

MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan

P. O. Box 483
Hale Michigan 49739-0483
989 728.5384

elcemccray@yahoo.com

Paul Howell, Editor
608 W. Pantera Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85210-8321
520 233.1540
ghpmi97@gmail.com



November
2015

Michigan Grand Chapter Web Site
www.grandchaptermi.org

Official Publication of the
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan



HERITAGE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Mantoon Lodge #347 – Aug. 6, 2015

Bellaire Lodge #398 – Sept. 25, 2015



(Father) Dennis Meyer, PM, 1968

(Sons) Jeffrey Meyer 2007; Scott Meyer, 2005
Craig Meyer, 2005; Ryan Meyer, 2005

Brother Earl Meyer (Grandfather) who is deceased was also a member of Genesee Lodge 174 and Washington Chapter 15.

Thank you for presenting the Heritage Award to myself and four sons. My sons and myself felt honored and privileged to have received this. The time and effort you and your fellow brothers put into this is commendable.

Dennis Meyer

Included in the picture, right to left:

Carl John Peterson, Right Excellent Companion

Jeffrey Meyer, Scott Meyer, Dennis Meyer, PM; Craig Meyer, Ryan Meyer & Steven Davidson – Mackinaw Chapter 134.

This represents of 90 years in Masonry.

It is for me an honor to give these awards. The Lodge Brothers always have a lot of questions about the Royal Arch!!! Need new members in your Chapter?

You'll find them from you Lodges?? Attend and let them know about the awards that are due them. This is where your communication comes in. *Carl John*



Bellaire Lodge #398 convened on Friday, September 25, 2015 for a Special Communication for the express purpose of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Presentation of the "Michigan Heritage Award".

The recipients of the Award in attendance, with their wives, were Donald Stambaugh, Bert Stambaugh and Edward Stambaugh.

Making the presentation for the Grand Chapter were Louis McCray, PGHP and Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter and Carl John Peterson, Grand Principal Sojourner of the Grand Chapter.

The Lodge was open to the public with 12 ladies in attendance for a total membership in attendance for the presentation of 31 including the two from the Grand Chapter.

All in attendance were very impressed and appreciative of seeing this award presented.

Congratulations to the Stambaugh's

.....
God loves everyone.

But probably prefer 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'



Donald L. Galway

Grand High Priest

LADY SHERRY

22365 N. Latson Howell 48845
517.618.7390 dgalway12000@yahoo.com

"COMMUNICATION IS KEY"

Comments and Observations From The Grand East

Here we are two-thirds of the way through the month of October, the twentieth to be exact, for those of you that are or were upland bird hunters this day was a holiday in the lower third of Michigan. This day used to be as revered as the opening day of deer season. What is it you ask? The opening day of Pheasant Season, that is what. For the first forty years of my life, I never missed an opening day, but alas they to have become a very hard thing to find these days. I have seen more in the City of Detroit

Then I have in the suburbs or country; I still have fond memories of a day spent afield. Now a days, the fields I used to hunt, with a trusty bird dog, are now subdivisions or strip malls. On a beautiful fall day such as today I still dream.

The first day of October two things happened. The Supreme Court of the United States began their session, and The Grand Chapter Of Royal Arch Mason of Michigan moved into the new office. Both have significance and yes the both impact us but the move to Alma for Grand Chapter at this time will impact us more for now. The new office is in the Masonic Pathways building next to the Grand Lodge of Michigan. The address is 1200 Wright Ave. Alma, MI 48801. This makes since as it becomes easier for us to work with the Grand Lodge, as this is where our membership must come from. Chapters cannot go to the streets to solicit members; our members have to come from the lodges. To support the lodges and any new programs that help them obtain new members will also help us obtain new members. I support the Mentor program that Grand Master Wisley is supporting and what better way to help a new brother understand what it is he just became a member of then to mentor him. This does not mean that as soon as he is raised we shove a petition under his nose, you and he will know when it is time for him to join our ranks, and that time is not when he is raised or soon after. You and I both know that he hasn't a clue and the only thing that happens is, he will more then likely not have a good experience in ether lodge or chapter. Remember, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.

