

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan

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Merry Christmas everyone! If you get a chance to visit the Masonic Pathways HFA in Alma, Michigan this December! It looks like every nook and cranny has got Christmas Decorations there. We have over 100 Christmas trees of different varieties. The 2 huge trees located in the Grand Living room are very beautiful.

If you shop on Amazon and have an Amazon Prime account. Did you know you can donate to a registered Charity? RARA is listed in the group of charities on the upper left-hand side of the top bar. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. Yes, there is always that catch phrase in everything.

Okay Companions; I am very disappointed with the deer camp reports. Only REC Carl Peterson, COTH had his deer camp report in. I was very glad to hear that he was a happy and successful hunter this year. So, if you want to know what fun he had...you should ask him.

Fraternally Yours,
Jane Todd, Editor





Howard W. Duke
Grand High Priest

Lady Carole Duke
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On November 5th, several of your Grand Chapter officers, including myself and our ladies, traveled to Pellston to honor Excellent Companion James Mercer who was receiving the Grand Chapter Meritorious Service Award for Region 1. It was truly an honor and privilege for me to present this prestigious award to this outstanding Capitular Mason. Excellent Companion James is a member of Mackinaw Chapter No. 134 and has served as Excellent High Priest for two years, Secretary for fourteen years and was awarded Secretary Emeritus. He also served in numerous other capacities and was always willing to give of himself and to assist in promoting special events and other affairs for his Chapter. Well done Jim.

Companions, the Grand Chapter has received only six nominations for the Meritorious Service Awards this year. I am sure that virtually every Chapter in Michigan has at least one Companion who is worthy to receive this award. The nomination process for this award is not a difficult process and for a Chapter not to take the time to consider one of their worthy Companions to receive it is not the Masonic way. I urge each Chapter to seriously consider nominating that special Royal Arch Mason of your Chapter who has done so much for his Chapter and for Masonry and now deserves this special award and recognition.

I recently attended a meeting with several Chapter members including High Priests, District Deputy Instructors and various Chapter Officers. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to have better Chapter communication and participation. Several suggestions were presented and discussed. One suggestion was for Chapters, within a specified area, to organize and have, for example, a quarterly meeting at one of the Chapters to discuss the upcoming activities of the Chapters involved. The meetings could be informal and moved to another Chapter on a rotating basis. Refreshments could be provided by the host Chapter. This can be a great way to communicate upcoming degrees and events and seek help from the other Chapters, if needed, in the conferral of degrees. It is also a great way to get to know fellow Companions from the other Chapters.

Another excellent way to encourage participation that is available and almost never used is our Grand Chapter web site. The Grand Chapter web site is available to all members and Chapters. Our Web Master, REC Jeff Heaven, Grand Master of the Third Veil, is more than happy to post your upcoming events in the calendar or under events. Jeff's e-mail address is: weoxstan@gmail.com and he will be glad to assist you and your Chapter. To access the Grand Chapter web site, go to www.grandchaptermi.org.

(Continued from column 1)

With the upcoming Christmas and New Year Holidays approaching, Lady Carole and I would like to wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. God bless you all.
Fraternally,

Howard W. Duke
Grand High Priest

NOTE FROM THE MASON'S LADY

CONGRATULATIONS OHIO! Your 200th Annual Convocation of Grand Royal Arch Masons of the State of Ohio at Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center located in Sandusky, Ohio was a big success. Grand High Priest Robert Blankenhorn Jr. and his lovely wife Pam made sure everyone enjoyed themselves. It wasn't difficult to find something of interest to occupy your time.

Instead of one hospitality room, there were several and each one offered something different. Included was an Elvis impersonator to many different foods. Each hospitality room also offered a warm greeting and good conversation.

Included in the festivities was a silent auction. In the past ten years, there has been over \$45,000.00 generated for their Royal Arch Foundation. A new fund raiser for this year was to sell Mardi Gras beads of various colors. During the evening, certain colors were eliminated and at the end over \$1,000.00 was added to the Royal Arch Foundation with a \$600.00 prize split between two people. One person donated it back to the foundation and one decided to keep the "prize". Grand High Priest Blankenhorn Jr. and his wife Pam were accompanied throughout the year by their escort which was a gnome. Sometimes he would disappear but eventually returned and always dressed for the proper occasion.

