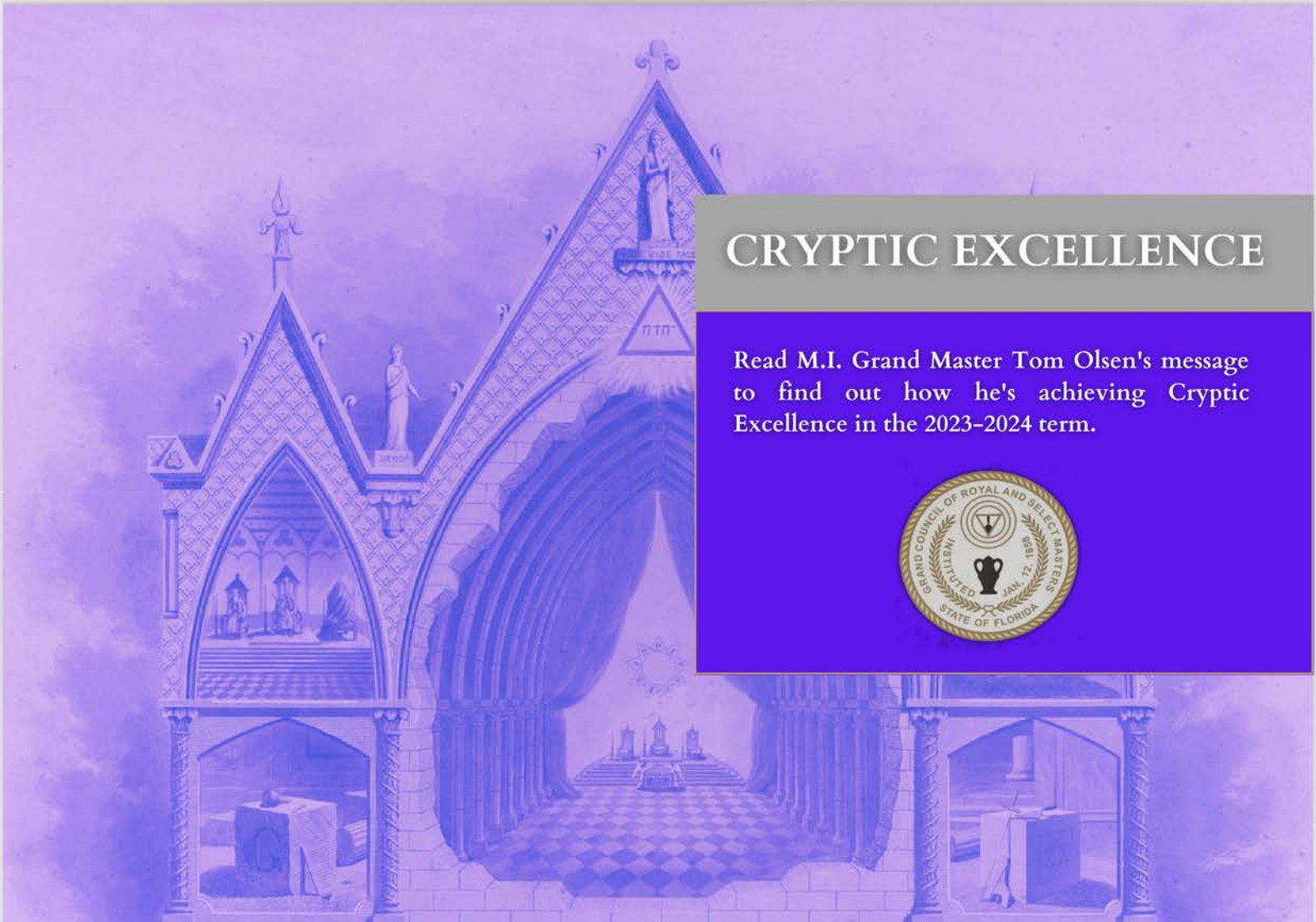


# Council Chronicle

www.FLGYR.org



## CRYPTIC EXCELLENCE

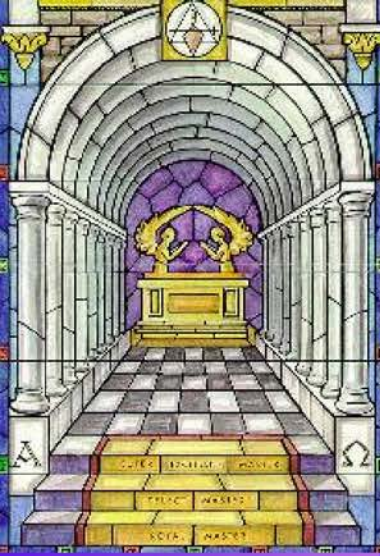
Read M.I. Grand Master Tom Olsen's message to find out how he's achieving Cryptic Excellence in the 2023-2024 term.



