

Michigan Triple Tau

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan
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DECEMBER 2014

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of the
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

Capitular Growth in Michigan through Masonic Education



WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

.....What were you thinking? Remember hearing that when mom told you don't touch that stove, Its hot, and you did anyhow and burned your fingers. Do you remember seeing a comedy routine where a person passes a park bench and there is a sign "wet paint" and he touches it and it doesn't seem to be wet, so he sits on it and when he gets up, of course, there are stripes across his bottom and his back. What was he thinking?

In our fraternity, we do a lot of ritual work. That ritual work teaches lessons that are valuable for each of us to reflect on for our entire lives. These are serious lessons, yet we tend to slide through, without serious thought, perhaps reading and arguably not reading very well, the ritual. We sit down after the degree, happy to have it over and satisfied with our performance. The candidate sits down after the degree, we ask him what he thought and he gives his appreciation for everyone showing up to confer the degree, and he never shows up again for chapter after that. What were we thinking?

What is the reward of doing quality ritual work? First there is the proud satisfaction having done an excellent job. Second, we have the knowledge of interpreting the lessons and delivering them to the candidate with clarity, understanding and passion. Hopefully, this will encourage the candidate to return and participate.

Indeed, we are frequently encouraged to "think outside the box", but in this instance it might be well to consider resizing the box we are in. What are you thinking?

David W. Dossette, PGHP

4 Things You Might Know about Your Cell Phone

For all the folks with cell phones. (This should be printed and kept in your car, purse, and wallet. Good information to hve with you.) There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it.

FIRST (Emergency)

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an Emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly, this number, 112, can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

SECOND (Hidden Battery Power)

Imagine your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys ***3370#**. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell phone next time.

THIRD (How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone)

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following Digits on your phone: ***#06#** . A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to you handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen, you can phone your service provide and give them this code. They will then be able to block you handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, you phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your

phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones.

And Finally...

FOURTH (Free Directory Service for Cells)

Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial: **(800) FREE411** or **(800)373-3411** without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone now. This is sponsored by McDonald's.

Just a small but possibly valuable piece of information that is being passed on to you as a Holiday Gift.

THINK

"Think" can be an acronym for everyone to keep in mind. It can help everyone enjoy life more. "T.H.I.N.K." Before speaking think-

- T -- Is it True?
- H -- Is it Helpful?
- I -- Is it Inspiring?
- N -- Is it Necessary?
- K -- Is it Kind?

If we all would just take the time, albeit so short, to just think about T.H.I.N.K. before we Speak, Act or Write, what a much better world this would be and peach and harmony can and would prevail in our lives.

Live by the principles taught in Masonry.



Louis C. McCray

GRAND HIGH PRIEST

LADY KRISTI

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989.728.5384 elcemccray@yahoo.com

“GREETINGS FROM THE GRAND EAST”

Season's Greetings Companions,

We had some bad news coming from the Grand Chapter this past month. REC William Siebert has offered his resignation from the office of Grand Scribe and I have accepted his resignation. To replace REC Siebert, I have appointed the Junior Past Grand High Priest, MEC James M. Kiefer to serve as Grand Scribe for the remainder of the year. We also have received a resignation notice from EC Vernon Barnhart, DDI for District 14. Although he does not feel he can continue in the Grand Chapter line, REC Siebert has indicated he still wishes to serve the Royal Arch Masons of Michigan, so I have appointed him to the position of DDI for District 14 to replace EC Barnhart. I am sorry to lose these two companions from their respective positions, but I am confident in the abilities of the appointed companions to make a smooth transition to their new positions and continue assist the Grand Chapter into the future.

Unfortunately, due to weather and scheduling difficulties I was not able to visit as many of the chapters as I had hoped to attend in November. I did get to attend the Annual Communication of my secondary lodge when a planned trip to Manistique was called off because of snow. I also made it to both of my chapters' convocations, as well as the Order of DeMolay Honors Day, a HI-12 luncheon followed by an Executive Board meeting in Grand Rapids, the Fall Elf Khurafeh Shrine Ceremonial at Circus Park near Clio, and a visit to Midland Chapter #169.