The Ladies luncheon, an Asian Buffett, was excellent and several kept going back for more. The Grand High Priests statement "that the Ladies were the power of the wheels that run this Fraternity" is so very true. Many things would not be accomplished without them. In honor of their 200th anniversary Lady Pam presented "Dolly Madison" portrayed by Ann Kline. Dolly Madison would have been the President's wife two hundred years ago. She gave a fine speech and impression. Needless to say, this event was enjoyed by all!

The Christmas season is upon us and is also a celebration of the birth of Christ. May the joy of the season fill your home and bring you and your family peace and love for the coming year. May God bless us everyone!
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!
Respectfully,

Carole E. Duke, First Lady



DONALD L. GALWAY, PGHP

Grand Secretary

Lady Sherry

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Secretary's Scribbles

November is over or will be by the time this article reaches your in box or snail mail box. This month for me has been one of pleasure and sorrow. Starting out on the first by raising a new Master Mason in our lodge. I can only hope that some of his enthusiasm for the craft can rub off on our membership. Our work is just beginning as it is incumbent upon us to teach and support him on his journey. Then on the fifth Lady Sherry and I traveled to Pellston for a reception Dinner, for a well deserving companion who received the region MSA award. Jim Mercers bio and ongoing service to the craft made him a great choice for this award. Time for a plug for the awards program. Now is the time for your chapters to begin looking for a candidate for the MSA and General Grand Chapter Bronze award. I am of the belief that there is not a Chapter in this State that does not have at least one candidate for these awards.

Then over the course of the next few weeks I lost one lifelong friend and one dear friend made the journey to meet the Grand Architect, may they both rest in peace. I have also spent most of the month visiting another dear close lifelong friend who is in the rehab stage of a nasty fall and resulting surgery. Growing old is not for the faint of heart and if I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken much better care of myself.

I am not sure which was harder, to survive Thanksgiving or Black Friday. There were some households that I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall for Thanksgiving just to hear the conversation and others that I, for one, am thankful to not have been there. We all have something to be thankful for and I can only hope that each one of you enjoyed the day, maybe ate just a little too much, and gave thanks to Him that allowed us to meet, break bread and reflect on the things that we can be thankful for.

The next two months are going to be hectic to say the least. December with Lodge installations, Commandery Honor guards along with inspections, Christmas shopping and planning and preparation for Christmas, how shall we survive. I would like to meet the person that said this is the jolly time of the year. It should be but we have managed to lose the true meaning of the season and create an artificial joy for the season. 'Twas not that long ago that I stood in front of a hardware store window in wonderment of the electric train going around the Christmas tree display, it was much simpler for all of us then. Having said that from Lady Sherry and myself

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

January will bring us the Grand Chapter Educational seminar and DeMolay Winterfest, much to our chagrin both on the same weekend. Our Grand Scribe has put together a very good program for us this year. The event will be held in Alma at Pathways Doig Conference Center. There is also several Seven Degree days in the planning stages for February, March and May. If you are having an event, send it along to the Grand Secretary and I will make sure it is on the web site.



November 5th MSA Dinner Honoring James Mercer.

Left-to-Right: Lady Elaine Mercer, James Mercer
GHP Howard W. Duke and Lady Carole

Fraternally,

R.E.C. Donald L. Galway, PGHP
Grand Secretary



R.E.C. Richard Hitch
 Grand King
 Lady Connie
richhitch62@gmail.com



R.E.C. Mike Roberts
 Grand Scribe
 Lady Becca
michey422@yahoo.com

There are many Grand Chapter committees that are required by the Red Book. These committees are in place to help regulate, safe guard, educate and create a stronger well governed Grand Chapter. This means ALL local Chapters and Royal Arch Masons of Michigan, as each Royal Arch Mason is a member of Grand Chapter. To strengthen and grow each of our Chapters and members, I am looking for individuals to man and commit to these committees. So, if you have a skill or ideas of improvement in certain areas, and would like to get involved, please contact me directly. I am also looking for individuals from all over the state who are willing to work with others and make the Grand Chapter what it once was and can be again. You should send me a short Bio of yourself and why you would be interested in the committee. I will go through the Bio's, and fill the committee with who would best serve each committee per the information I receive.

