Elsloo, Excellent Grand Master of the First Veil

#### Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Iowa

M.E. Comp. Stephen G. Libby, Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest

R.E. Comp. Dennis E. Boehmer, Right Excellent Grand King

#### Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Minnesota

M.E. Comp. Marvin W. Schendel, Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest

E. Comp. Carl F. Lidstrom, Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner

#### Grand Chapter of Missouri

M.E. Comp. Dr. John W. Siscel, III, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

#### Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of South Dakota

- M.E. Comp. George Bauder, Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary
- M.E. Comp. Richard McBride, Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest
- M.E. Comp. Stephen M. Butterfield, Most Excellent Grand High Priest
- M.E. Comp. Stan Schwellenbach, Past Most Excellent Grand Priest
- R.E. Comp. Roger H. Hansen, Right Excellent Grand King
- R.E. Comp. Jon Gonsor, Right Excellent Grand Scribe
- E. Comp. Herbert Cook, Excellent Grand Captain of the Host
- E. Comp. Bruce Crisman, Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain

#### Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Wyoming

E. Comp. Harry L. Furrey, Right Excellent Grand Captain of the Host

#### Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Nebraska

M.I. Comp. Carl Plants, Most Illustrious Grand Master

#### Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska

Sir Knight Brett Bennett, Right Eminent Grand Commander

#### Appendant Bodies of Nebraska

Comp. Keith J. Herbster, Past Intendant General, Red Cross of Constantine

Comp. James F. Brown, Jr., Intendant General, State of Nebraska

Comp. Ronald Grass, Grand Governor, York Rite College

Comp. Robert L. Williams, Past Grand Governor, York Rite College

Comp. Hugh Nehls, Puissant Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, Shiloh Conclave

of Nebraska

Comp. Edward W. Nolte, Thrice Illustrious Master, Order of the Silver Trowel

Puissant Sovereign of the Red Cross of Constantine, Coeur De Lion Conclave

of Nebraska

1st Vice President of National Sojourners

#### General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International

M.E. Comp. Louis E. Bartrand, Most Excellent General Grand High Priest

Companion Bartrand, General Grand High Priest and thanked the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for all the courtesies afforded him during his stay.

M.E. Comp. Steven R. Barchus, Ambassador to Nebraska

#### Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska

Right Worshipful Brother Ronald D. Stites, Grand Junior Warden

Worshipful Brother James A. Carlton, Grand Senior Deacon

Worshipful Brother Ronald D. Grass, Grand Orator

Worshipful Brother Anthony T. Johnson, Personal Representative of the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Nebraska

Most Worshipful Brother Michael E. Jones, Past Grand Master

Most Worshipful Brother John T. Parsons, Past Grand Master

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

Most Worshipful Brother Rick Myers, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska

The Most Worshipful Brother Myers brought greetings and shared the activities of the Grand Lodge. He concluded by thanking the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for all the courtesies afforded him and wished for him a most successful Grand Convocation.

#### PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE SWEETHEART AWARDS 17

2010 Ilah Anderson Judy Bespalec 2011 Corene Herbster Sally Bunnell Marilyn Twining Kay Clark

Melva Nicholson T. Joyce Grass

Katherine Nehls Mary E. Williams

Diane V. Brown Joanie Jones

Marcia Michaelson Dona Hurst

Diane Wunder Sherry Popovitz

Connie K. Smith Kathe E. K. Barchus

2012 Elizabeth Charbonneau Linda Nolte

2013 Wendy Johnson

## GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

*Comp. Walter Johnson*, of Euphrates Chapter No. 15, North Plattte. the recipient of the Bronze Distinguished Service Medal of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International.

## RECIPIENTS IN NEBRASKA OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL		
*1951 Fred G. Christensen, 11		
*1952 William Chuda, 60	*1985 Clyde A. Stratton, 54	
*1953 Welcome W. Naylor, 48	1986 Gordon C. Wassell, 60	
*1954 Ralph R. Koken, 37	*1987 Frank H. Smith, 65	
*1955 Earl W. Dean, 60	*1988 Jugurtha W. Coulter, 65	
*1956 Roy W. Becker, 30	*1989 C. Vernon Hovendick, 24	
*1957 Ralph Crockett, 39	*1990 Clifford M. Case, 48	
*1958 John J. Smith, 1	1991 Edward A. Brenneis, 24	
*1959 Elmer G. Englehorn, 54	1992 Thomas A. Clark, 3	
*1960 Russell F. Richmond, 64	1993 Ray E. Gaymon, 21	
*1961 Thomas O. McFarland, 65	*1994 Lyle D. Spencer, 64	
*1962 Leonard J. Owen, 6	*1995 Howard D. Blatchford, 33	
*1963 William B. Wanner, 5	*1996 Merle P. Hayes, 37	
*1964 Percy L. Erixson, 10	*1997 Maynard Tatelman, 1	
*1965 Robert W. Boon, 11	*1998 Cecil L. Ristau, 64	
*1966 Carl E. Hallgren, 42	*1999 Otto F. Kloke, 26	
*1967 Gordon Streblow, 51	2000 Lawrence L. Morris, 21	
*1968 R. Clare Johnson, 24	*2001 William A. Cox, 1	
*1969 Arthur P. Starkjohann, 63	2002 Jerry F. Bespalec, 17	
*1970 Floyd W. Miles, 64	2003 Norvald C. Nielsen, 61	
*1971 Curtis M. Maynard, 21	2004 Gale R. Carel, 10	
*1972 Paul L. Toombs, 60	2005 Paul J. Redwine, Jr., 10	
* 1973 Joe L. Wilson, 1	2006 Jay H. Speck, 3	
*1974 Loren J. Stevens, 15	2007 Arthur S. Dye, 21	
*1975 Winfield B. Kurtz, 61	2008 Robert L. Williams, 21	
1976 Wm. W. Cook, Jr., 10	2009 Anthony J. Johnson, 61	
*1977 Dale C. Wilson, 1	2010 Michael E. Jones, 12	
*1978 J. Chris Peterson, 65	2011 Edgar A. Bredmeier, 3	
*1979 Wm L. Walker, 6	2012 William K. Stone, 1	
1980 Dale Sigman, 11	2013 Jerald D. Verbeek, 8	
*1981 Joseph Hoffman, 8	2014 James Gansemer, 3	
*1982 Kenneth O. Smith, 64	2015 James Karnegis, MD,Phd, 1	
*1983 V. Edward Arnold, 5	2016 Arthur R. Stricker, 65	
1984 William Vieth, 61	2017 Walter Johnson, 15	

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes Deceased

## DALE L. MACE MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING SECRETARY-RECORDER AWARD

This is to confirm and certify that Gsil Axen of Damascus Chapter No. 25 of Norfolk, has been chosen as the outstanding service to the York Rite. This award was presented at the Grand York Rite Banquet.

## RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING SECRETARY-RECORDER AWARD

*1995 Glenn M. Parks	2008 James Gansemer
1996 William C. Boon	2009 David Portwood
1997 Richard L. Vlach	2010 Brett Bennett
*1998 William A. Cox	2011 John Lippert

*1999 James O. Thone 201	2 Carl Highman
2000 Robert L. Ferguson 201	3 Bryan Burrows
*2001 Donald O. Bickham 201	4 Jay Speck
2002 Joseph E. Manes 201.	5 Bob Williams
*2003 Roger L. Galusha 201	6 Phil Lyons
2004 Joseph E. Manes 201	7 Gail Axen
2005 Donald L. Grazier	
2006 All of Them	
2007 Joe Belden	

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes Deceased

#### PRESENTATION OF BANNERS

Omaha Chapter No. 1 of Omaha won the Lewis E. Smith Banner for the greatest number of exaltations, with Six (6) exaltations and Mackey Chapter No. 24 of Tekamah won the banner for highest percentage of gain in membership, 1.09%.

#### SPECIAL PHILANTHROPIC PRESENTATIONS

A representative from the following chapters came forward with a check for RARA: Florence Chapter No. 61, Omaha, King Cyrus Chapter 35. McCook

#### GRAND CHAPTER R.A. M. BUSINESS MEETING

The M.E. Grand High Priest requested the R.E. Grand Secretary to call the roll of the constituent Chapters, one chapter was not represented, Oregon Trail chapter No. 65, Gering. This being a constitutional number present, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska was declared open for the regular order of business.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND RULES

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

- 1. The business meeting shall be conducted by "MASONIC TRADITION", not by "Robert's Rules of Order".
- 2. The Grand High Priest shall appoint a *Parliamentarian for the Annual Convocation*. The Parliamentarian shall advise the Grand High Priest as to rules and procedures in conducting the business of the Convocation.
- 3. Committee Reports shall be given by the Chairman or designated member from the podium at the Grand Secretary's table unless otherwise directed by the Grand High Priest.
- 4. All Proposed Amendments must be submitted to the Grand Secretary in writing prior to the close of the Annual Convocation. If unanimous consent is denied, it shall lay over until the next Annual Convocation. One of the signers of any Amendment brought to the floor for discussion shall state the position of the signers prior to the ballot.
- 5. Dais Officers may speak from the East on any motion, resolution, committee report, or other matter. Members of the Grand Chapter may speak from the microphone near the Grand Secretary's desk. In order to obtain the floor, a member first must be recognized by the officer presiding, and then state his name and Chapter before addressing the Grand Chapter.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Time limits for speaking on any item of business may be imposed if the officer presiding so announces.
- 8. When the Grand Chapter is considering the decision and formal recommendations of the Grand High Priest, the Grand High Priest 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 Grand High Priest permitted to speak, followed by members of the Grand Chapter.
- 9. The method of voting on any item of business shall be determined by the Grand High Priest or other officer presiding.
- 10. Questions of procedure not provided for by the Grand Chapter Constitution and/or Bylaws, or these rules, shall be determined by the Grand High Priest.

Fraternally Submitted

Bruce 7. Anderson, Grand Secretary

Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Nebraska

It was moved and seconded these rules be adopted. Motion carried.

#### **BALLOT BOX**

The **Grand High Priest** declared the ballot box opened and appointed the following Companions to serve as tellers: M.E. **Companion Edward Nolte (61), Chairman, M.E. Companion Steven Barchus (1) and Companion Zack Powell (61).** The **Grand High Priest** introduced M.E. **Companion Jay Speck** who will serve as parliamentarian for the business meeting.

