

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GRAND COUNCIL ROYAL & SELECT MASTERS
of FLORIDA**



**ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIFTH
ANNUAL GRAND ASSEMBLY**

**Otis Ben Geiger II
MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER
PRESIDING**

**John Kraniou
Grand Master Elected**

**Held at Lake Mary, Florida May 21, 2025,
A. Dep. 3025**

**Grand Council of
Royal & Select Masters
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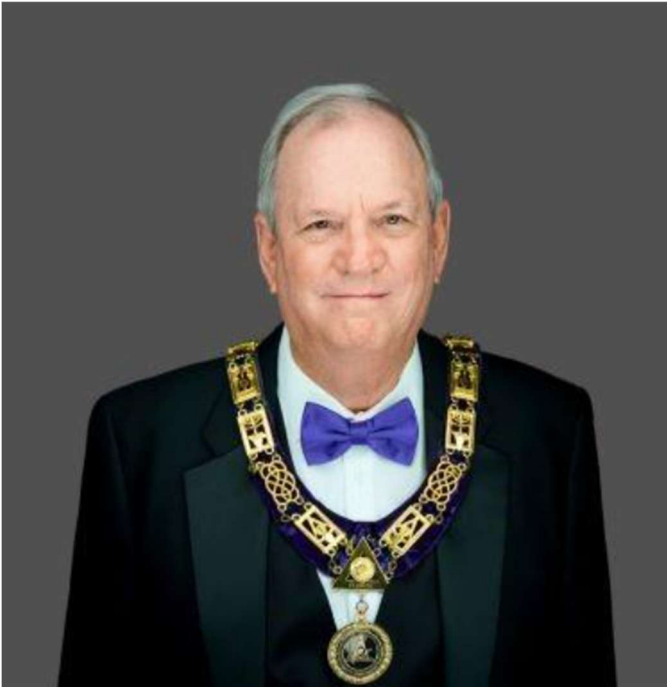
**2024 – 2025 Grand Council – Most Illustrious Grand Master
Photo & Resume**

Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida

Otis Ben Geiger II

Most Illustrious Grand Master

2024-2025



Masonic Resume

**Otis Benjamin Geiger II
Most Illustrious Grand Master**

PERSONAL

Residence: 1733 SW 32nd Terrace, Palm City, Fla

Born: July 24, 1956 in Miami, Fla

Raised in: Delray Beach, Fla. and Coral Springs, Fla.

Married: Debora Raible Geiger on Aug. 24, 1979

Children: Jamie Lee Geiger – Daughter

Otis Benjamin Geiger III - Son

Grandchildren: Olivia Katherine Scheuerman

James Everett Scheuerman

Education: Coconut Creek HS, Coconut Creek, Fla

Broward Community College, Coconut Creek, Fla

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Fla

University of Nevada – Las Vegas

Occupation: Retired from being an Automotive
Service Consultant

Military Service: U.S. Air Force – Sgt. – Aircraft
Armament Specialist - Nellis AFB

BLUE LODGE

Perpetual Member of Acacia Lodge No. 163, Stuart, Fla

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason – 2000

Worshipful Master – 2005

District Deputy Grand Master – 2009

Acacia Lodge Treasurer – 2013-14

District Chairman for Masonic Youth Committee – 2003 - 08

Master Mason Exams, I, II,III – 2009

YORK RITE

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Chapter

Exalted Royal Arch Mason – 2002

Perpetual Member of Joppa Chapter No 28, Ft. Pierce, Fla

High Priest Joppa Chapter - 2006

District Deputy Grand High Priest District 6 – 2006

Order of High Priesthood – 2007

ROYAL & SELECT MASTERS

Council

Greeted a Select Master – 2002
Perpetual Member of Tyrian Council No. 36, Ft. Pierce, Fla
Illustrious Master Tyrian Council – 2009
District Deputy Illustrious Grand Master District 6 – 2011
Order of Anointed Kings – 2010
Super Excellent Master – 2010
Grand Representative - Philippines – 2018
Grand Representative – North Dakota – 2019
Grand Representative – Connecticut – 2022- Present

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF FLORIDA

Commandery

Knighted Knight Templar – 2002
Perpetual Member of St. Lucie Commandery No. 17, Ft. Pierce,
FL
Eminent Commander St. Lucie Commandery – 2012
District Deputy Grand Commander District 6 – 2014 and 2021
District Instructor District 6 – 2018 & 2019
Knight Crusader of the Cross – 2013

ALLIED/APPENDANT BODIES

SCOTTISH RITE

Valley of Lake Worth, Lake Worth, FL – 2005

SHRINE

Amara Shriners, Palm Beach Gardens, FL - 2017

KNIGHTS OF THE YORK CROSS OF HONOR

Florida Priory No. 60, Orlando, FL – 2013

YORK RITE COLLEGE

John Bridges Phelps York Rite College, Orlando, FL – 2008

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

Labarum Conclave, Orlando, FL – 2022

KNIGHT MASON OF USA

Space Coast Council No. 32, Cocoa, FL – 2022

COMMEMORATIVE ORDER OF ST. THOMAS OF ACON

Crusader Chapel #XIII, FL – 2022

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS

Treasure Coast Sojourners No. 568, Stuart, FL – 2022

M.O.V.P.E.R.

Ziba Grotto, Stuart, FL – 2023

HIGH TWELVE INTERNATIONAL

St. Lucie No. 611 High Twelve Club, Port St. Lucie, FL – 2001

ORDER OF DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL

Seacoast Chapter, Delray Beach, FL – 1968

Senior DeMolay

ORDER OF RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

Ft. Pierce (Treasure Coast) Assembly No. 9, Ft. Pierce/Stuart, FL

Advisory Board Member 1999-2011

Advisory Board Chairman – 2003-04, 2006-11

Grand Cross of Color - 2004

2024 – 2025 Grand Council Grand Line Officers

POSITION	NAME	COUN	LADY
M Ill Grand Master	Otis B. Geiger II	36	Debbie
R Ill Deputy Grand Master	John A. Kraniou	1	Cristal
R Ill Grand Conductor of Work	James E. Draeving	6	Analiza
R Ill Grand Recorder	TBA		
R Ill Grand Treasurer	Robert C. St. John Jr	3	Sharen
Ill Grand Chaplain	Paul W. Friend	36	Judy
Ill Assoc Grand Chaplain	Jack A. Holloway	4	Claudia
Ill Grand Captain of Guard	E. Richard Coles IV	35	Linda
Ill Grand Conductor of Council	Jonas Seda	25	Vernessa
Ill Grand Marshal	Robert H. Eisenhardt	36	Patricia
Ill Grand Steward	Rev. Brian R. Poole	35	
Ill Grand Sentinel	Stephen C. Nelson	36	Anitha
Ill Grand Organist	Dana K. Oldenburg	34	
Ill Grand Inspector of Arches	Damon S. Sansom	1	Carrie

2024 – 2025 Grand Master’s Report

Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and the State of The Crypt 2024-2025

To the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, Grand Council Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters, General Grand Council Officers, Grand Lodge Officers, Distinguished quest and visitors. God is His Infinite Wisdom has allowed us the privilege of meeting once again, and it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 145th Annual Session of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida being held on this 21st day of May 2025 in Lake Mary, Florida. We are honored to have you in attendance and hope that you will find today’s session enjoyable and informative and that peace, harmony and brotherly love will prevail.

“Together We Achieve More”. This is the theme I began my year with, and I believe we have achieved more. Both as units and as individuals I see that companions are not sitting by waiting for someone else to take on a task. They are stepping forward; their hands are being raised. This ownership builds a stronger organization and brings us closer together as brothers.

The Right Eminent Grand Commander, The Most Excellent Grand Priest and I decided to hold Joint District Meetings rather than Joint District Festivals because we live in opposite ends of our large state. We were only able to hold four Joint District Meetings as one was canceled because of the threat of a hurricane. At that District’s Festival the three Grand Presiding Officers were able to give short talks at the end of the event. While the District Meetings had good turnouts, I would like to see them better attended by non-elected or appointed officers.

Many festivals were held throughout the state. Some districts combined to create their events. Some held them on their own and recruited help from other companions around the state. At every festival we gained many new companions with some of them adding more than twenty members to our ranks at their event. I saw new companions assisting by taking on parts and/or helping with putting on the festivals.

Through these events we were able to greet 106 new companions. With affiliated and reinstated companions, we had a net gain of 174 companions. Unfortunately, because of demits, suspensions and death we lost 213 members. This is a net loss of 39 members. While death is unavoidable, we had 63 demits and 83 suspensions. What can we do differently to avoid losing these companions?

Cryptic Masons Medical Research Fund is our flagship charity and with the help of our District Deputies, District Instructors and our CMMRF Representatives we were able to exceed our goal. My objective was to raise an average of \$6000.00 per district for a goal of \$60,000.00. We exceeded the goal and raised \$67,710.32. This was accomplished through our necktie sales, successful Table Councils and generous independent donations. Special thanks to Dayle Schrock for his hard work and dedication to our charity in this and previous years.

Through the efforts of Stephen Nelson, Thomas Metcalfe Jr. and Rusty Ludlam our Grand Council Mentor's Manual and our Education Manual have been updated. These are vital parts of our mentoring and continued education programs. We look forward to them being used in educating our new companions and helping our existing members to get more light and further light. I wish to thank them for their hard work.

I did not intend to have District Instructors however my predecessor was able to increase the number of Proficiency Card holders with their help. The success of the District Instructors was outstanding, and I felt their work would again increase the cardholder numbers. While I believe this is a successful program we have not issued as many cards this year as I had hoped. However, there are several companions who are in the process and will soon receive their cards.

The General Grand Council Award Program allows us to recognize outstanding individuals both within our organization and beyond. This is a useful tool to promote York Rite to the Blue Lodge and the public. This can help to increase our membership. I do not think it was utilized as well as it should have been.

While the General Grand Council has good programs there are some concerns. The Grand Council of Florida has sizable concern over unclear bylaw changes enacted last fall 2024 during the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International's piecemeal Triennial session. Additionally, the reluctance of the General Grand Council adhering to its approved Constitution remains

unexplainable. Absence of proceedings from the 2023 Missouri Triennial signals significant documentation inadequacy. The recent resignation of a General Grand officer has raised the red flag further as to the conduct and continuity of its elected officers. It has been the concern of this Grand Council as to the value added in membership of the General Grand Council and whether Florida should remain a member. The recent withdrawals of Michigan and South Carolina, among others prompt serious consideration of conditions which precipitated those actions. Withdrawal of Florida from the General Grand Council remains in question?

This has been an unusual year as we have had to cautiously approach recruitment since we were unable to wear our proper attire and paraphernalia at Blue Lodge meetings. Physically representing the appended bodies can inspire and attract a Master Mason to further his education and increase the fellowship he has already experienced. We were hesitant to promote our programs during Blue Lodge meetings because of the fragile nature of the current environment. I pray that we return to harmony in our Craft. And that we will again be able to bring more light.

NECROLOGY

Three of our Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters put down their working tools this past year. Donald T. Harriott Served the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida as Most Illustrious Grand Master for 2005-2006 passed November 7, 2024, Louis A. King our Most Illustrious Grand Master for 2006-2007 passed December 19, 2024, and Robert E. Burluson our Most Illustrious Grand Master for 1992-1993 passed March 19, 2025. Additionally, this year seventy of our Companions were called to the Celestial Lodge above. All that departed are mourned by those of us left behind. We extend our warmest sympathies and prayers to their families.

OFFICIAL VISITATIONS AND MASONIC ACTIVITIES

May 20 – York Rite Grand Convention Council	Lake Mary
May 27-29 – Grand Lodge of Florida Convention	Orlando
June 8 District Meeting 9&10	Tallahassee
June 11 Tyrian Council No. 36	Ft. Pierce
June 14 Southeast York Rite Conference	Knoxville, TN
June 21 Rainbow Grand Assembly	St. Augustine
June 22 Grand Master’s Official Visit District 16	Apopka
June 25 St. Lucie Commandry No. 17	Ft. Pierce

June 26	Lake Worth Scottish Rite	Palm Beach Lakes
July 6	Master Mason Degree	Stuart
July 8	Lauderdale Council No. 24	Dania Beach
July 9	Ft. Meyers' York Rite Award Night	Ft. Meyers
July 11	Official Visit Melbourne Council No.38	Melbourne
July 18	Florida DeMolay State Conclave	Gainesville
July 20	District Meeting 1&6	Stuart
July 20	National Sojourners Meetings	Stuart
July 23	St. Lucie Commandry No.17	Ft. Pierce
July 26-27	– Florida/Georgia State Festival	Tallahassee
July 28	Southeast MIGM Zoom Meeting	Online
Aug 20	St. Thomas of Acon Meeting	Dover
Aug 13	Tyrian Council No. 36 DDGIM Official Visit	Ft. Pierce
Sept 4	Clearwater Council No. 34	Tarpon Springs
Sept 5	Acacia Lodge No. 163	Stuart
Sept 10	Joppa Chapter No. 28	Ft. Pierce
Sept 13-14	– Ft Pierce York Rite Festival	Stuart
Sept 20	Lake Sumter York Rite Table Council	Tavares
Sept 21	District Meeting 4& 5	Kissimmee
Sept 24	St. Lucie Commandry No. 17	Ft. Pierce
Oct 3	Acacia Lodge No. 163	Stuart
Oct 5	Tampa Council No. 18 and Chapter Festival	Tampa
Oct 12	District Meeting 7&8	Jacksonville
Oct 17	Acacia Lodge No.163	Stuart
Oct 19	Super Excellent Degree	Stuart
Oct 22	St. Lucie Commandry No 17	Ft. Pierce
Oct 23	Lake Worth Scottish Rite Meeting	West Palm Beach
Oct 25	Grand Master's Official Visit District 22	Okeechobee
Oct 26	KYCH Florida Priory No. 60 Meeting	Stuart
Oct 27	Joppa Chapter No. 28 Religious Affirmation	Port Salerno
Nov 12	Tyrian York Rite Table Council	Ft. Pierce
Nov 13	Lake Worth Scottish Rite Meeting	West Palm Beach
Nov 17	Joppa Chapter No. 28 Christmas Observance Port Salerno Methodist Church	
Nov 21	Acacia Lodge 163	Stuart
Nov 23	Gainesville and Palatka Table Council	Gainesville
Nov 26	St. Lucie No. 17 Commandry Meeting and Ramsdale Competition	Stuart

