

**Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan**

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Greetings from Jane Todd, Editor. Yes, it snowed here the other day. It is November and Deer Season is just around the corner. According to some the hunters around here Deer Season is one of those "Unofficial" holidays we have in Michigan. I used to enjoy those days when I was a whole lot younger. Now I just love to hear about the 2nd week of deer camp stories. A few will get that 10 point right off the bat so they just go on bragging how tough it was and all. Then there are those stories about why the deer got away or was too far or in my "Uncle Jack's" problem of getting the priming rod out of his barrel of the cap and ball gun he decided to use. He ended up shooting the blasted thing out of the barrel. Which didn't do much for the rod at all. That rod was blown to smithereens! I liked cap and ball guns because they are only as reliable as the hunter is in preparing the weapon. I do miss those days.

On another note this is the time of year that the trees show their fall colors. I was amazed at the color tour I had on my way up to a craft store in Houghton Lake. Not all of the trees have turned but there were a few here and there that just popped with yellow, orange, rusty brown and reds. Clare, Michigan made it on the Weather Chanel on our TV sets last week. They must have been up in a hot air balloon because the view was wonderful. So hurry up and take you color tour before all the leaves are gone.

Fraternally Yours,
Jane Todd, Editor



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Grand High Priest

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NOVEMBER TRIPLE TAU

My wife and I had the pleasure this summer, to attend the 79th annual Great Smoky Mountain Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons at Maggie Valley, North Carolina. This annual event is always held on the second weekend in July.

For those who have never attended this event, you are truly missing a great opportunity to meet and make new friends and to socialize with many distinguished Masons from around the country. The dress is casual throughout the entire assembly, including the banquet, with one exception. On Saturday evening, there is a York Rite College meeting and the dress for that event is business suit or tuxedo.

The York Rite College meeting is held at the Waynesville Masonic Lodge in Waynesville, a short distance from Maggie Valley. This year the Order Knight of York was conferred upon Most Worshipful Brother Bryant D. Webster, Grand Master of Masons of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M of North Carolina. The officers conferring the Order Knight of York were from various Colleges throughout Florida. There were ninety-one Companion Knights in attendance. At the same time the ladies were enjoying a program planned for them.

Sunday afternoon there was a very nice picnic. Everyone enjoyed socializing and the fellowship. Monday morning the Summer Assembly convened with the introduction of Distinguished Guests followed by the key note address from the Most Worshipful Grand Master. After a short recess, there were addresses from Louis E. Bertrand, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International and Art DeHoyas, Grand Archivist of the Grand College of Rites U.S.A. The Assembly adjourned at noon. The evening was completed with a marvelous banquet at the Maggie Valley Country Club and wonderful entertainment. Tuesday morning the Summer Assembly re-convened with an address from MWB Gerald Carver, PGM and Grand Secretary of South Carolina and remarks from Presiding Grand Officers of North Carolina. The meeting was adjourned at noon. At 3:00 p.m. we went to the Masonic Monument in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, about 15 miles from Maggie Valley. A history of the marker was given by Stanton Brown II, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The Marker contains 687 stones from every continent around the world and every state in the union. It was conceived by the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of North Carolina in the 1930's and symbolizes the Universality of Free Masonry. Maggie Valley has a lot to offer, including history and is close to Asheville. The famous Biltmore Estate is only 27 miles East. The Great Smoky Mountain National Park is 15 miles west. If you love the mountains take time to enjoy this summer event, the beautiful North Carolina mountains ----->

(Continued from column 1)

and the warm southern hospitality. You will not be disappointed.

Fraternally,

Howard W Duke,
Grand High Priest

NOTE FROM THE MASON'S LADY November Triple Tau 2016

It is always a pleasure to visit Kentucky for any reason and Grand Sessions is just such a special occasion. The warm hospitality of the Fraternity and graciousness of their Ladies make you feel welcome and at home. Renewal of past friendships and forming new ones is to be treasured. These friendships progress in harmony along the way.

A Ladies tour of the Mary Todd Lincoln House and a well-attended luncheon with good fellowship was very much enjoyed by all. The theme of "hospitality" was enhanced by a passage from the Bible and the story of Lydia. A successful business woman noted for her hospitality to others and the color of purple. A story well worth re-visiting for me. Location of Embassy Suites is convenient and a well-appointed hotel experienced in managing meetings. Since they have a long term contract we look forward to our next scheduled visit in March.

