

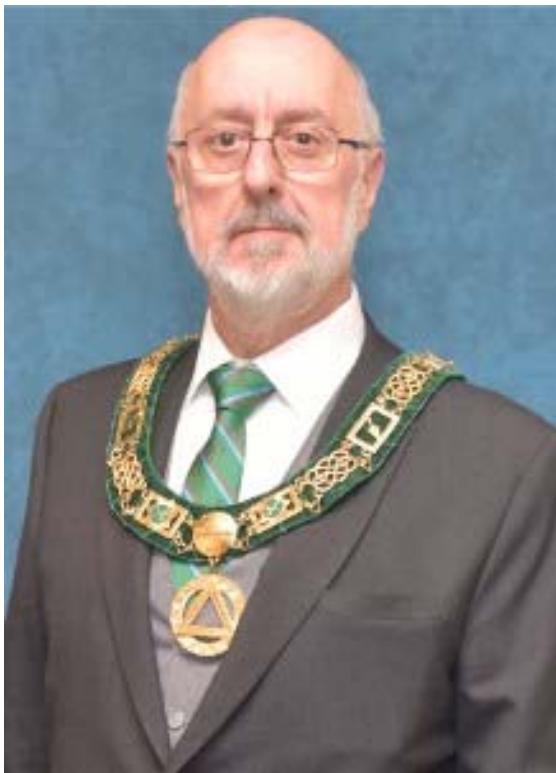


Knighly News



Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America
PO Box 594, Highlands, NC 28741
<http://www.knightmasons.org/>

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Volume 18, No. 1



MESK Joseph S. Crociata **Great Chief, 2019-2020**

The Second Temple

Cousins,

At the outset, let me express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve you as Most Excellent Great Chief for this year. It is both an honor and a responsibility, which I hope to discharge to your satisfaction and with your help. I congratulate the Most and Right Excellent officers of your Grand Council for their elections and appointments. And with that, it's time for us to get to work – and our work is what the Craft will need in this time of transition.

Notice I said “transition” rather than “decline.” Our current state is just one more instance of the cascade of transitions we have faced. In whatever Century you place its founding, Freemasonry has successively transformed its outward character from generation to generation, always mindful of the need to preserve its immutable, inner essence: the celebration of its spirit of enlightenment through ritual and fellowship.

Here in America, it has moved from the select (and rigorously private) fraternal corps of the revolutionary Colonies, through the more public reputation of the early 19th Century, followed by the decline of the Morgan era, and its resurgence in the Victorian world's “frenzy” of fraternity. The 20th Century began with the construction of great buildings, which ushered in an unprecedented transformation of the American Craft into a mass membership organization. And while we can argue about the reasons for its postmodern retrenchment, two things appear clear:

- (1) this is not the first time our fraternity has faced the need to adjust to significant change; and
- (2) freemasonry will meet the challenge and endure.

It seems clear that the early part of this Century will see us less as a massive army and more as an elite force. We will need to be more focused, energetic and waste no

brother's efforts in support of the fraternity. It is fitting that our invitational body of experienced Knight Masons play an important role in the critical work ahead: after all, are our degrees not focused on the *second* Temple? Knight Masons are the custodians of the work of replacing and renewing that which came before.

In future editions of the *Knightly News*, we will address the unique working tools that Knight Masonry provides to all Sir Knights and Cousins. For now, let us enjoy the first and most important of them: the fellowship of our experienced and invitational body.

GREAT CHIEF'S CHARITY 2019/20

The Great Chief's charity of this year is The Shriner's Hospitals for Children. The Grand Council has pledged \$1,250.00 to this worthy cause, which will be presented later in the year. Any Sir Knight wishing to add his charitable contribution (and to add his name to the Knight Masons presentation certificate) is invited to send the Grand Scribe a check in any amount made payable to "The Shriner's Hospitals for Children."

Yours in Knight Masonry,
Joseph S. Crociata,
M. E. Great Chief 2019/2020



2019 Grand Council Officers

MESK Joseph S. Crociata.....Great Chief
RESK Robert B. MaynardDeputy Great Chief
RESK J. David Cashion..... Grand Scribe
MESK Kevin B Sample Grand Treasurer
RESK Martin R. Trent Grand Senior Knight
RESK James R. Elliott..... Grand Junior Knight

VESK James E. WinzenreidGrand Senior Warden
 VESK Robert G. Officer..... Grand Junior Warden
 VESK Lloyd J. Leinbaugh..... Grand Director of Ceremonies
 VESK Russell E. Bridges Grand Priest
 VESK Bryce B. Hildreth Grand Steward
 VESK Jack M Harper Grand Sentinel
 VESK Chris M. Jessen, PGSK Grand Musician
 SK Dallas R. ShellEC, Great Chief's Council No. 0
 SK Nicholas J. Sampogna..... Special Assistant to the MEGC

2019 Annual Meeting Summary

Greetings Cousins and Sir Knights,

If you missed our annual meeting in Crystal City, you missed a good one. Our hospitality room was constantly filled with guests, the meeting was one of the best attended, and everyone had a wonderful time.