Dec 5	Acacia Lodge No. 163	Stuart
Dec 7	Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests King of Kings Tabernacle No. XXV	Orlando
Dec 10	Tyrian No.36	Ft. Pierce
Dec 14	John B. Phelps York Rite College No. 31	Orlando
Dec 17	St. Lucie No. 13 Commandry Christmas Observance	Ft. Pierce
Dec 19	Acacia Lodge No. 163	Stuart
Dec 21	Acacia Lodge No. 163 Worshipful Master Ball	Stuart
Jan 5	Amara Shriner's Installation	Palm Beach Gardens
Jan 8	Installation for Crestview No. 33 and Gulf Council No.29	Niceville
Jan 14	Joppa Chapter No.28	Ft Pierce
Jan 16	Acacia No. 163	Stuart
Jan 17	Ziba Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R.	Stuart
Jan 18	Red Cross of Constantine Labrum Conclave	Orlando
Jan 19	Southeast MIGM zoom Meeting	Online
Jan 20	Palm Beach York Rite Leaders Meetings	Palm Beach Gardens
Jan 22	MIGM Don Harriott's Masonic Funeral	St. Petersburg
Jan 25	MIGM Louis King's Masonic Funeral	Brooksville
Jan 28	St. Lucie No. 17 Commandry Meeting	Ft. Pierce
Feb 6	Acacia Lodge No. 163	Stuart
Feb 8	Palatka York Rite Festival	Palatka
Feb 11	Tyrian Council No. 36	Ft. Pierce
Feb 20	Acacia Lodge No. 163	Stuart
Feb 22	KYCH Florida Priory No. 60	Orlando
Feb 23	Acacia Lodge No. 163 Scholarship Fundraiser	Stuart
Feb 25	St. Lucie Commandry No. 17	Ft. Pierce
Mar 1	District Meeting 2 &3	Tampa
Mar 7-8	So. Carolina Grand York Rite Session	Columbia, SC
Mar 10	North Florida York Rite Award Night	Jacksonville
Mar 16-18	– N. Carolina Grand York Rite Session	Clemmons, NC
Mar 17	Old Saratoga Degree	Clemmons, NC
Mar 28-29	– Ft. Pierce York Rite Festival	Stuart
Mar 31	Ziba Grotto M.O.V.P.E.B.	Stuart
Apr 11	Masonic Memorial Service for MIGM Robert Burleson	Orlando
Apr 12	Space Coast Council No.32 Knight Mason	Orlando
Apr 19-20	– Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknown	Washington D.C.

Soldier and Easter Observance	
May 2-3 Georgia Grand York Rite Session	Macon, GA
May 13 Joppa Chapter No.28	Ft. Pierce
May 17 St. Thomas of Acon Crusader Chapel No.XIII of Lake Mary	Lake Mary
May 19 Order of the Silver Trowel	Lake Mary

DISPENSATIONS GRANTED (2)

8/28/2024	Fort Myers Council No. 25 Joint meeting w/ Bradentown
8/28/2024	Bradentown Council No. 9 Joint meeting w/ Ft. Myers

DISPENSATIONS DENIED (1)

9/16/2024	Golden Triangle Council No. 28 Have a Table Festival (No Dispensation needed for Table Festivals)
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BY-LAW AMENDMENT REQUEST APPROVED (5)

7/3/2024	Gulf Council No. 29 Change dues
12/15/2024	Tyler Council No. 4 Change meeting location and schedule
2/27/2025	Gainesville Council No. 27 Change meeting schedule
5/4/2025	Zabud Council No. 17 Change dues
5/4/2025	Zabud Council No.17 Change meeting location

BY-LAW REQUEST DENIED

None

DIRECTIVES; EDICTS; EXECUTIVE ORDERS (3)

2024-01 Passing of M.I.P.G.M Donald T. Harriott (2005)

2024-02 Passing of M.I.P.G.M. Louis A. King (2006)

2024-03 Passing of M.I.P.G.M. Robert E. Burleson (1992)

RULING AND DECISIONS

None

WARRANTS SIGNED

There were 9 Warrants signed and forwarded to the Grand Treasurer for payment 2024-01 to 2024-09 (\$41,602.80)

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED (7)

ARIZONA	JULIO SANCHEZ
IDAHO	MATT SPENCE
ILLINOIS	JOSEPH SCHOONOVER
NEW JERSEY	WILLIAM THOMAS
PENNSYLVANIA	ERIC KLIENBACH
SCOTLAND	DAMON SANSOM
VENEZUELA	FRANK KIEFER

GIBLIMITE AWARD PROGRAM

Only 7 of 31 Councils submitted the proper form for the Giblymite Award Program. Companions, this is just not acceptable and an injustice to the hard-working Companions of your Council. The Illustrious Master is responsible for filling out the form at the end of his year and has not done his duty to his Council if it is not submitted. The Giblymite Award was established by M.I. Wendell Debril Harrington to encourage and reward the Council for completing mandatory requirements and for setting and accomplishing goals and objectives that would improve attendance, participation and more importantly to retain and increase membership.

GRAND COUNCIL AWARDS

CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR

Rusty Ludlam

ADULT YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Robert Leonard

WALTER I. STEVENSON AWARD

Thomas Metcalfe Jr.

ISH-SODI AWARD

Brian Zeppa

Scott McAlister

Edward Sanchez

Joseph Schoonover

Edward Smallwood

Albert Kimball

KEITH W. DEAN RITUAL COMPETITION AWARD

No Councils Competed

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That we have 5 Committee on Work appointees spread across the vast state to make it much easier for Councils and Companions to have access so they can be evaluated for Proficiency Cards and awards on their ritualistic work.
2. Councils should be encouraged to participate in competing for the Keith W. Dean Ritual Award. The scoring system is very forgiving; in several parts you can get points just by reading them. We need to start somewhere to grow and improve. When a Council is having a Festival, they should be graded at the same time.
3. Keep District Instructors and encourage them to push and tutor Companions to work on getting their proficiency cards and educate officers in the correct way of opening and closing a Council. Once they know that, they're well on their way to getting a proficiency card.
4. That each dais officer is knowledgeable about the Giblemite Award and assists the Illustrious Master with that report.
5. That each District should have a Festive Table Council for CMMRF.
6. That each District strives to hold 2 festivals in their own District or, if necessary, combine efforts with another district.
7. Have District Festivals instead of meetings and the Three Grand Presiding Officers can give a short speech at the end of the festival to add

any information the DD wasn't able to convey on his travels around his District.

8. That we take advantage of the Mentor's Manual and Education Manual. Unfortunately, they have not been utilized as they were designed to be. Every new companion should be exposed to these manuals. Also, the education manual can be used to bring more interest to the council meetings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONCLUSION

Thank you to my Officers, District Deputies, Committeemen and most of all the Florida Council members for all they have done to make this year a success.

I would like to thank MIPGM John D. Pickford for having confidence in me and appointing me to the bottom of the Grand Council Line. You stood by me as I progressed through this line and offered sound guidance.

I have been very fortunate in my life to have been influenced by many outstanding Masons. Starting with my grandfather Everett Ellis, three times, a Worshipful Master of then Delray Beach Lodge. My father O.B. Geiger, a Charter member of Coral Springs Lodge and Mayor of Coral Springs. After becoming a Mason, M.I.P.G.M. Charles Hollinger and M.I.P.G.M. Dayle Schrock who guided my York Rite career from the beginning and took me around the state to receive the York Rite Degrees. M.I.P.G.M. Paul Friend for your support, inspiration, knowledge and more importantly friendship, thank you.

A special thank you to my fellow Companions from Tyrian Council No. 36 for your assistance, guidance and respect as I progressed through the line.

I would like to thank all the Companions around the state for their assistance, support, encouragement, and confidence by electing me to this esteem honor

I would like to thank the ladies of York Rite for supporting your York Rite husbands and giving up your time with him to allow him to be involved. Thank you to my wife of 45 years, Debora. You truly are the wind in my sails, and I couldn't have done all of this without you.

O. Ben Geiger II
Illustrious Grand Master

Minutes of the 145th Grand Assembly

The Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida was opened by Tyrian Council No. 36 in full form at 7:30 am on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at The Orlando Marriott at Lake Mary located in Lake Mary, Florida.

The Grand Council officers were escorted in. Most Illustrious Grand Master O. Benjamin Geiger II was escorted to the East, MIGM Geiger was given Grand Honors. MIGM Geiger asked the Grand Officers to take their stations, all Grand Council Officers were introduced.

MIGM Geiger declared Tyrian Council No. 36 closed, and the 145th Grand Council Assembly opened for business.

Introductions: (done by Steven Q. Steele of the Distinguished Guest Committee)

Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of Florida Corey D. Kosciuszko was introduced, given Public Grand Honors, and escorted to the East.

Very Eminent Grand Commander of Florida Erik Andersen was introduced, given Public Grand Honors, and escorted to the East.

Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters of Florida were escorted to the East and given Cryptic Grand Honors.

Most Illustrious Grand Masters, Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters, and Grand Council Officers of recognized jurisdictions were escorted to the East and given Cryptic Grand Honors.

General Grand Council of R&SM International officers were escorted to the East and given Cryptic Grand Honors.

Grand Lodge Officers were given Private Grand Lodge Honors.

Most Worshipful Grand Master of Florida was given Private Grand Lodge Honors.

Roll Call of Grand Council R&SM of Florida – Grand Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, District Instructors, Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters of Florida and Grand Representatives was conducted by Larry Gillespie, Grand Recorder.

Cryptic Mason of the Year Holders were recognized and the Cryptic Mason of the Year medal was presented to Rusty Ludlam.

The Mentor/Instructor Manual was presented by the committee and approved.

Preliminary Returns and Credentials report was presented. All Councils were represented with the exception of Zabud No. 17. Total eligible to vote was 71. Motion made to accept report the preliminary returns and credentials report, motion seconded, motion carried. The Grand Recorder certified there was a quorum present.

The Grand Recorder made a motion that the minutes of the 144th Grand Assembly be accepted as printed and distributed in the 2023-2024 proceedings, motion seconded, motion carried.

A motion was made to accept all pre-printed reports, with the exception of the MIGM report and budget, that were distributed in the convention packet, motion seconded, motion carried.

MIGM O. Benjamin Geiger II presented his report. Motion made to accept the MIGM report, motion seconded, motion carried.

Paul Friend, MIPGM, presented the preliminary Jurisprudence report. Motion was made to accept the preliminary Jurisprudence report, motion seconded, motion carried.

RI Robert St. John, Jr., MIPGM, Grand Treasurer presented his preliminary report. Motion was made to accept the Grand Treasurer's report, motion seconded, motion carried.

The Committee on Work noted proficiency cards were issued and jewels.

Dayle Schrock, MIPGM, presented the CMMRF report.

A special thank you was given to Deb Geiger and her ladies in the Hospitality Room, as well as the volunteers that helped at the registration desk and throughout the convention.

The GGC Adult Youth Leadership Award was presented to Robert Leonard.

All holders of the Walter I. Stephenson Grand Masters Award were invited to stand. The award was presented to Thomas Metcalfe Jr. of Gainesville Council.

The Ish-Sodi Award was presented to Brian Zeppa, Scott McAlister, Edward Sanchez, Joseph Schoonover, Edward Smallwood, and Albert Kimball. Recipients were invited to the West of the Altar.

The Giblemite Award was presented to the following:

Golden Triangle No. 28	Illustrious Master Brian Zeppa
Tyler Council No. 4	Illustrious Master David Anderson
Gulf Council No. 29	Illustrious Master Jim Snow
Union Council No. 7	Illustrious Master Haskell H. Vest Jr.
Gainesville Council No. 27	Illustrious Master Christian Drouin
Crestview Council No. 33	Illustrious Master Wiley Willoughby
Ft Myers Council No. 25	Illustrious Master Christopher Tillman
Tampa Council No. 8	Illustrious Master Edward Kallner

No award was given for the Keith W. Dean Ritual Competition or the 10% Membership Gain.

Reports for the Investment Advisory Committee and Life/Perpetual Membership Committee were included in the committee report packet provided.

The Souvenir Program Committee Report was presented by John Lewis.

RI Deputy Grand Master John A. Kranioiu presented the proposed Budget for the 2025-2026 year. Motion was made to accept the proposed budget for 2025-2026, motion seconded, motion carried.

All pending legislation was withdrawn as it was not posted timely by the Grand Recorder.

The Final Returns and Credentials report was presented by Butch Thurman. All Councils were represented. Total Companions eligible to vote: 81.

A motion made to accept the final returns and credentials report, motion seconded, motion carried.

The floor was opened for 2025-2026 Election of Officers. The following were nominated and elected by a unanimous ballot:

- Most Illustrious Grand Master: John A. Kraniou
- Deputy Grand Master: James E. Draeving
- Principal Conductor of the Work: E. Richard Coles IV
- Grand Treasurer: Robert C. St. John, Jr., MIPGM
- Grand Recorder: Larry R. Gillespie

RI John A. Kraniou announced the list of 2025-2026 appointments. Installation followed in the ballroom.

RI John A. Kraniou presented the time and place report for 2026 Grand Assembly: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Orlando Marriott at Lake Mary in Lake Mary, Florida.

