



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 2009
Volume 13 Number 2

Headlines

- ANNUAL MEETING at Hyatt-Alexandria- February 12, 2010
- MAKE ANNUAL MEETING Meal Reservations NOW!
- Grand Council Continues Growth
- Barrows Council Instituted in Louisiana

From the Deputy Great Chief

Congratulations to all those Councils who have been able to increase their membership by introducing our Royal Arch Companions to the Green Degrees. Our Degrees are important. They fulfill, what is unfortunately incomplete, a quiet message within the Royal Arch Degree which is only partially explained in the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross.

The late R.:W.: Harold van Buren Voorhis, whom I knew only fleetingly prior to his passing, is said to have remarked that the illustrious Order of the Red Cross does not really belong to the Chivalric Orders as conferred in our Commanderies. I say this as a proud Royal Arch Companion and Knight Templar and do not wish to demean these Bodies. Our Degrees as Knight Masons complement the Holy Royal Arch and are more completely understood when taken together. One, in fact, fulfills the nature of the other in the story and message that they are meant to convey.

Obviously, only Royal Arch Masons are invited to join our Councils; unfortunately, there are too many Royal Arch Companions who are not aware that we even exist. It is my hope that the Red Lodge shall now become aware that the Green Lodge exists and can assist in the growth of our Masonic Bodies.

To give some idea of the tenuous nature of the Knight Masons of the



RE Edward P. Fagan
Deputy Great Chief

U.S.A., is to make you aware, my fellow Knights, of the fact that one Grand Lodge in America, was unaware of our nature as a recognized Masonic Body (This unfortunate situation has since been addressed through the good Offices of our Grand Scribe)

One of our Chief goals of 2010-2011, if elected, is to make Freemasonry aware of our existence. We are, formally or informally, the leaders of the Craft. We must now be known as such. My year as Great Chief will be dedicated to the understanding of the Green Lodge and our ever-increasing leadership of Masonry in the United States. I have received several invitations from Councils, and will make myself available as much as possible.

From the Grand Scribe

This year has been a mixed one for the Grand Council. We were forced to close an inactive council. This was unfortunate, but necessary. On a brighter note, since our last newsletter, three new councils have been instituted.

Ex. John G. Neason, a Past Chief of Worth's Shamrock Council led the formation of Mike Donegan Council No. 102 UD in Wichita Falls, Texas. Ex. George Schwartau served as Acting Great Chief on August 8 for the institution and Charles W. Veal, Sr. was installed as the Charter Excellent Chief.

The Great Chief personally instituted Harvey I. Mize Council No. 101 UD in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on June 6, 2009. This council pays tribute to an outstanding Arkansas Mason who also served as Excellent Chief of Great Chief's Council No. 0. Ex. Royce H. Taylor, the York Rite Grand Secretary/Recorder, was the guiding light in the formation of this new council and serves as its Charter Excellent Chief.

On January 16 in Alexandria, Louisiana the Great Chief and M.E. Van Evans, will institute Burgess Council No. 103 UD with Ex. John Belanger as Excellent Chief. Ex. Belanger is currently serving as Most Illustrious Grand Master. He, William J. Mollere and Lloyd A. Hebert journeyed the long road to gaining permission for a Knight Masons Council in Louisiana. All are well known in Masonry for their work both in Louisiana and nationally.

The addition of a Council in Louisiana means that Councils now exist in 40 of the 50 states. I also have received inquiries from groups in New Jersey, Indiana, and the Florida Panhandle on how to start a Council.

HISTORICAL - KNIGHT MASONS (OF IRELAND)

by RT. Ex. Harold V. B. Voorhis, Pro. G. Supt., U.S.A.

There has been interest in the question of how Knight Masons came into existence. The first Great Chief of the USA compiled the following history from Irish sources.

It has been established (by Philip Crossle) that in 1744 the ceremony connected with the Royal Arch belonged to the "Part of Master," the then Master Mason. However, a duplicate set of officers was required to explain it because both the "J" or Josiah and "Z" or Zerubbabel legends were included in the ceremony.

There are a number of old seals and certificates extant (see 1923 Transactions of Ireland's Lodge of Research, No. 200) which show that both the "J" and "Z" legends were worked in different parts of Ireland - North and South. The "J" legend dealt with "Red Masonry" and the "Z" legend with "Green Masonry." In the minute book of Lodge No. 557, Benburb, County Tyrone there is a record of a "Green" certificate issued in 1784 and there is an apron extant (owned by James D. Mitchell of Birr) known to be over 170 years old, having on one side red with the emblems of the Royal Arch, and the reverse side green with the emblems of Knight Masonry.

