

Council Chronicle

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2024 HOMECOMING

Ask your DD how to RSVP for the 2024 Grand York Rite Homecoming in Jacksonville on April 13th



Ask your District Deputy or CMMRF Rep about donating to CMMRF.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMPANIONS

THE CRUSADES CHANGED EVERYTHING | PAGE 5

MICAH – STILL RELEVANT | PAGE 10

A Message From The M.J. Grand Master



JANUARY ACTIVITIES

2023 is a wrap. We can't make any more changes affecting 2023. But what a year it was. We gained so many new Companions into the York Rite. It wasn't a record number but close and the quality of candidates was outstanding. We also lost too many of our Companions this year. Let's remember them going forward and honor their memory by our good works. I would like to take all the credit for what was done in 2023 but I can't. It was ALL done by the devoted District Deputies, District Instructors, and CMMRF reps. What a great job they did in 2023. Their records will be hard to beat. I am so very proud of them and their accomplishments. But as they say in sales; "that was last year, what are you going to do for me this year???"

We are now in 2024. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!** I am glad to see 2023 behind us and look forward to 2024. We still need to support CMMRF with their fund raising efforts, we still need to have 15 Companions with a Blue Card, we still need to get 6 Councils certified to carry an "E" on their charter, we still need to hold at least 4 more festivals and bring in 50 new members, we need to raise funds for the "Youth Organizations", hold several Table Councils, determine the best DD, DI, CMMRF rep, best Council, and best District, sell adds for the Convention Magazine, as well as clean up all loose ends for the Convention. And you thought we were done.

January 4th was the installation for the Jacksonville York Rite Bodies. It was held at the Jacksonville York Rite Temple. The food was fantastic and the enthusiasm among the Companions for the coming year was great to see. I am excited about the future on Hallmark Council No. 3. They have already started working on the opening and closing for they will be opening the Grand Assemble at Lake Mary. I know they will do a great job. Hope you can make it to the Convention and see them open. We discussed what we need to do for the balance of the year and have things in place to get these things accomplished. What an uplifting way to start a year. The Past Illustrious Master was a Blue Card holder and had the "E" on his Charter. His replacement Illustrious Master is also a Blue Card holder; so the "E" remains on his Charter. The next two members in line are also Blue Card holders so the "E" should remain on the Charter for the foreseeable future. Great job to them.

A Message From The M.J. Grand Master



JANUARY ACTIVITIES

January 5th was the Installation of Officers for Pensa Cola and unfortunately, I was unable to attend. However, it was left in the very capable hands of James Draeving. They had earned an “E” for their charter since Josh Schultz was the Illustrious Master and a Blue Card holder. Haskel Vest is the new Illustrious Master and he has assured me that they will be working on getting the “E” back on the Charter. And I know they will. The workmanship and dedication that comes out from this Council is a joy to see.

January 11th was the installation of the Middleburg York Rite Bodies. They too, have a strong line up for 2024 and I know they will continue to improve over the course of the year. They have already started working on getting new members and holding a Table Council. The “E” was removed from their Charter but Ron Eigenmann is almost completed his work on the Blue Card and assures me that he will have it in the next month or so. He is a fast learner and I know he can do this.

January 13th, I know it is not totally a York Rite thing; but on this Saturday I was elected to be the Puissant Sovereign of Saint Honore Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine. Saint Honore started in 1951 and during these past 122 years, we have had 50 Sovereigns that were 330 Masons. What a special class of men and Masons to be a part of. I am so proud and humbled. I look forward to attending the meeting of the Miami Red Cross.

January 17th was the installation of Fort Walton Beach York Rite Bodies. I just love coming to this Council; even with a 5-hour drive. The folks there are fantastic. They always make me feel a part of them. I was a little under the weather, so my installation was not up to my standards. Sorry I let you guys down. I will do better next time. It is always good to see Ron Naumowicz and Ron Park. The Grand Captain of the Guard was the Installing Marshal and he will be a fantastic MIGM when his time comes.