O. Benjamin Geiger II thanked his officers, RIDDGM, DI, and Companions for a great year and support.

MI Companion James Bard, Right Puissant South Eastern Deputy Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, gave his remarks.

RP Keith Powell, Deputy Grand Master GGCCMI, gave his remarks.

O. Benjamin Geiger II, Most Illustrious Grand Master, closed the 145th Grand Assembly of Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida at 12:14 pm.

Preliminary Treasurer's Report

This is my preliminary report on the financial status of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery for the 2025 Grand Convention. The attached balance sheets and income-expenses statements reflect transactions through the end of April. Final reports will be included in the Proceedings which will reflect the fiscal year's activities through May 31st. Notes relating to the three Grand bodies reports will be included. Each of the presiding officers has submitted proper warrants for all expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert C St John, Grand Treasurer

Grand Council Account Balances - As of 4/30/2025

Bank Accounts

Grand Council Checking - New	\$	24,754.84
Grand Council Savings	\$	35,124.60
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$	59,879.44

Asset Accounts

Admin Fund Investment Acct	\$	407,308.00
Life-Perp Fund Investment Acct	\$	409,789.63
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$	817,097.63

Liability Accounts

40040 Triennial Escrow Fund	\$	(5,405.46)
40051 Collected Advance per Capita	\$	(31,529.00)
TOTAL Liability Accounts	\$	(36,934.46)

NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	\$	840,042.61
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Grand Council Income Expense Statement

INCOME

40000 Annual per Capita	\$	29,537.00
40011 Other Interest	\$	3.23
40012 Other Income		
40012 Other Income:Donations	\$	400.00
40012 Other Income:Incorrect Payee	\$	840.00
40012 Other Income:Refund	\$	100.00
40012 Other Income:Reimbursement	\$	300.00
TOTAL 40012 Other Income	\$	1,640.00
40014 Grand Office Unused Income	\$	8,618.00
40020 Annual Convention Income	\$	1,533.21
TOTAL INCOME	\$	41,331.44

EXPENSES

20010 Allowances		
20010 Allowances:20011 Grand Master	\$	4,000.00
20010 Allowances:20012 Deputy Grand Master	\$	2,000.00
20010 Allowances:20015 Grand Treasurer	\$	1,500.00
TOTAL 20010 Allowances	\$	7,500.00
20030 Meetings		
20030 Meetings:20031 Triennial	\$	1,000.00
20030 Meetings:20032 District Meetings	\$	900.00
20030 Meetings:20034 Grand Master SE Conference	\$	250.00
20030 Meetings:20036 Gr. P.C.W. SE Conference	\$	250.00
20030 Meetings:20037 Gr. Recorder SE Conf.	\$	84.00
TOTAL 20030 Meetings	\$	2,484.00
20050 Office Expenses	\$	7,200.00
20050 Office Expenses:20056 Computer Expenses	\$	-
TOTAL 20050 Office Expenses	\$	7,200.00
20060 Printing	\$	1,500.00
20070 Salaries, Stipends, Payroll Taxes	\$	16,200.00
20080 Taxes		
20080 Taxes:20081 Florida Corp. Tax	\$	61.25
20080 Taxes:20082 Gen. Grand per Capita	\$	6,587.50
TOTAL 20080 Taxes	\$	6,648.75
20090 Sundry		
20090 Sundry:20090 Returned Check Amount	\$	100.00
20090 Sundry:20093 Membership Services	\$	970.05
20090 Sundry:20102 Incorrect Deposit Account	\$	840.00
TOTAL 20090 Sundry	\$	1,910.05
20102 Bank Service Charges	\$	92.53
20102 Bank Service Charges:Returned Check Fee	\$	15.00
TOTAL 20102 Bank Service Charges	\$	107.53
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	43,550.33

NET INCOME (EXPENSES)	\$	(2,218.89)
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GRAND COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET VS ACTUAL - FY 2024-2025

CATEGORY		Budget		Actual
INCOME				
40000 Annual per capita	\$	33,800.00	\$	33,083.00
40011 Other Interest	\$	3.00	\$	3.23
40012 Other Receipts - Admin Invest (75%)	\$	13,800.00		
40012 Other Receipts - Donations			\$	400.00
40012 Other Receipts - Refund			\$	100.00
40012 Other Receipts - Reimbursement			\$	300.00
40012 Other Receipts - Incorrect Payee			\$	840.00
40020 Annual Grand Assembly Return	\$	4,383.00	\$	1,533.21
40030 Grand Office Return	\$	635.00	\$	8,618.00
40050 Grand Council Carryover Funds				
40012 Fund-raising Activities				
TOTAL INCOME	\$	52,621.00	\$	44,877.44
EXPENSES				
20010 Allowances				
20011 Grand Master	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
20012 Deputy Grand Master	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
20014 Incoming MIGM Apron & Case	\$	1,200.00		
20014 DDGM Aprons & Cases (one-time item)				
20015 Grand Treasurer	\$	2,000.00	\$	1,500.00
TOTAL ALLOWANCES	\$	9,200.00	\$	7,500.00
CHARITIES				
20020 Charities				
20022 Youth Charities	\$	900.00		
20023 Masonic Home	\$	-		
20024 Gr Master's Charity (CMMRF)	\$	250.00		
20025 Youth Scholarship	\$	-		
TOTAL CHARITIES	\$	1,150.00		
MEETINGS				
20031 Triennial	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
20032 District Meetings	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
20033 Summer Assembly	\$	-		
20034 MIGM SE CONF	\$	250.00	\$	250.00
20035 RIDGM SE CONF	\$	250.00		
20036 RPCW SE CONF	\$	250.00	\$	250.00
20037 Grnd Rec SE CONF	\$	84.00	\$	84.00
20038 CMMRF Meeting				
TOTAL MEETINGS	\$	2,834.00	\$	2,584.00
20040 Grand Convocation				
20044 Distinguished Guests	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,300.93
Ladies events				
TOTAL GRAND CONVOCATION	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,300.93
OFFICE EXPENSES				
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES	\$	7,200.00	\$	7,200.00
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES - PRINTING				
TOTAL 20060- Printing	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
CONTRACT LABOR SALERIES, STIPENDS, PAYROLL TAXES				
TOTAL 20070-Saleries, Stipends, payroll taxes	\$	16,200.00	\$	16,200.00

TAXES			
20081 Florida Corp	\$	62.00	\$ 61.25
20082 Gen Gr Per Capita	\$	7,500.00	\$ 6,587.50
TOTAL 20080-Taxes	\$	7,562.00	\$ 6,648.75
SUNDRY 20090			
20090 Returned Check Amount			\$ 100.00
20090 Transfer to Correct Account			\$ 840.00
20091 Edu & Training	\$	1,000.00	
20092 Awards	\$	1,000.00	
20095 Insurance	\$	1,000.00	
20096 Contingencies	\$	400.00	
20097 Officer Jewel & apron	\$	-	
20099 Webhosting			
20100 Keith Dean Award	\$	500.00	
20101 MMS-YRIS	\$	1,000.00	\$ 970.05
TOTAL 20090- Sundry	\$	4,900.00	\$ 1,910.05
MISCELLANEOUS			
20102 Bank Service charges	\$	25.00	\$ 92.53
20110 Bank Charges	\$	50.00	\$ 15.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$	75.00	\$ 107.53
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	52,621.00	\$ 45,951.26
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$	-	\$ (1,073.82)

Notes to Accompany the Grand Council Statements

1. Account Balances:

- a. The bank account and investment account information are self-explanatory.
- b. The liability accounts require further information:
 1. Triennial – this account reports the funds currently set aside to pay the stipends to those who attend the triennial. The approved budgets have allocated \$1000 per year added to residual funds after the previous triennial. The Constitution sets a maximum stipend, but the actual payment is determined by the amount available divided by the number of attendees. If there are funds remaining after the payout, they are retained for the next cycle.
 2. Collected Advance Per Capita – this account reports the per capita collected so far this year and represents the balance available for the upcoming fiscal year budget.
- c. The Constitution allows the incoming MIGM to draw up to 75% of the previous calendar year's earnings of the Administrative Investment account when budgeting his income. The cash available for the Grand Council (checking and savings) has been sufficient to cover all the expenditures so the Administrative Investment account earnings have not been used. Thus, between the unused investment earnings, the savings and checking accounts we have sufficient funds to cover all the liabilities shown.

2. **Income Expense Statement:** This report is a cash basis report and thus some entries are shown which do not transfer to the budget versus actual report. Those variances will be noted in these remarks.
 - a. **Annual Per Capita** – This shows the amount of per capita received during the current accounting year and is not transferred to the budget versus actual report as discussed under liabilities above.
 - b. **Incorrect Payee** - Occasionally, checks are made payable to the Grand Council which should be payable to a different account. Typically, this happens with payments made for perpetual membership. When this happens, the funds are deposited and show as income; an expense is created when the funds are transferred to the proper account.
 - c. **Grand Office Unused Income** – This is calculated in arrears and returned proportionally to the Grand Council after the end of each fiscal year.
 - d. **Annual Convention Income** – This is calculated in arrears and returned proportionally to the Grand Council after the convention expenses are paid.
 - e. **Distinguished Visitors** – This is calculated in arrears and charged to the Grand Council after the convention. The entry in the budget versus actual report is the actual charge for the previous year’s convention and will typically vary from the amount budgeted for the current year’s convention.
 - f. **Net Income (Loss)** – This entry properly shows the net income (loss) based on cash flow for the current fiscal year but doesn’t transfer to the budget versus actual report due to the variances already discussed.
3. **Budget versus Actual:** This report is a blend of cash-based entries and budget entries and therefore shows an incomplete picture of the Grand Council’s financial activities.
 - a. **Annual Per Capita** – As discussed above, this is the amount collected last year that became income for this year.
 - b. **Investment** – This is the amount allowed to be withdrawn but not used unless needed to cover current expenses. If added to the actual column, it would more than cover the shortfall reported.

Grand Secretary/Recorder's Report

To the Delegates of the 2025 Grand York Rite Convention:

This is the report of the Grand Secretary/Recorder for the fiscal year of June 1, 2024, through May 30, 2025.

The Office remains organized and has successfully completed all the required tasks.

Dues cards with individual members' names preprinted for the Chapter Secretaries and the Council Recorders were produced locally. This service is intended to make things easier for the local Secretary/Recorders and feedback is both desirable and requested from the membership as to its helpfulness.

Proposed Grand Commandery Resolutions were posted on the GYR website, with notice to the Recorders. The same was done for proposed Resolutions for Grand Chapter and Grand Council. I was late in getting them posted within the cut off dates in February and March 2025.

Per capita statements were sent out in a timely fashion just after the start of 2025. Collection of payments from the local Bodies was faithfully made and passed over to the Grand Treasurer.

Following the change of Officers in local Bodies at the start of 2025, a new Directory, a document of some 60 pages, was not able to be assembled and produced. There have been a lot of changes in meeting locations and time of meetings and not all information, including updated officer lists, has been updated in the MMS database by the Secretary/Recorders. A draft Directory is available for review at the registration table to ensure correct information is reflected. The information will be updated and a 2025 – 2026 Directory will be produced after the convention. Each of the Delegates here at the Convention will receive a copy of the Directory at a later date.

In March of 2025, a joint meeting of all Committee members was held for the purpose of both Audit and next year's Budgeting. The results of both sets of Committees are published separately. However, the books were found to be properly kept and expenses valid.

Flyers for the Convention Souvenir program were distributed, payments were received and faithfully turned over to the Grand Treasurer.

Registration documents for the Convention were placed on the web site for Registration. There were some issues with the PayPal processing. Registration and payments were received and recorded, with payments turned over to the Grand Treasurer. Paper booklets showing proposed Resolutions, Budgets and Committee reports were produced and distributed at registration.

Based upon registration, arrangements for meals, event schedule and meeting room assignments were made with the Hotel and published to the local Bodies.

Throughout the year, assistance was rendered to the Grand Presiding Officers, to the local Secretaries and Recorders and to Members, as needed with respect to MMS, change of local Officers, purchase of Rituals, Perpetual Membership, Dispensations and Changes of Bylaws, etc.

Finally, as the fiscal year comes to its conclusion, the expenses of the Grand York Rite Office are within the Budget approved by the Craft in May of 2024 and in fact were below budget allowances. As was clearly announced at the 2024 Convention, Carl Gilmore stepped down from the office of Grand Secretary/Recorder. I wish to Thank RI Gilmore for always being a great mentor and leader to me and all the Companions and Sir Knights. R I Gilmore and R I St. John have greatly helped in the transition of myself as the new Grand Secretary/Recorder of the Grand York Rite Office.

