

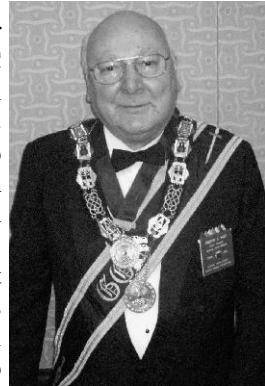


The CRYPTIC Freemason

PUBLICATION OF
GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL
CRYPTIC MASONS INTERNATIONAL

December, 2008

Greetings to you, as your new General Grand Master. We have all worked to achieve much for our fraternity for us to be where we are today. We have a TERRIFIC TEAM of Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, Regional Deputies, Ambassadors, and Committee Members. We have spent time in selecting from all over the world to have very energetic, talented, and able men to assist with our programs. We have hit the ground running and working hard, as we begin this new Triennium, with you, the membership in mind. My three years will end the last of August, 2011, but many of the plans, programs, goals will carry on for years to come, the Deputy General Grand Master and I have worked together to develop many of these ideas.



Note, we have 19 committees for the next three years to assist with our programs just to have more membership involvement. Again, we are planning for today and tomorrow, as we work. Each committee has job descriptions and directions with checks and balances. We have mixed new members on various committees with many that have had experiences. One of the new committees is the TECHNICAL AUTOMATION. Dan Pushee and David Grindle are on that committee and if you want to see some of their work check out www.ggccmi.org/.

Thanks and congratulations should be extended to MPPGM Bud Himes, his officers, Regional Deputies, and Ambassadors, with whom I was glad to work with the past three years—job well done. And again, I owe thanks to MPPGM Perry Anderson and his officers as they took me in hand and taught me much. Also credit for a great Triennial should be extended to Larry Gray and to all of the Committee members that worked hard to produce the event that ran as smoothly as it did.

And while I am thanking folks, I need to say didn't I have a great Installation TEAM? Van Evans of MS, Hal Gregory of SC, Ray Hassell of RI and Jimmy

Wyndham of MS did a fine job, as always. Then to North Carolina York Rite Folks, I say thank you all for your support over the years. I am so glad many of you made the effort to come to Indianapolis. Everyone that attended the Installation, I say thank you. I do appreciate all the gifts too.

Just one more thank you, to Doug Fegenbush, Marion Crum, and the staff at the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine for all the very fine presentations about CMMRF and the work at the Medical School. The power point presentation, the speakers, and their interaction were truly most beneficial. What a wonderful opportunity to meet the Doctors, Professors, Assistants, and all the staff. We had first class service in the bus ride, then fresh fruit and breakfast pastries greeted us as we arrived. THANKS to all of you!

The Triennial at Indy accomplished much in that we had a very productive business meeting. To name a few things accomplished: a new corporation, a new Corporate Foundation, and an increase in per capita. Now, all we have to do is to forge ahead with getting our innovative programs going. Leadership and Effective Management techniques are being used in our performance and financial growth. It will be tested by each member and by the various controls we have in place, as required by our corporation.

Several of our money making projects are already off to a great start. Thanks to all that purchased the TEAM CAPS in Indianapolis and thanks to George Sellars, Doug Soltow and our fellow North Carolina members, who assisted with selling the caps. The Book sales went well too, and we appreciate all who purchased the inspirational books (very good reading). Other Fund Raiser projects are in the developmental stage: another collectible coin, a business card holder, other books. Funds will be for CMMRF, Endowment Fund/ Foundation, and support for George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Our goals as elected officers include attending 12 to 15 states' annual session per year, and 5 to 7 regional conferences, and as many of our local meetings as possible. Note, there is no I in TEAM, so please call, write, contact any and all officers at any times with ideas and complaints.

My recent travels include North East York Rite Regional Conference in Albany, NY, then to Pittsburgh, PA to represent GGC at Convent General, then attended Kentucky's Grand York Rite Convention. Maryland and Virginia rounds out the end of the year.

Ending with another thought about our effectiveness as a TEAM, read and reflect of this Ecclesiastes 4:12—"Two people can resist an

attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.” Always remember to take a brother by the hand. We can accomplish so much more together. Have a safe early winter and Happy Holidays.

Joseph J. Vale, General Grand Master

CMMRF COLLECTIBLE COIN FUND RAISER UPDATE

This project began in June of 2003 and we expect finalizing by the end of August, 2008 by raising \$75,000 for CMMRF, from the sales of the collectible coin. The coin, with Picture of George Washington and the George Washington National Masonic Memorial on one side and the 9 Arches on the other is sold for \$10.00 each.