#### RECEPTION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

The R.E. Grand Secretary was requested to call the roll of the Grand Representatives of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska. All were present except: Companions Arthur Stricker, Fred C. Way, Jr, William B. Coker, James Batten, William Parrish, Donald E. Rassmussen, Winfield Barber, Donald C. Kemper, Tim Wroot, David A. Johnson, Bryan Lee, William C. Boon, Mervin Titchen, Robert Wunder, Marlin Palasek, Wilbur McNally, Edward I. Morrow, William H. Erickson, Don G. Hopkins, Randall Hart, Gail Twining, Ted Johnson, Clifford I. Morrow, Alvin Benemerito, Alexander Murray, Hugh Nehls, Sam Harmer, Jr., Joseph G. Smith, Daniel Scarborough, Arthur S. Dye, Jeffrey Wunder, Dale W. Anderson & Gerald Gleason.

#### HIGH PRIESTS, KINGS, SCRIBES AND SECRETARIES

The M.E. Grand High Priest invited the High Priests, Kings, Scribes and Secretaries from the constituent chapters that were present to approach the east facing west. They were greeted by the M.E. Grand High Priest and given a hearty welcome.

#### GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS

First let me welcome you to this 149<sup>th</sup> Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska. I would especially like to thank all of our Companions from the Grand Jurisdictions of the North Central Region who have come to help us celebrate this milestone in Chapter Masonry in Nebraska. I also would like to give a special thanks to all of the other visiting Companions from the other Grand Jurisdiction who are also in attendance. A very special thanks and note of gratitude is given to Most Excellent Companion Louis Bartrand for his attendance at this historic session.

Most all Grand High Priests ahead of me also started with a welcome to the guests and then took different paths in their addresses that may include informing the convocation of the deaths within the Grand Line or they may have went into the official business they had performed during the year. I am going to start with the goals I had hoped to achieve during the year.

The first goal was to assign the Grand Chapter Officers Chapters to visit during the year to better prepare some of them to later assume the position of Grand High Priest and to allow them to get to know some of the membership throughout the state. I had asked for a minimum of e-mails when they made these visits and I received very few e-mails during the year which indicated they had not made their visits. To the Chapters they were assigned I apologize for not following up with these officers to ensure they were making their visits. As the Grand High Priest I visited all the Chapters minus the Chapters in McCook, Gering and Chadron. I would offer my apology to them for not making an official visit, not because they are not important, but because I got caught up in performing the other business that needed to get accomplished during the year or was not able to set a date where they could get together their membership to have me visit. During my visits the Grand Treasurer and Grand Lecturer attended a vast majority of the visits and I offer my gratitude to them for their dedication. Later in this address I will cover what I believe the condition of the craft is currently and where I believe will be if we do not implement some changes in the near future after reviewing my notes.

My second goal was obviously to increase our membership. During my installation, I challenged the membership to bring in 150 new members to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year. I was aware when I made the challenge that it was a lofty goal, but it was designed to inspire an excitement in the Chapters to truly have something to work toward. It was also

done to continue to have the Chapters working on degree work and ritual to continue and hopefully to stimulate other Chapters to start to work on their ritual and meetings. We fell short of the goal this year, but I applaud those Chapters that did perform their own degree work in Lincoln, Plattsmouth and Omaha. I also wish to thank the Eastern York Rite College and Most Excellent Companion Ed Nolte for their and his efforts in arranging a Festival in North Platte to bring in members in the Western part of the state and to help increase the membership there. A positive action that is come from that Festival is that there hopefully remains a plan to continue these Festivals in the Western part of the State for the next several years to continue to grow their membership and to help them be able to perform their own Festivals in the future.

The third goal I set was to assist the Blue Lodges and Chapters. I encouraged my officers and the Chapters when I visited to return to their Blue Lodges and to offer assistance in degree work and to make themselves visible as Chapter Masons. We are nowhere in Royal Arch Masonry without the Blue Lodges and it is our duty to assist them where we can and if we show the proper support it will be a natural occurrence for Master Masons to continue their education in the Royal Arch Degrees as well as in Council and Commandry if we impress them during the Royal Arch Degrees.

I will now cover the official business I accomplished during the year. I started the year with approving a dispensation to allow Nebraska Chapter in Plattsmouth to move their installation because of inclement weather to the following week other than their normal meeting night. I did not receive any by-laws to approve for Chapters during the year. I did however visit the following Chapters.

Lincoln Chapter #6

Mt Zion Chapter #17

Mackey Chapter #24

Euphrates Chapter # 15

Hastings Chapter #21 in conjunction with the Deputy Grand Commander

Signet Chapter #8

Tadmor Chapter #37

Orient Chapter #18

Nebraska Chapter #3

Florence Chapter #61

Omaha Chapter #1

Damascus Chapter #25 to arrest the charter along with the Grand Illustrious Master and Grand Commander to receive the charters for Council and Commandry.

In looking at the last visit mention it became necessary to have Damascus Chapter surrender their charter for a lack of payment of dues to the Grand Chapter for a period of over six years. A letter was sent to the Chapter offering them an option to just have their charter suspended for two years, but it was refused. This forced the Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master and Grand Commander to travel to Norfolk to receive the charters for all three bodies. The letter and actions are on file for review by any Chapter member who would like to review them. My attention was then turned to reviewing and rewriting the constitution and by-laws of the Grand Chapter to bring them in line with General Grand Chapter, to ensure the appropriate changes over the last decade were incorporated and to eliminate those items which were no longer valid or are no longer done in our Grand Jurisdiction. They have been reviewed by the Codification of the Law Committee and have been sent to all the Chapters and past Grand High Priests and hopefully they can be voted on in this session to bring the Chapter and Council by-laws more in line with each other and to complete a review that probably should have been done years ago. During all this period I reviewed all 150 years of Grand Proceedings to compile a history of our craft to make up for the 49 page booklet that was constructed during the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The book was completed and went to publishing in February of 2017 and has been published for your pleasure during this session. I also designed a 150 year coin which all attending the banquet this evening will receive. I also represented the Grand Chapter and the Office of Grand High Priest at the following events:

Grand Assembly of the Rainbow for Girls

Grand Conclave of the Order of DeMolay in Nebraska

Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star

Annual Conclave of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine

Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska The Conference of the Grand Masters in North America Five Festivals for York Rite Degree Work in Nebraska participating in all of the Degree Work

I would now like to cover my observations of the condition of the Craft within the state before closing. We are all aware that our numbers continue to dwindle, but I feel there is no desire or ambition to ensure we continue to maintain and potentially prosper in the state. Companions the glass is not half empty, but half full and we all need to decide whether we can fill the glass again. Our predecessors at a time when Nebraska had a lot less population established a Grand Chapter that had 8976 Royal Arch Masons. We have a larger population and the same things to offer they had then so we should be able to inspire a greater membership than the basically 890 we have now. This will require an enthusiasm for the Royal Arch and a desire to share those things that you hold dear in the Royal Arch. I would assume that you all would want the Royal Arch to be around after we depart this life and put down our working tools for our sons, nephews, grandsons, as it appears after my writing of our history that our predecessors wished to have happen. I truly believe that we have the capability to improve our situation in membership if we start now. The bottom-line will be that if we do not start to do something now Chapter and York Rite Masonry as a whole will be dead in a majority of the state and once it disappears it will be incredibly hard to re-establish. One or two people in each Chapter cannot keep a Chapter alive and will eventually become burned out from trying to do everything themselves. Before I conclude I encourage you to return to your Chapters with a new vigor and enthusiasm knowing you have a fantastic history and tremendous accomplishments of which you could grow on and insure that Royal Arch Masonry will survive to celebrate a 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I will conclude my address with my gratitude for being allowed to serve as the Grand High Priest of Nebraska and to all of the officers in the Grand Line for the work they performed in their offices during the year. I would also like to thank my wife, Wendy who put up with several nights of me being gone and other nights when I was working on the 150<sup>th</sup> year history or the constitution and bylaws for the Grand Chapter. Also to all the Companions here and in the North Central region for their hospitality during my visits and in their support for all I was able to accomplish. I now present this address for the approval of the Grand Session.

Fraternally Submitted,

Anthony "Af" Johnson Anthony T. "AJ" Johnson Grand High Priest 2016-2017

I move for adoption of this report and that it be referred to the Jurisprudence committee.

#### REPORT OF THE R.E. GRAND SECRETARY

I would like to thank everyone for continued support I received during this year as your Grand Recorder. A special thanks to Doc and Jeanne Karnegis and Dennis Newman for all their help and support in maintaining the records. Dennis has greatly enhanced this office. He has continually upgraded the website and many of our forms are now available on line. As this is my last year as Grand Secretary I want to thank all the Grand Officers that I have had the privilege to work with and all the companions throughout Nebraska for their support. It has been a great 11 years.

I hereby submit my report for the year ending December 31, 2016.

The Grand Chapter issued Multi-Year pins to the following Companions in the year of 2016:

Gail Axen	Damascus 25	07/17/59	55 yr	09/01/16
Thomas Dover	Damascus 25	10/04/62	50 yr	09/01/16
Gilbert Fisher	Damascus 25	04/07/52	60 yr	09/01/16
Raymond Kincannon	Damascus 25	04/26/60	50 yr	09/01/16
Earl Mitchell	Damascus 25	10/04/62	50 yr	09/01/16
Jon Moyer	Damascus 25	10/17/66	50 yr	10/17/16
John Rees	Damascus 25	04/24/66	50 yr	09/01/16
Merle Rix	Damascus 25	05/02/16	50 yr	09/01/16
Robert Crumbliss	Tadmore 37	01/25/66	50yr	11/20/16
Mason Ely	Tadmore 37	10/29/65	50 yr	11/20/16
William Hgasemeyer	Tadmore 37	11/23/55	60 yr	11/20/16
George Kotsiopulos	Chapter No. 21	12/14/49	65 yr.	12/20/16

## GRAND CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT

		Chapter Chapter Proposed-	
	TOTAL	2016	Actual-2016
	Starting Balance Receipts	\$9,374.60	\$9,387.23
401	Dues	\$18,522.00	\$13,350.70
402	Fees	\$250.00	\$400.00
403	Reinstatements	\$100.00	\$50.00
404	Bond Premium	\$100.00	\$113.28
405	Charties	\$700.00	\$813.83
406	Sale of Supplies	\$450.00	\$597.88
407	Intrest	\$10.00	\$0.00
408	Annual Grand Session Perpetural Life	\$5,040.00	\$4,292.52
410	Membership Investment	\$2,500.00	\$4,480.00
412	Redemptions	\$0.00	\$0.00
414	Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$4,363.36
	Total Total plus starting	\$27,672.00	\$28,461.57
	balance Disbursements	\$37,046.60	\$37,848.80
451	Grand Officers Expense	\$1,500.00	\$500.00

