



Knightly News

The Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America
PMB 234, 4094 Majestic Lane, Fairfax Virginia, USA 22033-2104

Fall 2007
Volume 10 Number 2

Headlines

- ANNUAL MEETING At New Location- February 8, 2008
- MAKE ANNUAL MEETING Meal Reservations NOW!
- NJ Council 10 Honors Grand Master of Masons
- Passing of M.E. Past Great Chief George D. Stevens

From the Great Chief

It is my great pleasure to extend greetings to all the Cousins of Knight Masonry. The holiday season is upon us and it is hard to believe that another year is almost complete. Very soon Knight Mason Councils will be electing officers for the upcoming year and making plans to embark upon new goals and certainly continuing the pursuit of excellence in keeping our councils at a level of distinction within the Masonic Fraternity.

In contemplating activities for the coming year I hope each member of each council will resolve to solicit brethren with the explanation of... increasing Masonic Light and Knowledge through the rendition of degrees that add to the foundation of our craft.

To exemplify our ritual in a manner that instructs and informs should be the goal of any ritualist as preparation is made during the memorization process and rehearsal of our degrees. We must never forget that the manner in which we present our ritual can and will leave a lasting impression on the candidate.

During the past several months, it has been my pleasure to visit councils in North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. I have witnessed degree work in each state and I have been favorably impressed. The cousins have done excellent work with the candidates, and

members, learning something new during the conferral of the work. I thank the members for their fine work and I know members, and newly knighted cousins, will return and want to participate as a result of the excellent presentations.

It has been stated, "our ritual is the only thing that separates our fraternity from other fraternal organizations." This subject could be addressed more fully and probably will for generations to come. The members who volunteer to spend their time to learn a ritualistic part are not professionals and may deliver their interpretation differently from one sitting in the audience. However, as I have read somewhere in my Masonic studies, "ritualistic work seems to point to the conclusion that inflexible adherence to ritual alone will not make a Mason any more than attending college lectures will make an educated man, but it is the foundation and beginning point of a Masonic education."

"The beginning point of a Masonic education." In any Masonically affiliated body, the ritual is the beginning of the educational process that will hold the attention and keep that brother interested in the fraternity. Isn't it great to know that as ritualists we are instructors, conveyors if you will, of material that could lead to the decision one would make to continue, or discontinue, his association



ME G. Kent Elkins
Great Chief

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with this great fraternity? It is an awesome responsibility!

Again, I want to thank all those cousins who participate in the work and make it possible to gain further light. You are needed. You are appreciated.

I hope that the spirit of the holiday season will remain with you throughout the New Year. May you and your families have the best of health and happiness as we continue to celebrate the great gift of life.

Fraternally yours,

G. Kent Elkins
Most Excellent Great Chief

New Jersey Council No. 10 Meeting—Sir Kt. David Sheihan

On Tuesday night, September 25th, 2007, Knight Masons Council #10 met in the Celtic Green room of Snuffy's Pan-tagis Restaurant owned by Brother, Frater and Cousin Nick Pantagis in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

Brethren began to trickle in around 5 pm for cocktails, and by 7 pm Knight Masons could be seen rounding the Salad Bar. The first floor dining room (The Rose Room) is where the head table and all Cousins were seated with the Junior Past Excellent Chief of NNJ Council #10, Most Worshipful John S. Ryan alongside his lovely lady Mary Jane, ME Thurman C. Pace Jr (Past ME Chief of Knight Masons USA), Past Excellent Chief Mel Melendez, our own Excellent Chief Robert Maynard and distinguished guests. Under the stained glass cathedral ceilings, some 100 Knight Masons dined in elegance with Masonic conversations abounding. After dinner, the members proceeded to vest themselves and enter the lodge room prepared the night before by our Excellent Chief, complete



M.W. John S. Ryan and Mary Jane, Ex Rob Maynard and M.E. Thurman C. Pace Jr at the September meeting of Northern NJ Council

with draperies, candelabras, a green veil, altar and more. The candidates waited in the outer chamber until after the Council was open. They were initiated in full, dramatic form into the Knight of the East & West degree.

