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INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Education and Service is charged to oversee the Program for Progress of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia. The Program for Progress is intended to improve the operation of all Royal Arch Chapters in our great Commonwealth.

This manual is prepared by the Committee for use in all Virginia Royal Arch Chapters. We urge you to study it and use it to advantage to properly conduct the business of your Chapter.

As a Chapter officer, you are expected to support the High Priest and his officers, to learn the necessary ritual, and to study and understand the operation of your Chapter. We feel certain that this manual will help you prepare and execute these duties now and in the future. The “workman that needeth not be ashamed” is also the competent and productive leader.

In this manual, we've tried to present some ideas which we have found workable and helpful in our own experience. Certainly, they're not the only way to operate; yours may be better. The main point is that, without realistic planning, there is little chance for success or improvement. This manual presents methods of planning and, we hope, leads you to the successful execution of those plans.

We do, though, offer one warning: Don't get carried away with procedures and ignore the people. The fellowship, which is the strongest element in our Chapters, should always be encouraged and never be ignored.

Your use and study of this manual will benefit you as you advance within your Chapter, and as you advance in the world outside our Chapters.

The Committee offers its congratulations to you for the personal success you're enjoying in your Chapter, and wishes only continued success for you.

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

The real function of the High Priest is to provide administrative skill to operate the Chapter efficiently. He must utilize the skills and abilities of his officers and members to that end. There is no way that the presiding officer or manager of any organization can handle everything himself. To attempt to do so can lead only to failure in most, if not all, cases.

Delegation, then, is the answer, and it must be accomplished to achieve success. Yet, the arrangement of the various tasks of the Chapter will differ from Chapter to Chapter. The most common method of delegation is through committees charged to undertake or perform certain necessary functions.

The use of committees has a two-fold purpose. First, it should accomplish some end. But, secondly, the committee gets the members involved! And that's as important as the first reason. It can provide for fulfillment of the goal and also bring qualified companions into the Chapter activities.

Obviously, the other officers of the Chapter should be involved. Some Chapters define that the officers will chair specific committees based on their station as a Chapter officer. Maybe the Chaplain could head a "sick" committee. The King might handle birthdays and notification and invitation of companions celebrating their Chapter birthdays. The three Veilsmen could be assigned to set up the Chapter and store the implements and regalia after the meeting. Another officer or companion could be called on to publicize future events. The list can go on and on.

Remember, though, that an important part of these assignments is to get/keep the companions active and ensure their enjoyment of the fellowship offered only in a Royal Arch Chapter. And don't forget...a companion need not be an officer to serve on a committee. Indeed, assigning him to a committee may be the spur to get him to later take a more active part as an officer of the Chapter.

Appointing someone to a committee and assuming that he will fulfill your intention may well result in a condition which is not what you intended. Therefore, your duty in this relationship is to provide the communication and support which the member needs. He/they should be contacted and called upon for a report of his/their progress from time to time. One hour before the project is to be completed is too late to check. He might have misunderstood your instructions or might be unable to accomplish your expectations.

In the present world, we also find that many Secretaries are overworked. They are sometimes unable to keep up with the duties of their post. Yet, they don't complain and would be offended if they were not re-elected. An edict was issued several years ago requiring every Chapter to elect or appoint an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer. Its purpose was to relieve these officers and to ensure continuity in the event of the incapacity or illness of either. It appears that few Chapters have realistically obeyed the edict.

Assistants are one way to cope with the problem, but they rarely work out as they should. Another way to solve the overall problem in this area is to "take the job apart." Breaking down the job into manageable parts is the first step. Depending on the present assignments of the Secretary, the Chapter might consider breaking it down in the following manner:

Committee on Membership and Dues
Committee on Newsletter
Keeper of the Marks
Committee on Perpetual Membership

If you look, we're sure you can find other equally valid breakdowns. Your Chapter and your Secretary will be the better off for this approach.

PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR

MONTH	PROGRAM	CHAIRMAN	REFRESHMENTS
October			
November			
December			
January			
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
Special Meeting			
Special Meeting			
Officers Meeting			
Officers Meeting			
Officers Meeting			
Officers Meeting			

AGENDA FOR OFFICERS MEETINGS

OFFICERS MEETINGS should be held during the year to ensure that all officers are aware of the plans or problems of the Chapter. We suggest that these meetings be held apart from the Chapter meetings.

If possible, the ladies should be invited and meet separately while the Chapter officers are holding their business meeting. In this way, we get to know each other a little better and build a true bond of friendship.