Now is the time for each chapter to start thinking of their candidate for the MSA or Bronze award. Every chapter has at least one candidate that they could nominate for these awards and I would encourage each and every one to nominate their candidate. I would like nothing more then having the MSA award committee complain that they have too much work. Each chapter has that ability to make that happen, and I encourage you to make that happen.

Our website has a calendar that is not being used very much, I would like to have each chapter that is planning a degree send a note to Jeff Heaven, our Webmaster. We need to communicate to each other the work we are planning, and you will be surprised at the amount of help you can receive, from around the state. Jeff's contact information is on the web site, if you can't get in touch with him, contact your DDI, and he will get the information to Jeff. Please don't schedule a degree for tomorrow and expect it to show up on the calendar, please give enough time for him to post it and others to see it.

Remember, "Communication Is Key"



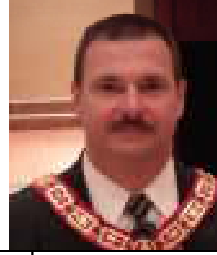
HOWARD DUKE

R.E. GRAND KING

734.847.7032

howardduke929@gmail.com

King's Korner



RICHARD HITCH

R. E. GRAND SCRIBE

432 E. Third St., Monroe 48161

734 735 9436

mickey422@yahoo.com

Scribe's Scratches

Companions:

The Oath of Fidelity. Do you remember the Oath of Fidelity? We don't hear the term "Oath of Fidelity" used very much. So let me refresh your memory, here it is: "To the high purposes of universal Masonry, to brotherly love, relief and truth, to the up building of this Lodge; the promotion of harmony among it's members, to the realization of it's highest ideals of character and of life; to the stretching forth of our hands to aid and support a fallen brother, and to the vindication of his character behind his back, as well as before his face, we here and now, pledge anew, our most earnest and unceasing efforts." What powerful words to live by.

No doubt, you have attended or have been part of the installation of officers in a symbolic, or Blue Lodge. During that ceremony you repeated the Oath of Fidelity. You may ask, what does the Oath of Fidelity have to do with Royal Arch? The answer is simple, it is universal, it covers all of Masonry.

My point to all of this is, Have you ever really studied and examined closely the meaning of the words to the Oath of Fidelity? How they apply to each of us as Masons. We should all take just a few minutes to read and analyze what it has to say and then ask yourself how do I, as a Mason, measure up to this Oath? Remember, be faithful to yourself.

The obligations we have all taken through our Masonic travels are of the utmost importance to us and are to be strictly adhered to and taken most seriously at all times. They are what sets us apart in society. The Oath of Fidelity encompasses all of this. These are words that we are expected to live by as Masons. This is a pledge we have taken.

When I read the Oath of fidelity, one thing concerns me; are we giving "our most earnest and unceasing efforts" to the "up building" of our Lodges and our Chapters? Or are just letting things take care of themselves? Things don't take care of themselves. Remember this, you cannot accomplish anything in life without first putting forth effort. You cannot even use the restroom without first putting forth effort.

Companions, this brings me to a real concern; we must turn the page and cease doing business as usual and begin to inject more enthusiasm into the up building of our Chapters. The 3x3 program is an excellent place to start to bring those Companions back to your Chapter meetings that haven't been attending. Your DDI or Grand Officer can help and explain the program to your Chapter if it hasn't already been done. We need to start, in some cases, to offer activities prior to our meetings that include

Duke continued page 4, col 2

As most of you are aware, most of the Lodges in Michigan hosted or will be hosting an open house. This should help to bring awareness to the public of our Lodges and what they do. During the open house, the Masters invited all affiliate bodies of Masonry to represent there group, or at least most of the Masters and Lodges that I know of. This was an excellent opportunity for us as Royal Arch Masons to shine and introduce ourselves to the community. If you have not yet had your open house, ask the Master of your Lodge if you can set up a small table with some information to be distributed to the public.