452	Annual Meeting Expense	\$4,680.00	\$4,225.90
453	Triannual	\$0.00	\$0.00
454	Grand Secretary Salary	\$5,234.40	\$4,729.32
455	Grand Secretary Travel	\$352.80	\$59.54
456	Treasure Travel	\$360.00	\$131.94
	Bond Premium &		
457	Fidelity	\$216.00	\$180.00
458	Transfers	\$0.00	\$2,891.32
	Personal Property		
459	Insurance	\$936.00	\$817.56
460	Supplies for Resale	\$540.00	\$2,097.99
461	Office Supplies	\$324.00	\$294.67
462	Equipment Replacement	\$100.00	\$9.63
463	Postage	\$648.00	\$603.66
464	Rent	\$1,296.00	\$1,252.80
465	Telephone	\$810.00	\$827.65
	Perpetual Life		
466	Membership	\$2,500.00	\$7,244.64
467	General Grand Dues	\$1,100.00	\$1,800.00
468	Philantropies	\$500.00	\$799.93
469	Magazine Expense	\$2,400.00	\$2,113.76
470	Past Grand Officer Jewel	\$68.00	\$171.36
471	Youth	\$300.00	\$300.00
472	Memorials	\$20.00	\$0.00
	Equipment Rental &		
474	Maintance	\$792.00	\$1,076.18
476	Utilities	\$417.60	\$300.12
478	Workman's Comp.	\$126.00	\$111.96
	Taxes		
479	(Fed/Unempl/State)	\$1,116.00	\$1,042.47
480	Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$172.58
	Total	\$26,336.80	\$33,754.98
	Receipts less		
	Disbursements	\$10,709.80	\$4,093.82

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

#### Joint account of all three Grand York Rite Bodies

Joint account of all three Grand Yor	k Rite Bodies
	Amount
Grand Chapter \$55,959.02	
Grand Council \$49,741.3	
Grand Commandery	
·	• ,
Morgan Stanley Account Value Dec. 31, 2016	\$155,441.72
YORK RITE PUBLIC RELATION	NS FUND 17
Balance in Bank of the West Dec. 31, 2015	\$4,173.33
RECEIPTS:	
Interest Earned	\$4.27
Funds transferred	<b>\$0.00</b>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<b>\$4.27</b>
DISBURSEMENTS:	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$0.00
Balance in Bank of the West, Dec. 31, 2016	\$4,177.60
ROYAL ARCH EDUCATIONAL & MEMORIAL FUNI	)
(DR. CHARLES F. & MATTI	E BAKER)
Balance in Bank of West, Dec. 31, 2015	\$10,041.35
Interest Earned	\$10.04
TOTAL Receipts	\$10.04
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Purchase of Collars	\$1363.86
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:\$1	
Balance in Bank of the West, Dec. 31, 2016	\$8687.53

### **CHAPTER RETURNS**

All but one chapter has submitted their reports and paid fees. Four (4) Chapters failed to have an exaltation this year compared to twelve (12) last year.

One chapter closed during the 2016 year.

Number of Chartered Chapters, December 31, 2015	
Number Exalted	
Number Admitted	31*
Number Reinstated	2

TOTAL GAIN	64
Number Demitted	30*
Number Died	34
Number Suspended	33
TOTAL LOSS	
NET LOSS	33
Number of Royal Arch Masons, December 31, 2015	878
Number of Royal Arch Masons, December 31, 2016	845
Number of Chartered Chapters, December 31, 2016	14
*Damascus Chapter closed in 2016.	
Fraternally,	

Bruce 7. Anderson,

R.E. Grand Secretary, PGHP

### BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companions:

It is my pleasure to present the proposed budget for the calendar year 2016.

		Proposed
	TOTAL	2017
	Starting Balance	\$2,870.40
401	Dues	\$14,000.00
402	Fees	\$500.00
403	Reinstatements	\$50.00
404	Bond Premium	\$100.00
405	Charties	\$700.00
406	Sale of Supplies	\$500.00
407	Intrest	\$0.00
408	Annual Grand Session	\$4,500.00
410	Perpetural Life Membership	\$1,200.00
412	Investment Redemptions	\$0.00
414	Miscellaneous	\$0.00
	Total	\$21,550.00
	Total plus starting balance	\$24,420.40
	Disbursements	
451	Grand Officers Expense	\$1,500.00
452	Annual Meeting Expense	\$4,500.00
453	Triannual	\$300.00

454	Grand Secretary Salary	\$5,234.40
455	Grand Secretary Travel	\$150.00
456	Treasure Travel	\$150.00
457	Bond Premium & Fidelity	\$216.00
458	Transfers	\$0.00
459	Personal Property Insurance	\$936.00
460	Supplies for Resale	\$540.00
461	Office Supplies	\$300.00
462	Equipment Replacement	\$50.00
463	Postage	\$600.00
464	Rent	\$1,160.00
465	Telephone	\$300.00
466	Perpetual Life Membership	\$1,200.00
467	General Grand Dues	\$1,800.00
468	Philantropies	\$500.00

Respectfully Submitted,

James 7. Brown Jr., Chairman

#### **LEGISLATION**

- 1. Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Nebraska. Approved with 2 changes
- 2. Fees and Dues Increase of dues by \$5.00 effective in 2018. Bringing the dues to \$25.50 including the Royal Arch Magazine. Approved
- 3. 2 amendments regarding the Grand York Rite Endowment Fund was tabled,

#### CHARTERS & DISPENSATIONS

Did not meet. No Report.

Respectfully submitted, David Shaw, Chairman

#### CODIFICATION OF THE LAW COMMITTEE REPORT

## **Codification of Law Report Grand Chapter 2016-2017**

The codification for the Law committee has received nothing for the committee to review and have urged that the Grand High Priest as well as the Grand Secretary to ensure all Chapters have the most current Grand Chapter Bylaws and Constitution. It is also recommended by the

Chairman that the Grand Chapter Bylaws and Constitution be reviewed as Grand Council and Grand Commandery have been done.

V/R

Anthony T. (AJ) Johnson

Chairman

Codification of the Law Committee

#### YOUTH COMMITTEE

There has been nothing reported to the Committee on your organizations activity for the year 2016.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert E. Wunder, Chairman

#### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Your Committee on Credentials respectfully makes the following report to the Grand Session held in Kearney, Nebraska on April 6, 2017.

- 11 Grand Officers were present
- 12 Past Grand Officers were present
- All constituent bodies were represented except Oregon Trail #65.
- 25 Out of State Officers and Visitors
- 47 Ballots Issued
- 55 Registered

Respectfully submitted,

Frank D. Smutny, Chairman

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

#### DOINGS OF THE GRAND OFFICERS REPORT

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Companions:

We referred the dispensations and by-law changes and portions of the Most Excellent Grand High Priests address to the Jurisprudence Committee and referred the report of the R.E. Grand Secretary to the Budget and Finance Committee, the Doings of Grand Officers Committee approves the remainder of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest's Address and commends him on a very good year in the East. We commend the Right Excellent Grand Secretary and the Grand Chapter Officers on their best efforts for the benefit, and their representation, of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Wunder, Chairman

#### ENTERTAINMENT OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

M.E. Grand High Priest, Officers and Companions all:

It has been a distinct pleasure to serve on this committee along with Ex. Companion Jay Speck. It is a great pleasure to renew acquaintances with old friends and companions from other 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 Masonic your groups.

At our last Grand Session we had 22 guests in attendance. We hope to see another good crowd at our upcoming session April.

Respectfully submitted,

John 7. Parsons, XC7, Chairman

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

#### FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

I have reviewed several Grand Jurisdiction proceedings and all seem to have the same problems – declining members and struggling with finances. Some are trying different approaches but the results are not conclusive at this time.

Many jurisdictions are now placing their proceedings either on CD's or on their websites tor others to view. This is a substantial savings although it does not always get the word out to the membership.

It is always enjoyable to see what others are trying and their success or failure.

Fraternally Submitted:

#### Bruce 7. Anderson, Chairman

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

#### JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, distinguished guests and members of the Grand Chapter of Nebraska. The Jurisprudence committee met last night to review and reviewed the report of Grand High Priest Anthony Johnson of his year, the revision of the By-Laws and the resolutions and found that it was acceptable and found that nothing was in violation of our guidance and any of the Grand Chapter directives and move that his report be approved.

Donald E. Rife

Past Grand High Priest

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### GRAND LECTURER REPORT

The following Chapters receive certificates for doing degree work

Omaha Chapter #1

Lincoln Chapter #6

Florence Chapter #61

Nebraska Chapter #3

The following Chapters receive certificates for opening, closing and receiving

Omaha Chapter #1 (Omaha)

Nebraska Chapter #3 (Plattsmouth)

Lincoln Chapter #6 (Lincoln)

Euphrates Chapter #15 (North Platte)

King Cyrus Chapter #35 (McCook)

Oregon Trail Chapter #65 (Gering)

Florence Chapter #61 (Papillion)

Hastings Chapter #21 (Hastings)

Thomas Michaelson

**Grand Lecturer** 

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

While there are some things fantastic about membership, and having new members come into an organization, there are some things about this report that grieve me. I see new members excited about the degree work, and wanting to participate within the local Chapters. They are energized and want to contribute. They often times take offices and start the journey up the chairs.

If this excitement continues, then they eventually become High Priest of their respective Chapters, and maybe even into a state leadership position.

That being said, there are many of you who are so apathetic about York Rite and Masonry in general that you and the members of your respective lodges and chapters do nothing.

You watch year by year as your members die off and do nothing. You may come to the Grand sessions of these groups, and want to vote on legislation, but are you even worthy? When was the last time you or any member of your Chapter brought someone into Lodge or Chapter? For about half of our Chapters in the great state of Nebraska it would be none for the past 10 years.

This is disgraceful. In the last 10 years we have not replaced our dying members, we have not even replaced our suspensions. When you add this up we see a continuing downward spiral.

There are some Chapters that do degree work on a regular basis and for this I applaud you. But even these Chapters do not have positive growth. We need to retain what we have, and replace the ones that die plus a few.

It would be wonderful if every member replaced himself in the year to come. I know that though this is not too much to ask that this will not happen. So, here is the challenge. Each Chapter should bring in 5 new members. This should not be hard. We need you to bring 5 new members to your lodge, and then bring them into chapter. In 2002 we had over 1800 members in the state. Today we have 939 members in the state.