Fraternally and sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Gillespie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

*Larry R. Gillespie, KYGCH
Grand Secretary/Recorder*

Roll Call

2024 – 2025 Grand Line

Grand Line Officers	Name	Present
MI Grand Master	O. Benjamin Geiger II	X
RI Deputy Grand Master	John A. Kraniou	X
RI Principal Conductor of the Work	James E. Draeving	X
RI Grand Treasurer	Robert C. St. John, Jr	X
RI Grand Recorder	Larry R. Gillespie	X
I Grand Chaplain	Jack A. Holloway	
I Assoc Grand Chaplain	Rev. Paul W. Friend	X
I Grand Captain of the Guard	E. Richard Coles IV	X
I Grand Conductor of the Council	Jonas Seda	X
I Grand Marshal	Robert H. Eisenhardt	
I Grand Steward	Rev. Brian Poole	X
I Grand Sentinel	Stephen C. Nelson	X
I Grand Organist	Dana K. Oldenburg	X
I Grand Inspector of the Arches	Damon S. Sansom	X

2024 – 2025 District Deputy Grand Masters

District	Name	Present
1	Harry Bonet	
2	Gene F. Sims	X
3	V. Kirk Hinote	
4	C. Pearce Dreadin	
5	Matthew J. Spence	X
6	Julio Sanchez	X
7	Edward L. Smallwood	X
8	Albert L. Kimball	X
9	Neils Hesse	X
10	Wiley M. Willoughby II	X

2024 – 2025 District Instructors

District	Name	Present
1	Garry M. Paxinos	X
2	Christopher Tilman	X
3	V. Kirk Hinote	
4	A. Randy Chancey	
5	Carlos J. Crispin, Jr.	
6	Stephen C. Nelson	X

7	Stephen M. Meserve	X
8	Thomas E. Metcalfe Jr.	X
9	Neils Hesse	X
10	Daniel R. Parks	

Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters

Year	Name	Present
1996	Paul W. Friend	X
2000	Richard S. Agster	X
2001	Charles L. Hollinger	X
2009	Carl E. Gilmore	X
2011	M. Daniel Fullwood	X
2012	Larry R. Gillespie	X
2013	Dayle L. Schrock	X
2016	Benjamin J. Holland	
2017	Robert C. St. John, Jr.	X
2018	Glenn E. Chandler, Snr.	
2019	John D. Pickford	
2020	Thomas J. Rawsthorne	
2021	Wm Allen Sorbie	X
2022	Gene A. Lance	X
2023	Tom Olsen	X

2024 – 2025 Grand Representatives

State/Country	Name	Present
Alabama	Randall Burkett	
Alaska	John F. Wermann	X
Arizona	Julio Sanchez	
Arkansas	Todd Meschelle	
Austria	Gary Roane	
Brazil	Jonas Seda	X
California	Larry Gillespie	X
Central America	Harry V. Eisenberg	X
Colorado	Gene A. Lance	X
Connecticut	Otis Benjamin Geiger II	X
Croatia	Albert W. Thurman	X
Cyprus	John Donohoo	X
Delaware	Charles Hollinger	X
District of Columbia	Sheldon Arpad	
France	Aldrin Catabay	
Gabon	Charles R. Bailey	X
Georgia	John Lewis	X
Germany	James Draeving	X

Greece	Jeffrey Lawrence	
Hawaii	Darryl D'Angina	X
Idaho	James L. Record	
Illinois	Richard Bayly	
Indiana	Ronald Parks	
Iowa	Jack A. Holloway	
Italy	A.J. Aherns III	X
Kentucky	Paul Friend	X
Louisiana	Richard Agster	X
Maine	Brian Johnsen	X
Massachusetts	Stephen Urban, Jr.	
Mexico	Robert St. John, Jr.	X
Michigan	Scott Schwartzberg	X
Minnesota	Douglas Dobbs	X
Mississippi	James F. Robertson	
Missouri	Rusty Ludlam	X
Montana	Stephen C. Nelson	X
Nebraska	Carl E. Gilmore	X
Nevada	John I. Gray	X
New Hampshire	Steve Meserve	X
New Jersey		
New Mexico	Robert Eisenhardt	
New York	C. Craig Frazier	X
North Carolina	James Billberry	X
North Dakota	John Kraniou	X
Ohio	Lloyd D. Newman	
Oklahoma	William Jacobs	X
Oregon	Adam M. Bryan	X
Panama	E. Randy Spradling	X
Peru	Michael Leebove	X
Pennsylvania	Richard Hoover	
Philippines	James Billberry	X
Portugal	Thams J. Rawsthorne	
Rhode Island	Henry A. Adams	X
Romania	David M. Rosenthal	X
South Carolina	John Lewis	X
South Dakota	Brad Sutherland	
Tennessee	Steven Q. Steele	X
Texas	Thomas A. Olsen	X
Togo	Edgar Richard Coles III	X
Utah	Erik B. Andersen	X
Venezuela		
Vermont	Ronald Naumowicz	
Victoria, Australia	Corey D. Kosciuszko	X
Virginia	Glenn Chandler, Snr.	
Washington	John Pickford	
West Virginia	Charles Jordan	

Western Canada	William Allen Sorbie	
Wisconsin	Paul Ritchie	X
Wyoming	Jerry Miller	X

Audit Committee Report

On Saturday March 22nd, 2025 the members of the Audit Committee were able to meet for the purpose of reviewing The Grand Council’s Treasurer/Recorder’s records for the fiscal year June 1, 2023 to May 1, 2024. This meeting was conducted at Tampa York Rite Bodies building at 4210 W Oklahoma Ave, Tampa Florida. We reviewed the books, records, warrants, vouchers, and statements, finding them to be in proper order.

The committee would like to thank Grand Treasurer Robert C. St. John Jr. and Grand Recorder Larry R. Gillespie for making themselves readily available and for the well-organized condition and completeness of the records of the Grand Council. It has been an honor to serve the Most Illustrious Grand Master as members of this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
 RI John A. Kraniou
 RI James E. Draeving
 RI E. Richard Coles IV

CMMRF Report

I’m Dayle Schrock, member of Melbourne Council #38, past Illustrious Master & current Recorder.

Most Illustrious Geiger, Right Puissant Powell, and Right Puissant Bard would you like to join me to thank these Companions for their donations?

Most Illustrious Grand Master Otis Ben Geiger II, Right Puissant W. Keith Powell, Deputy Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, distinguished East and Companions all, Good morning.

Most Illustrious Grand Master, thank you for allowing me to chair this most worthy committee, CMMRF Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. We are privileged to have Companions who are dedicated in making Florida one of the top contributors in the Nation. Thank you, Companions, for your donations totaling \$ **67,710.32**.

CMMRF conducts research in pursuit of curing and / or alleviating medical conditions stemming from vascular diseases through Stem Cell Research.

I must start by saying we have not received our Triangle Plaques or Extender Bars due to the Indiana Trophy Shop is backed up with orders. We will get them distributed once they arrive, probably through the District Meetings.

This year we have 2 Companions who have earned their Triangle Plaque. It's a great example how to earn your plaque 2 different ways. First Companion gave \$100 which brought his lifetime cumulative donations over \$1,000. The second Companion gave \$2,000. Would these Companions please come forward when I call your name:

<u>Plaque Name</u>	<u>Council</u>
603 Henry I. Jehan Jr. (\$100)	Sanford No. 20
610 Edward Smallwood (\$2,000)	Palatka No. 18

After you receive the Triangle Plaque you earn a CMMRF Pin for additional \$1,000 donations. We have 19 Companions who earned their CMMRF Pins. Please come forward and be recognized.

Otis Benjamin Geiger II 2 Diamonds Pin	Tyrian Council 36
*Ed Ghiglieri 2 Diamonds	Sanford Council 20
Edward Smallwood 2 Diamonds	Palatka Council 18
Sheldon Arpad 3 Diamonds	Bradentown Council 9
Carlos Correa 3 Diamonds	Adoniram Council 10
Brett A. Gordon 3 Diamonds	Adoniram Council 10
James Hafling 3 Diamonds	Tyrian Council 36

Charles G. Harper II 3 Diamonds	Orlando Council 5
Edward J. Mayfield Jr. 3 Diamonds	Golden Triangle Council 28
Stephen G. Paulsen 3 Diamonds	Tyrian Council 36
Robert Dean Sever 4 Diamonds	St Petersburg Council 14
Steven Q. Steele 7 Diamonds	Adoniram Council 10
Jerry Miller 8 Diamonds	Gulf Council 29
Marion Crum 12 Diamonds	St Petersburg Council 14
Charles L. Hollinger 13 Diamonds	Melbourne Council 38
Robert St. John 13 Diamonds	Tampa Council 8
Alfred Mueller Jr. 18 Diamonds	Tyrian Council 36
John & Doris Pickford 21 Diamonds	Tyrian Council 36
Carl Gilmore 36 Diamonds	Clearwater Council 34

* - Died

The Council Extender Bar's represent an additional \$1,000.00 or more. For 2024 we were pleased to have 14 Councils contribute to earn their Extender Bars. Would the 2024 Illustrious Masters or the current Illustrious Master from the following Councils please come forward:

<u>Council</u>	<u>BARS</u>
Hallmark No. 3	1 Bar
Orlando No. 5	2 Bar
Tampa No. 8	3 Bar
Adoniram No. 10	4 Bar
St. Petersburg No. 14	1 Bar
Palatka No. 18	3 Bar
Sanford No. 20	1 Bar
Lauderdale No. 24	2 Bar
Ft. Myers No. 25	2 Bar
Golden Triangle No. 28	1 Bar
Gulf No. 29	2 Bar

Clearwater No. 34	30 Bar
Tyrian No. 36	8 Bar
Melbourne No. 38	2 Bar

The 30 Bars for Clearwater Council No. 34, represented \$30,000.00 of which \$27,000.00 of it was from the Richard Brooks estate, earning them the Darrell Atkin Award.

Noteworthy, a congratulation to Tyrian Council No. 36 for donating \$8,617.82 this Cryptic Year.

I move this report be accepted and printed in the Proceedings.

M.I. Dayle Schrock, Chairman
M.I. Glenn Chandler, Snr.
M.I. Thomas Olsen

Convention Report

The 2025 Grand Convention was a success. The hotel provided a tasty banquet on Sunday, the three Grand presiding officers ran efficient meetings, the ladies had a special program, and everyone had a good time. Our REGC, Ron Naumowicz, was unable to attend due to medical issues; his Deputy did well with the short notice. It was good practice for him for next year's Grand Commandery Conclave.

I have attached an income and expense report for the convention. A few comments about that report.

First, the online registrations and meals payments that were deposited into PayPal were added as a lump sum in the registration line item (\$8938.37). Second, the other income line includes a donation from Milford Commandery as one of our vendors (\$250) and a reconciliation adjustment (\$80) needed to correct an entry error. Our other vendor purchased an ad in the Program book as his donation. The program book again helped substantially with funding the convention showing a net income of \$6787.72.

The payment to the hotel was about \$3000 more than last year, which significantly reduced the balance available to distribute to the Grand bodies (\$417.87). Each Grand body received \$139.29.

Thank you to all donors, participants, our elected officers and the hotel staff for making this a fun week.

Robert C St John, Grand Treasurer

Income/Expense Statement - GYR Convention Account	
INCOME	
40021 Convention Registration	\$ 13,422.37
40022 Convention Meals	\$ 2,180.00
40023 Convention Program Ads	\$ 8,955.00
40026 Other Income	\$ 330.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 24,887.37
EXPENSES	
50041 Convention Site Billing	\$ 11,672.86
50042 Convention Program Ad Printing	\$ 2,167.28
50045 Convention Food	\$ 10,485.58
50046 Convention Sundry	\$ 143.78
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 24,469.50
NET INCOME (EXPENSES)	\$ 417.87

Fraternal Relations Report

To: The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida

During this Cryptic year, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida maintained Fraternal Relations with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida and the Grand Lodges of other Grand Jurisdictions, as well as with the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International and its subordinate Grand Councils worldwide.

The Committee received no requests for recognition of any other jurisdiction, nor for any other service.

The Committee thanks the Most Illustrious Grand Master for this appointment and charging it with maintaining fraternal relations with our Brethren and Companions wheresoever dispersed.

Respectfully and Zealously submitted,
Right Illustrious John A. Kraniou, Deputy Grand Master Royal & Select Masters
of Florida

Grand Representatives Committee

This committee wishes to thank our Most Illustrious Grand Master for the opportunity to serve the Companions of this Grand Council in its capacity to review and recommend needed actions in regard to our Grand Representatives at these annual communications.

Per Article VI, Duties of Grand Officers, Section 3:

Final decision was made to recommend an initial appointment or replacement of seven (7) different state or country representatives which were forwarded to our Grand Master for action. These include the following locations: Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Scotland and Venezuela.

Our Most Illustrious Grand Master, did take action and has appointed seven (7) new representatives that will be announced throughout the session on 21 May 2025. No further action of this committee was needed and it concluded with its annual requirements for the 2024-2025 year.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES E. DRAEVING, Chairman
Grand Representatives Committee
JOSEPH A. SCHOOVOVER, Member
MAX E. BORNSTEIN, Member

Grand York Rite Office Report

The Grand York Rite Office was well managed financially by the Grand Secretary/Recorder. Although he worked essentially alone and was learning the job as he worked, office business was completed successfully.

The Grand Office financial reports are included as attachments. The account balance report reflects the holdings in our three asset accounts at the end of the Fiscal year; the office has no liability accounts. The income expense report shows summary amounts for all the transactions this year. The actual column shows our cash-based activities for the year. The modified column shows only the income contributed by the three Grand bodies for the operation of the office and does not include any of the other revenue received. It also shows all the expenditures except for the “transfer to correct accounts” expense which balanced income received that should have gone to other accounts. As an example, a donation received as a check payable to the Grand Office was deposited and then the funds were transferred to the Grand Commandery accounts. The excess shown in the modified column will be returned to the three Grand bodies in proportion to the amount each contributed. The three Grand bodies will receive about \$4000.

It has been an honor to work with Larry.