A Message From The M.I. Grand Master



JANUARY ACTIVITIES

January 18th was the installation of Palatka, St Augustine, Gainesville, and Halifax York Rite Bodies. We had a full house. Not very often do you have an Installation of Officers where the three Grand Officers were the installing officers. We had Henry and Rusty- a lot of bling in the room. We had a lot more in attendance than we had ever imagined, and this caused us to run short on food. Rusty, Henry, and I went last and did not eat. However, the three of us could stand to miss a couple of meals. This is better than having no one come and having food left over. Mike Leebove and his team did a great job in setting up this event.

January 24th was the finish of the month; except for a visit to Miami for a KYCH and RCC meeting on Saturday. I just can't get enough. Well back to the 24th. I traveled to Travares Florida to take part in something that rarely occurs. I presented Golden Triangle Council No. 36 with their Charter. Their original charter was destroyed in their building fire. I can't believe my name is on their charter. This is something that I will always remember. This Council is very resilient and I look forward to many successful years for the Companions there.

Thomas Olsen

M.I. Grand Master, R&SM Florida



The Crusades Changed Everything

By M. J. Glenn E. Chandler, Sr. KYGCH, Grand Historian

The Crusades changed everything. It changed the way we think. It taught us the scientific method and the breakdown of plant and animal life into genus and species. It brought about Scholasticism and the art of making distinctions for clear and precise thinking. It introduced us to works of forgotten philosophers. It brought about the rebirth of knowledge. Without the Crusades, Saint Thomas Aquinas would never have thought of combining religion and philosophy into one great intellectual system. It changed the way we believe. It taught us about other religions and other lifestyles. It freed us from the confines of parochialism and gave us an awareness of different cultures and different peoples. With this knowledge came an awareness of geography that didn't exist before-an awareness of distant lands and distant people. The Italian merchants who thrived on the Crusades learned to make good maps of the Mediterranean; the monkish chroniclers transmitted to Europe a conception of the vastness and variety of Asia. The zest for exploration, travel, and trade was stirred. Without the Crusades, there would not have been a Marco Polo, let alone a Christopher Columbus. It changed the way we eat. It introduced us to spices such as pepper, ginger, cloves, and cinnamon. Cooking after the Crusades was no longer bland and tasteless. It brought to our plate's maize, rice, sesame, shallot, scallion, and carob. It presented us to melons, lemons, peaches, apricots, cherries, and dates. Without the Crusades, there would be no chocolate cake, no ice cream, no cookies, and no candy. For many of us the greatest discovery of the Crusaders was sugar. It changed the way we lived. It gave us glass for our houses made from silica, soda, and lime-and Venetian glass made from refined sugar. Our houses became open to sunlight, and with sunlight came sanitation. Our cathedrals acquired magnificent stained-glass windows that originated with the emerald glass of the Moslems. Mirrors have now replaced polished brass or steel. In this way, the Crusaders taught us to look at ourselves for the first time in history. It changed the way we dress. It gave us silk, muslin, velvet, and damask to replace drab clothes of course and heavy wool. It informed us of colors that could come from dyes: red, pink, blue, green, purple, and yellow. The world became more beautiful and intriguing. In fact, the first fashion fad was caused by the very first Crusade. It changed the way we smell. It taught us to take baths on a regular basis and to use toilets. It introduced us to scents, powders, and perfumes. Before the Crusades, we were smelly beasts, who stank (according to the Moslems) of rancid cheese. But after the Crusades, everybody and everything smelled better. It changed the way we love. It taught us the joys of lovemaking, of sensuality, that were unknown to the Western world. After the Crusades, everyone was sexier.