Although such meetings are less formal, an agenda is still needed to ensure that business is covered as necessary. We offer the following outline as an example:

1. Review schedule of upcoming meetings
2. Review Chapter finances and dues condition
3. Review and plan for the coming year:
 - a. New officers
 - b. Committee assignments
 - c. DDGHP Nominee

QUICK REFERENCE LISTING

Officers of _____ Chapter for 20____ - ____

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
High Priest			
King			
Scribe			
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Capt. Of Host			
Princ. Sojourner			
R. A. Captain			
Gr. M. 3 rd V.			
Gr. M. 2 nd V.			
Gr. M. 1 st V.			
Tiler			
Chaplain			
Committee Chair			

CONVOCATION AGENDAS

The failure to lay out an agenda for a meeting is the most flagrant cause for disorganized and disrupted meetings. A well run meeting must have an agenda. Failure to prepare one is the first step to disaster.

An agenda is simply a list of things to be handled during a meeting. It should be prepared by the High Priest with the assistance of the Secretary. In this manner, business can be handled in an orderly, efficient manner. A *sample* agenda follows:

- I. Opening Ritual
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Reading of Minutes
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Petitions (old & new)
- VI. Committee Reports
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Announcements
- X. Welcome and Introductions
- XI. Minutes
- XII. Closing Ritual

Obviously, this agenda will not fit all situations. If degree work or a speaker is to be inserted, it may fit in between items X and XI, or even after XII, depending on the circumstances.

Your agenda should be detailed enough to ensure discipline and order during the meeting, but flexible enough to allow changes from month-to-month or even during the convocation itself if something unexpected arises.

However, in any case, we cannot stress too strongly the need for some written outline or agenda to govern the Chapter in good order. Elsewhere you will find specific agendas to be followed on other occasions.

AGENDA FOR DDGHP OFFICIAL VISITS

When the District Deputy Grand High Priest makes his official visit to a Chapter, he has several administrative and audit duties. These are defined in the Digest of Grand Chapter Law.

Following the opening ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance, the High Priest will appoint a committee to present the DDGHP. The DDGHP will usually return the gavel to the High Priest and suggest he continue the business of the Chapter.

When the Chapter business and announcements are completed, the High Priest will surrender the gavel to the DDGHP. The DDGHP will then recognize and have presented those companions present in the same order as mentioned in Items A through L in the COMBINED AGENDA FOR OFFICIAL VISITS.

He will then present his message and the Grand Chapter's Program to the companions. After the minutes are read and approved, the DDGHP may close the Chapter or request that the High Priest perform the closing ceremonies.

AGENDA FOR GHP VISITS

Frequently, a dinner is served before the meeting when the Grand High Priest makes his official visit to a district. In this case, the GHP, DDGHP, and the host HP should be seated at the head table with their ladies. Others may be included depending on space. The DDGHP should call on the Chaplain for invocation.

Following dinner, the DDGHP should introduce local officers and their wives; then the GHP should be introduced. In turn, the GHP should recognize Grand Officers and their wives. If possible, some entertainment should be provided for the ladies while the companions are meeting.

Companions should then proceed to the meeting. Following the opening ritual, the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited. Next, the High Priest should welcome all in attendance on behalf of his Chapter and district.

The Secretary should then read the dispensation authorizing the Joint Convocation.

The final duty of the High Priest is to appoint a committee to present the DDGHP at the altar, welcome him, and relinquish the gavel to him.

The DDGHP will then appoint a committee of three to retire with, wait upon, return with, and present the Grand High Priest. (If possible, this committee should be composed of Past Grand High Priests; if not, PDDGHP's.) The ritual for this activity is listed in Part II of the Grand Chapter Digest.

After he is presented, it is the prerogative of the Grand High Priest to take charge of the meeting. However, he will usually suggest that the DDGHP continue the meeting through the introductions as listed later in the COMBINED AGENDA FOR OFFICIAL VISITS. In the meantime, the GHP is seated at the Scribe's station.

Prior to the meeting, the DDGHP should appoint a committee(s) to make introductions at the altar as listed in the COMBINED AGENDA FOR OFFICIAL VISITS. The committee should ensure that small cards are distributed to all guests, requesting them to list their name and title. The cards should be returned to the committee for use during introductions at the altar.

COMBINED AGENDA FOR OFFICIAL VISITS

Presentations and recognitions are made in the order as shown below. Presentation at the altar indicates the companion(s) will continue to the East after introduction.