Another good way to introduce your Chapter to the community is to celebrate your Chapter's Anniversary. If you are unsure when your Chapter was founded, check your Charter.

If you are going to celebrate the Chapter's anniversary, and you should, the event is something that should be well planned and started well in advance of the day if you have the opportunity. If possible, a financial fund should be started at least five years before the event and then added to each year so the Chapter will have some money to operate with during their anniversary year. If an accurate history has not been kept, start now and go back as far as you can for now and continue to work on it as you continue. If you can, start your Chapter's history at least five years in advance of your next big anniversary so that an accurate and interesting history of the Chapter may be written for the occasion.

If your anniversary is a mile stone like 100 years or 150 years, you may want to consider a rededication or reconsecration service conducted by the Grand Chapter Officers. If this is the case, The Grand Chapter Officers should be notified at least a year in advance of the event. It should be approved by the incoming Grand High Priest so he may set that date aside for you and the Grand Officers.

This ceremony should be open to the public. This allows the Chapter to invite their ladies, friends, local officials, and the surrounding neighbors. This helps to shed some light on all the mystery that the public fears. This will also help to perhaps gain some insight on Royal Arch Masonry from the members of your Lodge. It is suggested that this event be held on a Friday or Saturday night. A suggested program for Friday night

Hitch Continued page 4, col 2.



Louis C. McCray, PGHP

Grand Secretary

P.O. Box 483

Hale, MI. 48739-0483

989.728.5384

elcemccray@yahoo.com

Secretary's Scribbles

Grand Chapter Web Site:

<http://www.grandchaptermi.org>

Greetings Companions,

Last month, when I suggested that snow would be here soon, I meant in November, not on October 17th, which is what happened over a large area of northern Michigan. Fortunately, the ground was still warm and the temperature rose quickly, so the snow was gone by early evening, at least in most places.

The Grand Chapter office has now moved to Masonic Pathways in Alma. We are just down the hall from the Grand Lodge offices. We still have a lot of material being stored at the Grand Rapids Temple but we hope to have everything moved to Alma very soon. While Alma is closer to my home than Grand Rapids, it is still too much of a commute for me to attempt on a daily basis, so the best means of communication with me are still telephone, email, and USPS mail at my home address.

Once again, it is time to think about getting the 2016 Master's Pins distributed to the incoming Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in your area. It is hoped that you can get them out to the new Masters at their installation, but if for some reason that doesn't happen, please make every effort to have the presentations completed and the reports in to Executive Director of DDIs Lou Scott by February 14, 2016.

On the calendar for November is Grand Master of the 2nd Veil, REC Jeffery Heaven's reception at Mt. Pleasant Lodge on November 8th with a reservation deadline of November 1. If a flier is not published in this month's issue of the Triple Tau, contact Brad Parsons of Mt. Pleasant Chapter #111 at 989-285-1072 for more information.

Also in November is the scheduled Annual Communication and election of officers for Blue Lodges in Michigan. Please make a special effort to attend your lodge for this once-a-year event. The Deacons elected here are usually only four or five years away from being Worshipful Masters and receiving Master's Pins themselves, so making your presence known to them now may prove valuable in the future.

One more thing in November is Thanksgiving Day on the 26th. Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Duke, Continued Page 3, col 1.

our Ladies. Maybe even consider activities beyond Chapter night. We need to have fun. Talk to your Companions and get their ideas. You might be surprised at the results they may yield.

Remember the Oath of Fidelity, and do your very best to live by it. So mote it be.

Fraternally, Howard W. Duke

Grand King

Hitch, Continued Page 3, col 2.

might be to start with a reception for the Grand High Priest and his staff about 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and a program in the Temple about 7:00 p.m. If the event is held on Saturday, you can start with the rededication and reconsecration about 4:00 p.m. followed by the reception of the Grand Officers and friends of the Chapter, and then dinner. In doing it this way you are able to hold a social after dinner if you wish. This would also afford you the opportunity to promote Royal Arch Masonry in the area. It also allows the members to show their ladies the place where they meet and the other Companions they work with in the Order.

When planning your anniversary event, you should consider the following committees; Historical, Publicity, and Dinner.