Ask your District Deputy or CMMRF Rep about the Gun Raffle benefiting CMMRF.

## COMMENTS FROM THE COMPANIONS

HARMONY | Page 7



## FROM THE M.J. GRAND MASTER

The installation of officers was held on the 23rd of May, and I was installed as the Grand Master for the ensuing year. I cannot begin to express my thanks and gratitude to all the members who showed confidence in me. I am humbled by this honor and hope to make you ALL proud. I have the best team to support me during my year. Please go into the website and get familiar with the members in your area. They will need your support this year, so reach out to them and help them be GREAT. We have a lot to do this year and without you, it cannot be completed. You are the driving force to our lofty goals. I feel that all three representatives share equally the duties and responsibilities and I therefore consider them a District Team. I have 10 District Teams. I will also be calling on all the Grand Line Officers and hope that they will be active participants in the District where they live. I will be working very closely with our Grand Deputy Master to ensure that the initiatives started here that are successful are carried out into his year and beyond. I will be relying heavily on each of the Illustrious Masters and will be communicating with them on a regular basis.

This is the first of what I hope to be a monthly thing. This Chronicle, I will be addressing the Companions to keep all our members in the loop as to what we are doing and what is going to happen. It will also contain articles from other members of the Craft, and I invite you to participate as well. I promise that my next communications will not be this long, but this is important; so please read it all.

What you missed at Lake Mary: We had a Banquet on Sunday night. There were a lot of Council members and their wives in attendance. We could have had a lot more and that is something that we will be working on this year. We had 162 voting members present. My goal for next year is to exceed 200. One Council was not represented, and I will be working with them to get them to Lake Mary next year. An idea that was presented to me is after all of the dignitaries have been introduced would be to identify "First time attendees." I told him that I was going to take all the credit for this idea. He said OK as long as I did it next year. Someone please remind me if I forget. Another idea is to NOT have the awards ceremony during the main session. I want to have it when your Lady is in the room. This will be done prior to the installation of the new officers. Another thing for us to think about is that I have \$1,500.00 to go towards a Ladies activity. Let me have some ideas from (NOT YOU) your wife. That would be great. No George Clooney is busy that weekend.

## FROM THE M.J. GRAND MASTER

What we want to do this year: In May I ran a listing of all the Florida Councils that held a Blue Card. To my surprise, there were only 5. This is probably why ritual work in our various Councils is not up to par. I am re-instituted District Instructors to help us bring back "Cryptic Excellence". Our goal for this year is to qualify 30 new Blue Card holders. We are off to a great start because as of the first of June, we have three; Tom Olsen, Randy Burkett, and Steve Meserve. Yes, I got my Blue Card. If I am going to ask all of you to try to get one; I should be the first to get one. Congratulations to Randy and Steve on being the second and third one to receive one. Who will be next? We will be keeping a running list of those who have earned the Blue Card. There will be a new Pin to wear to show that you are a blue card holder. Any Council in the State of Florida that the Illustrious Master is a Blue Card holder; his Council will have hanging on their Charter an "E". This is like the "E" on a ship in the Navy. Hopefully in January next year, the "E" can stay.

Acquiring new members is down this year compared to last year's. We had about 100 new members last year, and our new goal for this year is 205 (the Price is Right. The record which is meant to be broken is 204. This is a lofty goal, but if each of you just brings in one new member, we can reach and exceed this goal. If you are not a Blue Lodge Representative for your Council, please tell your recorder to put you on the list and set up visits to your local Blue Lodges and make sure you ask for help from your Grand Line, DD's, DI's and CMMRF Reps. We all have the same goal and want to help you. I would like the name of each Representative so I may communicate directly with them on their progress.

With Covid behind us and the devastating effects that had on us in holding meetings, getting new members, raising funds for our charities. Well, that is behind us now; let us look forward.