The Crusades Changed Everything

By M. J. Glenn E. Chandler, Sr. KYGCH, Grand Historian

It changed the way we look. It caused men to return to the old Roman custom of shaving the beard and women to rediscover the art of applying makeup. Suddenly, even plain people looked comely. It gave us other things as well, including inventions from the crossbow to the compass. Eventually, in the backwash of this great event, we came upon such things as gunpowder and printing. There is nothing about the Western World that hasn't changed. It freed serfs from bondage to the medieval manor. It gave rise to nationalism and national interests. It brought about the collapse of feudalism and the rise of capitalism. It helped create a middle class. It consolidated all Christians under the supreme authority of the Roman Catholic Church. And, as it gave rise to papal power, it also planted the seeds of the Reformation. The first voices of protest against the Latin Church were raised in opposition to the Crusades. The Crusades is an epic story. It is a tale of knights in shining armor, of high romance, of chivalry and pageantry, of incredible courage and heroic deeds. But it is also a tale of barbarism and brutality on a grand scale, of horrors beyond measure. It is not a story for the timid not the faint of heart. The Crusades, of course, never really ended. They persist to this day in the conflict between the Jews and Palestinians over the same issues; even the atrocities-the killing of innocent men, women, and children-haven't changed. Barbara Tuchman, the great historian, once spoke of the past as a "distant mirror." It is an apt image. By looking into the past, we inevitably come upon reflections of our times and ourselves, and more often than not, we may be disturbed and startled by what we see.

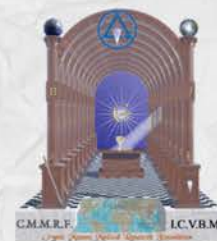
Source: The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Crusades



C.M.M.R.F. Standings

We started the year with \$5,000 in our kitty and a pledge from the Grand Master of Tennessee to reach a higher contribution goal than Florida.

My original goal was to reach the \$52,105. Well, we did that. Our final contributions to CMMRF were \$69,979.36, plus Richard Brooks willed us \$115,297.37. Every Council contributed. We had Councils that donated from \$28.00 to some that donated \$11,000. We needed support from everyone and every council, and we got it. The Grand Master's challenge was a big success. The Grand Line, the District Deputies, District Instructors, and CMMRF reps will all receive a Triangle Plaque for their body. I think that the "TOP" DD, DI, & CMMRF rep should keep the plaques for the year and present it to the "TOP" DD, DI, and CMMRF rep next year. We had many successful Table Councils, we had 8 out of the 10 districts sell raffle tickets for a gun. We have had the 8 drawings, and everyone felt that it was a worthwhile and easy way to raise funds for CMMRF. Plus, we had an outstanding amount of support from our membership. Their generosity will not be forgotten. God Bless you for your support.



After reviewing the results of the various Grand Masters from 1986 through 2023; I can state we have come a long way. We went from \$5,000 annually to over \$50,000. I think going forward, the Grand Master is going to have his work cut out for him. I want to congratulate John Pickford for his performance during his year. He collected over \$77,000. I hope Ben will be able to crush both my record and John's record. We need to be at the \$90,000 level and that will require an effort from everyone.

Word of The Month: ZION (Mount)

Western ridge of Jerusalem, a high place overlooking the Kidron Valley. The Last Supper took place on Mt. Zion, and David's tomb is located there.

"Quote of The Month"

"The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home." - Confucius

2024 Homecoming

Companions,

Henry, Rusty, and I have had a great year so far. We want to celebrate this year with our "Combined Homecoming". In the past, we have had three Homecomings and we wanted to have just the one event so we could get more Companions and Sir Knights to attend and help celebrate with us. We could not have had a year like this without you guys. This Homecoming is our way of thanking you.

The homecoming will be at the Jacksonville Scottish Rite on April 13th at 6pm.

Any questions, please call me or e-mail me.

Regards,

Tom Olsen
MIGM



Table Councils

We have had some very impressive Table Councils this year and it was my goal to attend as many as I could. This was the first year for many of our Councils to have a Table Council. I want to thank them for their efforts and the funds these events generated. I know they learned a lot from this experience and that next time they will be even more successful. I would like to see more Table Councils in the 2nd half of the year to support youth activities and their individual Councils.

