

SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS 158th ANNUAL CONVOCATION

The 158th Annual Convocation of the **GRAND CHAPTER, ROYAL ARCH MASONS of MINNESOTA** was held via virtual ZOOM conference, Friday, June 26, 2020, Most Excellent Companion R. James Luchsinger II, Grand High Priest, presiding.

Representing the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International were MEC Teko Foley, General Grand Scribe, MEC Larry Gray, Past General Grand High Priest and General Grand Secretary, MEC Richard McBride, the North Central Deputy General Grand High Priest, MEC Chadwick Burks, the Southwest Deputy General Grand High Priest, MEC Mark Irwin, the Northeast Deputy General Grand High Priest and MEC Robert Bean, the RARA Executive Director. MEC John Jenks, Grand High Priest of Wisconsin attended. Past Grand High Priests attending were; Leland L. Burlison of Wisconsin, Anthony T. Johnson of Nebraska, George E. Bauder and Roger Hansen of South Dakota and James S. McNeely, IV, of Connecticut. Visitors from Foreign Jurisdictions included, REC Bruce Crisman, Grand King of South Dakota, REC Daniel Marr, Grand King of Nebraska. REC George Vettel, Grand King of North Dakota, REC Parker Dow, Grand Scribe of Wisconsin, REC G. Thomas Taylor, Grand Scribe of Delaware and REC Dennis Newman, Grand Secretary of Nebraska. Representing the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was MWB Ethan A. Seaberg, Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota.

Sixteen (16) Chapters, in addition to King Solomon No. 133 U.D., answered the roll call with Winona No. 5, Tyrian No. 6, Austin No. 14, Living Arch No. 28, Mt Nebo No. 39, Fairmont No. 50, Marshall No. 65, Northern No. 82, Alexandria No. 86 and Rush City No. 87 being absent. There were eight (8) High Priests, twenty-six (26) PHPs, and nine (9) PGHPs registered. Total balloting companions registered for the convocation numbered sixty-two (62); an additional forty-six (46) companions from other jurisdictions and guests were present for a grand total of one hundred and eight (108).

Minnesota membership, as of December 31, 2019, was 1,451, a net loss of 78 over the previous year. Forty-seven (47) companions were exalted last year with ninety-two (92) deaths reported. Five chapters had a positive gain in membership recorded in 2019; St Johns No. 9, Columbian No. 60, Iron Range No. 70, Rush City No. 87 and Anoka Shekinah No. 104. Pierson Chapter No. 41 merged into King Solomon No. 133 UD.

The following Minnesota Grand Chapter Officers were elected and installed for the ensuing year: Grand High Priest – Carl F. Lidstrom (53); Grand King – R. Sean Gardiner (1/103); Grand Scribe – Alan Mackenzie (20); Grand Treasurer/Secretary – Gary A. Odegard, PGHP (53); Grand Captain of the Host – David J. Dumonceaux (27) and Grand Trustee (2023) – Ronald A. Miles, PGHP (9).

Appointed officers are: Grand Chaplain – W. David Emery (60/104); Grand Principal Sojourner – Frank Namestek (9); Grand Royal Arch Captain – Michael A. Hilgert (9/10); Grand Master of the Veils; 3rd Veil – Ed Morse (1); 2nd Veil – Todd B. Leek (1); 1st Veil – Scott Wood (9); Grand Sentinel – Philip T. Bodle (70); Grand Lecturer – Christopher A. Wendover (60); Grand Chapter Education Officer – Ryan S. Regnier (60) and Grand Organist - William T. Hubbard (8). PGHP Marvin W. Schendel (60) was Installing Officer.

[TO BE READ IN OPEN CHAPTER MEETING and/or POSTED]

Philip T. Bodle (70), Clinton J. Christensen (33), Trent B. Gilbertson (104) and Dale R. Lillevold (60) received the Knight of the Royal Arch Award. Terrance M. Schaffer (104) and Philip T. Bodle (70) received the Triple Tau Award with 3 Stars and Clinton J. Christensen received the Triple Tau with 1 Star. Fergus Falls Chapter No. 27 won the large chapter membership award with 7 Exaltations and Iron Range Chapter No. 70 won the small chapter membership award with 14 Exaltations. The recipient of the BRONZE MEDAL for distinguished service from the General Grand Chapter was REC David J. Dumonceaux (27).

The Grand Chapter will hold its 159th Annual Grand Convocation as part of the Minnesota Grand York Rite Sessions on June 24, 25 and 26, 2021, at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Gary A. Odegard, PGHP
Grand Treasurer/Secretary

R. James Luchsinger, II
Grand High Priest

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