As soon as all funds are received for the 7,500 coins we had purchased, we shall have a new collectible coin for sale to raise more money for CMMRF. The new coin is now in development stage and should be out by the end of this year or the first of 2009. We are also anticipating selling a business card holder with a coin design on it.

As of October 1, 2008, we have received nearly \$67,000, with approximately 700 coins for which the money has not yet been turned in and just over 100 coins that have not yet been distributed. Thanks to all of the people, who have assisted, cooperated, and shown such effort in raising the money with the sales of the coin. Thanks to those that have taken coins to sell, and those that have purchased, and the various state officers who have assisted in getting the coins sold.

By raising these funds, we are hoping to expand the scope of research in vascular biology to enable our scientific researchers to unite in their exploration of vascular problems and to increase the likelihood of finding cures more rapidly.

Anyone interested in purchasing a coin (still have about 100 left) to raise funds for CMMRF, contact me: Joe Vale, 3609 Southwood Dr., Gastonia, NC 28056 (home phone is 704/824-3444) or email is JValeMasonic@aol.com, or FAX (704/824-7181). Any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Joseph J. Vale, General Grand Master

Accountability begins when a few members raise their hands and hundreds follow.

For the General Grand Council and the entire York Rite of Freemasonry, 2005-2008, was a Triennial like no other in modern history.

We began the Triennial with cautious optimism, expecting to stay the course of operating both from the fraternal and charitable foundations. We had great excitement about the pending new Constitution and preparing the way with the “Vision” programs and ultimately,



the “Strategic Plan”, for the next 5-25 years. Then the realities rose up and shown their pending stop gapes. First, a realization, that the General Grand budget was largely under funded by around \$30,000. Then we encountered a crisis in the housing sector. New construction was at a standstill. Mortgage markets panicked causing a wakened economy and deflating interest rates. Gas and utility rates were dramatically increasing and the ever increasing of unemployment and the cost of goods and services in some part of the country doubling. All effecting the economic picture of General Grand Council.

Despite these failures, there were many operating highlights for the General Grand Council, which have been previously reported in my Triennial Report. That report contains forward looking programs, plans, expectations, goals and projections.

We, like other fraternal organization, are subject to external risks, many of which are out of our control. But we can prepare for our future and financial base, here and now, by recognizing the past and present dilemma’s as only a present predicament then proceed to enhance the new Corporate Endowment, then to provide financial relief created over 35 years of neglect. We also will amend the present accounting practices now in place. The General Grand Recorder and General Grand Treasurer must perform their respective jobs; separately and decisively.

One of the lingering questions to our financial reporting was an audit: internal or external, Annually or Triennially. There must be accountability in all phases of the economic reporting. This must be accomplished immediately. An external independent Registered Public

Accountant and an internal audit committee must ensure we are meeting the accounting practices and polices of the IRS.

Accountability (Return to Respectability)

*“The cow has left the pasture , the curtain has come down
It’s the end of the story. This window is now closed.”*

Whatever the metaphor we should officially write the epilogue to the string of the last thirty years of history of the Cryptic Rite in General Grand Council.

We’re looking to make some changes. Serious changes with you, the membership, foremost in mind. And maybe, it’s about time too.

The managers or active international Officers should be held accountable and responsible for the resurgence of respectability from the past thirty years, or will we “Stay the Course”, doing business as usual? We believe, “Staying the Course” is over and probably just in time.

Quitting on “Staying the Course” is a harsh reality. But doing nothing is unconscionable. But with the loss of membership from 175,000 in 1990 to around 91,000 in 2007, clearly equates in 18 years to a loss of revenue of approximately \$31,850 per year, nearly the deficit in the proposed budget, as well as the short fall in the past several Triennials financial accounting. It’s easier to “Stay the Course” and let someone else to bite the bullet. But that’s bad management. But what offends me most was the lack of “Passionate Intensity” to get the job done. We became complacent and unproductive, violating all business practices and the first Commandment of the thrust for the present Triennial, and that is:

1. To be accountable
2. Gain respectability
3. Take Pride in the Cryptic Rite
4. Listen to your membership

It was devastating to all the elected Officers to realize our business

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and financial position of the past years and its short falls. But that ends today! The buck stops here! It's up to you, the Membership to approve the new direction and the proposed Resolutions, and make it "Right", the first time. You mandated a change of direction and prepare for the eventualities of the new General Grand Council. The Past Officers has taken us as far as they could with the present Constitution and financial irregularities and short falls.