M.E. Great Chief William R. Miller introduced a new jewel and collar for Grand Superintendents and presented them to those Superintendents present. If you have not received yours, please contact the Grand Scribe's office, and we'll be happy to get it to you.

There were 17 Knights awarded the Knight Commander Zerubbabel for 2018.



James E. Barton Nat Pace 46
 Patrick Gage Bailey Clanna Ruid Ruid 58
 John Lilburn Cooper, III ..Clanna Ruid Ruid 58
 Fred M. Palmer Delaware 18
 Rawl John ScheiblerSamuel H J Womack 20
 John Alfred Argue..... O'Brien 117
 Michael Alan McCleary..... Killarney 56
 James Wesley Tate..... Crowned Martyrs 120
 Jeffrey Glen Burcham..... Fort Andrew Lewis 81

Brandon Barry Mullins Trinity 36
 Emory Jay Ferguson Vulcan 22
 James William McDaniel..... Tralee 41
 Scott A. Gothe.....Northern New Jersey 10
 Donald Harrison.....Paumanok 4
 Gerald E. Connally..... Solas Ó Rosslyn 84
 Kelly Alton McMichael Wiregrass 114
 Harley Lee Kropf Tipperary 62

Also awarded was Past Grand Rank to:

Joseph R. Manning ...Past Grand Senior Knight

Joseph W. MacIntyre ...Past Grand Senior Knight

J. David Cashion ...Past Grand Senior Knight

The elections went smoothly and M.E. Joseph S. Crociata was installed as Great Chief. He appointed R.E.S.K. Jack Harper as Grand Sentinel. Also E.S.K. Dallas Shell has been appointed as Excellent Chief of Great Chief's No. 0.

Congratulations Cousins,
J. David Cashion, Grand Scribe

New Grand Council Officers **Jack M. Harper, II – Grand Sentinel**



Jack Magee Harper II was born 19 November 1971, in Austin, Texas. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Public Administration degrees, both from Texas Tech University, and from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program from Harvard University. He is serving as City Manager of Fulshear, Texas, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.

Jack began his Masonic journey in 2003 and has served four times each as Worshipful Master (including Texas Lodge of Research), High Priest, Thrice Illustrious Master, and five times as Commander. He served as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Texas from 2017-2018. Jack is currently serving the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U.S.A. as the South Central Department Commander for 2018-2021. He is a Scottish Rite 33°, Grand

Superintendent for both Knight Masons and Allied Masonic Degrees, Chief Adept, IX° for Texas and Stella Sola Colleges SRICF, and Order of the Purple Cross in the York Rite Sovereign College of North America. Further, he is a member of Red Cross of Constantine, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Knight York Cross of Honour, National Sojourners, Heroes of '76, Masonic Order of the Bath, Grand College of Rites, Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, Ye Antient Order of Corks USA, The Royal Order of Scotland, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Operatives, Scarlet Cord, Shrine, Grotto, Universal Craftsman Council of Engineers, and Eastern Star.

He has been in Boy Scouts since 1979 and served in many roles including Ranger at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cubmaster, and Scoutmaster. Jack is an Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor

member in Order of the Arrow, and recipient of the Silver Beaver and Founders Award. Jack was recognized by the United States Navy as a Distinguished Visitor at Sea and completed an arrested landing and catapult assisted launch onboard the USS Ronald Reagan CVN 76. Jack is a Single Engine Land and Sea Plane private pilot, Extra Class licensee (WM5P), and an avid backpacker. He is attempting to hike the highest point in every state and has summited forty highpoints.

Jack is married to his lovely wife, Julie and they have one son, Jake- who is a 5th grader.

New Grand Council Officers

Dallas R. Shell – Excellent Chief, Great Chief’s Council No. 0



Dallas is a life member and past master of Will Rogers Lodge No. 53 in Claremore, Oklahoma where he took his degrees in 1977. Dallas is also an affiliated Past Master of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 in New York, a member of Union Lodge No. 6 in Washington D.C., and is a charter member of Guildhall Lodge No. 553 and Vitruvian Lodge No. 557 in Oklahoma. He is Past Commander of the Tulsa Scottish Rite Council of Kodosh, an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd degree and life member of Tulsa Valley, a life member of the Scottish Rite Research Society, Past Venerable Master and life member of McMillon Council No. 15 A.M.D of Oklahoma, an affiliated member of Adoniram Council No. 43 A.M.D of New York, a life member of Great Chiefs Council No. 0 Knight Masons, a charter member of Joseph Lewis Council No. 66 Knight Masons in Oklahoma, a

Past President of the Oklahoma Philaethes Society and life member of the International Philaethes Society, a member of the Grand College of Rites, Washington D.C., a member of the Oklahoma College Masonic Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis, a life member of Oklahoma York Rite College No. 75, and a life member of Indian Chapter No. 1 Royal Arch Masons, Union Council No. 3 Cryptic Mason, and McAlester Commandery No. 6 Knights Templar of Oklahoma.