- A. Recognize all who have not served as High Priest.
- B. Recognize all Past High Priests and Past District Deputy Grand High Priests who have not attained higher office or hold title in the Grand Chapter.
- C. Recognize present Commanders and District Deputy Grand Commanders.
- D. Recognize holders of the John Dove Medal.
- E. Recognize District Lecturers and Assistant District Lecturers.
- F. Present Grand Commander at the altar.
- G. Present all Worshipful Masters and District Deputy Grand Masters at the altar.
- H. Present Grand Lodge Officers.
- I. Present High Priests at the altar.
- J. Present District Deputy Grand High Priests at the altar.
- K. Present Grand High Priests at the altar.
- L. Present Grand Chapter Officers at the altar.
- M. Present Grand Master at the altar.

The DDGHP should call for any announcements or further business, after which he should suggest that the GHP assume the East.

The Grand High Priest assumes the East and delivers his message. **Note:** After the GHP has delivered his message, no anticlimactic remarks should be made. The DDGHP should briefly express the appreciation of all present for the Official Visit.

The GHP may dispense with the reading of the minutes. **Note:** The host Chapter **must** approve the minutes at its next stated convocation and, after approval, a copy of the minutes must be forwarded to each Chapter in the district and to the GHP.

Reminder for the Mark Master Degree

Biblical Passage: Matthew XX

Paraphernalia:

Lattice, Sword, Stones, Textbook, 3 Squares, 3 Gavels, Pennies, Mark Card, Candidate's Apron (when introduced at door)

Assignments:

Right Worshipful Master _____

Senior Warden _____

Junior Warden _____

Secretary _____

Senior Deacon _____

Second Craftsman _____

Junior Deacon _____

Marshal _____

Master Overseer _____

Senior Overseer _____

Junior Overseer _____

Charge _____

Tiler _____

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the candidate is presented his Mark Penny and Mark Card with the admonition that the card must be completed and returned to the Secretary before he receives the Royal Arch Degree. It is also appropriate to review the signs with him before closing.

Reminder for the Past Master Degree

Biblical Passage: Ecclesiastes XII

Paraphernalia:

Ballots, Hat, Jewel, 3 Gavels, Candidates' Aprons

Assignments:

Right Worshipful Master _____

Senior Warden _____

Junior Warden _____

Secretary _____

Senior Deacon _____

Junior Deacon _____

First Speaker _____

Second Speaker _____

Treasurer Nominee _____

Nominee for W.M. _____

Tellers (2) _____

Tiler _____

It is customary in this degree that the presiding officer review the happenings of the evening with the candidates. Where appropriate, he may ask all of the candidates certain questions and explain situations which may arise while one is presiding over a Masonic Organization.

Reminder for the Council Degrees

Biblical Passage: I Kings IV

Paraphernalia:

Veil, Sword, Holy Vessels, Ark of the Covenant with Cherubim

Assignments:

King Solomon _____

Hiram, King of Tyre _____

Principal Conductor (H.Ab) _____

Captain of the Guard _____

Grand Steward (Ahishar) _____

Members of the Craft (6) _____

Chaplain _____

Charge _____

Tiler _____

The ceremonies of these degrees are explained well in their lectures. However, it is again pointed out the signs should be reviewed with the candidates before closing.

Reminder for the Most Excellent Master Degree

Biblical Passage: 2 Chronicles VI: 2-9

Paraphernalia:

Pillars, Arch, Capstone, Ark of the Covenant, 3 Gavels, Candidates' Aprons

Assignments:

Right Worshipful Master _____

Senior Warden _____

Junior Warden _____

Secretary _____

Senior Deacon _____

Junior Deacon _____

Marshal _____

Chaplain _____

Tiler _____

It may be well here to point out that these ceremonies have a deeper meaning than the re-enactment of the dedication of Solomon's Temple. The candidate should understand the following passage of scripture: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Reminder for the Holy Royal Arch Degree

Biblical Passage: Ezra I

Paraphernalia:

Veils, Bridge, Rough Road, Rod, Blood, Pot of Incense, Signet, Burning Bush, Pick, Crow, Shovel, Ropes, 3 Squares, Keystone, Hoodwink, Square and Compasses, Ark of the Covenant (with Pot of Manna, Aaron's Rod, Bible, and Key)

Assignments:

High Priest _____

King _____

Scribe _____

Captain of the Host _____

Principal Sojourner _____

Royal Arch Captain _____

Grand Master of the 3rd Veil _____

Grand Master of the 2nd Veil _____

Grand Master of the 1st Veil _____

Chaplain _____

Tiler _____

Again, it is worthwhile to review the signs. It is also well to remind the new companions that they are needed to participate in the Chapter activities. It may be well to identify the officers of the Chapter in their stations.

