

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2021

Companions, as we all know this past year has been one we would like to forget. And I expected, unfortunately, that support of our charity RARA would be forgotten as well. Most chapters were not meeting for a large part of the year, and some only recently began to meet. Opportunities for fund raising events such as Table Chapters were absent. However, I am pleased to report that you did not let us down and in fact this has been one of our best years ever. Total donations were \$20,285 with 30 out of 31 chapters at 100%. Once again Florida was first in donations by far in the Eastern section of the country and ranked third overall of all jurisdictions. This is important as the work being done by our sponsored organizations is increasingly making discoveries and bearing fruit. We have renewed our contract with Autism speaks for another five years and they have started sponsoring grants and the Hearing Health Foundation has increased the number of starter grants to new researchers. I can only say once again thank you for the enthusiasm with which the companions of Florida have embraced this cause and keep up the good work.

During the recent meeting of the Royal Arch Research Assistance Board of Directors, new awards were adopted for recognitions for donations. According to Board Secretary, Bill Riggs, "This is the first change in the amounts in the award system in quite some time, (maybe ever)." **The changes will become effective on July 1, 2021.** Our current award system will continue in effect until then.

The Keystone Pin is being expanded to three levels. For a onetime donation of \$100.00, a Bronze Keystone Pin will be available. A onetime donation of \$300.00 qualifies for a Silver Keystone Pin and a Gold Keystone Pin will be available at the \$500.00 level. The Gift for a Gift Music CD will be available for a one time donation of \$500.00 upon request.

There will be several awards available for cumulative donations made within the current Triennial. For a total of \$1000.00 a donor may receive a RARA Diamond Pin. This is the same pin which has been available in the past, additional diamonds can be added for subsequent donations of \$1000.00. Here is a change, rather than adding additional diamonds to the pin for successive \$1000.00 donations, one may elect to let their donations accumulate. When cumulative donations reach \$2500.00, one may receive the Keystone Badge which may be worn on a coat

pocket. At the \$5000.00 level a RARA Badge may be provided. A \$15,000.00 donation will qualify for a Glass Desk Royal Arch Award and a Glass Desk Arc of the Covenant Award may be earned at the \$30,000.00 level. Again these accumulations are during this Triennial.

Certificates may be presented to Chapters and other Masonic Bodies making donations. Red Certificates may be awarded at the \$100.00 level, Silver Certificates for \$250.00 donations and Gold Certificates for \$500.00. When sending in a donation, please continue to specify if an award is being requested or not.

The following chapters donated or had donated in their name a minimum of \$1.00 per member:

- Tampa/Cushing No. 3
- Putnam No. 9
- Plant City No. 16
- Keystone No. 20
- Palm Beach No. 24
- Bay County No. 39

The following chapters donated or had donated in their name a minimum of \$2.00 per member:

- Florida No. 1
- Jacksonville No. 12
- Lakeland/Winter Haven No. 29
- St. Petersburg No. 31
- Nassau No. 49
- James Yeager No. 62

The following chapters donated or had donated in their name a minimum of \$3.00 per member:

- Gainesville No. 2
- Lake City No. 38
- Crestview No. 40
- Poinciana No. 50
- Highlands No. 64

The following chapters donated or had donated in their name a minimum of \$4.00 per member:

- Eureka No. 7
- Monroe No. 15
- St. Augustine No. 17
- Clearwater No. 45

The following chapter donated or had donated in its name a minimum of \$6.00 per member:

- Jackson No. 32

The following chapters donated or had donated in their name a minimum of \$7.00 per member:

- Eustis No. 33
- Surf No. 57

The following chapters donated or had donated in their name a minimum of \$8.00 per member:

- Halifax No. 5
- Mt. Horeb No. 6
- Melbourne No. 59

The following chapter donated or had donated in its name a minimum of \$18.00 per member:

- Jericho No. 11

The following chapters donated or had donated in their name a minimum of \$20.00 per member:

- Joppa No. 28
- Sarasota No. 35

Contributions were received from the following organizations and individuals:
(over \$100)

- Winter Park Lodge No. 239 -----\$250
- Florida Grand Chapter -----\$1,300

- NE York Rite College No. 114-----\$100
- Orlando Priory KYCH No. 60 -----\$100
- Robert LT Phillips -----\$100
- Richard Brooks -----\$100
- John Pickford -----\$3,000
- Royce Yancey -----\$100
- Craig Frazier -----\$100
- Ed Mayfield -----\$250
- Carlos Correa -----\$500
- Adrian Castro -----\$500
- Jorge Filgueira -----\$500
- Brett Gordon -----\$500
- Abraham Metz -----\$500
- Richard Reboredo -----\$500

The following chapters have contributed a minimum of \$1.00 per member for a number of consecutive years. (Number of years in parentheses)

- Bay County #39 (3)
- Clearwater #45 (39)
- Crestview #40 (17)
- Eureka #7 (24)
- Eustis #33 (5)
- Florida #1 (23)
- Gainesville #2 (28)
- Halifax #5 (4)
- Highlands #64 (5)
- Jackson #32 (6)
- Jacksonville #12 (7)
- James Yeager #62 (5)
- Jericho #11 (3)
- Joppa #28 (4)
- Keystone #20 (3)
- Lake City #38 (7)
- Lakeland #29 (14)
- Melbourne #59 (8)
- Monroe #15 (9)
- Mt. Horeb #6 (22)
- Nassau #49 (6)

- Palm Beach #24 (3)
- Plant City #16 (16)
- Poinciana #50 (3)
- Putnam #9 (7)
- Sarasota #35 (33)
- St. Augustine #17 (6)
- St. Petersburg #31 (6)
- Surf #57 (8)
- Tampa/Cushing #3 (3)

As you can see this has been another banner year. I continue to be encouraged by the amount of individual giving this year and hope it increases this coming year. In addition we have a couple of fund raising projects in the works. Remember gifts are tax deductible as we are a 501 (c) 3 organization. Individuals may contribute directly by check, by workplace giving with matching funds, or by smile.Amazon, whereby Amazon donates 0.5% of your total purchase to the charity of your choice. And your Chapter gets the credit. Another new idea which I liked a lot was the use of a challenge donation, whereby a companion makes a large donation and challenges his companions to match it. Also please consider RARA in your estate planning. All donations should be sent to me directly and I will forward them on so that you and your chapter will get the proper credit. If I have omitted giving credit to anyone or made mistakes I apologize in advance, as I try to keep as accurate records as I can so as not to offend anyone or group. If corrections need to be made please contact me. I wish to thank Most Excellent A.J. Ahrens for the opportunity to serve the Grand Chapter in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry V. Eisenberg, M.D.

Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest, RAM of Florida
Deputy General Grand High Priest Royal Arch Masons International Southeast Region
State Chairman RARA