Florida Cryptic Masons of Florida has been the leader in donations for many years. C.M.M.R.F. is our "Flagship" charity. That is why we have CMMRF Reps. But we are all CMMRF reps. We collected \$52,000 in Glenn Chandler's year so my goal is \$52,105. Don't tell Glenn about this. This is like the Price Is Right when the next contestant goes over someone's price by a dollar. To raise these funds, we will have to be very creative. We have come up with ways to accomplish this without too much strain on your wallet. (1). I would like to have at least one Council Festive Board in each district. My goal will be to have 15 Statewide. Get with your Recorder and District Reps to make this happen. I will try to make as many of these Festive Boards as possible. (2). We are also having four Deep-Sea fishing trips. One out of St Augustine, one out of the Stuart area, one out of Clearwater area, and the last one out of the Destin area. These trips are being set up by the DD, DI, and CMMRF Rep in those areas. As more info is made available, I will let you all know. This is a trip for both you and your wife, and if need be, I will bait her hook. This should be a "Boat load of Fun". No pun intended. (3). Another fund raiser is raffling off a gun. YEP, no ties, no hats, no shirts; just guns. Each District will hold its own raffle. Each District will have only 60 tickets at \$20.00 a ticket. By having 10 different raffles, we can greatly improve your chances of winning. The winner can choose among a 38cal, 9mm, or a 12 ga. Shotgun.



## FROM THE M.I. GRAND MASTER

From your \$20 donation, \$10 of it will go to CMMRF in your name. If you purchased a ticket and did not win, your ticket will allow you to buy a gun at cost. Remember 1 ticket you have a 1 in 60 chance; with 2 tickets you have a 1 in 30 chance. Make sure you have a conversation with your district team. (4). Another fun thing for this season will be a "Poker Run". I hope to have one in every District. WE hope to generate thousands of dollars. Half will be for the CMMRF and the other half will go to the winners. I hope you will be one of the winners. (5). Another source of income will be the selling of the Grand Master's coin. The coin will sell for \$20. They wanted to put a picture of me on the front but that would have reduced the value of the coin to \$15. Please buy one from your District Team Member. (6). Our final source of revenue is that I am asking each member our team; Grand Line included to donate \$100. With 10 DD's; we would receive a Triangle plaque (Grand Master's Award). This goes for DI's, Grand Line, and CMMRF Reps. With them 100% in support of CMMRF; we hope that each member of a Council line would join us and donate at least \$100. Glenn better start getting worried.

New this year will be the Grand master's Award for Cryptic Excellence. Each Grand Illustrious Master has 6 Ish Sodi Awards available for award. Two are recommended by the DM and PCW respectively. I have several other people to identify as worthy. So that leaves two. However, there are many more than two people in Florida that deserve special recognition. I therefore am giving each DD, DI, and CMMRF Rep one award each to give to the most deserving person in their district. Each Grand Line office will also have one. We need to start recognizing "good work" rather than "good friends". And who know better than those in the field.

Another new thing this year is that I have revised the District Deputy's Official Visit Report. It is far more extensive and the top three Councils will be recognized and the bottom three will be receiving extra help. Since the DD's are going around grading Councils, I thought it would only be fair that the Councils grade their DDs. The top three here will be recognized. I have already purchased their rewards. As said earlier, my theme is Cryptic Excellence and those that obtain this excellence should be recognized.

Our newest members to the Grand Line will be the Grand Historian and Grand Inspector of the Arches. We are hoping to do so many new and wonderful things for a Grand Historian to display our glorious past and cement our future. I chose Glenn E. Chandler, Snr because of his extensive love and knowledge of Masonic history. He has been the Grand Historian for the Chapter for many years; it's now our turn to have him. We are truly blessed that he agreed to this position. My last appointment was to put Damon Sansom into the seat of Inspector of the Arches. With all that we have going on this year, there is no way that I could keep up with everything. He will be my other set of eyes and ears. He will ensure that all reports are on schedule and that all other activities are running as planned. I think that both new positions will bring added value to our Grand Council, and I see the office remaining long after this year.

Lastly, I hope to end each Chronicle with reports or essays from Council Companions. This segment will be titled, "Comments from the Companions." The first of these follows.