It does not take a rocket scientist to see what is going to happen if we do not get busy on membership. While things like Shrine Clubs are fun, and a great thing to have access to, I would hate to see our organization diminished to the point of being nothing more than a small club that you can join to possibly learn something about York Rite ritual. Let's not become a footnote in the history of masonry in the state of Nebraska.

To do this we need to work together. If you have candidates and need help, ask. If you do not know how to get members ask for help. If you do not want help, and refuse to do it on your own let us know. I am sure we can arrange for you to

become a footnote in the minutes of Grand York Rite in Nebraska. It is time to get back to work gentleman, or shut the light off and stop pretending that you care about this great organization.

Respectively Submitted,

Comp. Steven R. Barchus, PGHP

Chairman - Membership

#### ROYAL ARCH EDUCATIONAL & MEMORIAL FUND

M.E. Grand High Priest, distinguished guests, Officers & Companions:

This fund, commonly known as the "Baker Fund" is to be used to promote Education and memorials among the Royal Arch members. It has grown considerably for the past several years by the magic of accumulating interest. (See the Financial Report) There have been no requests for use of this fund for a number of years, including the 2011 - 2015 calendar year.

## ROYAL ARCH EDUCATIONAL & MEMORIAL FUND (DR. CHARLES F. & MATTIE BAKER)

Balance in Bank of West, Dec. 31, 2015	\$10,041.35
Interest Earned	\$10.04
TOTAL Receipts	\$10.04
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Purchase of Collars	\$1363.86
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$1363.86
Balance in Bank of the West, Dec. 31, 2016	\$8687.53

Respectfully Submitted

Arthur R. Stricker, Chairman

#### GRAND CHAPTER NECROLOGY REPORT

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, Past Grand High Priests, and Companions of Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason of Nebraska:

The Psalmist has written:

"I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory... My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:23, 24, 26)

Since last we gathered, thirty-one of our companions have been taken into glory in the presence of our Lord.

We extend our fraternal love and deepest sympathy to all who lost friends and loved ones this past year. We would remind them of the power and comfort in these words from Scripture:

"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.: (Psalm 62:1, 2)

Though our departed loved ones will be missed, we rejoice in the certain knowledge that they now truly rest in the Lord for all eternity.

Respectfully submitted,

Mervin Moeller
Excellent Grand Chaplain

#### PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, 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 of whom are 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 result of investment decisions made during the 2016 year are presented in the accompanying tables.

#### PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND ACCOUNT SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 2016

Total Grand York Rite Contributions to Fund Prior to Year 2016	\$ 214,342.46
ADD: Total Grand York Rite Contributions to Fund during Year 2016	4,040.00
Total Grand York Rite Contributions to Fund since Inception	\$ 218,382.46
Total PLM Fund Value as of December 31, 2016	\$ 223,565.51
Total PLM Fund Value as of January 1, 2016	 193,918.88
Increase in Fund Value During Year 2016	\$ 29,646.63
Percentage increase in Fund Value During Year 2016	<u>15.29%</u>

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PLM INVESTMENT INCOME GENERATED IN YEAR 2016

GRAND YORK RITE BODY	<u>A</u>	<u>MOUNT</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska <sup>1</sup>	\$	2,577.99	38.44%
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Nebraska <sup>2</sup>	\$	1,775.22	26.47%
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Nebraska <sup>3</sup>	\$	2,353.76	35.09%
Total Distributions	\$	6,706.97	

#### NOTES:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Two new PLM purchased during 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>One new PLM's purchased during 2016.

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF PLM'S BY GRAND YORK RITE BODY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

	NUMBER	NUMBER	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
<b>GRAND YORK RITE BODY</b>	<b>LIVING</b>	<b>DEAD</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<u>DEAD</u>
Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska	166	479	645	74.26%
Grand Council, Cryptic Masons of Nebraska	134	377	511	73.78%
Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Nebraska	<u>128</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>487</u>	73.72%
Total Members	<u>428</u>	<u>1215</u>	<u>1643</u>	

#### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE FOR ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS & END OF YEAR FUND VALUE

DISTRIBUTION			FUND
<b>YEAR</b>	AN	<u>IOUNT</u>	<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	\$	6,707.00	\$ 223,565.51

#### PLM COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS AS OF DECEMBER31, 2016

At the 2015 meeting of the Perpetual Life Membership Committee, the following distribution policy was adopted:

The annual distribution of PLM funds to Chapters of Royal Arch Masons, Councils of Cryptic Masons, and Commanderies of Knights Templar in Nebraska is a target rate of three (3) percent of the PLM ending account value as of December 31 of each calendar year. The target rate could be adjusted annually (either positively or negatively) based on the PLM fund's annual return and a decision of the committee. RBC Wealth Management should maintain approximately \$7,000 in cash at the end of each calendar year to allow for the annual distribution.

There were no changes in the distribution policy at the 2016 meeting for the PLM Committee. Consequently, the 3 percent rule was applied resulting in a distribution of \$6,706.97 to the bodies comprising the Grand York Rite of Nebraska.

The December 31, 2016 asset allocation mix for the PLM fund follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Two new PLM purchased during 2016.

RBC Bank Deposit Program	\$ 10,494.47	5%
Cash and money market	684.66	0%
US equities	137,290.85	62%
International equities	43,132.21	19%
Fixed income	31,963.32	<u>14%</u>
Current account value	<u>\$223.565.51</u>	100%

The asset details for investments other than the RBC Bank Deposit Program and Cash and money markets is as follows:

#### **US** Equities

US Equities			
•	Growth Fund Amer Inc Cl C	GFAX	\$16,287.16
•	Spdr S&P Dividend ETF	SDY	\$42,780.00
•	Washington Mut Invs Fd Inc Cl C	C WSHCX	\$78,223.69
International E	quities		
•	Capital World Growth &		
	Income Fund Class A	CWGIX	\$ 5,008.32
•	Capital World Growth &		
	Income Fund Inc CL C	CWGCX	\$12,477.35
•	Euro Pac Growth Fund CL C	AEPCX	\$ 5,000.28
•	Europacific Growth FD CL A	AEPGX	\$20,646.26
Fixed Income			
•	Loomis Sayles Investment	LSIIX	\$15,834.02
•	Metropolitan West FDS		
	Total Return BD FD CL I	MWTIX	\$16,129.30

#### Respectfully Submitted,

James F. Brown, Jr., Chairman; James A. Carlton, Walter W. Johnson, Michael E. Jones, Reginald S. Kuhn, Edward W. Nolte, Donald E. Rife, Jay H. Speck, Robert E. Wunder, Members; Bruce T. Anderson, Dennis A. Newman, Ex-officio

Respectfully Submitted, James F. Brown, Jr., Chairman

#### PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF CHAPTERS

This Committee attempts to prevent our further loss of Chapters. The number of Chapters of Royal Arch Masons has decreased from our historical high of 65 Chapters to just 18 Chapters in 2015, a 72% decline. Our current Chapters have two primary problems—lack of a membership campaign to create new York Rite Masons and lack of interest in meeting by current members to accomplish Chapter objectives. Relative to membership, several Chapters have not initiated a York Rite Mason in several years. Relative to interest in meeting as Royal Arch Masons, most Chapters only meet once a quarter in a meeting rotated monthly among Chapter, Council, and Commandery. While this methodology reduces the overall meeting requirements of our York Rite members from three meetings each month to one meeting per month, it de-emphasizes each organization and impacts the quality of the work as older members pass and are not replaced by younger members.

Each Grand High Priest emphasizes membership as one of his annual goals for his term of office, but the lack of new membership problem persists term after term and results in continued decline in the number of subordinate Chapters and number of York Rite Masons. Of the 14 Chapters operating in 2016, only 5 are considered strong or solid--Omaha #1, Nebraska #3 (Plattsmouth), Lincoln #6, Florence #61 (Papillion), and Oregon Trail #65 (Scottsbluff). Thirteen Chapters have severe membership issues—Signet #8 (Fremont), Livingston #10 (Beatrice), Deuel #11 (Grand Island), Euphrates #15 (North Platte), Mt. Zion #15 (Crete), Orient #18 (Columbus), Hastings #21, Mackey #24 (Tekamah), Solomon #33 (York), King Cyrus #35 (McCook), Tadmor #37 (Superior), and Occidental #48 (Chadron).

In addition to Chapter health, our overall membership is decreasing due to lack of recruiting emphasis by current Chapter members and similar effects witnessed in our local Lodges. To actually increase memberships takes a concerted effort and work. Among Masons, emphasize the value, the significance to Masons, and the importance of Royal Arch Masonry. Among non-Masons, generate names of non-Masons who should be Masons to contact from co-workers; church members; relatives; neighbors; golfing, hunting, or fishing buddies; doctors, dentists, physical therapist; community leaders in city hall, fire department, and police department; and 8) business contacts. Tell them that you are a member of an organization that you believe would benefit them and you would be honored to recommend them. Keep a petition available. Put Royal Arch Masonry and Blue Lodge Masonry in the front of your mind, and never miss an opportunity to tell the story to other good men. With this kind of emphasis, we will stop the decline in our membership. Remember, it is not what we do within our walls that is important to increasing membership, but rather the contacts we make outside of our walls. For every person that comes to us seeking membership, there are ten who would become members if given the right opportunity. Who is going to do this—ask yourself, "if not me, who?"

Respectfully submitted,

Edward W. Nolte, PGHP, Chairman

#### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, Past Grand High Priests, and Companions of Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska

Articles telling of the doings and events of our local chapters and our Grand Chapter are published in the Royal Arch magazine on a quarterly basis.

Local chapters are encouraged to share their news with all our companions around the state of Nebraska by submitting articles to the editor. The address is included in the header of the *Nebraska Supplement*.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Newman, Chairman

#### R.A.R.A. PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board of Directors of ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE has introduced the Gift for a Gift program. Through the generous contribution of Companion Steven Monrotus, Past Grand High Priest of Missouri, a renowned organist in his own right, three excellent musical discs are now available for a special contribution of only \$150. Each of these discs has been provided with, and includes, appropriate music for many Masonic ceremonial occasions. There are patriotic tunes as well as music for the opening, and closing of a Masonic body. There are incidental tunes and processionals to include hymns and other appropriate tunes.