Items to consider to have a successful Table Council: (1). Promote this activity well in advance of having the function. (2). Promote it to non-masons as well. (3). Don't go crazy on the food; some sent between \$500 to \$1,000. (4). Have a theme, i.e., Easter, Veterans Day, Halloween, Membership appreciation dinner (25yr, 40yr, & 50 yr. certificates). (5). Get everyone involved. Every member should have a task to do. (6). Did I mention, promoting this event.

This was in from last month but warrants repeating. Please try to schedule a Table Council in your district this second half of the year; if possible.



Festivals

We did not reach our membership goal this past year and it is one of the most important goals we have. We need to all work harder on getting and keeping new members. I would like to see each district bring in 10 new members and bring back 10 members that no longer come to meetings. The best way to get members is to always be vigilant to getting new members. I find that if you talk to them about the York Rite and ASK them to join, you will have pretty good results. Our big problem is that so many of us are afraid to “Ask for the order”, to coin a sales term. We need to do a better job going forward.

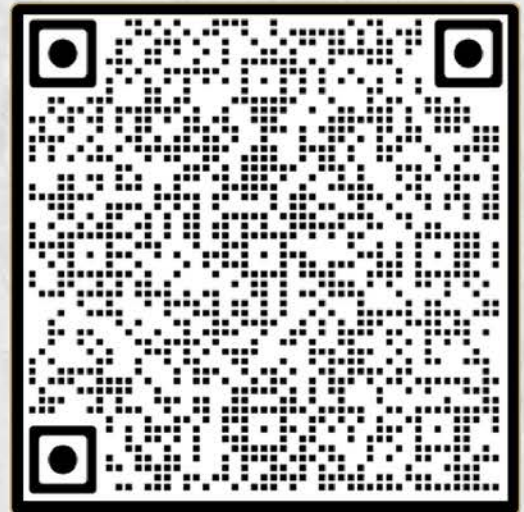
Our PMEGHP Richard Wolfe has developed a tool to assist you in gaining new prospects for membership. This tool is a QR Code that delivers you to the film explaining York Rite Masonry. His plan is to follow through the Blue Lodge Trestle board; (1). the Masons receiving their Master Mason proficiency. (2). Give them your business card with the QR Code on it and tell them to take it home and review with their family. (3). Follow up with the prospect and give them a petition. If you have any questions about this process, please call Richard Wolfe of me. We are currently at 125 new members.

I hope everyone is enjoying the articles that some of our Companions are submitting for inclusion in this monthly chronicle.

Membership Development

Please scan this QR code with your phone. It will take you to a Google website that contains a York Rite video. Immediately after a newly raised Brother gives his Master Mason proficiency, he is wondering what is next. This video answers that question very professionally.

Go to your local Lodge and use your cell phone as a tool to advance your local York Rite Bodies membership. Show the video, let anyone copy it and take it home to show it to their family. We all need the support of our family's and so do our York Rite Bodies.



MJCAH – Still Relevant

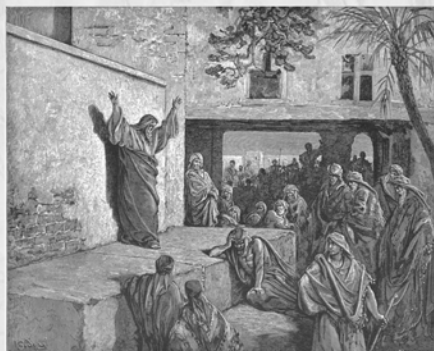
By R. J. Jerry J. Miller, KYCJ

We Masons are religious men joined together in a fellowship of brotherly love. The pursuit of our spiritual goal is the center point of our pursuits. To ensure our success in this goal we must adopt practices that will build toward that result.

