



# *Knightly News*

The Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America

Fall 2012  
Volume 16 Number 1

## Headlines

- Annual Meeting Scheduled for February 8, 2013
- Charter issued to Eire Council No. 105
- Jersey Shore Council No. 107 Instituted

## From the Great Chief

Sir Knights and Cousins, Greetings! It is my great honor and pleasure to extend greetings to all Cousins of Knight Masonry. Thanksgiving has just passed and we now enter into the joy of the Christmas season. I truly give thanks that the family our beloved Masonic Fraternity continues to meet and spread the cement of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

I am pleased to report that the Order of Knight Masons continues to grow and prosper. Since being installed as your Great Chief, I have had the pleasure to visit Councils in various jurisdictions. While presenting Charters, Instituting Councils, and Installing Officers, I continue to be encouraged by my experiences. I see enthusiasm and excitement among our Cousins. I see a sense of renewal toward the principles of those things which we hold near and dear to us. Commitment and dedication to the Order and a sense of pride in learning the ritual and putting forth a best effort in impressing our candidates is obvious.

I wish to thank those who have been appointed as Grand Superintendents. These are the Very Excellent Cousins who personally represent the Grand Council of Knight

Masons within their appointed Grand Jurisdictions. They are the ones who inspire perspective candidates and encourage the formation of new Councils. The number of Councils continues to grow where it becomes impractical, if not impossible, for the Grand Council to address the needs of our individual Councils. Just as Grand Masonic Jurisdictions have personal appointments of the Grand Master who go by various titles, such as District Deputies, the Grand Council has Grand Superintendents to assess the needs of our specific Councils, assisting them wherever possible and aiding in the promotion of increased membership and Council activities. I congratulate these hard working Grand Superintendents and wholeheartedly recommend and support the continuation of this program of Superintendent appointments.

I have attended numerous national Masonic organizational events thus far in my term. In each courtesy commensurate as I was afforded every with the position I represent. I have experienced two eye surgeries since July. I have been without vision in my left since July. I am scheduled for a third surgery early in 2013 to restore eye sight in my left eye. Because of this, I have had



to miss a couple of invitations to attend jurisdictional council events. However, my thoughts were ever present with you.

It has been my pleasure to represent you, my beloved Cousins, as your Most Excellent Great Chief. I look forward to greeting you in February in Reston, Virginia at the Annual Masonic Week event.

Until we meet again, may God Bless.

*C. Michael Watson*

Great Chief, 2012 - 2013

## **Building Strong Foundations** **Great Chief Constitutes Jersey Shore Council, No. 107**

*Cyrus the King made a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be builded, the place where they offer sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid. -Ezra 6:3*

These ancient words from the book of Ezra emphasize the importance of building strong foundations. Accordingly, on Thursday, May 17, 2012, S.K. C. Michael Watson, M.E. Great Chief of Knight Masons of the U.S.A., visited New Jersey and established a strong foundation in Knight Masonry, by constituting Jersey Shore Council, No. 107- the first new council constituted in the Garden State in over forty years.

After spending a day touring the Jersey Shore, including lunch and sight-seeing on the boardwalk at Point Pleasant Beach, S.K. Watson attended Sea Oaks Country Club in Little Egg Harbor, the home of the new



council. The evening began on the veranda, overlooking the golf course, with S.K. Watson, M.E. Great Chief, S.K. Maynard, V.E. Grand Steward and S.K. Hammill, V.E. Grand Superintendent of New Jersey, greeting guests as they arrived. The filled banquet hall included dignitaries from around the State, as well as representatives from Northern New Jersey Council, No. 10 and Southern New Jersey Council, No. 11.

Dinner began at 7pm and was accented with a reading of Robert Burns' poem, "John Barleycorn," with an interpretive talk by S.K. John D. Barnes, Excellent Chief of the new Council, explaining its relevance to Knight Masonry.

