

## Grand High Priest Report

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers, The Most Excellent Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Florida, Grand Chapter Officers, District Deputy Grand High Priests, District Instructors, Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests, General Grand Chapter Officers, Distinguished guests, visitors to our 174<sup>th</sup> Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and Companions ALL, Greetings and welcome!

This year was difficult at best. The global pandemic shuttered Our state, Chapters and dramatically changed our lives. Throughout it all, the Companions have looked out for each other and have kept up the tenets of Our Fraternity. We have found new ways to keep in touch and to communicate with each other.

Due to health concerns, I was able to travel and visit with companions from all districts except for district 1. I am very much looking forward to when we can freely travel and no longer worry about the pandemic.

I would like to thank the Grand Office John Miller and Kim Bailey for their hard work in keeping everything running smoothly. To the District Deputies, District Instructors and Officers, thank you for your service to the Craft. From the reports around the state, Chapters are meeting and festivals are occurring.

District Meetings this year were different for all. We were able to meet during regularly scheduled festivals. This allowed us to visit and not take another Saturday from families. This seemed to be well received and it was great to see so many Companions being Exalted and helping.

Weekly Zoom meetings allowed Companions from around the state to meet and discuss all things. It is hoped that meetings like this continue in the future to allow Companions from all across the state to meet (instead of just at Grand Convocation).

**EXECUTIVE ORDERS / RULINGS AND DECISIONS / POSTINGS**

Type	Date	Reason
EO 2020-01	06/08/2020	Passing of G. Gordon Goodman
Post	07/03/2020	Independence Day
Post	07/05/2020	Jacksonville request
EO 2020-02	08/05/2020	Waiver of required number of meetings
EO 2020-03	09/07/2020	September 11 remembrance
EO 2020-04	09/07/2020	Religious Affirmation
EO 2020-05	10/18/2020	Pandemic response to Grand Lodge Directive No. 13
EO 2020-06	10/18/2020	Postponement of Elections (as needed)
EO 2020-07	11/07/2020	Suspension of MEPGHP Ward
Posting	11/09/2020	Veteran's day
Posting	11/23/2020	Thanksgiving
Posting	12/03/2020	Christmas/Hanukah/Festivus message
EO 2020-07	01/11/2020	Passing of Rt Ex Constant
RD 2020-01	02/16/2021	Secretary Manual

**DISPENSATIONS**

There were 12 requests for dispensation. 10 were approved with 2 denied.

Date	Body	Request	Status	Reason
06/13/2020	Gainesville No. 2	Special election	Granted	
07/11/2020	Gainesville No. 2	Table Chapter	Granted	
08/03/2020	Bay County No. 39	Covid closure (2 months)	Granted	
09/05/2020	Jacksonville No. 12	Table Chapter	Granted	
12/03/2020	Palm Beach No. 24	Executive Order No. 6	Granted	
12/11/2020	Monroe No. 15	Special election	Granted	
12/10/2020	St Petersburg No. 31	Cancellation of stated meeting	Granted	
12/30/2020	Keystone No. 20	Executive Order No. 6	Granted	
01/12/2021	Keystone No. 20	Special election	Granted	
01/16/2021	Gainesville No. 2	By-laws change (location)	Granted	
02/03/2021	Indian River No. 27	Change in venue installation	Denied	No seal, no longer required, improper form
03/30/2021	Jacksonville No. 12	Reschedule meeting	Denied	Insufficient notice to Craft

## FINANCES

Grand Chapter was able to stay within the proposed budget (\$50,685.25) actual expenditures (as of March 31) \$37,273.75.

Warrant	Date	Reason	Amount
2020-01	06/01/2020	Office expenditures	\$4,766.73
2020-02	06/03/2020	Per Capita	\$8,889.00
2020-03	06/05/2020	MEGHP Apron	\$546.25
2020-04	07/24/2020	RARA / Awards	\$312.21
2020-05	08/19/2020	Office expenditures	\$6,278.75
2020-06	09/21/2020	MEGHP first ½ stipend	\$1,500.00
2020-07	10/09/2020	Incoming MEGHP Apron	\$543.00
2020-08	10/14/2020	Insurance	\$193.34
2020-09	11/12/2020	Office expenditures	\$6,278.75
2020-10	12/04/2020	MEGHP jewel repair	\$390.60
2020-11	01/08/2021	MMS	\$366.72
2020-12	02/01/2021	FL corporation tax	\$61.25
2020-13	02/05/2021	Office expenditures	\$6,278.75
2020-14	03/24/2021	Insurance	\$490.00
2020-15	03/26/2021	Gold key awards	\$378.40
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$37,273.75</b>

## THEME

My theme this year was communication. The goal was to foster reaching out to each other and from all accounts this seems to have worked. Companions from around the state have been able to check in with each other using various formats and it is hoped that the friendships formed will continue to strengthen.

## GRAND REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

State/Country	Name
Brazil	Ed Mayfield
Hawaii	Ben Gaillard
Illinois	Chuck Bailey
Massachusetts	Scott Schwartzberg
Missouri	Larry Gillespie
Nova Scotia	Jeffrey Lawrence
Venezuela	Dana Oldenburg

## **TRAVEL**

### Chapters

06/01/2020 Plant City No. 16  
10/05/2020 Tampa Cushing No. 03  
10/28/2020 Sarasota No. 35  
03/09/2021 Lakeland No. 29

### District Festivals

07/18/2020 Gainesville  
08/29/2020 St. Petersburg  
10/03/2020 Ft. Pierce  
10/31/2020 Sarasota  
11/06/2020 Crestview  
03/06/2021 Tampa

### Table Chapters

08/18/2020 Gainesville  
02/13/2021 Sarasota

### Installations

01/06/2021 Eustis Chapter No. 33  
01/07/2021 Sarasota Chapter No. 35  
01/08/2021 St. Petersburg Chapter No. 31

## **IN CONCLUSION**

Overall, the Grand Chapter has fared well during the pandemic. Companions were able to start meeting and festivals started back up. It was an honor to serve the Craft during the past year. The Craft have shown that Our Tenets and Principles are alive and well not only in the Chapter but outside it as well.

Thank you to MEPGHP Wermann for appointing me to the line and for believing in me. Thank you to all the Companions, Officers and friends that have made this year a success.

Fair winds and God speed to the incoming Grand Chapter Officers, may you have a profitable and successful year. May we be able to meet and life return to normal.

God Bless all of you, Florida Masonry and God Bless the United States of America.

Zealously and Fraternally submitted,

Arthur J. Ahrens, III

Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Florida