UPDATE

Companions: A few things have been changed since our last update on Royal Arch Research Assistance. Dr. Frank Muziek is now heading our CAPD efforts at the University of Arizona. He completed his move in October 2014 and will now have more PhD researchers than at his previous location at the University of Connecticut. He has sponsored international symposiums on CAPD and has put increased emphasis on trying to determine its cause. We continue to assist the Hearing Health Foundation by sponsoring four researchers in CAPD. We have also committed to \$1,000,000 with Autism Speaks in an effort to correlate signs of CAPD in Toddlers (ages 12 - 36 months) who have Autism.

This past year Nebraska contributed \$819.80 to R.A.R.A.

Respectfully submitted;

Ron Grass, Chairman

#### ROYAL ARCH EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Royal Arch Education Committee did not meet during the 2016/17 term. There have been no new publications by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted;

Michael Jones, Chairman

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

It was moved by Comp. Bruce T. Anderson and seconded that all visiting Companions from other jurisdictions be made Honorary Members of this Grand Chapter of Nebraska:

Motion carried.

#### TIME & PLACE OF ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The 2018 Grand Session will be at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska April 5-7.

#### **ELECTION OF GRAND OFFICERS**

Comp. Edward W. Nolte, Chairman of the Tellers Committee reported that the ballots were counted and the following were elected:

Comp. David A. Shaw	
Comp. Brett R. Bennett	
Comp. Jonathan L. Paz	R.E. Grand Scribe
Comp. Bruce T. Anderson, PGHP	R.E. Grand Treasurer
Comp Dennis A. Newman	R.E. Grand Secretary
The following Officers were appointed:	
Comp. Joseph P. Charbonneau	R.E. Grand Chaplain
Comp. Anthony T. Johnson, PGHP	R.E. Grand Lecturer
Comp. Michael E. Jones	E. Grand Captain of the Host
Comp. Joe Work, II	E. Grand Principal Sojourner

Comp. Jeffrey M. Coleman	E. Grand Royal Arch Captain
Comp. Cecil Smith	E. Grand Master Third Veil
Comp. Dan Marr	
Comp. Mervyn L. Moeller	
Comp. Thomas M. Michaelson	E. Grand Sentinel

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

#### GREETINGS FROM GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER

Most Excellent General Grand High Priest Louis E. Bartrand brought greetings and stated the goals for the coming three years. He thanked the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for all the courtesies afforded him during his stay.

#### CONCLUSION

The Grand High Priest thanked everyone for all the help that he received during his year and invited everyone to the installation of Grand Officers.

#### INSTALLATION OF GRAND CHAPTER OFFICERS

Companion Donald E. Rife, Past M.E. Grand High Priest, welcomed everyone to the installation and called upon Comp. Ronald D. Grass for the invocation. He then introduced the Installing Officers for the afternoon:

nd D. Grass for the invocation. The then introduced the	mistaining Officers for the afterno
Comp. Steven R. Barchus, PGHP	Installing High Priest
Comp. Anthony T. Johnson, PGHP	Installing Marshall
Comp. Donald E. Rife, PGHP	Installing Secretary
Comp. Ronald D. Grass, PGHP	Installing Chaplain
Jennifer Grass,	Installing Musician

The Installing Officer asked the Installing Secretary to call the roll of Officers to be installed for the ensuing year.

Comp. David A. Shaw	
Comp. Brett R. Bennett	R.E. Grand King
Comp. Jonathan L. Paz	R.E. Grand Scribe
Comp. Bruce T. Anderson, PGHP	
Comp. Dennis A. Newman	R.E. Grand Secretary
Comp. Joseph P. Charbonneau	
Comp. Anthony T. Johnson. PGHP	
Comp. Michael E. Jones	
Comp. Joe Work, II	E. Grand Principal Sojourner
Comp. Jeffrey M. Coleman	
Comp. L. Cecil Smith	E. Grand Master Third Veil
Comp. Dan Marr	E. Grand Master Second Veil
Comp. Mervyn L. Moeller	E. Grand Master First Veil
Comp. Thomas M. Michaelson	E. Grand Sentinel*
*To be installed later.	

As their names were called, they and their ladies entered the Chapter 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 Chapter duly installed in their respective stations for the ensuing year.

The M.E. Grand High Priest thanked his Installing Officers for an outstanding job this afternoon. He then asked his Grand Officers to introduce their ladies.

The M.E. Grand High Priest reviewed his plans for the year.

The M.E. Grand High Priest asked the R.E. Grand Chaplain to lead us in prayer and instructed the E. Grand Principal Sojourner to close the Bible.

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 Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, held in Columbus, Nebraska, April 13, 2012, and printed under my direction.

WITNESS MY HAND and seal of the GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF NEBRASKA, this 1st day of June, 2017.

Bruce 7. Anderson, R.E. Grand Secretary

#### GRAND BANQUET

The Grand Secretary-Recorder introduced **Most Worshipful Dennis E. Rix**, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Nebraska who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

The Master of Ceremonies on behalf of the Grand York Rite of Nebraska welcomed all the Brethren, Companions, Sir Knights, Distinguished Guests, and their ladies to our Grand York Rite Banquet and asked **Sir Knight Kenneth Bunnell**, Grand Prelate to give the invocation.

All enjoyed a very delicious meal. The Master of Ceremonies then introduced our Distinguished Guests:

Companion Anthony T. Johnson, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska and his Lady Wendy.

Most Excellent Companion Louis Bartrand, General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International and his Lady Moira.

Companion Carl C. Plants, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Nebraska and his Lady Carolyn.

Companion David A. Grindle, Right Puissant General Grand Recorder, General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International and his Lady Debbie.

Sir Knight Brett R. Bennett, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska and his Lady Kari.

Sir Knight Larry E. Tucker, Right Eminent Grand Recorder and personal representative of Sir Knight Duane L. Vaught, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the U. S. A.

Sir Knight Ken Bunnell, Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska and his Lady Marilyn.

Companion Bruce T. Anderson, Most Excellent Grand Secretary-Recorder of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Nebraska and his Lady Ilah.

Elizabeth Grazier and Dustin Everitt. Grand Guardian and Associate Grand Guardian of Nebraska Jobs Daughters International.

*Hannah King*, Grand Bethel Honored Queen and *Ashton Stewert*, Miss Nebraska Jobs Daughters and *Courtney Edelmaier*, Miss Nebraska Congeniality.

Betty Garwood, Supreme Deputy in Nebraska, International Order of Rainbow for Girls

Sarah Mooney, Grand Worthy Advisor, International Order of Rainbow for Girls of Nebraska.

Kevin Grazier, Executive Officer in Nebraska, Order of DeMolay.

David Strang, State master Councilor, International Order of DeMolay.

*Cheryl Beckius*, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star of Nebraska and **The following came forward for presentations and remarks** 

Sir Knight Brett R. Bennett, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska

Companion Carl C. Plants, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons in Nebraska.

Companion Anthony T. Johnson, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska

Companion Bruce T. Anderson, Most Excellent Grand Secretary-Recorder.

#### The Dale L. Mace Memorial Outstanding Secretary-Recorder Award,

#### Gail Axen - Recipient

Most Worshipful Rick D. Myers, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska

Most Worshipful Brother Myers introduced the other Grand Lodge officers present and reviewed the Grand Lodge's projects and activities for the coming year. In closing he thanked the Grand York Rite for all the courtesies afforded him **Nan** during this Grand Session and bid everyone a good evening.

The Master of Ceremonies thanked everyone for attending and called upon **S.K. Kenneth Bunnell** for the benediction.

#### GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEES - 2016-2017

BUDGET AND FINANCE: James Brown, Jr., 6, Chairman; Ron D. Grass, 24; Jay H. Speck, 3.

CHARTERS & DISPENSATIONS: David Shaw, Chairman; Donald Rife; Michael E. Jones.

CODIFICATION OF THE LAW: Anthony T. Johnson, Chairman; Steven R. Barchus; James f. brown, Jr.

CREDENTIALS: Frank D. Smutny, Chairman; Joseph P. Charbonneau; Don R. Monnette.

DOINGS OF GRAND OFFICERS: Ronald Grass, Chairman; Brett Bennett, Jeffrey M. Coleman

ENTERTAINMENT OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS: John T. Parsons, 1, Chairman; Jay H. Speck, 3.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS AND REVIEW: Bruce T. Anderson, 6, Chairman; Jerry F. Bespalec; James F. Brown, Jr.

JURISPRUDENCE: Steven C. Smith, I, Chairman; and all Living Past Grand High Priests.

MEMBERSHIP: Arthur R. Stricker, Chairman; Steven R. Barchus; Daniel Marr.

NEBRASKA ROYAL ARCH EDUCATIONAL AND MEMORIAL FUND: LaVern Work, II, Chairman; Arthur R. Stricker, Jay Speck.

NECROLOGY: Mervyn Moeller, Chairman; Frederick C. Way, Jr., Joseph P. Charbonneau.

PERPETUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Michael E. Jones, Chairman; Edward W. Nolte, Reginald S. Kuhn.

**PRESERVATION & RESTORATION OF CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS:** Edward W. Nolte, Chairman; Steven R. Barchus, James F. Brown, Jr.

PUBLICITY: Dennis Newman, Chairman; Johnathan Paz, Daniel Marr.

R.A.R.A. PHILANTHROPY: Ronald D. Grass 24, Chairman; Joseph Charbonneau, Robert Coleman.

ROYAL ARCH EDUCATION: Michael E. Jones, Chairman; James F. Brown, Jr.; Ronald D. Grass; Anthony T. Johnson; John T. Parsons.

YOUTH ORGANIZATION: Bruce T. Anderson, Chairman; Anthony T. Johnson.

**GRAND LECTUER:** Thomas Michaelson

#### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURER: Anthony T. Johnson, Carl C. Plants, David A. Shaw, Fred O. Wyant.

