



# Knightly News

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

Spring-2009  
Volume 13 Number 1

## Headlines

- ME DENNIS M. ZIER INSTALLED AS GREAT CHIEF
- FIVE NEW COUNCILS CHARTERED
- TWO COUNCILS INSTITUTED

## Annual Meeting Report

Ex. Blaine H. Simons, Excellent Chief of Great Chief's Council called the Sir Knights to be upstanding as the Grand Council Officers entered into the meeting in the Magnolia Room of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center at 8:30 a.m. on February 13, 2009. At the request of M.E. Donald B. Street, Ex. Simons then opened the Annual Meeting of Great Chief's Council No. 0. Applications were accepted from nine candidates who were then obligated and instructed. Our new members were welcomed by the Excellent Chief.

The Past Excellent Chiefs of Great Chief's Council were welcomed and given honors appropriate to their office.

The Scribe reported that Great Chief's Council had installed eight members during 2008 but had lost three to death and had transferred one to a new council leaving a membership of 121 as of the end of the year. Richard Saville Sagar is the most senior member. He was knighted in 1951 in Scotland and later affiliated with Great Chief's Council. He was the charter Excellent Chief of Carl F. Lester, Jr. Council No. 65 in 1998.

The work of the Council being completed, the Excellent Chief returned the Signet to the Great Chief who closed the Council in ample form and declared the Grand

Council at labor. The Great Chief thanked Ex. Simons for his service and presented him with a Past Chief's certificate and jewel.

The Great Chief introduced and welcomed the Past Great Chiefs who were present and had them saluted with appropriate honors.

Charters were granted to five new councils: Green Degrees Council No. 93 in Des Moines, IA. SemperFi Council No. 95 at Belleview/Inverness, Florida, W.W. Cannon Council No. 96, at Johnson City, Tennessee, Frank G. McDonald Council No. 97, at Hillsboro, Texas, Irish Sea Council No. 98, at Albion, Illinois, and Piedmont Celtic Council No. 99, at Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Dispensations for Rock of Cashel Council No. 100, at Front Royal, Virginia and Harvey I. Mize Council No. 101 at Pine Bluff, Arkansas were continued until the next Annual Meeting. There are now 99 Councils chartered or under dispensation.

The honorary title of Past Grand Senior Knight was conferred on Sir Knight James Hay of Shamrock, Thistle and Rose Council in recognition of his 23 years service as Scribe in addition to his many other activities in Freemasonry.

The Grand Scribe reported that during the year we knighted 417 new

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**ME Dennis N. Zier**  
**Great Chief – 2009**

## Grand Officers-2009

Dennis N. Zier .....Great Chief  
Edward P. Fagan, Jr. Dep. Great Chief  
Kevin B. Sample..... Grand Sr Knight  
C. Michael Watson..... Grand Jr Knight  
Douglas L. Jordan ..... Grand Scribe  
Charles W. Wagner ...Grand Treasurer  
Edwin R. Carpenter .... Grand Trs. Em.  
Kenneth B. Fischer ..Grand Sr Warden  
David L. Hargett, Jr ..Grand Jr Warden  
Matthew D. Dupee. ....Grand Dir of C.  
Andre E. Lovas..... Grand Priest  
D. Allen Surratt ..... Grand Steward  
William R. Miller ..... Grand Sentinel  
Chris M. Jessen..... Grand Musician  
Robert E. Burluson .....Excellent Chief

## V.E. William R. Miller — Grand Sentinel

William R. Miller is a second generation native of Seattle, his mother's family having moved to the area from Boise in 1911. Bill was born November 2, 1935. Following graduation from Iowa State University in Ames, IA in 1962 he resumed employment with The Boeing Company in Seattle. He retired as Facilities Resource Manager for the Renton Division of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Co., in July 1994 after a nearly thirty-eight year career.

He married high school sweetheart Maralyn Edwards in Knoxville, TN on October 12, 1957. They have a son and daughter and 4 grandsons.

The family helped found Marine View Methodist Church, which Bill served as Sunday School Superintendent. They are now affiliated with Marine View Presbyterian Church.