After attending to the usual business, the new Knight Masons returned with their Cousins to the Dining Room for dessert and coffee while Lady Mary Jane delivered her

professional PowerPoint presentation on the historic Trenton Masonic Temple and the Charitable Trust she is managing to restore and preserve it. After taking many questions and inquiries on how much funding is needed, the progress made and how to help, Sir Knight Robert Maynard presented Mary Jane with an honorarium check on behalf of Council # 10 of Knight Masons to be used in the preservation of Trenton Masonic Temple. It was then announced that on November 15th, 2007, Captain of the Guards Sir Kt. David Sheihan Hunter Lindez would be deliv-

ering a presentation on the Knight Mason degrees (known historically as the Red Cross degrees of Ireland) and their historic and esoteric connection to the degrees of the Holy Royal Arch. All in attendance will be served traditional Irish Coffee for the occasion. Members were again encouraged to bring their wives for the dinner. The Council was closed by order of the Excellent Chief with a prayer by the Chaplain Sir Kt. Chuck Secallus.

Scribes Take Notice

The IRS has issued instructions that require all Councils to file an "E-Postcard 990" report each year. This report must be filed on-line, with the initial filing made by May 15, 2008. The form is to be available after January 1, 2008.

Some Councils have already filed the Annual Report for 2007. Forms are available for download at briefcase.yahoo.com/gc_km_usa and in the Forms area of the KtMasons Yahoo Group. Also, Forms have been mailed to all those councils for which the Scribe has no email address.

The Great Chief has issued two Edicts that affect the reports by the coun-

cils. Edict 2000-1 grants permission to all councils to make the one-time \$10 per member payment over a period of three years. Payments will be made annually with the Annual Reports due on January 31, 2008, 2009, and 2010. Each payment will be a multiple of \$10, and be at least one-third of the total amount due.

Edict 2000-2 changes the date a member is transferred to a new council. The former method made both councils liable for the one time fee due for all members on December 31, 2007. Transfers of members to newly formed councils will be recorded as of the date of institution of the new council or such later date

before the end of the year that the member requests a transfer. Thus, only the new council will be liable for the fee.

A Yahoo Group - *KtMasons* - has been established to simplify communication to the Councils. An invitation was sent by email to every Scribe, Grand Officer, and Committee member. This is not intended as a discussion group but rather a means for the Grand Scribe to send information to all these members with a single message. There is discussion about Knight Masons on another Yahoo Group - *KnightMasons* - established by a member of Northern New Jersey Council No. 10.

Grand Scribe's Comments

Since the early 1930's Masons have assembled in the Hotel Washington in Washington, DC for a week of meetings and fraternity. This year there is a change. The Hotel Washington is no longer available, and arrangements have been made to meet at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel during the period February 6-8, 2008. This hotel has 480 rooms and provides shuttle service to Reagan-National Airport. Parking is only \$9 per day and the room rate of \$135 is the same as we paid this year.

The Hotel is located on I-395 at Exit 4 and is about 3 miles from the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. There is free shuttle service to the Metro Station at the foot of Shooters' Hill for those who want to take the subway into the District.

Note that unlike previous years, **tickets for all meals must be purchased in advance.** Details of the schedule and reservation information are provided on Page 4. You can make reservations on line at the listed URL.

Masonic Week is a great opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. The Hospitality Rooms are sponsored by a variety of groups meeting during the event to enable the attendees to do just that - Make New Friends!

The Grand Council of Knight Masons sponsors one of the Hospitality Suites. The Grand Scribe will have an assortment of jewelry and publications for sale, and food and beverages will be available. Be sure to check the bulletin board and come in to see us.

Tradition prevents Councils from being named for living persons. Consequently, when a petition was received for James M. Willson Council in Stamford, Texas the General Purposes Committee felt that a different name should be selected. Sir Kt. Angus Crowder, the organizer of the Council pointed out that, while J.M.

"Jimmy" Willson, Jr. is a well known Texas Mason, the late James M. Willson was also prominent in the craft. The council name does not have the "Jr." and is named for "Jimmy" Willson's father. Thus it was that James M. "Jimmy" Willson, Jr. served as Acting Great Chief to institute a council named for his father.

As noted in the adjoining column, Knight Masonry, and Masonry have lost some outstanding leaders and workers. It has been my pleasure to know and work with these Masons for many years.