Over time I have received some gifts that are not of great intrinsic value, but, because of special meaning to me have a lasting value beyond any concept of dollars. There are four such that earn mentioning here. They are a Colorado river rock with my name painted on it, a toy bulldozer, a framed needlepoint of a paraphrase of Philippians 4:8, and a framed “Lawyer’s Meditation”.

As a young lawyer I went on active duty as a United States Air Force Judge Advocate in 1971 assigned to Ent/Peterson Field, Colorado. While there are many important memories from that time, the most important and lasting occurrence is that for my adult life my dedication to a Christian walk that persist to this day. The rock was a gift from our pastor’s oldest child and will forever remind me of her that wonderful family, that supportive congregation, and my connection to my belief practices. In 1985 the City of Destin began its municipal operation, its citizens adopting a Municipal Charter in the 1984 general election. In February the City Council contracted with me to serve as City Attorney. I served in that capacity, in 2 stints, spanning 29 years. The toy bulldozer was a Christmas present from the Planning Director to assist me in managing the municipal minutia. It has been used daily by me for the past 38 years of law practice, life struggles, and daily coping. It is a powerful coping tool.

In 2004 I came to claim a biblical scripture for myself. Among some friends we had discussed doing so and over time revealed our selection. My selection was Philippians 4:8. One of the friend’s adult children enjoyed needle point, and I was soon presented with the framed scripture paraphrased as “Whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, if there be any virtue or praise, think on these things.” That message hangs on my office wall in front of my desk and I begin each workday by reciting that message. It has been an important strategy for focusing on how I am to conduct myself in daily life.



MICAH – Still Relevant

By R. J. Jerry J. Miller, KYCJ

The gift of the Lawyer's Meditation came soon thereafter and continues to enjoy a prominent location in my office. It presents a powerful message. Last year connected to a Sunday School lesson taught by my wife Caroline I found some masonic connection in the author Micah's words as he foretold certain historical events. He also declared a remarkable statement about our relationship with God.

Micah, one of the 12 minor prophets, prophesied during the 8th and 7th century BC. He is credited as the author of the Old Testament Book, Micah. He was from southwest Judah and most of his messages were directed toward Jerusalem. He chastised the people of Judah for dishonesty and idolatry, being especially harsh toward the economically advantaged. He prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem and Samaria as punishment for their sins and foresaw the destruction and then future restoration of the Judean state. He is also credited with predicting that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

But, for we present day Christians, perhaps his greatest and lasting lesson was about our relationship with God. I submit that it is as instructive today as it was in the time of Micah.

From Micah 6:8, as depicted in the Lawyer's Meditation, we read: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Oh, that we should dedicate our lives to such principles.

The path that we pursue as Masons is a narrow one. It is one that challenges us to establish practices that are not common to our nature. I urge that practices be developed and applied, even gimmicks as necessary, to assure our proper relationships are maintained, to allow us to cope, to assist us in maintaining faith, and to dedicate our lives to that which is most important – eternal life.



Darkness to Light

By Todd Connor

We've all knelt at our sacred altar for that first time and recall the august moment when all present stretched forth their hands and assisted the Worshipful Master in bringing us from darkness to light for the first time. Upon being brought from darkness to light, your attention is first directed to the three Greater Lights in Masonry. This is intended to impress upon you that you are embarking upon a timeless and endless journey endeavoring to surmount the Square with the Compasses. To seek more and further Light in Masonry. But this notion is by no means unique to Masonry. If you are a student of the Authentic School of Masonry, you'll assert that this idea was borrowed from the myriad Mystery Schools of the Ancients. And, of course, if you're of the Romantic School, you'll insist that Masonry was there when it began, and it's since been handed down from Antiquity.

Albert Pike, in his lectures on the 24th Degree, Prince of the Tabernacle, writes that "The Hierophants, men of intellect, and well understanding the disposition of the people and the art of controlling them, used every appliance to attain that object, and give importance and impressiveness to their ceremonies. As they covered those ceremonies with the veil of secrecy, they preferred that Night should cover them with its wings. Obscurity adds to impressiveness and assists illusion, and they used it to produce an effect upon the astonished Initiate. The ceremonies were conducted in caverns dimly lighted: thick groves were planted around the Temples to produce that gloom which impresses the mind with a religious awe." According to Demetrius Phalereus, the very word "mystery" was a metaphorical expression that denoted the secret awe which darkness and gloom inspired.