Robert St John, Grand Treasurer

Income/Expense by Category - FY 2024-25

INCOME	Actual	Modified
40000 Income from Grand Bodies	\$ 73,872.00	\$ 73,872.00
40000 Income from Grand Bodies:40001 Reimbursement From Grand Body	\$ 183.75	
TOTAL 40000 Income from Grand Bodies	\$ 74,055.75	\$ 73,872.00
40010 Return to Grand Bodies-Return to Grand Bodies	\$(25,798.00)	
40012 Other Income (Business)		
40012 Other Income (Business):40011 Interest Earned	\$ 0.48	
40012 Other Income (Business):40014 Longevity Awards	\$ 15.00	
40016 Incorrect Payee Checks-Checks for other accounts	\$ 6,756.00	
40012 Other Income (Business):40017 Non-ritual Sales	\$ 225.00	
TOTAL 40012 Other Income (Business)	\$ 6,996.48	
40030 Ritual Sales	\$ 1,040.00	
40030 Ritual Sales:40031 Ritual Sales-Chapter	\$ 1,050.00	
40030 Ritual Sales:40032 Ritual Sales-Council	\$ 280.00	
40030 Ritual Sales:40033 Ritual Sales-Commandery	\$ 560.00	
TOTAL 40030 Ritual Sales	\$ 2,930.00	
Express Checkout Payment	\$ 7,942.35	
Fee	\$ (332.84)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 65,793.74	\$ 73,872.00
EXPENSES		
50050 Office Expenses		
50050 Office Expenses:50051 Office Supplies	\$ 415.43	\$ 415.43
50050 Office Expenses:50051 Office Supplies:Awards	\$ 329.94	\$ 329.94
TOTAL 50050 Office Expenses:50051 Office Supplies	\$ 745.37	\$ 745.37
50050 Office Expenses:50052 Postage	\$ 448.53	\$ 448.53
50050 Office Expenses:50053 Rent	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00
50050 Office Expenses:50054 Telephone	\$ 299.28	\$ 299.28
50050 Office Expenses:50055 Utilities	\$ 454.22	\$ 454.22
50050 Office Expenses:50056 Computer Expenses	\$ 1,560.67	\$ 1,560.67
50050 Office Expenses:50057 Computer Maintenance	\$ 108.35	\$ 108.35
50050 Office Expenses:Corporation Fee	\$ 183.75	\$ 183.75
50050 Office Expenses:Insurance	\$ 1,179.32	\$ 1,179.32
50050 Office Expenses:Sundry	\$ 4,142.00	\$ 4,142.00
50050 Office Expenses:Transfer To Correct Account	\$ 15,204.37	
TOTAL 50050 Office Expenses	\$ 40,825.86	\$ 25,621.49
50060 Printing		
50060 Printing:50061 General Printing Expenses	\$ 591.25	\$ 591.25
50060 Printing:50064 Rituals-Council	\$ 145.13	\$ 145.13
50060 Printing:50065 Rituals-Commandery	\$ 755.15	\$ 755.15
50060 Printing:50067 Copier Maintenance	\$ 351.63	\$ 351.63
TOTAL 50060 Printing	\$ 1,843.16	\$ 1,843.16
50070 Salaries-Stipends-Payroll Taxes		
50072 Office Staff-Stipend to Grand Sec/Rec	\$ 33,450.00	\$ 33,450.00
TOTAL 50070 Salaries-Stipends-Payroll Taxes	\$ 33,450.00	\$ 33,450.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 76,119.02	\$ 60,914.65
Net Income (EXPENSES)	\$(10,325.28)	\$ 12,957.35

Account Balances - As of 5/31/2025

Bank Accounts	
MidFla Office Checking	\$ 55,884.12
MidFla Office Savings	\$ 5,102.96
PayPal	\$ 1,493.31
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$ 62,480.39
Asset Accounts	
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$ -
NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	\$ 62,480.39

Investment Committee Report

The investments under the oversight of this Investment Committee are maintained by our investment advisers at Edward Jones & Co., and presently total \$817,098 as of 30 April 2025, up from \$761,548 a year ago. This represents a 7.29% NET increase in Grand Council invested assets, even after the required 5.00% payout on Perpetual membership funds. There are two major portfolios:

Administrative Account - The first portfolio is the Administrative Account, also sometimes referred to as the General Fund. As of 30 April 2025, the total value was \$407,308 – vs. \$368,367 as of one year ago, for an increase of \$38,941, (i.e., 10.57%). This account has a target investment mix of 60% equities, and 40% bonds and other fixed instruments.

At 31 December 2024, the total value of this account was \$407,645, vs. \$354,578, at 31 December 2023, for an increase of \$53,067, or a 14.97% investment return. Since our governing documents allow 75% of any annual increase to be included in the Budget for the following year, the 2024 gain in value will allow up to \$39,800 of these funds to be available for charitable and necessary operating expenditures during 2025.

The original primary goal of the Administrative Account was to put the Grand Council in a position to be able to place less reliance upon Per Capita dues increases in the future, as this Fund grew. Instead, the funds have been allowed to accumulate. During the past several years, a total of \$Zero has been paid out of this Fund account.

Life and Perpetual Account – The second portfolio is the Life and Perpetual Account, often referred to as the Sacred Fund. As of 30 April 2025, the total value was \$409,790 – vs. \$375,651 a year ago, for an increase of \$34,139 (i.e., 9.09%), after the payout of the 5.0% annual perpetual payments to constituent Councils. This account has a target investment mix of 50% equities and 50% bonds and other fixed instruments.

At 31 December 2024, the total value of this account was \$399,330, vs. \$376,123 at 31 December 2023, for an increase of \$23,207, or a 6.17% NET investment return, after the required 5% perpetual fund payout.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the other members of the Investment Committee to thank the Most Illustrious O. Benjamin Geiger II, MIGM, for allowing us to serve the Grand Council this past year.

Courteously and Fraternally,
Wm. Lee Popham Sr., PDDGM 2012
Robert C. St. John Jr., MIPGM
Charles L. Hollinger, MIPGM

Jurisprudence Committee Report – On Legislation

To the Most Illustrious Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of Florida:

The Grand Council Jurisprudence Committee met on Saturday, May 17th, 2025, to review the Legislation submitted for revision to portions of the Constitution of said Grand Council.

There were two proposed amendments submitted within the required time frame and on the proper forms. The two proposed were reviewed and the Jurisprudence Committee recommended acceptance of the two proposed amendments for the purpose of presenting to the craft for the final decision,

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul W. Friend, Chairman MIPGM - 1996
Richard Agster, MIPGM - 2000
Charles L. Hollinger, MIPGM – 2001
Carl E. Gilmore, MIPGM - 2009
Larry R. Gillespie, MIPGM - 2012
Dayle L. Schrock, MIPGM - 2013

Jurisprudence Committee Report – MIGM

To the Most Illustrious Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of Florida:

The Grand Council Jurisprudence Committee met on Saturday, May 17th, 2025, to review the actions pertaining to the rulings and dispensations acted upon by the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Otis Benjamin Geiger, II during his 2024-2025 Cryptic year.

The full Committee closely examined the actions taken by our Grand Master and determined that all his actions were within the purview of his office.

Two requests for dispensation were granted, one dispensation denied (No Dispensation needed for Table Festivals) and five requests for bylaw amendments were granted, no bylaws denied, and three Executive Orders, and no Directives. All dispensation was within his authority; some dispensations were not needed. The bylaw amendments that were approved by the Grand Master was within his authority.

The Committee determined that all actions taken by the Grand Master were acted upon in a timely manner, each properly received and bearing the official stamps of the Grand Recorder and Grand Master.

The Grand Master's report was not properly received by the Committee thirty days prior to the Jurisprudence meeting, whereby corrections were not made, and it was noted, and that this committee would appreciate that the report should be submitted on time.

The Committee would like to commend Grand Master Geiger for the dedication he had bestowed during his term and having faithfully discharged the office of Most Illustrious Grand Master during this Cryptic year. We thank him for the honor and privilege he has provided us to serve the Grand Council.

I am quoting a portion of paragraph 43.03 of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Florida:

43.03 Awards of Distinction. This Grand Council recognizes and approves of the Awards of Distinction known as the Cryptic Mason of the Year Medal, General Grand Council Youth Award, The Broken Triangle Plaque, The Ish-Sodi Medal, and the Walter I. Stephenson Grand Master's Medal, and the Most Illustrious Grand Master may appoint committees to assist him in the selection of the recipients of these awards.

c. The Ish Sodi Award shall be presented to those Companions of this Grand Jurisdiction who shall have exhibited a continuing willingness to devote their time and ability for the good of Cryptic Masonry and toward the promotion of the welfare of York Rite of Freemasonry in general.

1. The Most Illustrious Grand Master may present up to six (6) awards per Cryptic year, and the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work may each make a recommendation for this Award.

2. The Award shall not be presented to a present officer of this Grand Council, or a Companion by virtue of his present or past status in another Grand York Rite Body, Rite, or System of Freemasonry, nor in any appendant or affiliated order thereof, except that District Deputies or Past District Deputies shall be eligible. This Award may not be presented posthumously to any Companion.

It was brought to the attention of several members of the Jurisprudence committee that the Most Illustrious Grand Master of last year (2023-24) violated this section by presenting more awards than allowed (11). The regulation has been interpreted as also not allowing the award to be presented to past Grand Officers of this Grand Council.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul W. Friend, Chairman MIPGM - 1996
Richard Agster, MIPGM - 2000
Charles L. Hollinger, MIPGM – 2001

Carl E. Gilmore, MIPGM - 2009
Larry R. Gillespie, MIPGM - 2012
Dayle L. Schrock, MIPGM - 2013

Life & Perpetual Membership

The Life-Perpetual account report is attached. I have provided an itemized report of the new fees received for each of the bodies and the payouts for each of the bodies. The summary page shows that more was paid out than was received but this is normal. I withdrew funds from each of the Life-Perpetual investment accounts to cover the actual payout requirements. I expect this trend to continue as our new participant fees are typically insufficient to cover the outgoing cash requirements. Our investment managers are doing a good job growing the accounts for our future. The withdrawals from the Life-Perpetual investment accounts for this year were: Chapter - \$5000.00, Council - \$4000.00, and Commandery - \$4000.00.

It has been an honor to manage these accounts with the assistance of the Investment committees, and I expect the positive trends to continue, especially if we continue to add new perpetual members.

Rob St John, Grand Treasurer

LIFE AND PERPETUAL ACCOUNT INCOME STATEMENT

Opening Balance - Perpetual Checking Account	\$ 26,128.35
INCOME	
Chapter Appl Fee	\$ 9,955.00
Chapter Life-Perp Fund Transfer	\$ 5,000.00
Commandery Appl Fee	\$ 11,270.00
Commandery Life-Perp Fund Transfer	\$ 4,000.00
Council Appl Fee	\$ 9,980.00
Council Life-Perp Fund Transfer	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 44,205.00
EXPENSES	
Chapter Annual Pay Out	\$ 15,898.25
Commandery Annual Payout	\$ 18,052.71
Council Annual Payout	\$ 14,967.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 48,918.63
NET INCOME (EXPENSES)	\$ (4,713.63)
Ending Balance - Perpetual Checking Account	\$ 21,414.72

Council Annual Payout

Payee	Memo	Amount
Tyrian Council No.36 R&SM	Wilson	\$ (21.00)
Halifax Council No. 1 R&SM		\$ (305.35)
Adoniram Council No.10 R&SM		\$ (5,230.40)
Polk Council No.11 R&SM		\$ (516.03)
Hiram Council No.13 R&SM		\$ (144.17)
Saint Petersburg Council No.14 R&SM		\$ (400.17)
VOIDSaint Augustine Council No.15 R&SM		\$ -
Zabud Council No.17 R&SM		\$ (251.10)
VOIDPalatka Council No.18 R&SM		\$ -
Sanford Council No. 20 R&SM		\$ (252.46)
Lauderdale Council No.24 R&SM		\$ (647.72)
Fort Myers Council No. 25 R&SM		\$ (181.81)
Panama City Council No.26 R&SM		\$ (93.00)
Gainesville Council No. 27 R&SM		\$ (105.00)
Golden Triangle No.28 R&SM		\$ (474.44)
Gulf Council NO. 29 R&SM		\$ (175.12)
Hallmark Council No. 3 R&SM		\$ (682.13)
Seminole Council No.30 R&SM		\$ (276.68)
Marianna Council No. 31 R&SM		\$ (87.55)
Crestview Council No. 33		\$ (245.62)
Clearwater Council No. 34 R&SM		\$ (349.51)
Lake City Council No. 35 R&SM		\$ (58.68)
Tyrian Council No.36 R&SM		\$ (942.08)
Melbourne Council No. 38 R&SM		\$ (307.59)
Lawtey Council No.39 R&SM		\$ (126.58)
Tyler Council No. 4 R&SM		\$ (201.70)
Heartland Council No. 43 R&SM		\$ (28.85)
Orlando Council No. 5 R&SM		\$ (351.17)
Union Council No. 7 R&SM		\$ (723.98)
Tampa Council No. 8 R&SM		\$ (808.37)
Bradentown Council No. 9 R&SM		\$ (767.20)
Palatka Council No.18 R&SM		\$ (212.21)
Total Payout		\$ (14,967.67)

Membership Development Training and Education Committee

To the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida:

The Committee would like to thank Most Illustrious Grand Master Otis Benjamin Geiger II for our appointments to this Committee and its mission to recommend improvements toward education, training, and retention of York Rite Select Masters in Florida.

The word “membership” has been tossed around for many years now, to the point where many of us who are only a decade or so York Rite Masons have heard **only** about declining numbers. We should first recognize that we shouldn’t be seeking a “temporary” solution to a problem; rather, we should ALWAYS make it our missing to seek quality members for our bodies. This is the reason for our Charters to exist in the first place, and how we can accomplish more and more for ourselves, our Fraternity, and the world. Have we thought about what we would do if those seats were full of Companions once again—or first the first time? If we have a vision of our goal to strive towards, do we know how differently we would conduct our meetings and activities work if they were? Having something grander in mind to hope to attain isn’t unrealistic; in fact, it’s what we are taught as Masons, to polish and adorn what is Rough with the Perfect as a guide.

Too many times, we exacerbate our ‘empty-seat’ problem by engaging in the opposite of good membership practices: what we might unflatteringly call “anti-membership.” How so? Imagine you weren’t in Freemasonry, but instead looking into some other hobby or professional group (like bowling, bird watching, boating—or whichever other fits you as an example).