October 10 and 11, Howard and I had the pleasure of visiting the Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Stars at Battle Creek. Their fun program on Tuesday took us all back to Woodstock and what a trip. The band, the food and especially the warm welcome of everyone made for a wonderful evening. No vacant seats were available as they had sold every ticket. Mrs. Frances Russell, a sister from Toronto, Canada, was one of our dinner partners. The conversation of Canada's hosting Prince William, his wife Kate and their two children was just concluded and she was so pleased to have seen them. "I hope our paths cross again she stated". So do I! As we made our departure later, the Ladies continued to dance the night away

Respectfully,
Carole E. Duke
First Lady

(See the pictures on page 4)



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Secretary's Scribbles

November will be here before you receive this article of very shortly thereafter. I can only hope that you had a chance to enjoy the fall days here in Michigan, Apple cider, warm cinnamon donuts brisk fall mornings and col evenings. On Saturday morning October 15th. I was treated to one of Mother Nature's sights of beauty, not a sun rise but a mon set, it had more of a look of a sunset, with the mon being a bright orange and slight wisps of clouds making it look more like a picture of a Japanese sunset.

I would like to remind the secretaries that if your chapter is submitting by-law changes that the must first go to the Jurisprudence committee for approval. The Chairman of that committee will pass them along to the Grand High Priest for his approval. When you send them to me, you just slow down the process.

Grand Chapter would like to use the internet and our web site for communication as much as possible. This can only be made possible by YOU the secretaries and the members sending me the information to place on the events page or on the calendar. I will place everything the calendar but only major events on the events page do to a lack of space. I would like to let you know that the Chapter directory is on the download page and is as up to date as I can make it with the information that I have received, if you find something that is wrong drop me an email and I will fix it. The information used for the directory comes from your annual reports if the information on your annual report was wrong, that is what I used. So please check it and let me know if changes need to be made. Remember I work for you and I can only be as good as the information you give me.

The only event we have coming up is the recognition for James Mercer which is be held November 5th at the Pellston Masonic Temple. There is a flyer on the website and there should be one at the back of this Triple Tau.

If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail drop me a note with your name and e-mail address and I will send it out to you or it is always on the web as soon as I receive it. We try to get to the members before the first of the month, as most of the information is time sensitive. I would hate to have someone miss an event because they did not receive the information in time. We try to publish all information at least two months in advance.

Always check the calendar and events page of our web site for upcoming events, and should you have any questions feel free to contact the Grand Secretary at 989-968-4210 or by e-mail @ dgalway12000@yahoo.com. Enjoy the fall it is a great time to be outdoors.

Fraternally,
R.E.C. Donald L. Galway, PGHP
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Last month I found a very interesting piece of history in the *General Grand Chapter's Operations & Training Manual for Chapter Officers* and decided to share it with you. I enjoyed it so much, I decided to share yet another piece of history this month. Researching this manual has opened a whole new side of Masonry for me. If you enjoy Masonic History, I advise you to contact the General Grand Chapter and purchase a copy of this manual (www.ramint.org).

Do you know when the first conferrals of the Royal Arch Degree occurred? Nearly as old as Symbolic Freemasonry, Royal Arch Masonry also shares a long and distinguished history. It dates back more than 260 years. The first recorded conferral of a Royal Arch Degree occurred in England on the 4th of March, 1752, while the first recorded Royal Arch Degree in America was conferred at Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia on the 22nd of December, 1753 a little more than a year after the Lodge was organized. This also happens to be the same Lodge that raised a young man by the name of George Washington, who was Master Mason four months prior. The earliest known record of the Royal Arch Degree in what we now know as the District of Columbia is referenced in a petition for a lodge charter dated the 6th of September, 1793, and addressed to the Grand Lodge of Maryland. It reads in part: *"Your petitioners here heretofore thought proper to pray you ancient, Honorable, and Respectful Body to grant them a charter investing them as usual with full power to work in all the various Mystical Degrees of Ancient York Masonry, also to enter, pass, raise and exalt in our Royal Art such as are worthy, under the title of Federal Lodge, No. 15, in the City of Washington, you appointing until the next anniversary of St. John the Evangelist James Hoban, Worshipful Master, C. Worthy Stephenson, Senior Warden, and Andrew Eastaven, Junior Warden."*