Dallas was born and raised in Claremore, Oklahoma, studied Electrical Engineering at the University of Tulsa and has been a licensed Professional Engineer for over 35 years. Dallas began work at Rockwell International then spent a number of years in private engineering practice and recently retired from Boeing. Dallas also spent two terms on the Claremore City Council as a member. Dallas is a private pilot and holds an Amateur Radio Extra Class license N5FEE.

Dallas and his wife, Paula, have been married 35 years and enjoy golfing, fishing and spending some of their retirement on nearby Grand Lake of the Cherokee's where they have a waterfront home.

From the East!

A Message from the Excellent Chief of Great Chiefs Council No. 0

Cousins of Great Chiefs Council No. 0,

First let me thank you for allowing me to serve you this year. This is the first of several communications you will receive this year as improved communications with you is one of our goals. I encourage you to help by making sure we have your current contact information including email address.

I want to remind you follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KnightMasons/>. You are encouraged to post newsworthy items related to Knight Masonry to this Facebook page. Please check the upcoming events there for meetings you might be interested in attending. Photos of the recent annual meeting have been posted and are now available for viewing.

Over the years, Knight Masonry has grown significantly with the founding of new Councils. From time to time, however, several Councils have gone defunct for one reason or another. We know some members have inadvertently been lost when this happens. We are making every effort to find these lost members and invite them to become members of Council No. 0. If you know of any members in this condition, please send the particulars and their contact information to me or any member of the Grand Council. We will make every effort to resolve their membership status.

I invite you to contact me with any questions or suggestions about anything mentioned above or any new ideas you might have for the Council. My email address is dallas.r.shell@gmail.com.

Fraternally,
Dallas Shell, Excellent Chief
Great Chief's Council No. 0
Knight Masons of the U.S.A.

Anson Jones Council No. 47 Annual St. Patrick's Table Council Honoring Most Excellent Great Chief, Joseph Crociata, March 13, 2019

The Table Lodge is one of the oldest Masonic traditions. The modern practice of Masonry we know today was first perfected in the taverns and inns of Scotland and England, where early Lodges met and celebrated the social virtues of the Craft at the table. According to Henry Coil, "The Table Lodge was so common in the early 18th Century that it may be presumed that most meetings were of that character." Anciently, Masonic lodges convened at pubs, eateries or taverns since they did not have the luxury of extravagant buildings as we do today.



Anson Jones Knight Masons Council No. 47 in Houston, Texas continues this most auspicious and ancient tradition every year in our annual St. Patrick's Day Observance Table Council. This year it was especially significant, since we were honoring our Most Excellent Great Chief, Joseph Crociata on March 13, 2019. The filled banquet hall included dignitaries from around the state, as well as the Grand Council of Knight Masons.

Those in attendance included; two Past Great Chiefs, the Superintendent for Texas Southeast as well as the Grand Sentinel and Great Chief of the Grand Council of Knight Masons USA. In addition, Grand or Past Grand Officers from the High Council S.R.I.C.F., the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees, the Grand College of Rites, Convent General, the Order of DeMolay, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, among others were there to participate in the evening festivities.



From left to right: M.E.S.K. Larry E. Tucker, Past Great Chief – Grand Council of Knight Masons USA; S.K. Pete Normand, Past Excellent Chief; S.K. Hunter Schappaugh, Priest – Anson Jones Council No. 47; S.K. Salomon Lahana, Excellent Chief – Anson Jones Council No. 47; M.E.S.K. Joseph Crociata, Great Chief – Grand Council of Knight Masons USA; V.E.S.K. Roberto M. Sanchez, KCZ – Past Excellent Chief & Scribe – Anson Jones Council No. 47; V.E.S.K. John Elkinton, KCZ – Grand Superintendent, Texas Southeast; and V.E.S.K. Jack Harper, KCZ – Grand Sentinel, Grand Council of Knight Masons USA

The evening began at 6:30 p.m. with a social half hour for the Sir Knights and Cousins, followed by a short business meeting, an excellent steak dinner, and the Table Council being opened in full form with the seven traditional toasts being observed. The highlight of the evening was when the trowel was symbolically placed in the hand of our Most Excellent Great Chief Joseph Crociata.