You hear from other men, whom you like and trust, that joining will do so much for you—it will bring fulfillment and enjoyment, expand your knowledge and interest, and expand your passions and your inner spirit. They don’t tell you much more to prepare, but you eagerly spend several hundred dollars to join. You’re told that you may have to give up a couple of Saturdays, or a whole Friday-Saturday weekend to learn and become a full member...but that’s okay with you. You meet up in a location that may be miles away from where you live. You are put through the preparatory work with some people who care or are capable, but others who look like they can barely speak what to say out of a book. Some of those words you can probably pronounce better than they can. They do a few

dramas in old costumes that need repair or missing paraphernalia, and may skip sections they can't do or don't know, but say that it is really great if you get to see it done right. Practice—let alone memorization—doesn't seem to happen. The food isn't bad, but you're growing tired throughout the marathon sessions and barely awake for the parts that are said more and more import as time goes on. By the time it's all over, you're not given much except congratulations, and that you're expected to show up to several more meetings a month. You'll probably need to make up for others who weren't participating, and its uncertain if we can fully open and do what we're supposed to do. Oh, and surprise! You'll need to buy around a thousand dollars more of clothing you didn't know about to fully participate.

Would you think joining this group ended up fulfilling what we'd hoped? Chances are, probably not—and many of us might think we got a raw deal. Moreover, when someone else asked you if you think joining is worth it...you'd be more than likely to say it *isn't*. Now, all that time and effort went worse than nowhere: that group in the example not only both lost a new member in you, but they also turned someone else away before they even got in the front door!

When our own prospective members join us from the blue Lodges, they come from an atmosphere where they are expected to know the work...and where others are expected to know it too. At a minimum, they likely how to open and close, they've had to pass memory catechisms two (rarely three) times--and they've been told ritual cipher books aren't open at all during tiled meetings. Even the smallest and most remote Lodges at least have the paraphernalia for their own degree work.

So...one of the very first things we can change, for our own York Rite Bodies, is the expectation that just because we don't do proficiency work between degrees, doesn't mean that we set our standards any lower. When a new member sees Companions that don't bother to crack open the book until two minutes before the gavel hits, what incentive do they have to commit effort? Coming in and seeing other Companions ready—and capable of filling in stations in the absence of other officers—sets a different expectation, that they suddenly will want to measure up to their peers (not down).

Many Councils also do not have costumes, aprons, banners, or other parts missing. If your Illustrious Master or Council is looking to figure out what to focus on for the year...then there's a great answer. Combining money and manpower to

maintain your equipment brings a sense of teamwork and pride. If you have invested in shiny new tools, you are more likely to want to use them. The same goes for being able to increase the ability of your members to do their own work, instead of depending on the kindness and timetable of others hundreds of miles away.

Are we leading by example? How likely is a Companion to stick around if no one seems to have much of an agenda? It isn't very inspiring if no one knows the answers to questions, isn't prepared, or can't communicate in a timely and professional manner. If the Illustrious Master has to rely on the Recorder for every single second of the meeting—including how to even *vote*—your members already have one foot out the door.

Does your Illustrious Master have even just one idea and plan to communicate and focus for the year? If you aren't sure what else to do for your meetings once bills, prayers, and Treasurer reports are out of the way, then close early to practice for proficiency cards. Concentrating your year on CMMRF fundraising, or community visibility, or the Keith Dean Ritual Competition, are all excellent suggestions to let your members know your Council is actively engaged.

Do you share the workload among other officers, or members?

Do you have Standing Committees (see Article VI of your own Councils By-Laws)—and more importantly, do you use them? Do you empower your Committee for the Visitation of the Sick to visit Companions in person who say they can't drive? Does your Committee on Delinquency make sure to check in and call Companions that aren't around in a while? Do you have an Entertainment Committee give social gatherings and plan outings the members want to do?

Do you spend time fostering and promoting Masonic education? Our Grand Lodge requires a mentoring program of several materials to be given before and after degrees. Have used the Grand Council Mentor's Manual or other General Grand Council resources and carved out time during or after meeting to speak with new Companions on the materials and their meanings?

How many of us know the references, passages, or even the pronunciations we see in our ritual? If you're unsure or confused about a particular section, a great way to find the answer is to research it to present to others. Use the resources you

find in other books or online articles, or speaking with your other Companions. If you didn't know before hand—the odds are good that someone else doesn't either.

Our Royal Master circumambulation is not only a great recruiting tool we can bring to Lodges; it is—according to many distinguished Companions—probably the very heart of what Masonry is all about! Also, when you have it committed to memory, then you'll find yourself—as we say in your FC lecture—begin to think about what they mean and reflect on them for yourself, beyond the scope of ritual.

We have Companions that love to do work and we can count on for almost everything. Are we utilizing them well and giving them recognition and encouragement, sharing their workload when we can contribute as well? —Or are we using the occasion to benefit and rest on their extra labor...like a certain Grand Steward from our ritual?

It's natural for many of us to want to take a break or a step back after our involvement for many years. But we really can't, until we have put in enough time and work to train the replacement that we want to replace us. We need to make sure they are prepared to move forward with a plan they can both execute and continue to build on what we have established already for them.

Training our replacement also means accepting and embracing they are going to be in charge as well. Do we mean it when we want younger members advancing—even if they might shake up the status quo a little bit with their ideas?

We can and should focus on the “low hanging fruit,” that are Master Masons ready to come in and supplement our volunteer spirit and passion. How to get at the ones harder to reach?

Are we doing all we can to make the benefits and “additional light” offered by York Rite Masonry well-known to the rest of the Craft? Do we make ourselves available to speak intelligent and thoroughly about it outside of those times a Festival might be coming up? Are we willing to step outside our comfort zone to familiarize ourselves with enough facts and figures to effectively speak about any part of it when asked? Emphasize that that complete system of Antient Masonry is 9 (or 12) degrees and orders...and that the third degree is a part—not ‘apart’—of this track.

Maybe an even better strategy might be to get candidates eager and informed *before* they even become Masons? We can give you examples—of even in the restaurants outside this very convention hotel—of men who come up and ask who and what we are, when they see us dressed in red or purple. The Shrine has us long-beat in both PR and name-recognition. Last year when the Grand York Rite had an information booth at Grand Communication, many delegates there confessed they weren't even aware that we were part of the Fraternity! We have to go outside and be visible outside the four walls of our meeting rooms. Wearing the coats and Templar uniform just at Arlington Cometary for the Easter Observance brought us in conversations and pictures with school groups, veterans, teachers, historians, military buffs, and other citizens from across the country and the world. Try going to a church, giving a talk at a school, being a part of a community event, or joining the other allied bodies on their parades (possibly in a sensible air-conditioned vehicle). Above all, be prepared to explain just what it is we do and are about—to be your own reference resource.

Companions, committing to make extra work on top of our other obligations is not easy; it is harder than what we might see from other Brothers in Lodge and other bodies.

But this is precisely what being a Select Master is all about. The hours of our labor are an unpaid overtime. We volunteer for more after the time when prying eyes are closed and the rest of the world has retired, because we are called to do so. Because the treasure of York Rite is so important to see it preserved and carried to future generations, beyond the power of the mightiest forces that might destroy it and seek it buried in darkness forever.

The only way to impress how meaningful our labor transforms new hands, is to live and practice it, through sweat, diligence, and care. And that means keeping our old, calloused hands constantly filled with both working tools, or bringing in enough new Companions until they can do the missing jobs that we say we can't.

Remember that the world doesn't know us, and cannot long for us, while it is asleep and unaware.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Metcalfe Jr, Chairman
Harry Bonet, DDGIM District 1
Gene F. Simms, DDGIM District 2
V. Kirk Hinote, DDGIM District 3
C. Pearce Dreadin, DDGIM District 4
Matthew J. Spence, DDGIM District 5
Julio Sanchez, DDGIM District 6
Edward L. Smallwood, DDGIM District 7
Albert L. Kimball, DDGIM District 8
Neils H. Hesse, DDGIM District 9
Wiley M. Willoughby II, DDGIM District 10

Mentor's/Instructor Manual Committee

Date: May 21, 2025

Mentors Manual Committee:

Stephen Nelson
Rusty Ludlam
Thomas Metcalfe

It is the opinion of the committee that the Mentors Manual represents significant value to the Council's interest and should be actively presented to newly made Cryptic Masons and periodically cited in regular meetings as a source for Masonic education.

It is of value to note the Importance of Mentorship which is:

1. The Preservation of Tradition: Ensuring the continuity of teachings, rituals, and historical significance.
2. Strengthening Leadership thereby Developing future leaders within the Council.
3. Enhancing Member Engagement through the encouraged participation and a deeper understanding of the degrees.

Ever remembering the Roles and Responsibilities of a Mentor which are:

1. Educator: Provide knowledge on the history, rituals, and significance of the Royal and Select Masters.
2. Advisor: Offer guidance on participation, advancement, and leadership within the council.
3. Encourager: Foster enthusiasm and commitment among all members.
4. Connector: Help mentees establish relationships with other companions and leaders.

Pursuant to the assembly of a committee to review the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida's Mentor's Manual, dated April 23, 2008, taking note of Reference of the 2023/2024 Florida Grand Council Mentors Manual Committee and its report dated March 4, 2024.

A review of the aforementioned documents has been made and the following edits are suggested.

Page 1

- We agree with the 2023/2024 Committee that the Broken Triangle logo on the title page is very low resolution/clipart. Below is our suggestion which fits our ritual better:



- We agree that the revision date should be updated with the final edited version

Page 2

- The FORWARD should read as an introduction. Our suggestion is as follows :

FORWARD

This Manual endeavors to acquaint the new Companion with some of the history

of Councils of Cryptic Masons, its philosophies, and its objectives. It should also give him some insight into the literature of the fraternity wherein he may begin and continue his study of its teachings and doctrines. In preparation of this program, we have consulted the programs and publications of the General Grand Council, our sister Grand Councils, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Florida, and the Grand Lodge of Florida and have borrowed material freely from them when it seemed desirable to do so. Credit has not been given directly in each case because of our desire to limit the text as much as possible and to maintain continuity of thought for the benefit of those who will use the program.

It is not perfect, nor is the system which it represents a perfect one. Time and experience alone will enable us to bring the jewel of Masonic education to its full beauty while ever remembering this program is a work in progress.

It should be noted that this is a work intended for the Cryptic Masons of Florida and is not intended to reflect on the efforts or policies of any other Grand Council, nor the General Grand Council. As a first lesson, the reader should be aware that like the Grand itself. The General Grand Council is to the Grand Council like the organization of Grand Masters of North America is to the Grand Lodge, an advisory organization to which membership by the Grand Council is voluntary.

- The TABLE OF CONTENTS can then be expanded out to be linear in one column.

Page 4

- Agree with the 2023/2024 Committee about the chronological Order of Temple and Malta the swap and removal of anachronism comment.
- We suggest removing #1 in the chronological order list, because the portion told ante-dating the Temple is part of a historical recounting by the Principal Sojourner just before they set out. The actual setting of the Royal Arch is at the end of the Babylonian exile.
- The Red Cross should be placed before Royal Arch, because it is the story of Zerubbabel before he secures relief and becomes part of the Grand Council.
- The CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER section would be rewritten as follows:

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF MASONIC DEGREES

The Council Degrees are a requirement of the York Rite in many Jurisdictions. It is good to know the order in which they would be portrayed if presented in chronological order.

- 1 The Entered Apprentice (Lodge).
- 2 The Fellow Craft (Lodge).
- 3 The Mark Master (Chapter).
- 4 The Royal Master. First Section (Council).
- 5 The Select Master (Council).
- 6 The Master Mason (Lodge).
- 7 The Royal Master. Second Section (Council).
- 8 The Past Master (Chapter).
- 9 The Most Excellent Master (Chapter).
- 10 The Super-Excellent Master (Council).
- 11 The Red Cross (Commandery).
- 12 The Royal Arch (Chapter).
- 13 The Order of the Temple (Commandery)
- 14 The Order of Malta (Commandery).

From this arrangement, it can readily be seen that a Mason who has not taken the Council degrees and does not understand their teachings, cannot possibly have a thorough understanding of even the Symbolic Lodge, let alone the Chapter and Commandery.

Councils of Cryptic Masons form the center body of the York Rite of Freemasonry.

A Master Mason may join a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and receive the four degrees of that organization. After which he may seek further knowledge in Freemasonry and join a Council of Cryptic Masons.

Page 5

- Agree with the 2023 / 2024 Committee about the revised ORIGIN OF THE DEGREES paragraph language, and also remove “the” at start of sixth sentence to say
 - o “In 1870, a General Grand Council was formed...”

Page 7

- Remove the comma in second sentence of THE ROYAL MASTER DEGREE to improve meaning far better:
 - o “It contains one section which is generally regarded as an outstanding display of symbolism and content of philosophy.”

Page 8

- Agree with 2023/2024 Committee’s two suggestions.

- Rewrite the last two paragraphs of SIGNS, TOKENS AND WORDS so that we are talking TO the new Companion and not ‘about’ them: SIGNS, TOKENS AND WORDS

We attach considerable importance to the signs, tokens and words in Cryptic Masonry because they are an essential part of our modes of recognition. By the use of these, one may prove himself to be a Cryptic Mason and be able to recognize others as such. While these in themselves are insufficient proof of membership, they constitute very important links in the chain of evidence and those appointed to examine a visitor always ask for them.

Each sign, token, and word has a symbolic meaning which should serve to enrich the mind and improve our lives as Cryptic Masons. The proper execution of all signs gives testimony to our fellow Companions that he understands the signs and respects the ceremonies. (The Mentor should rehearse and explain all of the signs, tokens, and words of the degrees of Cryptic Masonry.)

Page 9

- Rewrite the last three paragraphs

And should this same Companion advance and occupy in the elected line in the Grand East of state office—or should find himself appointed the Grand Master’s representative as District Deputy Grand Master—he acquires the title of Right Illustrious Companion.

And finally, should this same Companion even become proficient and acquire enough recommendations from other companions who wish to see him elevated further, he may be elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the state - and thereby acquire the title which goes with that station of Most Illustrious Companion.

And there we have it, Companion, Illustrious Companion, Right Illustrious Companion, and Most Illustrious Companion.