Kingfish Stevens was a legend in his time. I first met him when he visited my lodge as Squire Bentley in "A Rose on the Altar." Later, I was traveling on business and found there was the time and opportunity to visit a Lodge in Tucson, Arizona. When I showed my Virginia dues card to the examining committee their first question was, "Do you know "Kingfish" Stevens?" On my affirmative reply, I was welcomed as a Brother. He took pride in being able to confer all the degrees of the York Rite. Dozens of brothers owe their proficiency in Craft, Capitular, and Chivalric ritual, protocol, and practices to profitable training sessions spent with him. For many years he has been the spark plug in the Annual Multi-jurisdictional conferral of the Royal Arch degrees involving Virginia, DC, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Dick Watkins was Grand High Priest as well as Secretary/Scribe/Recorder for everything in New Mexico. Keith Dean was a Past Grand Master and PIGM in Florida who stepped forward to take the Scribe's job on short notice. Paul Purdy was a Past Grand Commander and Grand Instructor General who was the guiding light in the formation of Ft. Andrew Lewis Council in Southwest Virginia.

They have left a void in their passing. We have lost some true Masons.

DLJ

IN MEMORIAM

M.E. George Derrick "Kingfish" Stevens
1914-2007
M.E. Great Chief—1989



*"What it must be to step on shore
and find it Heaven"*
George Stevens — 1983

IN MEMORIAM

Dickerson R. Watkins
Scribe, Enchantment Council 21

Keith W. Dean
Scribe, Mystic Brotherhood Council 35

Paul L. Purdy
Scribe, Ft. Andrew Lewis Council 81

Annual Meeting Information

Masonic Week — February 6 – 9, 2008

www.yorkrite.org/MasonicWeek/index.html

**Hilton, Alexandria
Mark Center
5000 Seminary Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22311**

**Reservations:
1-800-HILTONS**

**All Meals Must be Reserved!
Contact: Paul Newhall
pnewhall@rcn.com**

FRIDAY LADIES COFFEE

At 9:00 AM on Friday, Feb. 8, 2008, the Ladies are invited to meet for Coffee in the Capitol View overlooking Washington D.C. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere. Ladies who are interested in attending Friday Night's Entertainment Gathering are to contact Brenda Watson at: ohioeomom@aol.com

THURSDAY, Feb. 7, 2008

- 8:00 AM Trinity Chapel No. 12, St. Thomas of Acon
- 10:00 AM Marvin E. Fowler Commandery No. 7
- 10:00 AM Grand Preceptors Council, St. Thomas of Acon
- 12:30 PM Festive Board, Trinity Chapel, St. Thomas of Acon
- 2:00 PM Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis
- World Conference of Supreme Magi
- 4:30 PM Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor
- 7:00 PM The Annual Banquet of the High Council MSRICF
- All Welcome (including Ladies)

FRIDAY, Feb. 8, 2008

- 7:00 AM Convent General – KYCH Breakfast
- All Welcome (including Ladies)
- 8:30 AM Grand Council Knight Masons, USA**
- Great Chief's Council No. 0**
- 11:00 AM Society of Blue Friars
- (All Masons Welcome)
- 1:30 PM Grand College of America HRAKTP
- 3:30 PM Installed Sovereign Master AMD
- 5:00 PM Knights Bienfaisants De La Cite Sainte (CBCS)
- 6:00 PM Royal Society of Knights Occidental
- All Masons are Welcome!
- 9:00 PM "The Elevator Degree"
- 10:00 PM Masonic Order of the Bath

SATURDAY, February 9, 2008

- 7:00 AM AMD Breakfast
- All Welcome (including Ladies)
- 8:30 AM Grand College of Rites of the USA
- 10:00 AM Nine Muses Council No. 13 (All Masons Welcome)
- 11:00 AM Grand Master's Council AMD
- 2:00 PM Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA
- 6:00 PM Grand Council AMD Annual Banquet
- All Welcome (including Ladies)
- 9:00 PM Ye Antient Order of Corks

First Class Mail

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The Grand Council of Knight Masons in the USA
Douglas L. Jordan, Grand Scribe
PMB 234
4094 Majestic Lane
Fairfax, VA 22033-2104
United States of America