*Thomas Olsen*  
M.I. Grand Master, R&SM Florida





2023-2024

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### I Grand Inspector of the Arches

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District Ten

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# Comments from the Companions

## HARMONY

Freemasonry uses allegorical symbols to teach a philosophy concerning the nature of the Creator, the origins of the universe, and humanity's universal destiny. Our practices and study provide us with revelations regarding the nature of the universe and our life's journey through it. That quest's goal is the attainment of Harmony.

Harmony is defined, in the musical sense as "a combination of musical sounds considered to be pleasing." In the personal sense, it is "agreement in feeling or opinion", or simply "accord." It can also be defined as "a pleasing combination of the elements that form a whole." As Masons we are charged to speak, listen, and act without being disagreeable. That is to be homogeneous in our dealings.

The four prime beliefs of Freemasonry are:

- 1.the Fatherhood of God;
- 2.the Brotherhood of Man;
- 3.Relief to Others; and
- 4.the Search for Truth.

Mastering these four Masonic beliefs and practicing them both inside and outside the Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery instills harmony into everyday life, as well as our Masonic career. When enough of us practice these four beliefs toward our fellow men, we share true ethics, beliefs, and goals. By our example, others will be guided toward the same spiritual goal, and likewise learn to treat their fellow men with peace, love, tolerance, and understanding. It is that divine mission that is our charge.

As Royal and Select Masters, we have an opportunity, and even more so it is our obligation to provide relief regarding relief to others and promoting this harmony in the world. One way to implement this obligation is by supporting our Order's principal charity, the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, Inc. (CMMRF). CMMRF supports the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine at Indiana University which conducts research in pursuit of curing and/or alleviating medical conditions stemming from vascular diseases.

If you grew up in the Deep South as I did, with ancestors that descended from rural Scots Irish stock, the terms dropsy and hardening of the arteries are common parlances for you. These terms described what we today refer to as angina, arterial sclerosis, and other heart-related maladies. For my personal family medical history, those conditions truly hit close to the heart (pun intended). It is these ailments that are the focus of the Foundation's research and development.

I urge you to make a habit of personally contributing to the Foundation now, and annually hereafter, and to incorporate giving into your estate planning. CMMRF brochures should be available in the public area where your Council meets or by contacting your District Chairman or CMMRF directly ([www.cmmrf.org](http://www.cmmrf.org)). By doing so we serve to accomplish the harmony we seek as brothers and companions.

R. I. Jerry J. Miller, PDDGM & CMMRF Rep

# Grand Council Awards



## **CRYPTIC MASON OF THE YEAR**

A nomination form should be completed and sent to the Grand Master by January 15th. The Grand Master will then select one of the nominations and forward it to the General Grand Council. This is awarded to one outstanding Cryptic Mason of the Year.

## **GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL YOUTH AWARD**

There is no form for this award. Nominations should be written to the Grand Master by January 15th. The Grand Master will select one and forward his selection to the General Grand Council. This award is intended for a member who has devoted time and energy in helping Masonic Youth Groups.

## **BROKEN TRIANGLE PLAQUE**

This award is decided by the Grand Recorder. The Council with the largest percentage of net gain in the past calendar year will win. There may be more than one winner if there is a tie.

## **GIBLIMITE PLAQUE:**

The District Deputy Grand Masters have a form for grading the Councils as to their proficiency and other factors in qualifying for this award. They will inspect the Councils and send their reports to the Grand Master for selection according to the points and recommendations. The first year of winning a plaque is given; then a plate for the plaque.

## **TEN PERCENT CERTIFICATES**

This award is decided by the General Grand Council to the Council or Councils with a ten percent or more net membership gain in the past calendar year. The Grand Recorder will provide this information to the General Grand Council.

## **ISH-SODI AWARD**

The Grand Master may present up to six awards per year. The Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Principal Conductor of Work, and/or Constituent Council Illustrious Masters may submit recommendations; but the Grand Master will make the selections. This award is for Companions who have exhibited a continuing willingness to devote their time and ability for the good of Cryptic Masonry. A draft recommendation form is provided.

## **WALTER I STEVENSON GRAND MASTER'S MEDAL**

This will be presented annually to the Companion selected by the Grand Master who has best demonstrated dedication to Cryptic Masonry.



# Proficiency Cards

A SPECIAL PLAQUE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL WITH THE MOST COUNCIL CARDS AND A SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR THE COMPANIONS WITH PROFICIENCY CARDS.