Page 10

- Retitle section header in all caps and without types: OFFICERS OF A COUNCIL

Page 11

- Add the following at the end of the “Duties of Each Officer” list:

- “A Marshal is optional. He has no particular duties outside of installation or additionally given by the Illustrious Master, and his jewel is the same as a member. His station is inside the inner door.”
- Agree with 2023/2024 Committee on additional verbiage to first paragraph of COMMITTEES ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

The Grand Council used to have an Education Manual (last revision date unknown) that was used as a great resource to all Companions. It is unfortunately not available for download on the FL GYR website Forms and Files anymore.

We have included a copy and recommend including Topics A through G, L through N, and Z (basically everything but the Short Forms and Ceremony, which are in ritual book).

It is our recommendation that it should be included as part of the Mentors Manual. These topics aren't stated anywhere else and are of inestimable value for new Companion instruction and as education with the Councils.

Finally, this year's committee would like to thank the 2023/2024 Committee for their exceptional attention to detail and strategic foresight which is a testament to their dedication, expertise, and teamwork.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen C Nelson
Rusty Ludlam
Thomas Metcalfe

Necrology

Three of our Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters put down their working tools this past year. Donald T. Harriott Served the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida as Most Illustrious Grand Master for 2005-2006 passed November 7, 2024, Louis A. King our Most Illustrious Grand Master for 2006-2007 passed December 19, 2024, and Robert E. Burlison our Most Illustrious Grand Master for 1992-1993 passed March 19, 2025. Additionally, this year seventy of our Companions were called to the Celestial Lodge above. All that departed are mourned by those of us left behind. We extend our warmest sympathies and prayers to their families.

Souvenir Program Committee Report

The committee thanks our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Corey D. Kosciuszko; our Most Illustrious Grand Master, O. Benjamin Geiger II; and our Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald A. Naumowicz for the honor to serve our fellow Companions and Sir Knights on this committee.

Most of our ads this year came from individuals and York Rite organizations throughout the state, and their hard work and patience are greatly appreciated. The committee has an especial appreciation for S.K. David Aponte, R. Em P.G.C., for the wonderful cover-page artwork. The committee also appreciates the dedication and assistance from Companion and S.K. Michael LeeBove.

We used the youth ads from last year as no new ads were submitted for this year's program. The Gold Supporters lack state-wide support as most of the supporters are from North and West Florida. The Platinum Supporters improved greatly with 18 supporters, again from North and West Florida.

2025 Sales Summary	
Full page ads	39
Half page ads	6
Quarter page ads	4
Non-masonic ads	3
Gold supporters	27
Platinum supporters	18
Youth group ads	2

The above ads generated a gross total of \$10,045 for the Grand York Rite Convention. The final cost of printing was \$2,035 for 200 programs. The realized net profit is \$8,010. As an added note, most of the money was sent into the Grand York Rite office in Tampa, and the committee is not fully aware of the money received for the ads.

The committee recognizes the following that adds to the success of the program:

1. The assistance of several Companions and Sir Knights throughout the state is essential.
2. The fine quality and wide distribution of past Souvenir Programs – one look and people want to be a part.
3. The Souvenir Program is now available for download on our Grand York Rite website. This should allow much better visibility and encourage more participation.
4. We need to improve the youth participation, and we need to improve the Gold and Platinum Supporter programs throughout the state.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Craft on this committee and we thank you for the opportunity. Respectfully submitted by the Committee on the Convention Souvenir Program.

Fraternally and zealously submitted,

Companions

John Lewis

David Aponte, REPGC

Michael LeeBove

Eric Klienbach

Carlos Correa

Our Grand Line Officers and their District Deputies

Committee on Thanks

On behalf of the Most Illustrious Grand Master, M.I. O. Benjamin Geiger II, and the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of The State of Florida, the Committee on Thanks respectfully submits the following expression of gratitude:

We extend our sincere appreciation to M.I. Thomas A. Olsen, Past Grand Illustrious Master, for his dedicated and outstanding leadership during the past Cryptic year. Your service has left a lasting impact, and we thank you for your continued devotion to our Craft.

To the Grand Recorder, his staff, and the many volunteers who work tirelessly often without recognition your steadfast commitment has not gone unnoticed.

Your efforts have ensured the efficient and professional administration of our Grand Council, and we are deeply grateful.

To our District Deputies and Instructors, thank you for accepting the responsibility of your appointments and for faithfully executing your duties throughout the year. We also extend appreciation to the many Companions and supporters who assisted you in planning and conducting our festivals and programs across the state.

To the Ladies thank you for your unwavering support at our meetings, convocations, and events. Whether working behind the scenes or lending your presence in visible ways, your encouragement and dedication are vital to the success of our endeavors and to the well-being of our Companions throughout the year.

To the Management and Staff of the Orlando Marriott at Lake Mary, we offer our thanks for your hospitality and professional service, which have helped make this Grand Convocation both pleasant and memorable.

To the Convention Committee, and to all the Companions and Ladies who generously gave their time, energy, and talents we thank you for your invaluable contributions to the success of this Annual Convocation. Your teamwork and dedication ensured everything ran smoothly and effectively.

To our Distinguished Guests who honored us with their presence thank you for joining us and helping to make this Grand Convocation a truly special and memorable event.

Finally, we extend heartfelt thanks to the Elected and Appointed Officers of the Grand Council for their diligence, time, and faithful performance of duty in service to our Companions and the mission of Cryptic Masonry.

The Committee on Thanks also wishes to express its gratitude to M.I. O. Benjamin Geiger II for the honor and privilege of serving the Grand Council at his pleasure.

Fraternally & Respectfully Submitted,
Max Bornstein, PDDGIM
Chairman, Committee on Thanks

Time & Place

The 2026 Grand York Rite Convocation will be held at Lake Mary, FL on the following dates:

Chapter Monday May 18th

Council on Tuesday May 19th

Commandery Wednesday May 20th

Respectfully and Zealously submitted,

Right Illustrious John A. Kraniou, Deputy Grand Master Royal & Select Masters of Florida

Final Grand Treasurer's Report

The MIGM processed all warrants for expenses in a timely manner. The income expense statement shows the transactions which were processed during the period June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025. This report shows expenses exceeding income by about \$5,000. The budget included an income entry of 75% of the administrative fund earnings from the previous year of about \$13,800 which was not transferred but was retained in the investment account. The cash in the checking account was sufficient to cover all checks written, so the investment funds were retained to grow for future requirements. Additionally, the per capita income entry shows funds collected this FY which will become the budgeted per capita for the 2025-2026 FY.

The budget versus actual report is also misleading; the income and expenses reflect a cash basis report and as discussed above need to be "modified" to give a more accurate picture. If we include the administrative allowance, we will have a positive balance at the end of the year of about \$12,800. There are a couple items of income and expenses which were not completed before the end of the fiscal year, these include the fourth quarter allowance for the Treasurer, the convention income and expenses, and the return of the unused share of the office contributions, if any.

I am honored to have the privilege of serving as the Grand Treasurer and will continue to keep close tabs on our financial situation.

Robert C St John, Grand Treasurer

Grand Council Income Expense Statement - Cash Basis

	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	Difference
INCOME			
40000 Annual per Capita	\$ 29,537.00	\$ 33,083.00	\$ (3,546.00)
40011 Other Interest	\$ 3.53	\$ 3.54	\$ (0.01)
40012 Other Income			
40012 Other Income:Donations	\$ 400.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (250.00)
40012 Other Income:Incorrect Payee	\$ 840.00		\$ 840.00
40012 Other Income:Refund	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
40012 Other Income:Reimbursement	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
TOTAL 40012 Other Income	\$ 1,640.00		\$ 1,640.00
40014 Grand Office Unused Income	\$ 8,618.00	\$ 410.22	\$ 8,207.78
40020 Annual Convention Income	\$ 1,533.21	\$ 4,383.40	\$ (2,850.19)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 41,331.74	\$ 38,530.16	\$ 2,801.58

EXPENSES			
20010 Allowances			
20010 Allowances:20011 Grand Master	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
20010 Allowances:20012 Deputy Grand Master	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
20010 Allowances:20014 Jewel, Apron & Case		\$ 267.20	\$ (267.20)
20010 Allowances:20015 Grand Treasurer	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (500.00)
20010 Allowances:20016 Grand Recorder		\$ 4,200.00	\$ (4,200.00)
TOTAL 20010 Allowances	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 12,467.20	\$ (4,967.20)
20020 Charities			
20020 Charities:20022 Youth Charities	\$ 900.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 700.00
20020 Charities:20026 CMMRF		\$ 300.00	\$ (300.00)
TOTAL 20020 Charities	\$ 900.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.00
20030 Meetings			
20030 Meetings:20031 Triennial	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ (1,600.00)
20030 Meetings:20032 District Meetings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
20030 Meetings:20034 Grand Master SE Conference	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
20030 Meetings:20035 Dep Gr Master SE Conference		\$ 250.00	\$ (250.00)
20030 Meetings:20036 Gr. P.C.W. SE Conference	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
20030 Meetings:20037 Gr. Recorder SE Conf.	\$ 84.00	\$ 84.00	\$ -
TOTAL 20030 Meetings	\$ 2,584.00	\$ 4,434.00	\$ (1,850.00)
20040 Convention Expenses			
20044 Distinguished Guests		\$ 1,829.34	\$ (1,829.34)
TOTAL 20040 Convention Expenses		\$ 1,829.34	\$ (1,829.34)
20050 Office Expenses	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,155.00	\$ 45.00
20050 Office Expenses:20056 Computer Expenses	\$ -		
TOTAL 20050 Office Expenses	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,155.00	\$ 45.00
20060 Printing	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
20070 Salaries, Stipends, Payroll Taxes	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,200.00
20080 Taxes			
20080 Taxes:20081 Florida Corp. Tax	\$ 61.25	\$ 61.25	\$ -
20080 Taxes:20082 Gen. Grand per Capita	\$ 6,587.50	\$ 6,680.00	\$ (92.50)
TOTAL 20080 Taxes	\$ 6,648.75	\$ 6,741.25	\$ (92.50)
20090 Sundry			
20090 Sundry:20091 Education and Training		\$ 798.50	\$ (798.50)
20090 Sundry:20092 Awards		\$ 1,467.00	\$ (1,467.00)
20090 Sundry:20090 Returned Check Amount	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
20090 Sundry:20093 Membership Services	\$ 970.05	\$ 969.81	\$ 0.24
20090 Sundry:20102 Incorrect Deposit Account	\$ 840.00		\$ 840.00
TOTAL 20090 Sundry	\$ 1,910.05	\$ 3,235.31	\$ (1,325.26)
20102 Bank Service Charges	\$ 92.53		\$ 92.53
20102 Bank Service Charges:Returned Check Fee	\$ 15.00		\$ 15.00
TOTAL 20102 Bank Service Charges	\$ 107.53		\$ 107.53
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 44,550.33	\$ 49,862.10	\$ (5,311.77)
NET INCOME (EXPENSES)	\$ (3,218.59)	\$ (11,331.94)	\$ 8,113.35

Grand Council Account Balances

	As of 05/31/2025	As of 05/31/2024	Difference
Bank Accounts			
Grand Council Checking - New	\$ 23,754.84	\$ 24,780.96	\$ (1,026.12)
Grand Council Savings	\$ 35,124.90	\$ 35,121.37	\$ 3.53
TOTAL Bank Accounts	\$ 58,879.74	\$ 59,902.33	\$ (1,022.59)
Asset Accounts			
Admin Fund Investment Acct	\$ 427,676.47	\$ 375,779.06	\$ 51,897.41
Life-Perp Fund Investment Acct	\$ 419,846.60	\$ 381,775.22	\$ 38,071.38
TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$ 847,523.07	\$ 757,554.28	\$ 89,968.79
Liability Accounts			
40040 Triennial Escrow Fund	\$ (5,405.46)	\$ (4,405.46)	\$ (1,000.00)
40051 Collected Advance per Capita	\$ (31,529.00)	\$ (33,083.00)	\$ 1,554.00
TOTAL Liability Accounts	\$ (36,934.46)	\$ (37,488.46)	\$ 554.00
NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	\$ 869,468.35	\$ 779,968.15	\$ 89,500.20

GRAND COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET VS ACTUAL - FY 2024-2025

CATEGORY	Budget	Actual
INCOME		
40000 Annual per capita	\$ 33,800.00	\$ 33,083.00
40011 Other Interest	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.53
40012 Other Receipts - Admin Invest (75%)	\$ 13,800.00	
40012 Other Receipts - Donations		\$ 400.00
40012 Other Receipts - Refund		\$ 100.00
40012 Other Receipts - Reimbursement		\$ 300.00
40012 Other Receipts - Incorrect Payee		\$ 840.00
40020 Annual Grand Assembly Return	\$ 4,383.00	\$ 1,533.21
40030 Grand Office Return	\$ 635.00	\$ 8,618.00
40050 Grand Council Carryover Funds		
40012 Fund-raising Activities		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 52,621.00	\$ 44,877.74
EXPENSES		
20010 Allowances		
20011 Grand Master	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
20012 Depty Grand Master	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
20014 Incoming MIGM Apron & Case	\$ 1,200.00	
20014 DDGM Aprons & Cases (one-time item)		
20015 Grand Treasurer	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL ALLOWANCES	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 7,500.00
CHARITIES		
20020 Charities		
20022 Youth Charities	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
20023 Masonic Home	\$ -	
20024 Gr Master's Charity (CMMRF)	\$ 250.00	
20025 Youth Scholarship	\$ -	
TOTAL CHARITIES	\$ 1,150.00	
MEETINGS		
20031 Triennial	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
20032 District Meetings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
20033 Summer Assembly	\$ -	
20034 MIGM SE CONF	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
20035 RIDGM SE CONF	\$ 250.00	
20036 RIPCW SE CONF	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
20037 Grnd Rec SE CONF	\$ 84.00	\$ 84.00
20038 CMMRF Meeting		
TOTAL MEETINGS	\$ 2,834.00	\$ 2,584.00
20040 Grand Convocation		
20044 Distinguished Guests	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,300.93
Ladies events		
TOTAL GRAND CONVOCATION	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,300.93