About 1790 (possibly earlier), "Green Masonry" became separated from the Royal Arch and was known as "Red Cross Masonry," but by 1810 in some manner not very clear now, the name was changed to "Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East and Knight of the East and West" Also, as time went on, the conferring of these three degrees became the exclusive privilege of the Order of Knights Templar, some of the oldest Warrants of the Preceptories (known as Commanderies in the U.S.A.) covered the conferring of these degrees. They were not very generally conferred because they had nothing in common with the Templar Orders. It was the gradual dying of the Brethren who were sufficiently versed in Knight Masonry to confer the degrees that

first caused alarm early in this century. Candidates for them had to travel far afield to procure them. It was visualized that they would eventually die out unless a means to prevent it was taken.

The first move was to contact those Preceptories whose warrants included these degrees. Some of them were loath to part with their rights. Eventually the subject was taken up with the Great Priory of Ireland. After some time that Body obtained consent of its Preceptories to hand over the conferring of the degrees to the suggested new Body, which we now know as the Grand Council of Knight Masons.

The *Modus Operandi* of this relinquishing of rights from one Grand Body to another eventual Grand Body, is unique and pertinent to our existence.

In 1922, at a joint meeting of The Great Priory and the Knights Templar members who desired to form the new Body was held. A motion by Gerald Black, G.C.T., was passed "that pursuant to report of Committee, all rights and privileges touching the Red Cross Degrees, which are at present vested in the Great Priory be transferred to a Grand Council for these degrees." Under the old Priory Constitutions these degrees were still being referred to as "Red Cross Degrees."

The Great Priory then resolved that the "Grand Council do consist of the following:" Here is recorded the names of four Grand Commanders of the Temple, five Knight Commanders of the Temple, and fourteen Past Preceptors - twenty-three in all. The Great Priory then advised all Preceptories of the change.

The new Grand Council met for its first meeting on June 18, 1923 when it notified the Great Priory that it was then in a position to take over and exercise the rights and privileges with which it was invested. The first President of the Grand Council was

Gerald Black, who received the Degrees on January 9, 1901 in Commercial Priory, No. 245, possibly by Gerald Byrne who probably was the last person to confer these degrees in Dublin. It is known that but three Preceptories-Commercial (Dublin), Sharavogue, (Birr) and Shaftesbury (Belfast) were conferring the "Red Cross Degrees" at the turn of the century.

Committees were appointed to draw up Laws and Constitutions, and to collate the various forms of the Ancient Irish Ritual.

Thus we have a Grand Council of Knight Masons, for all intents and purposes, appointed by the Great Priory of Ireland.

On April 9, 1924, the Most Excellent Great Chief Gerald Black, granted two Warrants:

Great Chief's Council
Sharavogue Council, No. 1

In December 1924, the following Warrants were granted:

Shaftesbury Council, No. 2
Lurgan Council, No. 3

And in September, 1925 a Warrant was issued to the first council outside of Ireland - in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. It had the number 5, and is now dormant as are the two others (numbers 9 and 18) out of 73 Councils warranted up to and including Dec. 31, 1965, with more than 3500 members of which 20% are in the U.S.A.

Note: -- The Legend of these degrees is similar to our Red Cross Degrees in our Commanderies and they, as in Ireland, should long ago have been removed from the Orders of Templary, being non-Christian.

— In Memoriam —

M. E. HENRY G. LAW

SEPTEMBER 3, 1940 – SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

MOST EXCELLENT GREAT CHIEF – 1987



M.E. Henry George Law was a distinguished Mason from Delaware where he was the Charter Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Delaware and also served as presiding Grand Officer of all of the other York Rite Bodies. He also was active in the Scottish Rite and was coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary by the AASR-NJ. He was a respected leader in many organizations within the state as well as on the national level.

Most Excellent Law was a Charter Member of Delaware Council No. 18 and served as Excellent Chief in the year 1976. He entered the Grand Council line as Grand Sentinel in 1979 and served as Great Chief of Knight Masons in the year 1987. At the time of his passing he was the senior Past Great Chief.

He is survived by his wife Pat, a daughter Kathy Daly and a son, George.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

The Constitution Committee plans to present two resolutions during the Annual Meeting. These are intended to clarify some points in the Statutes. The following is a preliminary version. A slightly different wording may be presented during the meeting. Changes are in bold.