## BLUE CARD

The Committee on Work shall issue a Blue Card certificate to a Select Master when proficient in the opening and closing ceremonies of a Council of Select Masters. This will include prayers, floor work, and set up.

## WHITE CARDS

The Committee on Work shall issue a White Card with one purple stripe certificate to a Select Master when proficient in the esoteric work and the lecture of the Royal Master Degree.

The Committee on Work shall issue a White Card with two purple stripes certificate to a Select Master when proficient in the esoteric work and the lecture of the Select Master Degree.

The Committee on Work shall issue a White Card with three purple stripes certificate to a Select Master when proficient in the esoteric work and the lecture of the Super Excellent Degree.

The Committee on Work shall issue a Purple Card certificate of proficiency to a Select Master when he has qualified for the Blue Card and one White Card and has demonstrated his proficiency in giving the apron lecture.

The Committee on Work shall issue a Silver Card certificate of proficiency to a Select Master when proficient in the Circumambulation of the Royal Master Degree.



# RAFFLE CONTEST

**\$20 PER TICKET**

60 TICKETS PER DISTRICT



**GRAND PRIZE**



## WINNER'S CHOICE:

**GLOCK 43 (9mm)**

**TAURUS 856 (38 Special)**

**MOSSBERG MAVERICK 88**

The winning ticket will be drawn at random from all eligible raffle tickets received.  
Need not be present to win

Proceeds are for the benefit of Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundations  
\*Donations are not deductible as a charitable contribution.\*

Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) conducts research in pursuit of curing and / or alleviating medical conditions stemming from Vascular Diseases. CMMRF is a culmination of the finest medical professionals, Masonic charity managers and support staff. The result is a highly functional team that focuses on philanthropic endeavors to benefit humankind and improve medical knowledge.

[www.cmmrf.org](http://www.cmmrf.org)





**YOUR AD HERE**  
**\$50 (goes to CMMRF)**  
**EMAIL**  
**bornsteinstemax@gmail.com**

**YOUR AD HERE**  
**\$25 (goes to CMMRF)**  
**EMAIL**  
**bornsteinstemax@gmail.com**

**YOUR AD HERE**  
**\$25 (goes to CMMRF)**  
**EMAIL**  
**bornsteinstemax@gmail.com**

# LEUNG MOST ILLUSTRIOUS PAST GRAND MASTERS



1992	ROBERT E. BURLESON
1996	PAUL W. FRIEND
2000	RICHARD S. AGSTER
2001	CHARLES L. HOLLINGER
2003	STEPHEN H. CLARK
2005	DONALD T. HARRIOTT
2006	LOUIS A. KING
2009	CARL E. GILMORE
2011	M. DANNY FULLWOOD
2012	LARRY R. GILLESPIE
2013	DAYLE L. SCHROCK
2014	H. WARREN ALMAND, JR.
2016	BENJAMIN J. HOLLAND
2017	ROBERT C. ST. JOHN, JR.
2018	GLENN E. CHANDLER, SNR.
2019	JOHN PICKFORD
2020	THOMAS J. RAWSTHORNE
2021	WILLIAM ALLEN SORBIE
2022	GENE A. LANCE



## AREA MEETINGS

### Districts 9 & 10

June 3, 2023 | Crestview York Rite Temple; Crestview, Florida  
(Panama City, Marinna, Tallahassee, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola York Rite Bodies)

### Districts 1 & 6

July 22, 2023 | Acacia Lodge No. 163; Stuart, Florida  
(Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Marathon, Cocoa, Melbourne and Ft. Pierce York Rite Bodies)

### Districts 2 & 3

August 26, 2023, at Tampa York Rite Temple; Tampa, Florida  
(Naples, Ft. Myers, Sarasota/Bradenton, St. Petersburg, Tampa and Clearwater York Rite Bodies)

### Districts 7 & 8

September 9, 2023, at Palatka, Florida  
(Palatka, St. Augustine, Fernandina Beach, Jacksonville, Lake City, Middleburg, and Gainesville York Rite Bodies)

### Districts 4 & 5

October 14, 2023, at Eola Lodge No. 207; Orlando, Florida  
(Highlands, Plant City, Lakeland, Daytona Beach, Sanford, Lake/Sumter, and Orlando York Rite Bodies)