ROLL OF EXISTING NEBRASKA CHAPTERS									
Name	No	Town	County		Meetings		Created		Chartered
Omaha	1	Omaha	Douglas		2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.	No	ov. 21, 1859	Sept.	8, 1865
Nebraska	3	Plattsmouth	Cass		2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.	Jı	uly 13, 1865	Sept.	8, 1965
Lincoln*	6	Lincoln	Lancaster		1st Wed.	A	pr. 28, 1870	June	22, 1870
Signet	8	Fremont	Dodge		2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	Aı	ug. 11, 1871	June	17,1872
Livingston	10	Beatrice	Gage		4th Tues.	D	ec. 21, 1872	Nov.	12, 1873
Euphrates	15	North Platte	Lincoln		$1^{st}$ Thurs.	M	Iar. 25, 1876	Dec.	20, 1876

Mount Zion	17	Crete	Saline	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.	Mar. 3, 1877 I	Dec. 19, 1877
Orient	18	Columbus	Platte	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs.	Apr. 17, 1878	Dec. 17, 1879
Hastings	21	Hastings	Adams	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues.	Oct. 24, 1879	Dec. 22, 1880
Mackey	24	Tekamah	Burt	3rd Mon.	Apr. 27, 1882	Dec. 19, 1882
King Cyrus	35	McCook	R. Willow	3rd Thurs.	Sept. 25, 1885	Dec. 16, 1886
Tadmor	37	Superior	Nuckolls	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon.	Dec. 19, 1885	Dec. 16, 1886
Occidental	48	Chadron	Dawes	1st Tues.	Sept. 18, 1888	Dec. 12, 1888
Florence	61	Papillion	Sarpy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	Mar2, 1923	Dec. 13, 1923
Or. Trail***	65	Gering	Scottsbluff	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs.	July 11, 1928	Dec. 6, 1928
Nazareth UD	100	Lincoln	Lancaster	n/a	Sep. 30, 2016	n/a

#### EXTINCT CHAPTERS

	EXTINCT CHAPTERS	
Name	Location	Date of Becoming Extinct
Ashland, No. 12	Ashland	November 26, 1881
Lebanon, No. 14*	Sutton - Hastings, No. 21	December 3, 1930
Jewel, No. 34	Ashland	December 13, 1894
King Darius, No. 36	Indianola	December 17, 1925
Ophir, No. 38	Schuyler	March 16, 1914
Cyrene, No. 42*	Friend - King Cyrus, No. 35	June 20, 1887
Garfield, No. 45	O'Neill	December 8, 1904
Siroc, No. 46*	West Point - Galilee, No. 57	December 5, 1925
Joppa, No. 52*	Loup City - Jordan, No. 27	August 3, 1936
Pentalpha, No. 53	Genoa	February 16, 1924
Chaldean, No. 55*	Bloomfield - Damascus, No. 25	November 1, 1941
Cedar, No. 56	Hartington	March 11, 1912
Raboni, No. 58	Randolph	October 15, 1917
Valley, No. 59*	Alma - Cyrene, No. 42	December 19, 1941
Miriam, No. 47	Oxford	January 5, 1943
Leese, No. 62*	Seward - Capstone, No. 64	October 22, 1943
Red Cloud, No. 19*	Red Cloud - Hastings, No. 21	October 25, 1944
Palmer, No. 31	Wilber	December 5, 1946
Temple, No. 40	Neligh	December 3, 1947
Bethlehem, No. 20	Pawnee City	December 7, 1961
Gayle, No. 16*	Hebron - Siloam, No. 44	October 1, 1963
King David, No. 30*	David City - Signet, No. 8	December 3, 1964
Shekinah, No. 32	Aurora	February 28, 1967
Triune, No. 41*	Geneva - Solomon, No. 33	December 31, 1967
Bellevue, No. 7*	Omaha - Omaha, No. 1	April 9, 1969
Cyrene, No. 42*	Holdrege - King Cyrus, No. 35	September 2, 1973
Tyrian, No. 29*	Sidney - Shelba, No. 54	February 18, 1978
Doric, No. 50*	Ord - Hastings, No. 21	July 22, 1978
Furnas, No. 9*	Tecumseh - Livingston, No. 10	January 1, 1981
Jordan, No. 27	St. Paul	October 10, 1983
Edgar, No. 22*	Edgar - Tadmor, No. 37	October 18, 1983
Pine, No. 51*	Long Pine - Rosebud, No. 63	March 22, 1985
Sheba, No. 54*	Alliance - Oregon Trial, No. 65	December 31, 1985
Delta, No. 60*	Omaha - Omaha, No. 1	March 14, 1987
Keystone, No. 2*	Neb. City - Brownville, No. 4	August 18, 1988
Hiram, No. 28*	Wymore - Livingston, No. 10	November 13, 1989
Haggai, No. 39*	Wakefield - Damascus, No. 25	November 15, 1993
Galilee, No. 57	Oakland	December 31, 1993
Brownville, No. 4*	Auburn - Nebraska No. 3	June 30, 1996
Adoniram, No. 13*	Blair - Mackey No. 24	December 31, 1999
Addinam, 100. 15	Dian Mackey 140. 24	December 31, 1999

<sup>\*</sup>Except Holiday, Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter, then subsequent Wednesday.

\*\*Except November 1st Thursday or when convocation falls on Holiday, the next Thursday.

\*\*\*Except January: then second Thursday.

Eureka No. 5*	Falls City - Nebraska No. 3	October 31, 2002
Wahoo No. 43*	Wahoo – Signet No. 8	December 31, 2002
Kearney No. 23*	Kearney – Hastings No. 21	July 31, 2003
Horeb No. 49*	Broken Bow – Euphrates No. 15	January 1, 2005
Capstone No. 64*	Lincoln No. 6	January 1, 2009
Merrick No. 26*	Solomon No. 33 – York	September 15, 2013
Rosebud No. 63*	Occidental No. 49 - Chadron	March 1, 2014
Silom No. 44*	Livingston No. 10 – Beatrice	July 14, 2014
Deuel No. 11*	Hastings No. 21 – Hastings	March 15, 2015
Solomon No. 33*	Hastings No. 21 - Hastings	August 15, 2015
Damascus No. 25	Norfolk	September 30, 2016

<sup>\*</sup>Consolidated

CONS	STITUEN	T CHAPTERS A	ND OFFICERS	2016
Chapter, No.	Location	High Priest	Secretary	Address
OMAHA, 1	Omaha	Charles Sohm	Joseph Charbonneau	4324 Burdette St.
		13505 S. 22nd St.	(402)880-5763	Omaha,
		Bellevue, NE 68123		68111-3911
NEBRASKA, 3	Plattsmouth	Heath Davenport	Brett Bennett	1219 James St.
		1323 Tammy Ln.	(402)296-6224	Plattsmouth,
		Plattsmouth, NE 68048		68048-2432
LINCOLN, 6	Lincoln	Mervyn Moeller	Thomas Michaelson	901 Starview Ln
		4805 Davey Rd.	(402)423-1984	Lincoln,
CICNET O		Ceresco, NE 68017	W 1D ' W	68512-2528
SIGNET, 8	Fremont	Karl Rasmuissen, IV	Karl Rasmuissen, IV	
			(402)727-4108	Fremont, 68025-2302
I IVINCETON 10	Beatrice	Jason Machakin	E4 D	437 7 <sup>th</sup> St.
LIVINGSTON, 10	beautice	11809 So. 96 <sup>th</sup> Rd.	Ed Raper (402)-852-6157	Pawnee City
		Adams.68310	(402)-632-0137	68420-3045
		Adams,00510		00420-3043
EUPHRATES, 15	North Platte		Walter Johnson	16600 No. Johnson
		1404 W. H St.	(308) 532-6314	Rd.
		North Platte, 69001		North Platte
				69101-8077
MOUNT ZION, 17	Crete	Thomas Michaelson	Jerry F. Bespalec	1140 Grove,
		901 Starview Lane	(402) 826-2458	Crete 68333
ODJENIE 10	C 1 1	Lincoln 68512-2528	T 1 TT T'	2205 40th G
ORIENT, 18	Columbus	Michael E. Jones	John H. Lippert	3205 40 <sup>th</sup> St.,
		P.O. 229 David City,68632-0229	(402) 563-3852 (H)	Columbus 68601- 1640
HASTINGS, 21	Hastings	Tom Genung	Robert L. Williams	1000 N Showboat
HA311NO3, 21	Hastings	902 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	(402) 463-8533	Blvd
		Hastings 68901	(402) 403-6333	Hastings 68901-
		Trastings 00701		8423
MACKEY, 24	Tekamah	Terry Schroeder	Randall L. Hart	412 South 12 <sup>th</sup>
	- 3	1009 L St.	(402) 374-1278	Street
		Tekamah, 68061	() 57. 12.0	Tekamah
		,		68061
KING CYRUS, 35	McCook	Ronald Stuhmer	Phillip Lyons	1007 Wast 1st St.
,		1309 W. 1st St.	(308) 345-2189	McCook
		McCook, NE 69001		69001-2617
TADMOR, 37	Superior	Frank L. Borden, Jr.	A. Gary Keeling	1050 N. Park St.
	-	1130 Louden St.,	(402) 879-3447	Superior 68978
		Superior 68978		

OCCIDENTAL, 48	Chadron	Dale W. Anderson 7184 Hwy. 20 Chadron 69337-5340	Bryan P. Burrows (308) 638-7588	HC 56 Box 31A Hay Springs 69347
FLORENCE, 61	Papillion	Daniel Marr 7705 S 70 <sup>th</sup> St. Cir LaVista, NE 68128	Arthur Highman (402) 592-1820	104 Matthies Dr. Papillion 68049-2708
OREGON TRAIL, 65	Scottsbluff	Arthur Stricker 2627 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave Scottsbluff, 693619	Joe Belden (308) 241-0600	P.O. Box 24 Kimball 69145-0024

### **GRAND SECRETARIES**

*Elbert T. Duke	March 19, 1867 – June 19, 1867
*J. Newton Wise	June 19, 1867, - October 28, 1869
*Robert W. Furnas	October 28, 1869, - June 19, 1872
*Daniel H. Wheeler	June 19, 1872, - November 14, 1873
*William R. Bowen	November 14, 1873, - May 6, 1899
*Francis E. White	
*Lewis E. Smith	December 17, 1925, - December 3, 1946
*Carl R. Greisen	December 3, 1946, - September 19, 1969
*Ralph R. Carleton	September 19, 1969, - April 11, 1980
*Floyd R. McKenzie	April 12, 1980, - April 6, 1990
Jay H. Speck	April 6, 1990, - April 7, 2006
Bruce T. Anderson	April 7, 2006 – April 8, 2017
Dennis A. Newman	April 8, 2017 - Present
*Deceased	