A Suggested Congratulatory Letter

Dear Brother (Secretary):

Brother _____ was exalted in
____ Chapter No. ____, R.A.M. at our last convocation.
We are indeed happy to share with him the Companionship of our
Chapter, and congratulate _____ Lodge No. ____,
A.F. & A.M. on this brother's interest in Masonry and his desire to
become a better informed Mason.

Royal Arch Masonry offers much in the way of Masonic
enlightenment and understanding of the fundamental truths of the
Craft. It has been the privilege of many of the brethren of your Lodge to
enjoy more fully this great heritage through membership in
_____ Chapter.

Sincerely and fraternally,

TRY THEM.....they work!

When you learn of a local sojourner, call on him personally. Place his name on the mailing list to receive Chapter notices. Extend an invitation to attend some Chapter function of Convocation. Call for him. Bring him to the meeting and introduce him to all of the members. Do not leave him on the sidelines alone. In fact, other Chapter members without transportation would be glad to attend of some Companion would go a little out of his way to do him a good turn. (*And don't forget those who don't drive at night.*) The organization of a Good Turn Club would make many of its members think twice because of their duty to the other member before they decided to stay away. We must continue to "sell" our own members. Our suspensions and demits would be reduced to a minimum and affiliations would be increased.

Form a Telephone Club. Phone a Companion and invite him to attend Chapter with you. Arrange to pick him up on your way to Chapter. Enlist all officers and active Companions in this program. Attendance should be greatly improved provided interesting programs are planned.

Appoint a Vouchers Committee responsible for sending post cards to every voucher to remind him of each occasion where his attendance is requested for:

1. Action on the petition of his Candidate
2. Presence during conferring Degrees on his Candidate. (A card should be sent for each Degree night.)
3. Making sure his new Companion attends at least one stated Convocation and several special Convocations to witness from the sidelines the degrees as they were recently conferred on him. Suggest that he call the Petitioner; go get him; bring him; be his Royal Arch Guardian, or Mentor.

The Chapter now has two more regular attending Companions. Here is where genuine interest in Capitular Masonry begins.

SUGGESTIONS

FOR FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATION AS MOST EXCELLENT MASTERS TO OUR MASONIC BRETHREN

As a Most Excellent Master, you're obligated to acquaint your less informed brethren with the benefits of the Royal Arch Chapter. Formation of a Membership Committee is a good way to approach the task in an organized manner. This committee could be structured and work along the following lines:

I. Select Membership Committee:

- a. See that the Membership Committee is composed of representatives from all Lodges in your District.
- b. The members of this committee should attend their Lodge regularly.
- c. You will find your prospective candidates for your Chapter in the Lodge.
- d. Be present when new brothers are raised. Let them know that you are a Royal Arch Mason.
- e. Remember that a Royal Arch Mason cannot forsake his Lodge for his Chapter, but he must be faithful to both.
- f. Chapter representative in his Lodge should obtain the names and addresses of all new Master Masons and pass them on to the Membership Committee.
- g. All Companions should promote Royal Arch Masonry and publicize Chapter activities at every opportunity among his Lodge Brothers.
- h. Every member of your Membership Committee should be familiar with Grand Chapter leaflets and brochures.
- i. Remember that every Companion is an unofficial member of the Membership Committee.

II. Contact Master Masons in Your District:

- a. A congratulatory letter from the High Priest to every new Master Mason in the District.
- b. Forward the next issue of the local Chapter publication to each new Master Mason following the letter from the High Priest.
- c. After he has met the Grand Lodge requirements for membership in other Masonic Bodies, extend a personal invitation to become a member.
- d. Use the several leaflets available from the Grand Chapter. See that every Master Mason receives a copy of "The Long Sought Word."
- e. Always carry petitions. Remember that it takes personal contacts to obtain results. You must ask your Masonic Brethren if you are going to interest them in Royal Arch Masonry.
- f. A large delegation from the Chapter should occasionally visit each Lodge from which it gets its support as a friendly gesture of appreciation. Let the delegation wait until Lodge is opened, then make the alarm and have the Tiler announce the delegation by name, and enter as a body. Some Companion should be designated to act as Spokesman when arriving at the Altar to identify the delegation and its purpose of a visit of friendly gesture; then, take their seats when invited to do so. Note the effect on these Masons who are not yet Royal Arch Masons. You do not have to talk about getting petitions, but you may be embarrassed if you do not have some in our pocket when Lodge closes.

TRY IT AND SEE.