Bill was a member of the Federal Way School Board from 1975 to 1986, serving as president in 1977, 1981 and 1983. School Board peers honored Federal Way as School Board of the Year in 1980.

M.W. Brother Miller is a Senior DeMolay who began his Masonic career in Queen Anne Lodge No. 242 in Seattle, where he was enrolled on March 12, 1959. In 1960 he demitted to Pyramid Lodge UD (now Thornton F. McElroy Lodge No. 302 ) where he



was appointed Chaplain in 1960 and progressed through the chairs to Worshipful Master in 1966.

He is a Past Commander of Rainier Commandery No. 28 and currently King of Tacoma Chapter No. 4. He is also a member of Anchorage Chapter No. 3, Royal Arch Masons; Tacoma Council No. 1 and Anchorage Council No. 1, Royal and Select Masters; Ivanhoe Commandery No. 4 and Anchorage Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar, and .

He joined the Tacoma Scottish Rite Bodies in 1966 where he has served as Venerable Master, Wise Master,

Commander and Venerable Master of Kadosh of the Tacoma Consistory. He was elected a Knight Commander Court of Honor in 1973 and Coroneted a Thirty-third Degree Inspector General Honorary, in 1985. In 1990 he was appointed Personal Representative to the S.G.I.G. for the Orient of Washington. He was appointed Deputy of the Supreme Council January 1, 1993 and elected and crowned Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of Washington in October 1993.

Bill was a member of the seven-member committee that wrote the *Standard Floorwork Guidelines for the Grand Lodge of Washington* in 1971-73, and was the principal author of the *Proficiency in Lodge Management Test* approved by Grand Lodge in 1975. He was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1986 and progressed successively through the elected line until being installed into the Grand East on June 22, 1989.

V.E. Miller was Knighted in Great Chief's Council 0 in 1989 and was the Charter Senior Knight of Clontarf Council 69 in 1998. He was appointed as Grand Sentinel by M.E. Dennis Zier during the Annual Meeting on February 13, 2009

## Persia Council of Research No 8

The Grand Council of Knight Masons (Ireland) has established a Knight Masons' Council of Research. Persia Council of Knight Masons No. 8 was originally constituted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1926. In January 2008 it was re-dedicated as Persia Council of Research No. 8. The Council will hold three stated meetings each year, one in January in Dublin for the Installation of Officers, and the other two at any location within Ireland (at the specific invitation of a subsidiary Council of Knight Masons) when a paper will be presented. These pa-

pers will be collated and together published in book form at regular intervals. This Council of Research will be intended to be an association of Knight Masons to research, study, present and publish papers on the history, symbolism and antiquities of Knight Masonry, from its inception before 1725, through the formation of the Grand Council of Knight Masons in 1923, to the present day. Research will include the early working of the Higher Degrees within the Craft Lodges of Ireland, within the Higher Orders in Scotland and within

other bodies connected with the practices, preservation and development of the Irish Knight Masonry.

Membership of the Persia Council of Research is open to all Sir Knights in Good Standing who are members of Knight Masons councils of the Grand Council of Knight Masons or of a comparable branch of any constitution recognized by the Grand Council of Knight Masons. *i.e.*: the Grand Council in the USA and the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

## Rock of Cashel Council No. 100 Instituted



Front Row: Raymond Steele, Joel Ratliff, Dr. F.J. Pepper, Douglas Jordan, Jeffrey Burcham, Dr. James Feeley, III, Charles Wagner. Back Row: Xerxes Herrington, David Carter, Larry Adams, Wayne Price, Roger Duncan

On February 21, 2009 an occasional meeting of the Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by M.E. Douglas Jordan, Grand Scribe and Acting Great Chief for the purpose of instituting The Rock of Cashel Council 100UD in Front Royal, Virginia.

David B. Carter and Xerxes Herrington were created Knight Masons and presented their Member jewels and pins by the Acting Great Chief with help from Grand Treasurer and Acting Grand Director of Ceremonies Charles W. Wagner. The

Council was then instituted in form and Sir Kt Jeffrey G. Burcham, a Past Excellent Chief of Virginia Council 12, was installed as the First Excellent Chief.