The earliest Chapter record in the modern day jurisdiction of the District of Columbia is that of a Royal Arch Encampment organized on the 14th of December, 1795, in the hall of Federal Lodge No. 15. The minutes of the meeting reflect a committee was appointed *"to provide necessary apparatus, and to adjust necessary fees and expenses at admission to this degree."* Unable to determine the exact amount required, the committee reported they were of the opinion *"the sum of Twenty-Three Pounds and One Shilling is indispensable necessary to procure the materials, to prepare them and to arrange the Lodge Room previous to the forming of a Royal Arch Encampment."* The committee further recommended a *"fine of Ten Dollars be paid by every member at his admission into the whole of which shall be appropriated to a fund for the relief of distressed Brethren, and for the Widows and Children of deceased Brethren"* ("Fine" refers to the fee for conferral of the Excellent, Superexcellent and Royal Arch Degrees). During the first Royal Arch Encampment, it was additionally resolved that Brother Dennis Dunlevy should be appointed High Priest pro Tempore, with the officers of the Encampment titled: High Priest, Captain General, Grand Master (2), Scribe, Treasurer, and Tyler.* ----->

The future of Royal Arch Masonry relies on its membership retention and education of that membership. I believe that communication, visibility, and education are the best tools we have to obtain these goals.

Being visible can be accomplished in several ways. We should strive to attend our local Chapters on a regular basis. By doing this we will be better informed of activities, events, and rituals. We should make it a point to be active within our Blue Lodges. This is where we pull our prospective new members. Talk to the Master about doing a red coat degree, Enhance the Secret program or offer a lodge appreciation night as one of your Chapter functions. When attending a tiled or public masonic function, be sure to wear your chapter coat. It will spark interest and give you an opportunity to talk about Chapter and what it offers.

Education is a never-ending process. By regular attendance in our Chapter meetings and by taking part in our schools and inspections. A Companion is sure to pick up knowledge he did not previously have. I have attended several schools this year and attendance has been dismal at best. We also need to encourage attendance at the Grand Chapter session; the Grand Chapter has new and revised programs to help in the areas of recruitment, communication and education.

Communication is key to both being visible and education. The options are many: phone, mail, email, texting, websites, social media and automated voice calls. How else can you communicate with your members? Communication works for those who work at it!

Thank you for your time. I have started an email list to help communicate activities in the York Rite Bodies and Blue Lodges (that's where our future members are...). Please email me any events coming up and I will forward the information on. If you wish to be added, please send me your email address. My email is mickey422@yahoo.com.

Fraternally,
REC Mike Roberts,
Grand Scribe

*The source of this article was obtained from; *General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International, Operations & Training Manual for Chapter Officers, A Practical Guide for Governance in the Oriental Chair of King Solomon*, 2015, Marcus A. Trelaine.
←---Companion Richard Hitch resources
Fraternally,
Richard Hitch, Grand King

Your Picture Here!

R.E.C. ??????

Grand ???

Lady ?

[E-mail of somebody???](#)



R.E.C. Brent Helm

Grand Master of the 1st Veil

Lady Nancy

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Here are some pictures from the Grand High Priest's trip to the South. They only sent me 2 photos but if you asked them, I am sure they would let you see the rest of them.



Carole with a new friend.

Hello! I look forward to serving the Grand Chapter again although in a different capacity. What I especially look forward to as I begin my journey thru the Grand Line is seeing many of the friends I had from prior years. Leadership and comradery has always been one of if not the best thing about the Chapter.

In my home Chapter we enjoy and take pride in our degree work, but what we enjoy also is our time together after the Chapter closes while we partake of pie & coffee and just talk. We must ask ourselves as our candidates pass thru, are we helping them experience this comradery? Are they made to feel a part of the Chapter and are they looking forward to coming back even after they receive their RAM Degree.

REC, Brent Helm,
Grand Master of the 1st Veil

Thoughts on Success and Failure:

"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success."

- James Cameron

"Success is more dangerous than failure, the ripples break over a wider coastline."

- Graham Greene

"Every failure brings with it the seed of an equivalent success."