I have listed a few of the committees that I am looking for help with and the responsibilities of the committee members;

Credentials Committee which shall:

- a. Register each Companion Attending Grand Chapter.
- b. Distribute ballots in accordance with Section 4 of the Constitution.

Education Committee which shall:

- a. Develop educational materials for use by the subordinate Chapters.
- b. Assist the Grand Chapter in any way possible.

Grand York Rite Session Committee which shall: (This committee is currently being performed by two extremely talented and dedicated Companions, however, they are looking to train others for the future.)

- a. Negotiate with the similar Committees of the Grand Council and Grand Commandery as to the place, schedule and order of events constituting the Annual Meetings of the York Rite Grand Bodies of the State of Michigan.
- b. Ensure that the three Grand Bodies shall meet at the same location during the same week in August and that the wishes of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest who will preside over the Grand Chapter Convocation are respected.

Membership Committee which shall:

- a. Prepare a membership development program and present it to the Grand Officers, the District Deputy Instructors and the subordinate Chapters.

Public Relations Committee which shall:

- a. Develop and initiate methods of improving knowledge and understanding of Royal Arch Masonry by the public in general and of Masons in particular.
- b. Prepare and submit articles of Masonic interest to Masonic and community news publications wherever and whenever possible.

So, if you can help and would like to help shape the future and success of Royal Arch Masonry in Michigan, please contact me soon at; E-mail: richhitch62@gmail.com or 517 S. Sybald St., Westland, MI 48186 or phone 734-612-4809.

Fraternally,

REC Rich Hitch,
 Grand King

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Mason Foundation is a trust fund established by the Grand Chapter and managed by a Governing Board of seven. The Governing Board of the Foundation is composed of six members at large, and the Grand King of the Grand Chapter. The six members at large serve a three-year term. Each year two new members are appointed to serve the Foundation.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide long range financial stability for the Grand Chapter, in addition to supporting the approved Grand Chapter programs on a continuing basis. The monies received by the Foundation are invested with the proceeds, in the form of interest and dividends, being used to support Capitular Masonry in Michigan. The Foundation can receive monies from several sources including, but not limited to, fund raisers, contributions, memorials and endowments. For more information contact Wayne Turton, President of the Board (wayneturton5@gmail.com).

The Board of directors of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Foundation would like for you or your Chapter to consider this worthy cause when deciding where to send your contributions. This support will allow the Foundation to provide your Grand Chapter with the opportunity to offer and expand the meaningful and worthwhile programs available to the Chapters in the State of Michigan. Please send any contributions to:

James Hawn,
41508 Woodland Creek Drive
Novi, MI 48375-3471

Fraternally,

REC Mike Roberts,
 Grand Scribe / Grand Chapter R.A.M. Foundation

Display at Masonic Pathways, Alma, Michigan





R.E.C. Carl J. Peterson
 Grand Captain of the Host
 Lady Midge
cjpeterson50@gmail.com



R.E.C. Eldin H. Miller
 Grand Royal Arch Captain
 Lady Shar
eldinmiller@gmail.com

Here we are, Holiday Season again and I wish everyone a Happy and Joyful one. Surprisingly the cold weather has held off here in Northern Michigan to allow me making visitations in our Upper Peninsula without weather hazards.

It would be better that I could report this month that the chapters of Delta and Negaunee were doing well and strong, but seems far from that. Both have asked for consolidation to Marquette due to attendance. Both have new members and don't want to lose them due to inactivity. I've talked with the new members and they want (very eagerly) to take a part in the Chapters, so in doing what they feel best for any type of a masonic future for them and any forthcoming candidates these are their good thought actions.