Be sure to check out the flier for the annual Education Retreat located in this issue. This year the retreat will be held in Mt. Pleasant with the meetings to be held at the Mt. Pleasant Masonic Temple and the host hotel will be the Best Western on Pickard Street, just a short distance West of US 127. Because of the circumstances that have been thrust upon our new Grand Scribe, namely planning a major event with little time, Grand King Don Galway, Grand Scribe Jim Kiefer, and Grand High Priest Lou McCray have decided to work together as a committee to plan and execute the Education Retreat this year. It should make for a very interesting and informative session

Before I close, I offer this quote sent by Bro. Terry Spalding-Martin by way the Canada Masons email group:

“Freemasonry must stand upon the Rock of Truth, religion, political, social, and economic. Nothing is so worthy of its care as freedom in all its aspects. “Free” is the most vital part of Freemasonry. It means freedom of thought and expression, freedom of spiritual and religious ideals, freedom from oppression, freedom from ignorance, superstition, vice and bigotry, freedom to acquire and possess property, to go and come at pleasure, and to rise or fall according to will of ability.”

- Bro. Henry Wilson ‘Harry’ Coil (1885-1974)

Lady Kristi and I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season and offer the hope that each New Year proves better than the last.

Supreme Architect of the Universe, “so far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy nasty, selfish, of self-indulgent. I have not whined, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that.”

Amen (*Anonymous*)



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Greetings Companions,

One of the things that I like most about writing articles for the Triple Tau, is I get to write about the future. My article has to be to the Publisher by the 20th of each month, so he has time to work his magic and get it to the Companions before the first of the month. That sounds easy enough, but so does herding cat's.

As much as I hate to say it we have entered the season of reflection. December is a month to reflect upon the past eleven months, to see what you have done for your family, your lodge your chapter, your commandery, and all of the other masonic bodies, you are a member of. This is the season to be grateful for what you have, thankful for what you have done, and rejoice with family and friends by never losing sight of the reason why we celebrate and who's birthday it is we celebrate. For it is the Christmas Season a time to reflect and rejoice. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.

December is a busy month with lodge installations, preparations for the holidays, trip planning, if you are going out of town, and half way through the month you start to complain, as we do every year "Why oh Why" do I do this every year, the answer is easy, you would have it know other way. There is always my favorite question? "are the kids coming this year and after the 12 days of Christmas", when are they leaving.

There are a few things I have to mention. First the Educational Seminar will be held in Mt Pleasant January 24th at Mt Pleasant Lodge No. 305. The host hotel will be the Best Western at 5770 E Pickard Street, Mount Pleasant, Michigan, 48858-1144, Phone: 989/772-1101, Check In 3:00 PM (1500) Check Out 11:00 AM (1100). The room Rate is \$85.00 plus tax and is under Michigan Grand Chapter.

The next thing that the Chapters should start thinking about is your nominations for the Bronze Award and the MSA. Every Chapter in the state has at least one member that is more then qualified for these awards. The application is on the web page under the download section. The information is current on the application as to whom to send it to when completed. There is a little research that has to go into filing the applications out, but it is all worth it if your candidate is chosen to receive one of the awards, both he, and your chapter will be proud.

The last thing I need to mention is the George Washington Celebration that will be held in the fine community of Caro. They have been doing this for over a hundred years. This years will be held on February 14th 2015. Reservations can be made through Caro Chapter No. 96. I can't think of a better place to take your favorite lady for Valentines Day. Now that I opened Pandora's Box, I had better mention that it is also the day that our Officer and DDI's need to have their visitation reports ready for our mid-year meeting, also to be held in Caro. This is the time to

Companions,

It was with great sadness that I received word from our MEGHP, Lou McCray, a few weeks ago that our RE Grand Scribe, Bill Siebert, had made the most difficult decision to resign as a Grand Officer of our Grand Chapter. Bill is a great friend to all of us and very respected as a ritualist and leader of the Craft in Michigan. It is truly sad to see him step down as he is one of the most dedicated and conscientious Masons I have ever known. Whenever there was a need for assistance, he answered the call without hesitation and he has dedicated decades of his life to serving at the State and local levels in the York Rite. Thank you Bill for everything you have done for us and it is good to know that you will not be slipping away to quietly disappear from sight. You are always in my thoughts and prayers and know how difficult it was to make such a decision. Our MEGHP has assured me that he has a place within the Grand Chapter that will fulfill your wish to continue to serve in another capacity. I am truly pleased and honored to have worked and served with Bill over the last few years for the benefit of our beloved Ancient Craft and am looking forward to many more.