Ex. Sir Kt. Burcham, who is serving as the Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Virginia, presented both Sir Kts. Jordan and Wagner with the Grand Commander's York Rite Service Award to be worn on their Commandery uniforms in recognition of their excellent work with the institution and in the York Rite. He also noted that three Past Grand High Priests of Virginia; himself, M.E. Jordan, and M.E. Wagner, were involved in the proceedings.

Sir Kt. James Feeley, III presented the Council with a beautiful model of the Rock of Cashel which was proudly displayed on the Treasurer's desk throughout the ceremonies.

A motion was offered to make Sir Knights Jordan and Wagner honorary members of the Rock of Cashel, and the membership elected them into the Council. The council was then closed in form.

## Grand Scribe's Comments

I thank the many Scribes who submitted timely Interim and Annual Reports during the past year. They make the work of the Grand Scribe much easier.

Several have asked about capitation and the \$10 one-time fee. Most Councils have paid the full amount due for their 2007 membership. For new members knighted since January 2008, the \$25 knighting fee includes the \$10 fee. Thus capitation is no longer paid on any members.

Since late reporting of losses has no effect on the Annual Assessment, I encourage Scribes to report and pay the \$25 fee for new members and the \$10 for affiliates immediately

after the member joins. If this is done, only the filing fee will be due with the Annual Report. Last year 63% of the new member reports were received during the October to January time period, although only 45% of the new members were knighted after October First. If these had been reported earlier, I would have more time to check my entries, and the Council would receive the membership certificates before their next meeting.

Taxes are always with us, and so it is necessary that each Council file a 990N with the IRS. Unfortunately, at the moment there is a problem getting the filing accepted. A mix-up with the IRS caused the Grand Coun-

cil Group to be dissolved for a brief period. I have been working since last December in trying to resolve the problem, and have recently received a letter of clearance for the GEN 3009 Group. Unfortunately, when the data was re-entered by the IRS, thirteen councils were omitted. The correct information has been provided to the IRS, but apparently it has not yet been entered. This causes the Form 990N to be rejected. Scribes should still file the 990N. If it is rejected with a F990-902 error nothing more can be done at this time.

### Irish Sea Council No. 98 Instituted

### Annual Meeting Report



Seated Herschel Thomas; 1st row: Ken Rogers, Robert Hardy, Guy Wilcox, V. Ray Landers, Dave Peacock; 2nd row: James Branch, Norman Trousdale, Ricky Barrall and Edward Oliver; Top Row: Glenn D. Volkert, Earl Knight and Lance Feazel.

A number of Knights have founded a new council, and a few have founded more than one, but not many have also instituted the council they founded. Sir Knight Herschel O. Thomas, Past Excellent Chief and Scribe of Shamrock Council 43 in Bellville, Illinois decided that distances were too great and in September 2008 requested dispensation for Irish Seal Council to be formed in Albion, Illinois. The dispensation was granted, but Great

Chief Donald B. Street was unable to get to western Illinois to perform the institution and Ex. Sir Knight Thomas was granted dispensation to serve as Acting Great Chief for the purpose of the Institution. The picture above shows the members of the new council with their Scribe, and Instituting Office. Ex Thomas joins a small group of Knights who act as the Scribe of two councils and an even smaller group of Knights who have instituted the council of which they are Scribe.

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members and had 193 deaths. The Grand Council had a net gain of 135 members during the year. Among the deaths was M.E. Willard F Bond of South Carolina. He was made a Past Great Chief, Honorary in 1999 when he declined election as Great Chief because of his health.

Donations were approved of \$500 to DeMolay International and \$2000 to the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria .

M.E. Dennis N. Zier, Past Chief of Paumanok Council No. 4 was elected to the office of Great Chief and the remaining line officers were advanced. Ex. William R Miller, Past Chief of Clontarf Council No. 69 was appointed to the office of Grand Sentinel and Robert Burleson was appointed as Chief of Great Chief's Council. The officers were installed by M.E. Thurman C. Pace, Jr. assisted by M.E. Edward H. Fowler, Jr as Installing Director of Ceremonies. The Grand Council was closed in ample form at 10:40 a.m.

### First Class Mail

*Knighly News*

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