As I've traveled the State I've found fewer & fewer Chapters having regular Communication meetings due to the same circumstances as these two Chapters and what can we expect? We need to bring into Masonry more candidates. We cannot advance candidates from the Lodges that we don't put in. "CARRY A LODGE PETITION". Also, activity's, we need to involve new members (if we are so fortunate to have them) and keep them interested.

Losing a Chapter is no one person's fault, but it can be one person that saves a Chapter just by suggesting a dinner, a Christmas party, a picnic, a visitation to another Chapter, a few of many things. The Grand Chapter has a few programs that some of the Grand Officers are willing to present to both the Chapters and to the Lodges of your area and so if the few whom do attend want, they can be requested through the Grand Secretary.

Please remember that this "Triple Tau" is a communication between your Chapter and the Grand Chapter with future meeting dates, events, etc. and in part needs to be read at regular meetings.
 Fraternally,

REG Carl J. Peterson,
 Captain Of The Host



Masonic Pathways – OES Dining Room

The Colors of Christmas

There are several colors which are traditionally associated with Christmas. This site uses Red, Green and Gold. But why do we have them and what do the colors represent?

Most of the colors and their meanings come from the western/northern European traditions and customs, when Christmas is in the middle of winter and it's dark and cold.

Green - Evergreen plants, like Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe have been used for thousands of years to decorate and brighten up buildings during the long dark winter. They also reminded people that spring would come and that winter wouldn't last forever!

The Romans would exchange evergreen branches during January as a sign of good luck. The ancient Egyptians used to bring palm branches into their houses during the mid-winter festivals. In many parts of Europe during the middle ages, Paradise plays were performed, often on Christmas Eve. They told Bible stories to people who couldn't read. The 'Paradise Tree' in the Garden of Eden in the play was normally a pine tree with red apples tied to it. Now the most common use of green at Christmas is Christmas Trees.

Red - As mentioned above, an early use of red at Christmas were the apples on the paradise tree. They represented the fall of Adam in the plays. Red is also the color of Holly berries, which is said to represent the blood of Jesus when he died on the cross. Red is also the color of Bishops robes. These would have been worn by St. Nicholas and then also became Santa's uniform!

Gold - Gold is the color of the Sun and light - both very important in the dark winter. And both red and gold are the colors of fire that you need to keep you warm. Gold was also one of the presents brought to the baby Jesus by one of the wise men and traditionally it's the color used to show the star that the wise men followed.

Silver - is sometimes used instead of (or with) gold. But gold is a 'warmer' color.

White - is often associated with purity and peace in western cultures. The snow of winter is also very white! White paper wafers were also sometimes used to decorate paradise trees. The wafers represented the bread eaten during Christian Communion or Mass, when Christians remember that Jesus died for them. White is used by most churches as the color of Christmas, when the altar is covered with a white cloth (in the Russian Orthodox Church Gold is used for Christmas).

Blue - Blue is often associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus. In medieval times, blue dye and paint was more expensive than gold! So, it would only be worn by Royal families and very rich people. Mary was often painted wearing blue to show she was very important. Blue can also represent the color of the sky and heaven. During Advent, purple and sometimes blue is used in most churches for the color of the altar cloth (in the Russian Orthodox Church red is used for advent).

Fraternally,

REC Eldin H. Miller
 Grand Royal Arch Captain



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT DEPUTY INSTRUCTORS

ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF MICHIGAN

Louis D. Scott Jr., PHP
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14 NOVEMBER 2016

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATUS REPORT 2016-17

10 Schools of Instruction were reported to have been conducted with the following Chapters; 3, 12, 17, 27, 42, 47, 51, 85, 91 and 189. A .18% completion rate.

0 Inspection Reports were reported to have been conducted with the following Chapters; 0% completion rate.

Total miles travelled by all District Deputy Instructors and the Executive Director as of September 30, 2016 is 3,712.

It is a privilege, pleasure and honor to serve our Grand Chapter!