When conducting your event, especially if you are inviting the public, remember to keep it as entertaining and short as you feel is necessary, after all, we don't want people to think that all we do is get together and be bored for hours. Make the event fun for not only your visitors but the Companions of the Chapter too. Also, do not plan any other program for the evening that may draw from the importance of this very special event.

Good luck, and I look forward to attending your anniversary.

Rich Hitch, Grand Scribe

HOOKER CHAPTER #73, Belding

Degree Conferrals

Dispensation to hold November and December Stated Convocations on their scheduled dates of November 11th and December 9th, but to open the Chapter for the dispatch of business at 7:00 pm each evening.

Dinner will be served at 6:30, as usual.

Opening at 7:00 pm for business meeting and then;

November 11 – PM & MEM Degrees

December 9 – RAM Degree

Send request for Courtesy Degree Conferral to John Fossler at: jfossler@hotmail.com

EVERLASTING IMPRESSIONS

We make your moments last a lifetime!

Engraving • Gifts • Awards
Watch Batteries • Watch Bands • & More

Fred & Bonnie Schneider

7100 Jackson Rd. Ste. 400
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-222-1770

fred@eiengravers.com
bonnie@eiengravers.com
www.eiengravers.com

Buckingham Enterprises

Jewelry - Aprons

CHAPEAU CASES, SLINGS,
GLOVES

2600 Springmill Road

Findlay, Ohio 45840



JOHN A. AMES

G. Captain of the Host

17142 Wales

Macomb, Mi. 48044

586-770-2613

GWhunter51@gmail.com



JEFFREY HEAVEN

G. Master 1st Veil

8800 Millbrook Rd.

Blanchard, Mi. 49310

H 989-561-5548

C 989-944-2923

weoxstan@gmail.com

Greetings Companions, well here it is November already. Seems like the Grand York Rite Session was just a few weeks ago. It is my honor to serve the Grand Chapter this year as the Grand Royal Arch Captain.

Have had a busy schedule since August, with forward planning meet for the Grand Chapter, Grand York Reception, Chapter visits and attending meetings of my York Rite bodies that I am a member.

I have a busy schedule for November, with a visitation to Union Chapter 55 on the 4th, another planning meeting on the 7th, reception dinner for REC Jeff Heaven on the 8th, Dad advisor training on the 14th, my lodges awards dinner on the 14th as well, Commandery inspection on the 21st, Thanksgiving with the family, and my council installation on the 28th.

I have made four chapter visits so far this fall, visiting Livingston Chapter 30, Durand Chapter 139, Wayne Chapter 182, and Sunlight Chapter 189. Three visits yet to be made by me are Flint Rapids 116, Washington Chapter 15, and Union Chapter 55.

The one thing that was apparent on all my visits so far is that most of the Companions present are my age, which is 64, or older and most were Past High Priest, and a number of Past Grands or Grand Officers serving one of the three Grand York Bodies. It is no surprise that these Companions attend their chapters; they made a commitment to the craft and did not fade into the woodwork once their year as High Priest was over.

Our membership is down for a number of reasons, a majority of my generation, the baby boomers, did not join our fraternity, and as there was not a Masonic connection, their children did not join either. This is why our numbers are down and those of the youth groups as well. The millennials are coming of age

Continued, Page 6, col. 1

I had a companion approach me tonight to inform me that he was going to demit from York Rite Masonry. It caught me off guard as he is one of the best companions within our chapter. I inquired into the reason for his withdraw and was even more shocked to find out that he was thinking of dropping out of all the appending bodies of Masonry. "Wow," was all I could think. What happened? Is he burned out? All kind of thoughts crossed my mind. Again I asked, "Why?" He informed me that he has thought long and hard about this and feels like he needs to focus on the roots of Masonry, the Blue Lodge. We went on to talk about the status of lodges and chapters not only in our local temple but also temples throughout the state. On a whole, we are all suffering. We are working hard to keep not only York Rite Masonry, but all bodies of Masonry alive.