There is no pity here, only a realization that we had a good time the past thirty years doing business as usual, but now we need to pay the price for higher expectations, supporting our membership requests, fulfilling our destiny with sound innovative programs with supporting committee assignments and maximizing our effort to combat the dwindling membership loss and additionally the increasing cost of goods and services in the past thirty years of approximately 120%, and degenerating financial position. We are poised in waiting in the battlefield of fraternal expectations. The new General Grand Officers, elected and appointed, plus 65 Committeemen are standing ready, at parade rest, to make the next Triennial transition for advancement in the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry. We realize our failings. We are ready to make it "Right". We addressed the problems and pondered the consequences, then developed a game plan to turn the adversity into an opportunity for victory for our cause. We now need your stamp of approval to forge head. To fight the battle where the battle is the hottest. If we don't, we are traders to the cause.

It may not seem fair to everyone but how often is reality fair?

We must do something now or we are projected to waist away as a forgotten rainbow in the Masonic family. Don't let it happen!

We are at a crossroads, either to "Stay the Course" or provide sound footings for our Cryptic Rite of tomorrow supporting the completion of the York Rite and extolling our attributes for all the generations to come.

Remember, "every moment looking back, keeps us from going forward."

George C. Sellars, Deputy General Grand Master

I would like to express my gratitude to my Companions for the confidence you have reposed in me to serve as your General Grand Principle Conductor of the work. I'm humbled and honored to serve.

I now have the opportunity to help pilot the General Grand Council on its journey. I cannot think of a better group of elected Officers to serve with. Our goals and visions are very similar which will make the journey more pleasurable. Like most of you, I look forward to some positive changes. The Goal of financial security is at the top of the list. While this goal will take a number of years to achieve, the \$0.65 per capita increase when it goes into effect will give us a boost towards that goal. We can not sit and wait for it to take effect, nor can we rely on per capita to be the final answer. Your Trustees are looking at a number of ideas to raise money for the corporate fund, and as decisions are made we will be asking for your support. The list of goals is long and not fully prioritized. If not for working committees the tasks would be overwhelming and a great deal of thanks goes to those who work without fee or reward in the quarry's.

All of us have serious work to do to build Cryptic Masonry, but lets not forget that fellowship and brotherly love are at the center of all we do. Hard work will make a successful journey, taking the time to build a friendship will make it pleasurable. As I travel, I'm looking forward to meeting many new Companions and renewing the old friendships.

As we head into the Holidays, Mary and I wish each of you a Happy Holiday, a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year. May God be at center of all your decisions in the coming year.

"Freemasonry is a way of life and a living example to the world"

R.P. Lawrence O. Weaver
General Grand Principle Conductor of the Work

***"Friendship isn't a big thing -
It's a million little things."***

OUTLOOK IS BRIGHT

FOR 2008-2011

WE PROMISE TO KEEP WORKING FOR YOU - THE
MEMBERSHIP, UNTIL WE ARE THE FINEST FRATERNAL
ORANIZATION IN THE WORLD!!

To SUCCEED, we must:

- Live up to our Commitments
- Pursue High Performance at all Levels
- Build Value through Sound Financial Management

In the never-ending quest to better the *Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry*, we embark on a journey to produce a new philosophy and a new culture to drive the General Grand Council into the next decade. Now the last three years are history. *Today* and *tomorrow* we shall build the leaders to forge our future and bring innovative programs to strengthen our organization.

We are committed to Leadership and “Effective Management” techniques. We shall incorporate our core values in all we do, using bold imagination and creative new solutions to and for our memberships needs across North America and the ever-growing International scene. We shall be accountable in performance and financial growth. In addition, we are committed to developing better business practices and to preparing this Cryptic Rite for the new generation of membership.

The Elected Officers realize our commitment to you the Membership. Therefore, *Today* is a new day and *Tomorrow* will be different from today that will bring effective management techniques for the advancement of the Cryptic Rite. We are preparing to be successful by bringing improved membership service, by delivering a world class corporation, and by strengthening the home atmosphere to a first class Masonic body.

We are defining what being a member of the Cryptic Rite means by providing challenging programs that will develop character and future leadership for tomorrow’s Councils.

During the past three years, we have been developing plans and preparing for implementation of the necessary action to achieve our goals. Here are just a few of the many innovations for tomorrow’s growth. The actions starts with all of us and now.