OFFICE EXPENSES		
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES - PRINTING		
TOTAL 20060- Printing	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
CONTRACT LABOR SALERIES, STIPENDS, PAYROLL TAXES		
TOTAL 20070-Saleries, Stipends, payroll taxes	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 16,200.00
TAXES		
20081 Florida Corp	\$ 62.00	\$ 61.25
20082 Gen Gr Per Capita	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,587.50
TOTAL 20080-Taxes	\$ 7,562.00	\$ 6,648.75
SUNDRY 20090		
20090 Returned Check Amount		\$ 100.00
20090 Transfer to Correct Account		\$ 840.00
20091 Edu & Training	\$ 1,000.00	
20092 Awards	\$ 1,000.00	
20095 Insurance	\$ 1,000.00	
20096 Contingencies	\$ 400.00	
20097 Officer Jewel & apron	\$ -	
20099 Webhosting		
20100 Keith Dean Award	\$ 500.00	
20101 MMS-YRIS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 970.05
TOTAL 20090- Sundry	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 1,910.05
MISCELLANEOUS		
20102 Bank Service charges	\$ 25.00	\$ 92.53
20110 Bank Charges	\$ 50.00	\$ 15.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 75.00	\$ 107.53
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 52,621.00	\$ 45,951.26
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$ -	\$ (1,073.52)

Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters

1858	Thomas Hayward*	1859	Daniel P. Holland*
1860 - 1866	Thomas Hayward*	1867 - 1875	William Morrill*
1876	Alanson Caulkins*	1877	Alanson N Caulkins*
1878 - 1903	George S. Hallmark*	1904	Charles L. Smith*
1905	Charles L. Smith*	1906 - 1907	Louis C. Massey*
1908	John H. Norton*	1909	Olin S. Wright*
1910	William H. Jewell*	1911	William C. Address*
1912	James Carnell*	1913	Thomas Warlow*

1914	Henry K. DuBois*	1915	Thomas Calmes*
1916	F. I. Archibald*	1917	John Lloyd Hall*
1918	Dabney B. Palmer*	1919	S. L. Chapman*
1920	Charles H. Katchum*	1921	Chester Derocker*
1922	Eric L. Witt*	1923	Theodore T. Todd*
1924	John Pasco*	1925	Frank H. Thompson*
1926	Cary B. Fish*	1927	Riley J. McMaster*
1928	Edwin E. Macy*	1929	Ralph J. Kishpaugh*
1930	Geroge J. Tolson*	1931	John H. Rauch*
1932	Henry O. Snow*	1933	Jackson L. Head*
1934	Charles H. Stewart*	1935	John B. Phelps*
1936	Bert L. Blair*	1937	Frederick Schultz*
1938	Lester G. Gilbert*	1939	William Sessions*
1940	Bradford C. Webb*	1941	Dorsey H. Rutter*
1942	Joel Albert Fite*	1943	John D. Grove*
1944	Ralph G. Reynolds*	1945	Sumner R. Hall*
1946	Frederick A. Riegel*	1947	Spenser L. Houston*
1948	James D. Yeager*	1949	Jesse Earl Ramsdell*
1950	David M. Winans*	1951	Samule E Page*
1952	James D Godwin*	1953	William J Walker
1954	Roy W. Larson*	1955	Walter I. Stevenson*
1956	Winston H. Ward*	1957	Edward M. Savage*
1958	Harry J. Guy*	1959	U. V. Durden*
1960	Walter T. Poole*	1961	Paul R. Davis*
1962	Robert Thompson*	1963	Stephen Dimond*
1964	Andrew Jorgenson*	1965	Robert L. Pulley*
1966	Lee A. Bowles*	1967	Edwin D. Brogdon*
1968	Raymond L Ballard*	1969	Harley V. Wheeler*
1970	Alfred R. Peebles*	1971	Robert O. Bell*
1972	Wilbur W. Masters* / Jesse F Nettles*	1973	Earl R Allan*
1974	Daniel McClellan*	1975	Hugh R. Dixon*

1976	David Frazier*	1977	Earl R. Allen Sr*
1978	Arthur J. Payne*	1979	Willis D Porter*
1980	Joe H. Sellers +	1981	William F Perry*
1982	Francis L. Dancy*	1983	Joseph H. Johnson*
1984	Kenneth Johnson*	1985	Roy M. Bobo*
1986	George R. Swartz*	1987	Deem E. Ramey*
1988	Robert F. Scott*	1989	Elmer L. Green*
1990	George McCool*	1991	Frank A. Cochrane III*
1992	Robert E Burluson*	1993	Wendell D Harrington*
1995	A.A. Pete Bennett*	1996	Paul W Friend
1997	Daniel E. Dale*	1999	Vernon E. Adams*
2000	Richard S Agster	2001	Charles L Hollinger
2002	Richard E. Foreman*	2003	Stephen H Clark
2004	Rueben L Owens* / Donald T Harriott	2005	Donald T Harriott*
2006	Louis A King*	2007	George E Malone*
2008	Dencel R Smith *	2009	Carl E Gilmore
2010	Howard H. Gardner*	2011	M Daniel Fullwood
2012	Larry R Gillespie	2013	Dayle L Schrock
2014	H Warren Almand, Jr*	2015	John L Horne, Jr*
2016	Benjamin J Holland	2017	Robert C St John, Jr
2018	Glenn E Chandler, Snr	2019	John D. Pickford
2020	Thomas J. Rawsthorne	2021	Wm. Allen Sorbie
2022	Gene A. Lance	2023	Thomas A. Olsen

*Deceased

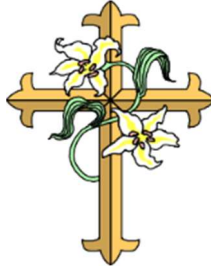
Defunct Council Listing

COUNCIL	NO	CHARTER	SURRENDER	ARREST	RESTORE	MERGED
MONROE (Key West)	2			1927		
MONTECELLO	6	1934		1966		
SOLOMON (Leesburg)	12		1991			
FT. PIERCE	19			1934		
SOUTHERN CROSS	21					Tampa #8 in 1934
OCALA	22	1931	2018			
TAL-MAR-QUIN	23					Seminole #30 in 1965
AARON (Miami Shores)	32					Adoniram #10 in 1965
ST. JOHNS (DeLand)	37	1958	2007			Halifax #1
DADE CITY	40	1978				Tyler Council #4 in 2009
VENICE	41	1982	2018			Bradentown Council #9
KNOWLES G. OGLESBY	42	1996				Polk Council #11 in 2012
NOTUMA	45	2006	2018			
CONCH	44		2021			

In Memoriam



Of this and other Grand Jurisdictions who have passed on to the
Eternal Reward in
2024-2025



Most Illustrious Robert E. Burleson, Past Grand Master 1992

Most Illustrious Donald T. Harriott, Past Grand Master 2005

Most Illustrious Louis A. King, Past Grand Master 2006

We Fraternaly Dedicate This Page

**2025 – 2026 Grand Council - Most Illustrious Grand Master
Photo & Resume**



John A. Kraniou

John was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he spent the majority of his childhood and adolescence. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003, then went straight through and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2006. A desire to experience a different part of the country led him to apply to Florida State University in Tallahassee, where he pursued work as a doctoral fellow at the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy before ultimately transitioning to a career in finance and attaining several securities licenses.

It was in Tallahassee where John began his Masonic journey, being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at Jackson Lodge no 1 in 2015. He would serve as Worshipful Master of Jackson Lodge no 1 in 2020 before continuing in the Blue Lodge as a District Instructor for Most Worshipful Foster in 2021 and a District Deputy for Most Worshipful Lambert in 2022.

John joined Tallahassee York Rite Bodies in 2016, and has sat in the East in Tallahassee Chapter no 1, Seminole Council no 30, and Tallahassee Commandery

no 12. It was also at Tallahassee York Rite Bodies where John built his relationship with a great friend and Masonic mentor, Most Illustrious Thomas J. Rawsthorne, who placed John into the Grand Line.

While in Tallahassee John ultimately built his family with his Cinnamon Girl Cristal, his Little Llama Stella, their three dachshund puppies Heidi, Hildegard, and Heloise, and a cat Myszka who grudgingly tolerates his presence. As is often true in life, the one constant is change, and as of this writing, John has relocated for professional opportunities in Melbourne in Brevard County, where he is enjoying spending more time with and expanding his Masonic family.

Among his other Masonic affiliations John is a Past Sovereign Master of Wesley C. Harter Council no 302 Allied Masonic Degrees, Past Excellent Chief of Florida Caverns Council no 110, and Past President of Capital City High Twelve no 777. He is also a member of Panama City Priory no 72, Joseph P. LeSuer York Rite College no 80, Spirit of Truth LXXI Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests, the Scottish Rite Valley of Tallahassee, Seminole Forest Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Marzuq Shrine, Talwar Grotto & the Royal Order of Scotland.

When not engaged in Masonic pursuits, John follows the Pittsburgh Penguins, Florida State University Baseball, and Liverpool F.C., listens to an eclectic selection of music, and creates memories in the Universal and Disney resorts in Orlando.

2025 – 2026 Grand Line Officers

Grand Line Officers	Name
MI Grand Master	John A. Kraniou
RI Deputy Grand Master	James E. Draeving
RI Principal Conductor of the Work	E. Richard Coles IV
RI Grand Treasurer	Robert C. St. John, Jr
RI Grand Recorder	Larry R. Gillespie
I Grand Chaplain	Jerry J. Miller
I Grand Captain of the Guard	Jonas Seda
I Grand Conductor of the Council	Rev. Brian R. Poole
I Grand Marshal	Dana K. Oldenburg
I Grand Steward	Stephen C. Nelson
I Grand Sentinel	Rusty M. Ludlam
I Grand Organist	Landon W. Friend
I Grand Inspector of the Arches	Don J. Goss

2025 – 2026 District Deputy Grand Masters

District	Name
1	Thomas K. Krumenacker
2	Doug Dobbs
3	Chuck Bailey
4	Thomas Simpson
5	Brian Zeppa
6	Matt Green
7	Stephen Meserve
8	Adam Bryan
9	Jeff Baxter
10	Robert L. Taylor Jr.

2025 – 2026 District Instructors

District	Name
1	Garry M. Paxinos
2	Jonas Seda
3	Corey Underwood
4	A. Randy Chancey
5	Manny Lozada
6	Ravi Sonny
7	Todd Connor
8	Thomas E. Metcalfe Jr.
9	Michael Watson
10	Dwight Wilson

2025 – 2026 Budget

<u>2025-2026 Grand Council of R&SM of Florida Proposed Budget</u>		Proposed 2025-2026
Income		
40000 - Annual Per Capita		\$ 33,120.00
40010 - Greetings		
40011 - Other Interest		\$3
40012 - Other Receipts - Admin Invest (75%)		\$ 14,145.00
40012 - Other Receipts - Donations		TBD
40013 - Other Receipts - Life-Perp Investment		TBD
40020 - Annual Grand Assembly		\$4,383.00
40030 - Grand Office Return		\$635.00
Total Income		\$ 52,286.00
Expense		
20010 - Allowances		
20011 - Grand Master		\$ 4,000.00
20012 - Deputy Grand Master		\$ 2,000.00
20014 - Jewel, Apron & Case		\$ 1,200.00
20014 - DDGM Apron & Case		\$ 0.00
20015 - Grand Treasurer		\$ 2,000.00
Subtotal		\$ 9,200.00
20020 - Charity		
20022 - Youth Charities		\$900.00
20023 - Masonic Home		\$ -
20025 - Youth Scholarships		
20026 - CMMRF		\$ 250.00
Subtotal		\$ 1150.00
20030 - Meetings		
20031 - Triennial		\$ 1,000.00
20032 - District Meetings		\$ 1,000.00
20033 - Summer Assembly		\$ -
20034 - MIGM SE Conference		\$ 250.00
20035 - RIDGM SE Conference		\$ 250.00
20036 - RIPCW SE Conference		\$ 250.00
20037 - RI Recorder SE Conference		\$ 84.00
20038 - CMMRF Board Meeting		
Subtotal		\$ 2,834.00
20040 - Grand Assembly		
20044 - Distinguished Guests		\$ 2,000.00
Subtotal		\$ 2,000.00
20050 - Office Expenses		
20050 - Total Office Expenses		\$ 7200.00
Subtotal		\$ 7,200.00

20060 - Printing		
	20060 - Total Office Expenses - Printing	\$ 1500.00
Subtotal		\$ 1,500.00
20070 - Contract Labor Salaries, Stipends and Payroll Taxes		
	20070 - Salaries, Stipends, & Payroll Taxes	\$ 16,200.00
	20074 - Office Temporary Help	
Subtotal		\$ 16,200.00
20080 - Taxes		
	20081 - Florida Corporation Tax	\$ 62.00
	20081 - General Grand Per Capita	\$ 7,350.00
Subtotal		\$ 7,412.00
20090 - Sundry		
	20091 - Education and Training	\$ 900.00
	20092 - Awards	\$ 1000.00
	20095 - Insurance	\$1,000.00
	20096 - Contingencies	\$ 400.00
	20097 - Officers Jewels and Aprons	
	20099 - Webhosting	
	20100 - Keith Dean Competition	\$ 500.00
	20101 - MMS -YRIS	\$ 1000.00
Subtotal		\$ 4,800.00
20100 - Miscellaneous		
	20102 - Bank Service Charges	\$ 25.00
	20102 - Bank Charges - Returned Check Fee	\$5.00
Subtotal		\$ 30.00
		\$ 52,326.00