### LIVING PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS

Keith J. Herbster, 6, 1201 Mocking Bird Lane, Lincoln 68512-2352	112 <sup>th</sup>	1978
Gail Axen, 39, P.O. Box 123, Stanton 68779	$114^{th}$	1980
Kirby E. Hunt, 24, 524 N. 9th St. Tekamah, 68061-1169	124th	1990
Jay H. Speck, 3, 606 Chicago Ave. Plattsmouth 68048-2061	(Hon)	1994
Fred O. Wyant, 33, 404 East 6 <sup>th</sup> St. York 68467-3019	128th	1994
James N. Karnegis, 1, 20975 Bonanza Blvd. Elkhorn 68022-1838	130 <sup>th</sup>	1996
Robert E. Wunder, 64, 6515 Windflower Rd, Lincoln 68521-9007	131st	1997
Bryan E. Lee, 26, 418 Reynolds St. Fullerton 68638-0314	132 <sup>nd</sup>	1998
Edward I. Morrow, 24, 1419 "I" St., Tekamah 68061-1230	134 <sup>th</sup>	2000
James A. Clark, 17, 896 County Rd. 2350, Crete 68333-5003	135 <sup>th</sup>	2001
F. Wayne Bowman, 1, 4924 No. 103 <sup>rd</sup> St., Omaha 68134-2506	136 <sup>th</sup>	2002
John T. Parsons, 61, 1512 Beechwood Ave. Papillion 68133-2506	$137^{th}$	2003
Mervin W. Titchen, 15, P.O. Box 1925, North Platte 69103-1925	138 <sup>th</sup>	2004
Bruce T. Anderson, 64, 2010 South 26th St., Lincoln 68502	139 <sup>th</sup>	2005
Marlin Palasek, 1, 4859 So 96 <sup>th</sup> Plaza, Apt. 5, Omaha, 68127-2345	141st	2007
Ronald D. Grass, 24, 420 No. 13 <sup>th</sup> St., Tekamah, 68061-1506	142nd	2008
Jerry F. Bespalec, 17, 1140 Grove Ave., Crete, 68333-2350	143rd	2009

James F. Brown, Jr., 6, 6710 Rexford Dr., Lincoln, 68510-4326	144 <sup>th</sup>	2010
Steven R. Barchus, 1, 1521 So. 94th St., Omaha, 68124-1105	$145^{th}$	2011
Edward W. Nolte, 1, 4702 Windcrest Dr. Papillion, 68133-4767	$146^{th}$	2012
Theodore J. Johnson, 6 & 10, Unknown	$147^{th}$	2013
Steven C. Smith, I, 1, 215 Heavenly Dr., Omaha, 68154-2145	$148^{th}$	2014
Donald E. Rife, 35, 35405 US Hwy 34, Stratton, 69043-5107	$149^{th}$	2015
Anthony T. Johnson, 61 2613 Alberta Ave., Bellevue, NE 68147-2466	150th	2016

## PAST GRAND HIGH PRIESTS, WHOSE NAMES ARE HERE ENROLLED, FOR THEIR VALOROUS DEEDS IN DAY'S PAST

Name	Date of Death		Year
Harry P. Deuel, 1	Nov. 23, 1914	1 <sup>st</sup>	1867
James W. Moore, 2	Aug. 2, 1901	$2^{nd}$	1867
Daniel H. Wheeler, 3	Nov. 27, 1912	$3^{rd}$	1868
Robert C. Jordan, 1	Jan. 9, 1899	$4^{th}$	1869
Edwin A. Allen, 1	Jan. 8, 1893	$5^{\mathrm{th}}$	1870-71
Robert R. Livingston, 3	Sept. 28, 1888	$6^{\mathrm{th}}$	1872-74
Robert W. Furnas, 4	June 1, 1905	$7^{\rm th}$	1873-74
Charles F. Goodman, 1	Jan. 11, 1895	$8^{th}$	1875-76
Edwin F. Warren, 2	July 9, 1923	9 <sup>th</sup>	1876-77
Francis E. White, 3	June 11, 1945	$10^{\mathrm{th}}$	1878
Alfred G. Hastings, 6	July 10, 1894	$11^{\mathrm{th}}$	1879
H. Baxter Nicodemus, 8	June 3, 1887	$12^{th}$	1880
Samuel P. Davidson, 9	Dec. 8, 1928	$13^{th}$	1881
William H. Munger, 8	Aug. 21, 1915	$14^{\mathrm{th}}$	1881
James A. Tulleys, 19	Jan. 21, 1901	$15^{\mathrm{th}}$	1883
Henry E. Palmer, 3	April 2, 1911	$16^{\mathrm{th}}$	1884
John D. Moore, 11	July 26, 1930	$17^{\mathrm{th}}$	1885
Ithmar Benjamin, 17	Unknown	$18^{\rm th}$	1886
Lucius D. Richard, 8	Aug. 19, 1931	19 <sup>th</sup>	1887
Charles A. Holmes, 9	Dec. 13, 1908	$20^{\text{th}}$	1888
Milton J. Hull, 14	Sept. 18, 1923	21st	1889
Frank H. Young, 29	Dec. 24, 1917	22 <sup>nd</sup>	1890
John B. Dinsmore, 14	Oct. 6, 1915	$23^{rd}$	1891
Robert E. French, 23	Feb. 16, 1927	$24^{th}$	1892
Albert W. Crites, 48	Aug. 23, 1915	$25^{th}$	1893
Frank E. Bullard, 15	Jan. 31, 1933	$26^{\text{th}}$	1894
Charles J. Phelps, 38	Aug. 24, 1915	$27^{th}$	1895
Charles C. Rittenhouse, 21	Sept. 24, 1937	$28^{th}$	1896
Robert H. Henry, 18	Feb. 14, 1900	$29^{th}$	1897
John H. Mercer, 4	Feb. 25, 1915	$30^{\text{th}}$	1898
James Dinsmore, 16	Dec. 5, 1928	31st	1899
John S. Harmon, 9	Dec. 31, 1922	32 <sup>nd</sup>	1900
James W. Maynard, 1	June 28, 1928	$33^{rd}$	1901

George J. Spohn, 37	Dec. 16, 1942	34 <sup>th</sup>	1902
Benjamin F. Thomas, 7	Jan. 28, 1933	35 <sup>th</sup>	1903
Francis McGiverin, 8	March 7, 1930	36 <sup>th</sup>	1904
William W. Wright, 28	Dec. 13, 1906	36 <sup>th</sup>	1905
Robert W. McGinnis, 33	June 26, 1958	37 <sup>th</sup>	1906
Charles W. Kaley, 19	Jan. 6, 1917	38 <sup>th</sup>	1907
Oscar R. Allen, 7	March 31, 1930	39 <sup>th</sup>	1908
Julius J. Wilson, 49	June 10, 1918	40 <sup>th</sup>	1909
George S. Powell, 1	Dec. 20, 1915	41 <sup>st</sup>	1910
John Harper, 30	April 9, 1931	42 <sup>nd</sup>	1911
Benjamin F. Pitman, 48	Feb. 7, 1950	43 <sup>rd</sup>	1912
James Tyler, 6	Nov. 1, 1919	44 <sup>th</sup>	1913
Burt L. Spellman, 10	May 19, 1939	45 <sup>th</sup>	1914
Chauncey L. Wattles, 40	March 22, 1945	$46^{\mathrm{th}}$	1915
Carroll D. Evans, 18	Aug. 12, 1938	$47^{\mathrm{th}}$	1916
John R. Stine, 7	April 23, 1952	48 <sup>th</sup>	1917
William D. Funk, 55	Jan. 30, 1942	49 <sup>th</sup>	1918
Alpha Morgan, 49	April 17, 1924	50 <sup>th</sup>	1919
Lewis E. Smith, 51	July 10, 1965	51 <sup>st</sup>	1920
William W. Metz, 2	Aug. 12, 1944	52 <sup>nd</sup>	1921
Walter L. Spear, 41	Dec. 16, 1933	$53^{\rm rd}$	1922
James M. Robertson, 3	Sept. 10, 1934	54 <sup>th</sup>	1923
George N. R. Brown, 21	June 24, 1943	55 <sup>th</sup>	1924
Harry D. Cone, 7	Oct. 6, 1947	$56^{\mathrm{th}}$	1925
A. Sherman Pinto, 1	Dec. 7, 1944	$57^{ m th}$	1926
Harford N. Rosebush, 35	Dec. 15, 1962	58 <sup>th</sup>	1927
Harry S. Villars, 9	Dec. 21, 1940	59 <sup>th</sup>	1928
Fred G. Bosshammer, 4	Jan. 10, 1961	$60^{\text{th}}$	1929
Emmett I. Ellis, 24	Aug. 1, 1956	61 <sup>st</sup>	1930
Arthur C. Stem, 48	July 6, 1932	62 <sup>nd</sup>	1931
Elbert G. Laing, 54	Oct. 28, 1949	63 <sup>rd</sup>	1932
Earl Bernett, 42	March 18, 1971	$64^{\mathrm{th}}$	1932
Oliver A. Fick, 7	Oct. 4, 1939	65 <sup>th</sup>	1933
J. Theodore Brammann, 1	Oct. 8, 1958	66 <sup>th</sup>	1934
Carl R. Greisen, 15	June 28, 1995	$67^{\mathrm{th}}$	1935
Nile O. Walther, 43	March 19, 1954	68 <sup>th</sup>	1936
Nathaniel A. S. McLean, 65	June 15, 1956	69 <sup>th</sup>	1937
Edwin D. Crites, 48	Nov. 7, 1953	70 <sup>th</sup>	1938
Thomas J. Aron, 17	Dec. 22, 1993	71 <sup>st</sup>	1939
Elmer E. Magee, 64	March 19, 1975	72 <sup>nd</sup>	1940
George H. Holdeman, 33	Nov. 4, 1954	73 <sup>rd</sup>	1941
Earld M. Boyington, 35	June 28, 1974	74 <sup>th</sup>	1942
William T. Poucher, 24	Aug. 16, 1947	75 <sup>th</sup>	1943
James W. Gillette, 25	Nov. 15, 1975	76 <sup>th</sup>	1944
David C. Hilton, 6	Dec. 12, 1945	77 <sup>th</sup>	1945
Raymond C. Cook, 3	Jan. 7, 1966	78 <sup>th</sup>	1945
Curry W. Watson, 64	Feb. 27, 1953	79 <sup>th</sup>	1946
George O. Sizemore, 15	April 6, 1969	80 <sup>th</sup>	1947
F. Plummer Martin, 7	May 5, 1964	81 <sup>st</sup>	1948
Bernard B. Harris, 65	Nov. 22, 1984	82 <sup>nd</sup>	1949
Roy S. Planck, 8	May 3, 1958	83 <sup>rd</sup>	1950
Robert E. Lund, 18	Nov. 14, 1976	84 <sup>th</sup>	1951
Harold H. Thom, 60	June 14, 1974	85 <sup>th</sup>	1952
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Coorgo H. Murphy 6	Aug. 20, 1077	86 <sup>th</sup>	1052
George H. Murphy, 6 Ralph M. Carhart, 39	Aug. 20, 1977 Nov. 10, 1965	87 <sup>th</sup>	1953 1954
Lewis E. Baker, 35	Dec. 26, 1976	89 <sup>th</sup>	1954
Louis V. Sylvester, 61	Dec. 4, 1997	90 <sup>th</sup>	1957
Ehm J. Sorensen, 54		91 <sup>st</sup>	1957
Claude A. Rennau, 11	Sept. 17, 1984 Dec. 6, 1979	92 <sup>nd</sup>	1959
Earl W. Schultz, 32	Jan. 15, 1983	93 <sup>rd</sup>	1939
Earl H. Christensen, 6	Jan. 14, 1999	94 <sup>th</sup>	1960
Willard I. Lewis, Jr., 5	July 26, 2000	95 <sup>th</sup>	1961
· · ·	•	95 96 <sup>th</sup>	
Donald W. Larkins, 44	June 23, 1988	90 <sup>th</sup>	1963
August H. Boldt, 15	Oct. 16, 1985	97 <sup>th</sup> 98 <sup>th</sup> -99 <sup>th</sup>	1964
Lillard S. Jensen, 13	May 14, 1985		1965-66*
Howard J. Hunter, 43	May 6, 1975	100 <sup>th</sup>	1967
U. Wesley Fox, 63	January 3, 2005	101 <sup>st</sup>	1968
Russell F. Richmond, 64	Jan. 30, 1988	102 <sup>nd</sup>	1969
Herbert T. White, 60	Oct. 12, 1975	103 <sup>rd</sup>	1970
Charles F. Baker, 8	July 15, 1987	104 <sup>th</sup>	1971
Richard T. Albright, 1	April 14, 1984	105 <sup>th</sup>	1972
Byron J. Mott, 54	June 4, 1997	107 <sup>th</sup>	1973
Harry L. Scheffel, 57	Jan. 19, 1990	108 <sup>th</sup>	1974
Charles F. Adams, 11	April 17, 1980	Hon.	1974
L. Harold Parker, 26	Dec. 15, 1977	109 <sup>th</sup>	1975
Harry A. Tollander, 61	Feb. 22, 1997	110 <sup>th</sup>	1976
P. Maurice Scriven, 65	May 1, 1998	111 <sup>th</sup>	1977
Ralph R. Carleton, 1	Jan. 22, 1981	Hon.	1978
Earl N. Hanel, 11	Aug. 12, 1998	113 <sup>th</sup>	1979
Herbert H. Glancy, 10 & 64	Dec. 4, 2001	$115^{\rm th}$	1981
Edward F. Wehrbein, 3	Mar. 5, 1998	116 <sup>th</sup>	1982
E. P. Baruth, 35	Nov. 14, 1992	$117^{\rm th}$	1983
Bert C Keith, 15	July 31, 1992	118 <sup>th</sup>	1984
C. Joe Pottorff, 21	Jan. 13, 1986	119 <sup>th</sup>	1985
Morton P. Steyer, 61	Feb. 14, 1997	120 <sup>th</sup>	1986
Orval W. Cooley, 18	Jan. 20, 2004	122 <sup>nd</sup>	1988
Edward H. Lockwood, Sr., 65	Sept. 23, 1994	Hon.	1988
Floyd R. McKenzie, 8	June 9, 1991	Hon.	1989
Darrel M. Fillinger, 65,	June 7, 2010	123 <sup>rd</sup>	1989
Viron E. Baxter, 35	July 10, 2015	125th	1991
Virgil L. Tubach, 6 & 64	Nov. 17, 2001	129 <sup>th</sup> .	1995
Lester F. Webb, 35	July 30, 2015	129 . 133 <sup>rd</sup>	1999
Maynard Tatleman, 1	Sept. 30, 2013	140th	2006
iviayilatu Taucillali, I	э <b>с</b> рг. 50, 2015	1 <b>4</b> 0u1	2000