In discussing the situation with our GHP, I was asked if I would consider accepting an appointment from him as RE Grand Scribe for the remaining year as the resignation was in writing and official. Surely, everyone knows that being a Past MEGHP has its rewards and benefits (meals and nights at home, lower gas bills and mileage, as well as being able to plan things with family and friends and most especially the dog remembering that you live there), but we also have taken obligations to aid and assist our brethren who are in need. Rest assured that serving our fraternity has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done and I have no qualms in stepping in where my cable-tow allows. After discussion with my Boss (Lady Renee) we agreed to serve and are looking forward to working with you again in the year ahead. Thank you all for the support, guidance and dedication you have always shown. God bless.

Jim Kiefer, PGHP, Grand Scribe

to remind the Grand Officers that if you haven't made your reservations for Woody'z, it may be too late.

And finally, I hope that each and every one that has taken the time to read this article has a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Donald and Sherry Galway



Robert E. Cooper, PGICP

Grand Secretary

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Secretary's Scribbles

Secretaries and Companions,

Master's Pins:

Your chapters should now be issuing the 2015 Master Pins. This is the perfect opportunity to introduce Royal Arch and York Rite Masonry to our Blue Lodge members. Please remember to report your presentations and if you have Lodges no longer in business let me know. Also, if you would like to change your Lodge assignments just let me know. During your presentation please wear your Red Costs and take Royal Arch Brochures or other materials with you.

Monthly Activity Reports:

Don't forget to send in those Monthly Activity Reports, with any gains, losses, or other member changes. This will make your Dues Cards (Sent out in February) and your Annual Return (Sent out very near the Year end – April) much easier to complete. Remember all activity reported prior to sending them out, will already be posted in the Return.

Schools of Instruction & Inspections:

Attn-DDIs,

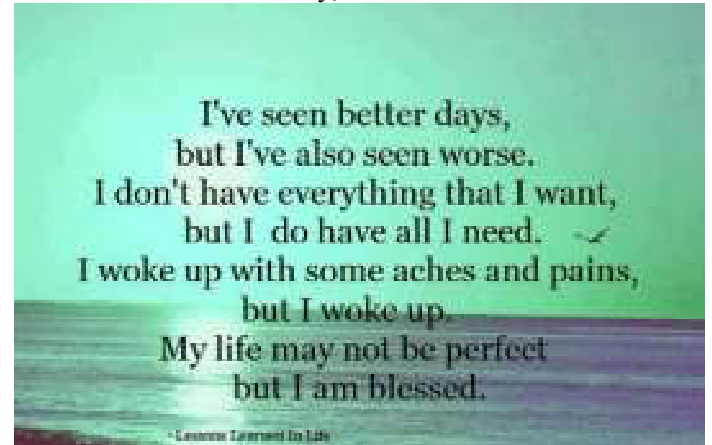
The New Inspection Forms were sent out to the DDI-s some time ago, If you did not get yours or would like it sent again, please let me know. Remember your Schools should be completed by January 1st. and Inspections by April 1st and submitted to the Executive Director.

Consolidations:

There are 3 consolidations now being processed:

1. Capital # 9 with Ingham #51
2. York #150 with Washtenaw #6
3. Kalamazoo #13 with Paw Paw # 34

Thank You and Fraternally,



**Mt. Vernon Chapter No.37
Royal Arch Masons of Michigan**

1660 Samaria Road, Samaria, MI 48177
1865-2015



Sesquicentennial Celebration Dinner

Saturday – January 10, 2015

Reception: 11:30 AM

Dinner: 12:00 PM (Noon)

Mail Reservations to: Eldin H. Miller – 8072 Monroe Rd. – Lambertville, MI 84144-9721

Paid Reservations a must by January 1, 2015

*******Send bottom section with remittance*******

Name: _____ Lady's Name: _____

Title(s) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone No: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of Dinners _____ x \$15.00 _____ Payable to: Mt. Vernon Chapter No. 37, RAM



Let's Celebrate our Brother & Dad

DENIS SCOTT

70 YEARS OF MASONRY

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Youth Groups!