BE IT RESOLVED that Section X of the Statutes of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America be revised as follows:(New language in **bold**)

“Seven Sir Knights may petition the Grand Council or the M.E. Great Chief for a Dispensation to form a new Council. The Grand Council or the M.E. Great Chief shall report all dispensations to the Committee on Charters, who shall make a report on same to the Grand Council at the next Annual Meeting. There shall be no jurisdictional limits within a State, and a Council may not **extend an invitation to, or accept an application from, anyone in another State where there is a Council except by waiver of jurisdiction from the Council located closest to the applicant’s place of residence.** A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany an application for a new Council.”

REASON: The current language, as written, could be construed as requiring every Council in the applicant’s State of residence to consent to a waiver of jurisdiction. This is unwieldy and constitutes an unreasonable restraint on such applicant’s seeking to affiliate with Councils in other jurisdictions. The foregoing language is consistent with the practice of most Grand Lodges when confronting similar circumstances and offers much needed clarification to this issue.

BE IT RESOLVED that Paragraph 2 of Section XIX of the Statutes of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America, Be amended to read as follows:

“When new members are greeted, the Scribe shall send to the Grand Scribe, on forms provided, the names of the new members, **together with the following fees:**

(a) Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) for each member initiated, Ten Dollars (\$10.00) of which shall be designated as and shall constitute a Grand Council life membership fee, and which shall be deposited into the Grand Council Life Membership Fund as more fully provided for in Article XIV of these Statutes;

(b) Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each dual affiliation; and

(c) Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for each member restored to membership for whom no fee has been previously paid. No fee shall be paid on transferring members who are demitting from membership in their former Council, nor shall any fee be paid on those restored members on whom the Ten Dollar (\$10.00) fee has been previously paid.

For each member for whom the fee is paid, the Grand Council shall thereafter remit the annual per capita tax of fifty cents (\$0.50).”

REASON: The current Statute requires clarification to provide that a portion of the initiation fee constitutes a life membership fee; that the fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) is to be paid only on those Sir Knights seeking dual membership and not on those who are transferring their membership; and that the fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for restorations only applies to those restored Sir Knights on whom no fee has been previously paid. Additionally, reference to the change in the law formerly set forth in the existing version of this Statute is obsolete and has been deleted.

Masonic Week — February 10-13 2010

Hotel Reservations
 Hilton, Alexandria Mark Center
 5000 Seminary Rd.
 Alexandria, VA 22311
 1-800-HILTONS

Meal Reservations:

Contact: Paul Newhall
pnewhall@cox.net

**All Meals MUST be Reserved by February 1
 Tickets WILL NOT be Available at the hotel**

THURSDAY, Feb. 11, 2010

- 8:00 AM - Grand Preceptors Council - St. Thomas of Acon
 Trinity Chapel No. 12, St. Thomas of Acon
- 10:00 AM - Marvin E. Fowler Commandery No. 7
- 12:30 PM - Festive Board - Trinity Chapel
 - Ladies Luncheon
- 2:00 PM - The High Council, SRICF (VII° and IX° at 1:30)
 4:00 PM - "The Scarlet Cord" 1st Grade
 Open to AMD Members Only!
 Money raised will be used for Charity
- 6:00 PM - The Annual Banquet of the High Council SRICF
 All Welcome (Including Ladies) (Terrace Room)
 Guest Speaker: R.W. S. Brent Morris
- 8:30 PM - "The Scarlet Cord" 2nd Grade
 Open to 1st Grade Members Only!

FRIDAY, February 12, 2010

- 7:00 AM - Convent General KYCH Breakfast
 All Welcome (including Ladies)
- 8:30 AM - Grand Council Knight Masons, USA
 Great Chief's Council "O"**
- 9:00 AM—Ladies Coffee
- 11:00 AM - Society of Blue Friars, (All Masons Welcome)
- 12:00 Noon - Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 PM - Grand College of America HRAKTP
 Grand Preceptor's Tabernacle "A"

- 3:30 PM - Ceremonies of Installation – ISM, ISR, ICN
- 6:00 PM - Royal Society of Knights Occidental
 All Masons are Welcome!
- 6:00 PM - The Masonic Society Dinner
 All Masons and Ladies are Welcome!
- 8:30 PM - Ye Antiente Order of Corks
- 10:00 PM - Masonic Order of the Bath

SATURDAY, February 13, 2010

- 7:00 AM - AMD Breakfast
 Sponsored by The AASR for the NMJ & SMJ
 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
- 12:00 Noon - Scottish Rite Research Society Luncheon
 (All Masons Welcome)
- 2:30 PM - Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees
- 6:00 PM - Grand Council AMD Annual Banquet
 All Welcome (including Ladies)
- 8:30 PM - Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor

Note: FRIDAY LADIES COFFEE

At 9:00 AM on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010, 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.

First Class Mail

Knighly News

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