<sup>\*</sup>No Annual convocation held in December 1966, because of change in meeting date from December to April.

### LIST OF GRAND CHAPTERS

# WITH GRAND SECRETARIES AND GRAND REPRESENTATIVES

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SECRETARY NEAR NEBRASKA OTHER

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### GRAND CHAPTER OF MEXICO

Luis Josué (Josh) Aquino Carmona Insurgentes Sur 319-104, Col. Hipódromo Condesa, C.P. 06100 México D.F. México D.F.

# THE 145<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD IN NEBRASKA

The One Hundred Forty fifth Annual Convention of the Order of High Priesthood was held at the Younes Conference Center, Kearney, Nebraska, at 10:15 P.M. on Thursday, April 6, 2017.

President	James Gansemer
Vice President	Anthony Johnson
Secretary-Treasurer	Bruce T. Anderson
Chaplain	
Master of Ceremonies	Ron Grass
Conductor	Steven Barchus
Herald	L. Cecil Smith
Steward	Carl Plants
Sentinel	Jonathan Paz

The Convention was opened in form by Comp. Anthony T. Johnson as President was absent due to medical reasons.. Companion Bruce T. Anderson read the minutes of the 144th Annual Convention. Companion Steve Barchus moved the minutes be approved as read. Motion carried.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on Hand as of April 28, 2016 Savings	\$ 193.65
CD	\$4,483.08
Total	\$4,676.73

The following three (3) High Priest-elects were received, anointed, consecrated and set apart to the Holy Order of High Priesthood.

HIGH PRIEST-ELECT LOCATION & CHAPTER NO.

John Steele Occidental No. 48

William Kimmi Florence No. 61, Omaha
Chris Edwards Omaha No. 1, Omaha

The degree was conferred in an excellent manner under the direction of comp. A.J. Johnson.

#### **Old Business: None**

### **New Business:**

Chaplain	Ron Grass
Master of Ceremonies	Steve Barchus
Conductor	L. Cecil Smith
Herald	Carl Plants
Steward	Jonathan Paz
Sentinel	Joe Work. II

The officers were installed by Companions Edward Nolte as Installing President, James Brown, Jr. and Companion Jay Speck as Installing Chaplain. The officers present were installed into their respective offices and the officers absent by proxy. The newly installed President thanked the Companions for permitting him to serve as President and stated the next Annual Convocation will be at the next Grand Session.

There being no further business, this Grand Convention was closed at 12:20 P.M. in form and with prayer, peace and harmony prevailing.

Authory 7. Johnson, Acting President

ATTEST: Bruce 7. Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer

PRESIDENTS OF T	HE ORD	ER OF HIGH PRIESTH	OOD
*Robert W. Furnas	1872	*Russell F. Richmond	1975
*Daniel H. Wheeler	1875	*Louis V. Sylvester	1976
*Charles F. Goodman	1876	*Curtis M. Maynard	1977
*Edwin A. Allen	1877	*C. Harold Edwards	1978
*Alfred G. Hastings	1881	*U. Wesley Fox	1979
*James A. Tulleys	1888	*Edward H. Lockwood	1980
*Samuel P. Davidson	1889	*Morton P. Steyer	1981
*Herbert A. Senter	1929	Keith J. Herbster	1982
*Harold H. Thom	1936	*Gordon B. Pinney	1983
*John T. Dysart	1938	*George I. Griffith, Jr.	1984
*Charles W. Reeve	1940	* P. Maurice Scriven	1985
*William T. Poucher	1941	Don R. Monnette	1986
*Lewis E. Smith	1942	*Morgan A. Hartman	1987
*George W. Guthrie	1943	*Viron E. Baxter	1988
*Ellis W. Cass	1944	Robert R. Cole	1989
*Robert E. Lund	1945	*Bert C. Keith	1990
*Carl R. Greisen	1946	*Fred R. Prell	1991
*F. Plummer Martin	1947	Fred O. Wyant	1992
*Elmer E. Magee	1948	*Herbert H. Glancy	1993
*Herbert T. White	1949	*Robert M. McDonald	1994
*Brisben J. Hofer	1950	*Henry S. Greenwalt	1995
*Jesse P. Entrekin	1951	*Donald O. Bickham	1996
*Raymond C. Cook	1952	*Roger L. Galusha	1997
*Lewis F. Reepe	1953	Robert L. Williams	1998
*George O. Sizemore	1954	James N. Karnegis	1999
*Harold K. Bond	1955	Robert E. Wunder	2000
*Bernard B. Harris	1956	Maynard Tatelman	2001
*George K.A. Leschinsky	1957	Donald C. Kemper	2002
*Harvey A. Smith	1958	*William G. Hurst	2003
*Lillard S. Jensen	1959	Marlin D. Palasek	2004
*Ralph M. Carhart	1960	John F. Dale	2005
*J. Lyle Brown	1961	Jeffrey S. Wunder	2006
*R. Clare Johnson	1962	Albert L. Chatfield	2007
*Edward F. Wehrbein	1963	Roger W. Miner	2008
*Archie W. White	1964	Theodore J. Johnson	2009
*Richard T. Albright	1965	James A. Clark	2010

*Ralph E. Applequist	1966	Thomas Michaelson	2011
*Earl W. Schulz	1967	Jerry Bespalec	2012
*Gale Q. Whitney	1968	Steven C. Smith, I	2013
*Donald W. Larkins	1969	Ed Nolte	2014
*Harley G. Lofton, Sr.	1970	James Batten	2015
*Ehm J. Sorensen	1971	James Gansemer	2016
*Charles E. Baker	1972	Anthony Johnson	2017
Gail Axen	1974		

# \*Deceased

SECRETARIES OF	THE OR	DER OF HIGH PRIES	THOOD
*Daniel W. Wheeler	1872	*Lewis E. Smith	1925
*Thomas A. Creigh	1873	*Harold H. Thom	1942
*Arthur Buckbee	1876	*Lewis E. Smith	1943
*Robert W. Furnas	1877	*Carl E. Greisen	1947
*Robert C. Jordan	1884	*Ralph R. Carleton	1969
*Frank H. Young	1885	*Floyd R. McKenzie	1980
*William R. Brown	1886	Jay H. Speck	1990
*Francis E. White	1899	Bruce T. Anderson	2007

<sup>\*</sup>Deceased

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