Over the last several years I have been thinking about ways to keep our chapter vibrant and ways to make it grow. Some ideas have succeeded, some have ended in failure. The key thing for me was to never give up, never stop trying new ideas. There *must* be something that we can do. The more I think about it, maybe he has a point. We should go back to the roots of Masonry and build better men, husbands, and fathers. We should be creating better people for our communities, give back more through charity; work in the trenches of Masonry to bring it back to its glory. We need to put down our cell phones, turn off our televisions, and log out of Facebook so we can get out there and share with the world what Masonry has done for us.

Yesterday I did just that, I took time out of my day and left work early to go to our temple and meet a Consumer Energy man about saving our lodge some money. For three and a half hours we

Continued Page 6, col. 2

Ames – Continued Page 5, col.

and seem to be interested in the craft. We must be careful that they are coming into the craft for the right reasons, and not just out of idle curiosity. Once in, we need to nurture them and let them advance their involvement at their own pace. Also we must make an effort to get to know them better, all is well and good when they are the center of attention as candidates but once they have advanced through all the degrees in Chapter we must make every effort not to let them be wallflowers, or set in the back of the chapter separated from the older members.

There is a tendency to push them into the officer line sometimes, and if they are interested that is a good thing but if they are not ready it can cost us their attendance. If they want to learn ritual that's fine too, but if they are not ready, we should let them know that their presence is all we really want, anything else they might want to do is, as they say gravy.

As for attendance, your chapter is missing out, if you do not have a meal at least every quarter and invite the Ladies. My Chapter, Council, and Commandery, hold pot luck dinners, with the ladies, on degree/order nights and we always have more Companions in attendance those nights then business nights. I would think it is because the Ladies enjoy getting out of the house and not having to prepare a full meal and washing dishes afterwards. We have a call list of all those Companions that live close by and ask them to attend the potlucks, another way to keep in touch with the membership.

Another thing that improves attendance is the use of the rob call systems which are not very expensive, and makes it easy to contact the members of your Chapter without making dozens of calls oneself.

Hope I have given you some food for thought, and if you know of any way to improve attendance and participation in your chapter, please let the rest of us know your secret.

Will be seeing some of you soon at my visits, or around at other Masonic functions

Heaven – Continued Page 5, Col. 2

talked about Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery, and what Masonry has done in my life. At the end of the day, he asked how he could learn more. I told him about the Masonic Open House and to seek out a lodge in his area. He informed me that he was going to look for the lodge in his home town and go to its open house. I hope I touched his life just enough that he will seek and receive the light and carry it with him forever.

I hope this man does join our Masonic family. However, a problem still exists. We need to focus on our current membership. What is the point of bringing in a new Brother or Companion if we can't keep him? Where are we failing? How do we keep him interested and engaged? This is the problem we need to fix. Fix it and they will come. Men will stay.

I think we need to start with asking our brothers, "why." Why have they stopped coming to Lodge and Chapter? What were their expectations? What can we do to make sure our next Companion stays engaged? These are questions that we should be asking Brothers *before* they join RAM. But, finding out why Brothers left and incorporating the needs and desires of our Companions into our organization's goals will help give men what they seek and growth will follow. I challenge you to stop what you are doing and contact a Companion or Brother that has not been active and ask him those questions. Get answers and start making the changes right now. Don't wait; don't expect somebody else to do it. It is up to you.

MT. PLEASANT CHAPTER NO. 111

Cordially invites you to join with them at a dinner and reception honoring
RIGHT EXCELLENT COMPANION JEFFREY A. HEAVEN
Grand Master of the Second Veil

Sunday, November 8, 2015
Mt. Pleasant, Masonic Center 2174 S. Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI

Social Hour: 3:00 pm Dinner: 4:00 pm
Cost \$15.00 per person

R.S.V.P. November 1st, 2015

Checks payable to: *Mr. Pleasant Chapter #111 RAM*
Mail to: Brand Parsons, PHP
314 E. Marshall Rd., Alma, MI 48801
brad088@charter.net 989 285.1072