In actuality, a fear of the darkness seems inherent in mankind. What child does not have a night light in his bedroom to keep away the bogeyman? Some folks whistle when they pass by the graveyard on a moonless night. Of course, we really are a little more fearsome in the dark. Real dangers may be there. Bad things may be hiding in wait. This may be because our vision is not as keen in darkness, and when we are in darkness, there may be much beyond our sight that we cannot discern. We carry flashlights so that we might be able to see more clearly what surrounds us and we become much more aware and comfortable when we can see all. Is this not what Masonry brings to the Initiate? Do we see more as Masons? Understand more? Are our eyes more able to discern?



Darkness to Light

By Todd Connor

In Pike's discourse on the 28th Degree, Knight of the Sun, or Prince Adept, he writes that, "Light was the first Divinity worshipped by men. To it they owed the brilliant spectacle of Nature. It seems an emanation from the Creator of all things, making known to our senses the Universe which darkness hides from our eyes, and, as it were, giving it existence. Darkness, as it were, reduces all nature again to nothingness, and almost entirely annihilates man." From this basis, the alignment of "Light" to "Good" and "Darkness" to "Evil" was drawn, and their coexistence expressed by the Ancients in their Mysteries. Of course, the light does not "create" Nature every day just as darkness does not annihilate it every night.

Further advancing the idea of the Light as goodness and Darkness as evil, the Ancients celebrated the increase of light after the winter solstice as the promise of the return of life and vigor, and the decrease in light after the summer solstice as the imminent return of death and darkness. From these notions, we begin to expose the fact that the Universe is a combination of opposites, as Euripides said, "The Good is never separated from the Evil. The two must mingle, that all may go well." Zoroastrianism explicitly expresses this with the opposing Divine essences of Ormuzd and Ahriman, with Ormuzd representing the principle of light and Ahriman the principle of darkness. Zoroastrianism teaches that these two gods are in eternal opposition – first one conquers and then is overcome; back and forth throughout eternity. Similarly, the Egyptians and Greeks represent this with Osiris and Set or Typhon, and we see this repeated through myriad theologies through history.

So here's a question to ponder: If there cannot be an effect without a cause, and Good cannot be the cause of Evil, then it is fundamentally necessary for there to be a cause for the Evil as well as for the Good. If God is good, omnipotent, and omnipresent, then where does the evil come from? The very words omnipotent and omnipresent indicate that there is literally no room in creation for an evil being.

....So before you get all depressed with that thought, consider Pike's comment "take away suffering, and there is no longer any resignation or humanity, no more self-sacrifice, no more devotedness, no more heroic virtues, no more sublime morality. If there were no physical evil, there would be no possible virtue." To illustrate this, you might adapt the line in the Bible from John 1:5, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it," to read "The light became discernable as soon as there was darkness to differentiate it."



Darkness to Light

By Todd Connor

The perhaps obvious hazard in this notion is rooted in relativity. If you were to be thrust into a darkness so complete that only a bat could function, it would render you essentially blind. Similarly, that same bat taken from his dark forest becomes blinded in the full light of the Florida sunshine. The opening charge of our Blue Lodge states that “The ways of virtue are beautiful. Knowledge is attained by degrees. Wisdom dwells with contemplation; therefore, we should seek it.” When we are brought from darkness to light for the first time, we see both points of the Compasses surmounted by the Square, indicating that while we may begin to see the light, we still do not see and comprehend all that is before us. Even as we progress to the Master’s Degree, we are simply informed that we are eligible to receive all the secrets that may be conferred in a Master Mason’s Lodge – but that we are not yet in possession of all of the secrets of a Master – and that we might never be in possession of them. As our eyes become more and more acclimated to the Light, we may become increasingly able to discern the true beauty of Nature and our Creator. Also, we may be afforded the ability to help guide our Brothers to greater discernment and understanding.