- Napoleon Hill

"The line between failure and success is so fine that we scarcely know when we pass it; so fine that we are often on the line and don't know it."

- Elbert Hubbard

"There's an old saying that victory has a hundred fathers and defeat is an orphan."

- John F. Kennedy

"Success is a public affair. Failure is a private funeral."

- Rosalind Russell

"Success and failure -- we think of them as opposites, but they're really not. They're companions -- the hero and the sidekick."

- Laurence Shames



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Live the Secret

Our theme this year is “Living the Secret.” So how do we know what the secret is, let alone live it? Each of us has a special connection with Freemasonry and its various bodies, and it is our unique experience of the various degrees and orders that define that connection. While Freemasonry may be impossible to define, it is possible for one to experience. When we put what we have learned in our degrees into action in our lives, we keep the secret fresh and alive.

What is it that keeps us coming back? Month after month, meeting after meeting, installation after installation, green beans and Swiss steak after green beans and Swiss steak; what is it? Whoever we are, each of us has a unique connection with Freemasonry and with Freemasons. The connection is so important to us, we keep coming back to our Councils, Chapters, Lodges, and Commanderies in spite of the routine. We talk about having to understand what upcoming generations expect from Freemasonry, but why aren't we asking that question of ourselves? What is it *we* want from this Masonic experience? It is in the answer to that question that our future lies. It seems to me that is what we should endeavor to explore and flush out the deeper meanings of in our fraternal gatherings. At the end of the day, business is not our reason for being, but conveying Masonic Light is the very reason for our being.

How are we to bring that into practice, then? Maybe the answer lies with you and your Council. How many programs in the endless stream of programs have transformed the fraternity? Not many. But *you* are still here. *You* stayed through the programs, the inspections, the meetings, and *you* still support it and contribute to it, what can we do to make your experience of Cryptic Freemasonry even better? Perhaps rather than us telling you what you need to be successful, you will share your answers.

Within the bounds of the law, each Council needs to function in the way that makes it “the place to be!” No single program can accomplish that, and it is hard to fit a broad program into every local setting. The Grand Officers and Arch Deputies are here so serve you in accomplishing what you want for your Council. There are Councils in small communities that are very involved in local activities, they sponsor sports teams and put on ice cream socials; there are others that do all three degrees! Even so, we all can come together and enjoy each other's company and engage in Masonic fellowship.

What is the unique formula that will transform your Council into a meeting you simply cannot miss? I'll share my 'secret formula' in a future article, but start with getting to know your own Council. What is it that we want from our membership in Council? Share those ideas with your Companions and listen to what they want. My approach to Grand Council is we are here to serve you at the local level, not the other way around. You are not here to meet our idea of the practice of Cryptic Masonry, we are here to enhance and support yours.

Notes: Companions, several years ago we were giving less than a dollar to CMMRF per capita. When the big donors were factored in the per capita was only 19 cents a year. This foundation is primarily funded through the CMMRF, and that means that every dollar you give helps save lives. It certainly is worth \$5 a year if not much more, please give when you have a chance.

Fraternally,

David L. Seyferth, MIGM



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Greetings Companions and Sir Knights,

As I reflect on November and its forthcoming Fall and Winter seasons, I think back to my childhood. Memories of Thanksgiving holidays, waking up early to watch with anticipation as the J. L. Hudson's Thanksgiving Parade would be starting soon on TV. Knowing that at the conclusion of the parade, Santa would be arriving in Detroit to receive the key to the hearts of all good girls and boys. of Michigan.

Then helping Mom prepare our family Thanksgiving dinner. As I grew older I discovered the true meaning of Thanksgiving. To be thankful for the religious liberties that we enjoy, living in a free nation provided us by the sacrifice of our Armed Forces personnel both on foreign and domestic soil.

Lady Merry Jo and I wish for you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving holiday and trust that you can enjoy it with family and friends. Our Inspection season is progressing very well. Please check the schedule on our website www.kt-mi.org and make every attempt to attend as many as you can. Visitations to our Commanderies is a way to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

Remember to contact your local Blue Lodges in your area and offer to provide an honor guard for the incoming 2017 Officers. This is a great way to put our beautiful Order in the public eye.

In Everything Give Thanks!

Fraternally,

Donald L. Trumbull, KTCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Michigan