This being his first official visit as Great Chief, M.E. Crociata was determined to start of his year with a bang, which he absolutely did. Those in attendance were blown away with the very passionate and meaningful message and speech brought to us by our Great Chief. He spoke about Knight Masonry's unique role in preserving the art of Freemasonry, the challenges that generations of "deferred maintenance" have created, and the imminent transformation of the Craft by those who will lead it through this century. A True Masonic Experience was had by all who attended.

For more information on Table Lodges I refer you to Chapter 3 of the book *The True Masonic Experience*.

S.K. Roberto M. Sanchez, KCZ
Past Excellent Chief & Scribe
Anson Jones Council No. 47

Spotlight on...



**SENCLand Council No. 42
Wilmington, North Carolina**

SENCLand Council is carried on the rolls of the Grand Council in Wilmington, North Carolina, but its name (standing for "South East North Carolina Land") is prime evidence of the way its current and past officers have given due consideration to its role in the York Rite, and in the expansive territory they have to cover. Led by Excellent Chief Sir Knight Ernest S. Bland and guided by Excellent Sir Knight James Steele, PEC as its Scribe, the Council actually meets in several cities, depending upon whether they are performing the Degrees, holding elections or a business meeting, or gathering with the ladies for their Annual Banquet. In this way, our Cousins keep the Council accessible to all of its members.

This year, the Great Chief and his wife Susan received an invitation to the Banquet and were pleased to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a social evening with the Cousins and Ladies of SENCLand in Kenansville, about sixty miles due north of Wilmington. In black tie and with a program ably conducted by its perennial Master of the Table Cousin Fred H. Whitty, III, PEC, the Council showed itself to be adept at the best practices of Knight Masonry. The Council was not opened, nor business conducted, since the Ladies were present, and their entertainment and social pleasures were the order of the evening. (As an invitational and Masonic body, a Council's business and ritual should always be reserved to its Sir Knights.) Several Cousins offered the customary formal toasts

with great aplomb, and a thought-provoking address was offered by Cousin Charles Ponton, PEC.

The Great Chief had one item of informal “business” to conduct, calling forth the Grand Superintendent of Eastern N.C., Cousin Tony Arnett, PEC, to receive his jewel of office, from the hands of his lovely wife, Sherry. With brief remarks from Cousin Tony and the Great Chief, the Master of Ceremonies brought the evening to a close. Our Cousins of SENCLand Council No. 42 deserve the approbation of Knight Masons everywhere for maintaining the high standards of fraternity and fellowship that the Irish Degrees inspire in us all.



LEFT: SK Joseph Crociata, MEGC, Knight Masons USA is assisted by Sherry Arnett, the wife of SK Tony, in investing SK Tony Arnett, PEC with the jewel of a Grand Superintendent.

RIGHT: SK Fred H. Whitty, PEC controls the SENCLand Table Council (and the remarks of the MEGC!) during the evening’s program!



Upcoming Events *From the Great Chief's Calendar*

April 11, 2019

GREAT CHIEF'S HOMECOMING & SPRING INGATHERING

St. Bridget's Council No. 23

7:00 p.m. @ Hackey's On Lake, 1514

Lake Street, Glenview, Illinois

For details and reservations, contact

M.E.S.K. Terry W. McCammon, Scribe

terry.w.mccammon@gmail.com

May 5-7, 2019

GRAND SESSIONS: GRAND LODGE OF NEW YORK

*(Grand Council Officers: Contact M.E.
Great Chief)*

July 13-15, 2019

GREAT SMOKIES SUMMER ASSEMBLY OF YORK RITE MASONS

For details and reservations, see

<http://www.ncgyorkrite.org/gssaeform.html>

October 28, 2019

KNIGHT OF THE EAST AND WEST CONFERRAL

Paumenok Council No. 4

23rd Street, NY

Seating limited, contact E.S.K.

Christopher L. Allen, Scribe

christopher.l.allen@gmail.com

Date T/B/A

"AT SIGHT" MEETING & DINNER

Universal Council No. 70

Washington, D.C.

Details to follow

**for invitations to the M.E.G.C.,*

joseph.s.crociata@gmail.com

(202) 494-3377

Newsletter Submissions

Councils are encouraged to submit news articles about anything they feel is newsworthy to the new editor, Nicholas J. Sampogna (njseqv@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next edition of the *Knightly News*.

We hope to bring more editions of the *Knightly News* in a fun and dynamic fashion highlighting the good work our Councils are doing and the whereabouts of our traveling Great Chief!

Remember to Like us on [Facebook](#) and visit our [web site](#) for additional information.

The 2020 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 7, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City at Ronald Reagan National Airport.

J. David Cashion, Grand Scribe
PO Box 594, Highlands, NC 28741
828-342-0334 / cashionjd@yahoo.com

Nicholas J. Sampogna, Asst. to the Great Chief, Editor
njseqv@gmail.com