1. Corporate Foundation enhancements
 - (a) 144 Team Hats

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- (b) Inspirational Book - 700 copies
2. Double investments interests to aid Per Capita Stabilization
3. New and Masonic Friendly Cryptic Pamphlets and Books
4. Capitalize on CMMRF research to the uninformed
5. Improve George Washington Memorial support and Showroom
6. Govern Cryptic Rite by sound business practices through the Executive Board of Directors of the Corporation
7. Immediate Audit with reviews on a quarterly bases
8. Review accounting policies and implement necessary changes
9. Determine fate of the Cryptic Magazine
10. Be productive
11. Increased Committees to 19 (200% increase) to develop futuristic programs
 - (a) Each has job descriptions and directions
 - (b) More than 65 members from all sections of the Cryptic World
12. Endowment/Trust Goal for 2008-2011 - \$50,000+
13. Seek Inspirational and Committed Companions to continue the inertia for the next Triennium (2011-2014). Keep it going!!!
14. Have 60-70 other ideas to review and consider as time permits

The above is only the tip of the iceberg. Yet, we are working every day and we will not stop until we are finished.

Building on the Past... Positioning for Growth

Found 10 "Traits" for good membership relations, not sure of author:

1. Work Hard
2. Have Optimism
3. Be Enthusiastic
4. Be Flexible
5. Be Innovative
6. Go the Extra Mile - Go Beyond Expectations
7. Listen to the Membership
8. Be Friendly
9. Make Rational Decisions
10. Be Trustworthy and Trust your Membership

The Elected General Grand Officers

Forty-Third Triennial Assembly

Keeping the Promise

Making the Tough Decisions

Activities abound at the Triennial in Indianapolis, IN. Special events around town and a informative tour at the CMMRF Research Center at the University of Indiana or IUPU.

A night was set a side for state dinners and the planned programs of the Committee marched off like clockwork. Philip E. Fowler, PGHP and his Indiana Committee did a masterful planning program. It went well.

The Flag Ceremony was a huge success. The gathering of people got into the cheers as the event developed. General Grand Council Opened in formal style with M.P. Companion Bud Himes presiding. All the Officers and seven Regional were present.

Charters were presented to Puerto Rico & Togo, Africa. Four Companions were announced to receive the Mordhurst Medal for 15 years as a Grand Recorder. One was present, M.I. Companion Stanley Morrill of MN.

M.I. Companion Bud gave his report of services. It was accepted and received a standing ovation. Following the first report of the Jurisprudence Committee, the Nominations for office took place. Joseph J. Vail was elected as General Grand Master. George C. Sellars was elected as Deputy General Grand Master. Two were nominated for General Grand PCW: Lawrence (Larry) Weaver & Robert E. Durham, Jr. Following the first ballot, M.I. Comp. Weaver was elected. Kenneth D. Chandler was elected as General Grand Treasurer. Two were nominated for General Grand Recorder: Ronald E. Fullerlove and David A. Grindle. The Tellers report found the election of David A. Grindle as the General Grand Recorder.

Joseph J. Vail presided over the CMMRF meeting and the election of three Trustees:

The Resolutions resulted in the following:

1. The new Constitution was withdrawn due to omissions.

2. The Life Membership was withdrawn due to not in proper form.
3. The Per Capita was approved.

James McGee of AL gave the Finance and Budget Report, which was approved subject to the previously approved Per Capita increase.

A laid over amendment was considered on setting the Per Capita limit to 10,000 members. It was defeated after a short debate.

M.P. Bud thanked the membership for allowing him to serve the General Grand Council. He also gave credit to the Triennial Committee. M.P. Companion Bud then closed the General Grand Council and advised the Installation of Officers will follow.

All the elected Officers, appointed Regional Deputies & Ambassadors were installed by M.I. Companion Van A. Evans of MS and his staff of Hal Gregory, Ray E. Hassell and Jimmie Windham.

Presentations were completed and introduction concluded. All is well for the Grand Banquet where M.P. Bud Himes presented the Columbian Awards.

*The Officers of the
General Grand Council, Int.
would like to wish to all the
members and their families -*



Happy Holidays And a most Joyous New Year

*Joseph J. Vale - George C. Sellars
Lawrence O. Weaver - Kenneth D. Chandler
© David A. Grindle*

**DEDICATION THROUGH
EDUCATION AND COMMUNCIATION**

All the right ingredients for success!!!

Found an oasis in the middle of the country, to be more specific, Pierre, South Dakota. You remember the State and the Forth Second Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council in Rapid City, just three years ago? It's just down the road a bit, to the east of Rapid City, off of I-90 and US 83. It's the capital of South Dakota and home of Most Puissant Companion Perry Anderson, PGGM.

Pierre has all the special places: memorials, swimming pools, lakes, rivers, a beautiful capital building, museum, city parks, a wonderful State park too and yes, a McDonald's. Just right for a traveler like me, with Brenda and Heidi Ho.