Keep moving towards the Light, my Brothers.

Good night.

So mote it be!





2023-2024

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Living 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
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

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.

We finished the first half of the year with 11 new Blue Cards. That's up 10 from last year. We have also presented 4 Councils with the Efficiency "E". They are Union Council No. 7, Lawtey Council No. 39, Hallmark Council No. 3, and Palatka Council No. 18. It looks like all four Councils should retain their "E" for next year. I also hope to have 4 or 5 more before May. I would like to see 25 to 30 percent of all our Councils with their Illustrious Master having a Blue Card. We also gave out 8 Silver Cards and 1 white card. Excellent ritual work is really starting to show up more and more are seeking to get their Blue Card.



PROFICIENCY CARDS							
NAME	COUNCIL	DISTRICT	INSPECTOR	CARD RECEIVED		PIN AWARDED	CARD AWARDED
Tom Olsen	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Meserve	Blue Card	6/1/2023	YES	YES
Steve Meserve	Hallmark No. 3	7	Tom Olsen	Blue Card	6/1/2023	YES	YES
Mark Balester	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Meserve	Blue Card	6/30/2023	YES	YES
Tom Metcalfe	Gainesville No. 27	8	Tom Olsen	Silver Card	8/5/2023	YES	YES
Joshua Shuts	Union No. 7	10	John Gray	Blue Card	8/19/2023	YES	YES
Chris Tilman	Fl. Myers No. 25	2	Jeffery Lawrence	Blue Card	8/26/2023	YES	
Charles Jordan	Clearwater No. 34	3	Tom Olsen	Blue Card	8/26/2023	YES	
Charles Jordan	Clearwater No. 34	3	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/26/2023	YES	
Charles Jordan	Clearwater No. 34	3	Tom Olsen	Silver Card	8/26/2023	YES	
Randy Brocius	Palatka No. 18	7	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/26/2023	YES	
Rusty Ludlam	Lake City No 35	8	Tom Olsen	Blue Card	8/5/2023	YES	
Rusty Ludlam	Lake City No 35	8	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/5/2023	YES	
Rusty Ludlam	Lake City No 35	8	Tom Olsen	Silver Card	8/5/2023	YES	
Butch Thuman	Bredentown No 9	2	Tom Olsen	Red Card	8/26/2023	YES	
Tom Metcalfe, Jr.	Gainesville No 27	8	Randall Brocius	White Card			
Luis Rios	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Meserve	Blue Card			
Todd Connor	Hallmark No. 3	7	Steve Meserve	Blue Card			
Tom Metcalfe	Gainesville No. 27	8	John Gray	Silver Card			
Gary Paxinos	Lauderdale Council No. 24	1	Max Bornstein	Blue Card			
Raymond Brownlee	Fl. Myers Council No. 25	2	Chris Tilman	Blue Card			

As shown in an earlier issue, I had a plaque made to show the names of the first 15 Companions to receive a Blue Card. The plaque is almost full; only 4 or 5 more tabs. Hallmark Council No. 3 liked the plaque so much, they had one made for themselves and it will carry the names of the Blue Card holders in Jacksonville. This might be something other Councils may want to do to promote this program and recognize those that went the distance a received the card. What a tremendous service they are doing for the development and growth of our Councils throughout the State.

If the new Illustrious Master in the Councils of your District are not Blue Card holders, please get with the District Instructor and get them qualified.

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON YOUR BLUE OR SILVER CARD; PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN TRACK YOUR PROGRESS.

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 plaques 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.



YOUR AD HERE
\$50 (goes to CMMRF)

EMAIL

grandsecrec@flgyr.org

YOUR AD HERE
\$25 (goes to CMMRF)
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