Saturday March 7, 2015


Wayne Masonic Temple

37137 Palmer Rd. Westland, 48186



12 Noon Special EA Degree

Performed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master and

Grand Lodge Officers 

2:00 PM Reception

3:00 PM Dinner

4:00 PM Presentations

Dinner Reservation (\$10 each) are required and seating is limited

Reserve with Brother Rich Hitch at richhitch62@gmail.com 734-612-4809

or Richard Ruhland, PGM at richardpruhland@aol.com 734-721-7950

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of the
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Chapter Royal Arch Masons**
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Make it a point to make a
special trip in the Fall of 2015.

Visit with your fellow
Companions and Sir Knights
from Arizona, California,
Nevada & New Mexico as
they confer the Degrees and
Orders of the York Rite.

Colorado River Fall Festival.

October 18, 19, 20 – 2015
Riverside Hotel – Laughlin, NV

More info & to make
reservations:

www.crff.org



Have a
Wonderful, Safe,
Happy & Enjoyable
Holiday Season!!!

Message from Your General Grand High Priest

Companions,

It is with great humility that I accept this august position. However, we can only accomplish what is necessary with your help. We cannot do it ourselves. One primary item is our lack of communications. Without everyone participating we can only accomplish limited items. To be successful it must of necessity take all of us sharing the responsibility. A very large number of our members do not get the Royal Arch Magazine and do not receive the Electronic Version of the Magazine. The only other way is to discuss everything at our Regional Meetings. But how many attend those meetings.? Very few! It is my intent to send every Grand High Priest an email monthly to get them a short synopsis of what is happening and what programs are working or not working. I request that you participate in this dialogue. Our Royal Arch Advancement Committee has spent a significant amount of time developing programs for the Regional Meetings. Please get your people out to those meetings and provide us feedback on what can be done to improve them. Training is going to be our primary emphasis.

If we all pull in one direction we can make a success out of Royal Arch Masonry. If not, we will continue to dwindle and then fade away. We need YOUR help.

Sincerely and fraternally, Louis E. Bartrand, GGHP

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You are invited to:

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan Educational Seminar

TO BE HELD AT MT. PLEASANT LODGE NO. 305

JANUARY 24, 2015

Who Should Attend?

Grand Chapter Officers
Past Grand Chapter Officers
District Deputy Instructors
Chapter High Priests, Kings
and Scribes
Chapter Secretaries
Chapter Treasurers
All Companions interested in
Royal Arch Masonry

NOTE: This Seminar is open to all
Master Masons and
Companions

A Block of rooms are set aside at:

Best Western (\$85.00 plus Tax/night)

5770 E Pickard Street

Mount Pleasant, Michigan, 48858-1144

Phone: 989/772-1101 Fax: 989/772-8986

Check In 3:00PM

What Will You Experience?

Morning Session 9:00 AM
Open at this Time, on Time.

- * Keynote Presentation
- * Presentation on Communication and Retention
- ** Lunch 12:00 (\$10.00, Res. Req.)

Afternoon 1:00PM

- * Break out sessions for Kings and Scribes, Secretaries, Treasurers and DDI's
- * Critique 3:00 PM
- * Critique of the day will be done twice
You may attend both sessions.