But even with all the great places, it was the people that made it a special town. Met a State Department head by accident, Heidi took a shine to him. Lucky for me, he didn't know I was from out middle-eastern State way. This was home coming week, with the High School prepare for the Annual Parade, with bands, floats, Queen and her Court, football squad and exceptional, warm people, asking of us many questions about our State, then Masonry.

Yet with all the civic excitement, the York Rite of South Dakota was even a brighter light. At a pre-York Rite dinner Session, a small gathering of a Committee called, the "York Rite Revitalization of South Dakota" group met, of which we were invited to attend.

The Committee Chairman and Facilitator was George Bauder, who provided elements to resurrect a sluggish York Rite in the State. He brings good credentials to support his presentations being a former High School Teacher, an active Mason and Sate Officership in several bodies. And best of all, enthusiasm!!! George supplied the Agenda, an outline of questions, and several handbooks for Officers in the York Rite. Most of all, it was his contents and the interaction of those present that made this evening special. A think tank session by my definition. He used a power point program smattered with group discussions and problem solving issues. It was a good "Team" night. A simple but effective York Rite program for "Revitalization", in the State of South Dakota but it could have been in any place. Time flew by.

We found the interaction refreshing, stimulating and down right effective. South Dakota is on the right track with George Bauder and the Companions.

Incidentally, we had dinner with our ladies, who were invited to stay for the roundtable debate. Ladies at one of our deliberations you say? What next, we might even invite our youth next time. Good point!

As I said earlier, all the right ingredients through education and communication.

Keep up the good work George and the Companions of South Dakota, your heart is in the right place. Point is, success is only a touch away.



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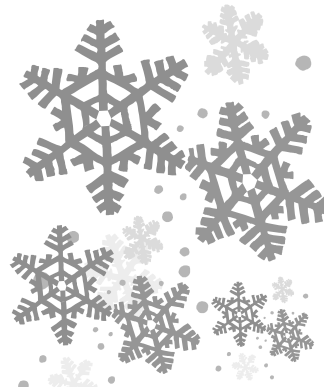
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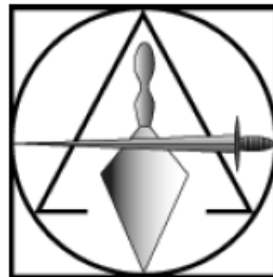
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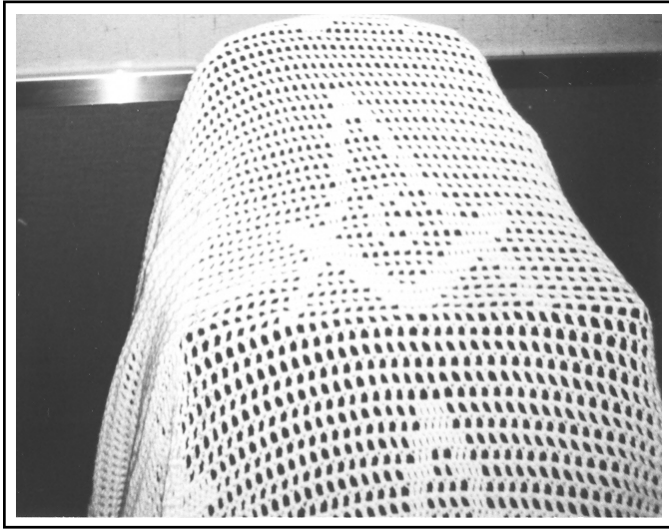
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Let it Snow, Let it Snow,
Let it Snow!!!



**Wife of DC MIGM
Donating Talent to Raise CMMRF Funds**



Cathie Jolma, whose grandfather received assistance from Knight Templar Eye Foundation many years ago, designed and made an afghan the year that her husband Lonnie was GC of Washington, DC's Grand Commandery, to raise funds for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. They raised about \$800.00 that year.

When Lonnie became MIGM last March, she has again, using her own design (see picture) made this lovely white Masonic Afghan, with the intent to raise as much or more for CMMRF. 100% of proceeds of this will go to the CMMRF.

Opportunities to receive this afghan are being handled by Cathie & Lonnie, as they raise money for CMMRF. Since they have allowed the Afghan to be on display at the Triennial in Indy in August, and at the North East York Rite Regional Conference in September, they are anticipating having more folks interested and contacting them. You may reach them by email: ljolma@cox.net or writing to them at:

L & C Jolma, 7606 Jervis St., Springfield, VA 22151.

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