Following the banquet, a special constituting ceremony ensued. The Great Chief, bearing the Council's

Signet, was flanked by- S.K. Maynard, bearing the Trowel, S.K. Hammill, bearing the Sword and S.K. Barnes, serving as Priest. In full ceremonial form, the



implements of the new council were consecrated with corn, wine and oil, and thus the third council of New Jersey was officially set to labor.

Completing the ceremony, S. K. Watson presented his allocution reminding us to always emulate Zerubbabel's zeal and perseverance. Afterwards, he was presented a framed certificate proclaiming him an Honorary Member of Jersey Shore Council, No. 107.

The Cousins then adjourned to their business meeting, where M.E. Watson was received, presented Grand Honors and tendered the Trowel and Signet of authority. V.E. Hammill then informed the Great Chief that the three New Jersey Councils were coordinating their efforts to confer the degrees of Knight Masonry in sequence to encourage inter-council visitations.

The Sir Knights rejoined their Ladies, continued for a while the camaraderie of the evening, and then slowly, like the evening tide going out to sea, said their farewells from a second floor balcony venue, overlooking in the far distance, the same Jersey Shore coastline that had so brilliantly illuminated several of us earlier that day. The day's activities had now become a distant memory, much like the view of the



ghostly coastline, now illuminated only by the lights of the Jersey Shore boardwalk, mystically reflecting

off the clouds in the foggy distance.

As the cool mist descended upon us, I overlooked the remote shoreline and my thoughts wandered- contented that we had persevered for future generations, like Zerubbabel, and were *building strong foundations* for an Order fostering to achieve that Ideal of Masonry- *The Brotherhood of Man under The Fatherhood of God.*

-By S.K. Robert B. Maynard

V.E. Grand Steward

*Contributing Writer*

## Great Chief Issues Charter to Eire Council No. 105



Sir Kts Neil Coy, Paul Starkey, Larry Ward, A.L. Walker, P.E.C., M.E. C. Michael Watson, Ex. Chief Tim McConnell, Kevin Kulish, Ray Bagley, Jr., Mike MacDonald, and Gene Burnell pose for a picture following the chartering and installation ceremonies.

On a beautiful Fall day in Northern Pennsylvania, Eire Council No. 105 was honored with a visit from the Most Excellent Great Chief, C. Michael Watson, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Wellsboro, PA, where in a brief ceremony he presented our council with its Charter. Coincidentally this was Eire Council's annual meeting for the election of officers which we were doubly honored by the Great Chief conducting the installation ceremony of the new officers. A hearty homemade brunch was served afterwards and enjoyed by all.



The Grand Council of Knight Masons in the USA  
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 United States of America

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**First Class Mail**

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**2013 MASONIC WEEK February 6 to 10, 2013  
 Hyatt Regency Reston  
 1800 Presidents Street  
 Reston, VA 20190**

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council Knight Masons, USA and Great Chief's Council "0" will be held during Masonic Week at 9:00 AM on FRIDAY, February 8, 2013.  
 All members are invited.

There will be a Luncheon sponsored by the Knight Masons that afternoon at 2:00 PM.  
 All Masons are invited.

**For details go to <http://yorkrite.com/MasonicWeek/>**



**Grand Officers 2012-2013**

- ME Great Chief .....C. Michael Watson
- RE Deputy Great Chief ..... Kenneth B. Fischer
- RE Grand Senior Knight .....David Lee Hargett, Jr.
- RE Grand Junior Knight ..... Matthew D. Dupee
- RE Grand Scribe .....Dennis L. Cook
- RE Grand Treasurer .....Malcolm R. Holley, Jr.
- VE Grand Senior Warden .....Andre E. Lovas
- VE Grand Junior Warden ..... D. Allen Surratt1
- VE Grand Dir. of Ceremonies ..... William R. Miller
- VE Grand Priest .....Joseph S. Crociata
- VE Grand Steward .....Robert B. Maynard
- VE Grand Sentinel ..... Martin R. Trent
- RE Grand Musician .....Chris M. Jessen
- Ex Chief of Great Chief's Council 0 .. Glen A. Cook