Reservations for lunch, (Cost \$10.00), **are a must**, and may be made by contacting:

Donald L. Galway, Grand King

22365 N. Latson Howell 48845

517-618-7390 C: 517-231-7109

Email: dgalway12000@yahoo.com



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ANTHONY M. CHAMBERLIN
P.M.G.M.
Grand Recorder
1.810.329.0816
migr2009@sbcglobal.net

In November's Triple Tau, I closed with the statement...., *turn to page 70, the last paragraph, and the last sentence. Just that one sentence is short, on point, and should be emphasized continually and not obscured by faux Elizabethan English which somehow has crept into many of our rituals from DeMolay to SEM even though these rituals were written in the 1920's.*

In September 2014, I witnessed Columbian Council No. 1 perform the Super Excellent Master degree. Why is that important? Columbian Council No. 1, as you might surmise, is the "mother council" of all Councils in the world! While the instructional lesson of the Super Excellent Degree is the same, the "dramatization" between Columbian Council No 1 and our Michigan ritual is quite different.

The first thing is the Columbian drama requires a much smaller cast of players. Michigan required 27 members while the Columbian Council required only 5 in the first scene, 2 in the second scene, and a total of 7 in the third and final scene. Look in the Michigan ritual book on page 79 and count the number of characters. The characters in the drama of Columbian Council No. 1 include the players of Zedekiah, Gedaliah, Pashur, and Zephaniah. Although only Zedekiah is called by name, the other councilors are "supporting", never having their own identity beyond being councilors to Zedekiah.

The Jeramiah character who is featured so prominently in Michigan ritual in pages 85 through 88 receives only one mention in the Columbian Council's exemplification. Are there possible explanations why the Jeramiah character takes a leading role in the Michigan dramatization?

There are not 3 officers of the palace, 4 guards, and 4 messengers. Could it be that the Columbian Council's Super Excellent Master degree cast is right "sized" not only for the early 19th but also for the early 21st centuries?

The Super Excellent Master Degree was first conferred in 1817, one hundred ninety seven years ago. While the Columbian Council has done many rewrites over the years, the current version was formalized in 1920. The Michigan ritual for the Super Excellent Master Degree was adopted by the Grand Council of Michigan in 1872, but it was not generally accepted until after 1917.

While both rituals were formalized about the same time, it is striking that Columbian Council No. 1 omitted the words that had fallen out of common use language. Many forms of expression that had become archaic were replaced. An example would be the pronouns, thee, thy, and thou with the now "standard" pronoun "you". Words that caused confusion were also replaced. We need not look further than our own Craft Lodge ritual, specifically replacing "excepted" with "excluded."

Interestingly Columbian Council No 1 does not conclude with the circle of friendship, which is such a powerful experience in our Michigan ritual. To their credit, through Columbian Council's emphasis on instruction and candidate education, the degree strongly inculcates the lessons of faith, fidelity, and friendship.



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Paul W. Roggow
Grand Commander
2014-2015

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Grand Recorder
Loren A. Winn, PGC

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Roggow's Ramblings

Inspections are about over for the year did you attend your own commandery inspection.

Do you have a petition for Lodge, Chapter, Council or Commandery with you?

When you attend Masonic meetings do you have anything to contribute?

Are you available to be a mentor? We need you to guide along those new members. So contact your Worshipful Master, Excellent High Priest, Thrice Illustrious Master or Eminent Commander and ask if a new member needs help.

The annual Appeal for contributions in support of the Holy Land Foundation which supports the Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will soon be distributed. Support as generously as you can.

Sir Knights how much unfinished business is there at the end of our Conclaves only to be waiting until the next Conclave. We all tend to put things off as not important at the time but it soon has us in a panic to get it done. If you need assistance in planning for events such as rededication of your charter, inviting outside speakers to inform us of community affairs just a couple ideas that will break up the pattern of Conclaves and maybe spark new interest in attending. Your Grand Commandery is willing to assist but you must be willing to ask. We are all working for the same goals increased membership, more attendance, and increased enthusiasm. Do you have the key to their success, if not let us find the key together. Let us get it one.

December is the time of the year which has been set aside by Christians for the remembrance and celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. It was his birth that began his wonderful life for us. Celebrate his birth with those whom you love and admire.

Celebrate together with other Knight Templars at their Annual Christmas Observances.

Paul W. Roggow

Grand Commander

Date	Comm.	No.	Opening	Start	Dinner	Ladies	Inspecting
Nov 29	Pontiac	2	FFO	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	Yes	Trumbull
Dec 12	Detroit	1	FFO	2:00 PM	6:00 PM	Yes	Roggow