EDWARD P. JAMES
LADY VERA
 M. J. Grand Master
edward_james32@yahoo.com



ANTHONY M. CHAMBERLIN
 P.M.C.M.
 Grand Recorder
 1-810-329-0810
migr2009@sbcglobal.net

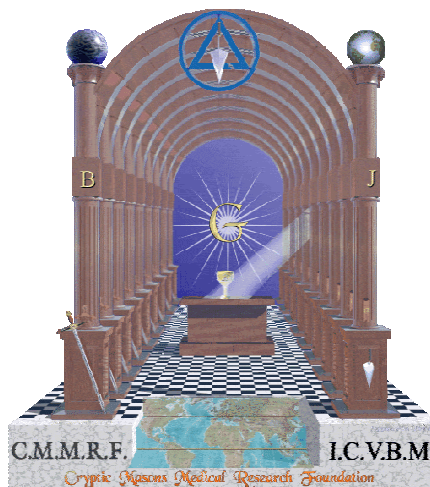
www.rsm-mi.org

ENJOY THE RIDE

Our Masonic Mantra within the Craft for many years has been Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, which indicates our inclinations to give of ourselves, our time and our resources. We as Masons are very much aware of all the opportunities available to us to contribute charitably within the craft. Many of the bodies have their favorites to which they give liberally to. Ours within the Royal and Select are the CMMRF (Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation) and our own Endowment Fund.

CMMRF provides the seed money to obtain grants for:

" a team of physicians and researchers from Indiana University to conduct FDA-approved studies examining the regenerative powers of the adult stem cells found in body fat. The cells from fat are like powerful repair stations lining the highways of the body, the blood vessels. They are helpful in building new blood supply and rescuing damaged tissues." *from the ICVBM newsletter, spring 2015, vessels and vitality.*



The Endowment Fund provides resources from the earnings it produces which allows the Grand Council to draw from when needed to supplement operational funding needs. Consider it an investment in Cryptic Masonry in Michigan, because when enough funds are made available to meet our financial commitments, there is no need to ask the Companions for a per capita increase.

This year I have made a commitment to give my MIGM 2015 lapel pin to anyone who will make a \$10 charitable donation (\$5 to CMMRF, \$5 to the Endowment Fund). I only had a limited amount made, so when anyone sees you wearing one of my pins, they will know of your charity and of your giving heart to help those that benefit greatly from the medical research being done at Indiana University, as well as your donation to our Endowment Fund which helps us with our operations to help Cryptic Councils throughout the state. Our goal is \$1000 for CMMRF and \$1000 for the endowment.

I want to thank all those Companions who have chosen to become one of the "Royal and Select", and encourage all to give as liberally as you are able to, to all the fine charities within our Masonic Family in Michigan!



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Albert F. Johnson

R. E. Grand Commander

8787 Crawford Rd. 3501

Columbus, MI. 48063

(586) 727- 3501

ajohnson48063@yahoo.com



Grand Recorder

Loren A. Winn, PGC

P.O. Box 822, Pinckney, MI 48169-

0822

734) 878-1714

tkmaster4@netscape.net

GRAND COMMANDERS CORNER NOVEMBER MESSAGE

Greetings Companions. Let me start by saying: Every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar. Why? Just as we strive to be better Men through the lessons of Masonry, we should also strive to be better Christians through the Orders of Christian Knighthood. Many of you reading this are already Knights and know of what I speak. It is through constant interaction and interconnectedness with each other at Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery that we learn the lessons of being better people. "No man is an island unto himself every man is a part of the whole Therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls it tolls for thee."

This is from Meditation #17 by John Donne and quoted most famously in Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Basically this is about the interconnectedness of mankind. When any person dies, it makes me lesser because I am connected to all others. Therefore, one should never wonder for whom the (funeral) bell tolls. Any death is your own death, so the bell is tolling for you.

Reflect on this quote from Albert Einstein "A human being is part of a whole, called by us the 'Universe'—a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts, and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." Food for thought until next time.

Best Templar Regards
SK Albert F. Johnson
Grand Commander
Knights Templar of Michigan