Respectfully submitted,

Louis D. Scott Jr., P.H.P.
Executive Director of District Deputy Instructors
Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan





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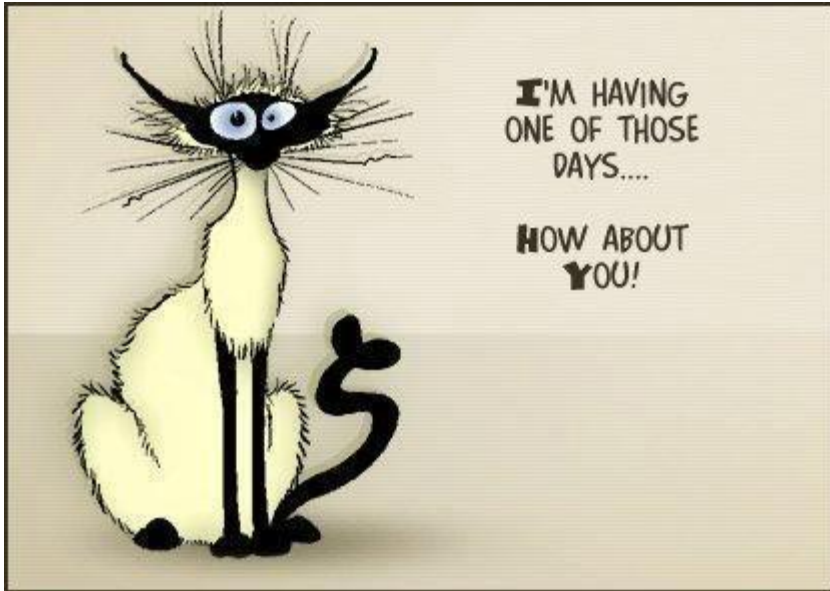
ANTHONY M. CHAMBERLIN

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Grand Recorder

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Our MIGM David must have forgot what this month was. Usually he's right on the ball. It's just must be the Christmas Craze we all get this time of the year.

Noah Webster learned 26 languages while working on "An American Dictionary of the English Language."

In 1806, Noah Webster published the first American dictionary, entitled A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language. Soon after, he started work on An American Dictionary of the English Language, a book that would become the standard of lexicography. It was an authoritative guide to the English language, with some 70,000 entries. In order to research the origins of the American version of English, Webster learned 26 languages, including Anglo-Saxon, Aramaic, and Sanskrit. Webster finally published the work in 1828, at the age of 70.

From WISEGEEK.COM

Where to look for loose change!

It is estimated that Americans accidentally throw away about \$62 million USD in coins every year.

Wake up, America -- you're throwing away money and it's beginning to add up. A waste recycler estimates that \$62 million USD in coins is lost each year when coins end up in the trash. It could be tip money inadvertently swept off restaurant tables, coins mixed with junk in your pocket, or money accidentally sucked up by an overzealous vacuum while cleaning a couch or a car.

From WISEGEEK.COM

Bill Hoarding?

Of all the \$100 bills in circulation, only about a third are held by people in the United States.

Have you ever noticed that you don't see \$100 bills very frequently? This is because only about a third of \$100 bills in circulation are held by people in the United States. High demand for U.S. currency in the world economy has caused a large number of \$100 bills to circulate in other countries. The demand for U.S. currency overseas has been growing steadily since the 1990's. Foreign companies often prefer to do their business transactions in U.S. dollars and many individuals prefer U.S. currency for their savings.

From WISEGEEK.COM



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Donald Trumbull

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Greetings Companions and Sir Knights,

It so sad that the Christmas Season has become so commercialized in the last 10 to 15 years. I still remember as a child when we would go out to the local Christmas tree farm sometime after Thanksgiving to pick out the tree we would put up and decorate. It was usually on Christmas Eve, after attending candlelight service at church. We would get a few simple presents but didn't open them until Christmas morning. Children today want expensive electronic gadgets and are not happy with less expensive gifts, how they miss out on the sincerity of simple meaningful gifts. Today we hear the phrase "Happy Holidays" in place of "Merry Christmas" so we don't offend other nationalities living in our country. Knights and Ladies it's time we put "Christ" back in the season. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born in a stable because there was no room in the Inn. We all know the story that the angels heralded his birth and the Three Wise Men came from far away to see for themselves this miraculous event. Lady Merry Jo and I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and remember to keep Jesus in your life all year long.
Fraternally,

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