DEMITS AND AFFILIATIONS

Being a Royal Arch Mason is more important than just being a member of a particular Chapter. Like church membership, the member should carry his Masonic membership with him wherever he goes. Dual membership – permitted in a growing number of jurisdictions – takes care of those who do not care to break home ties. Within the Chapter itself, loss of members by demit should be offset by affiliations.

Keep your non-resident members informed of news and membership doings in his Chapter. A monthly Chapter bulletin is a great help in this. In the absence of monthly bulletins, forwarding some review of Chapter activities with the annual dues notice or membership card would be a nice gesture.

Some Demits are caused by a lack of interest or opportunity to participate in Chapter affairs. This might be avoided by defining necessary activities and assigning them to a committee. Assign inactive members to committees headed by a member experienced in the activity. It's a good idea to have the committee chaired by a Past High Priest or a Chapter Officer, but this is not really essential. Some suggested committees are:

Membership	Entertainment	Telephone
Transportation	Sick & Hospital	Youth Organizations
Vouchers	Contests	Lodge and Other Chapter Visitation
etc.		

Many demits can be saved by a personal call from a Companion showing the Chapter is interested in the member requesting the demit. We shouldn't lose a member with no attempt having been made to retain him, particularly in view of the effort involved in recruiting him originally. It is easier to retain a Companion than it is to replace him.

***REMEMBER THAT RESULTS
CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED
THROUGH PERSONAL
CONTACT.***

HOW TO PREVENT DEMITS . . . SEVEN POINTS TO REMEMBER

BY RUDOLPH E. LUNDQUIST (WESTERN SUN CHAPTER #67, JAMESTOWN, N.Y.)

It is essential that more care be exercised in the retention of every Royal Arch Mason who requests a demit from our Chapter's membership. Where there is a sound Capitular Program, it is almost certain that a Companion who keeps his dues paid up, and thus is always eligible for a demit, doesn't want one at all. Even he who moves out of a jurisdiction nearly always prefers to retain his membership in his "Mother" Chapter. In the rare case where a local Companion does request a demit, which must be in writing, the same should not be issued to him without first making a strong effort to keep him on the rolls.

1. The first step in this procedure is for the Secretary to communicate the companion's request privately to the Council Officers. If any one or more of these are intimately acquainted with the one submitting the request, he pays a personal visit in an effort to have said request withdrawn.
2. If none of the key officers is closely associated with the Companion asking for a demit, the subject then becomes part of the agenda for that Convocation. When it is brought up on the floor, inquiry is made as to whether any of the Companions present enjoy a closer acquaintanceship with the requester. If so, he is charged with the mission of seeking out the one who desires a demit in an effort to persuade him to change his mind.
3. Failing this, the Secretary and one of the Council officers undertake the task. In some instances they will find a grievance to be the underlying motive for requesting a demit. When we discover this cause we never fail to resolve the grievance and save the membership.
4. We have a few requests, through the years, from members who have become destitute, but never have we granted their request for a demit. Instead, we have remitted their dues, paying the Grand Chapter per capita fee from our treasury. In many instances the Companion's predicaments were subsequently changed and they were again willing and able to pay their annual dues. Thus we have "saved" many Companions from the loss of their membership.
5. The dropping of a Companion for "Non-Payment of Dues" is a vicious thing to do. First of all, I maintain it's the fault of the Chapter and the Secretary, in many instances, that a Companion becomes subject to this drastic action. Too many times, as the fiscal year comes to an end, a "Delinquent Committee" is appointed with the power to act on all delinquents. Usually the treatment given is a curt letter to the delinquent with a warning to pay up or be dropped. Very often the delinquent will elect to be "dropped" because his interests in the Chapter have long since waned, due mostly to the fact that BECAUSE HE WAS IN ARREARS, he felt guilty within himself when participating in the functions of his Chapter. Thus, he began to stay away and ultimately became a chronic absentee.
6. An alert Chapter and Secretary could have, in most cases, prevented this delinquent condition from existing at all. When one owes for only one year's dues, it's pretty easy to pay up and even the score. The alert Secretary is constantly scrutinizing his books,

and when he sees a Companion who still owes for the previous year, he contacts him in the most expedient way EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR'S ADMINISTRATION, allowing enough time, however, so that the Christmas bills have been properly disposed of and the Companion's financial pressure has been eased. In almost every case, the delinquent can be brought up to date if the dues collecting campaign is started in April. If delayed until August, or even September, the holidays and their bills loom before him and he elects to be "dropped" because he just doesn't have the money to do otherwise at that time of the year. In no case should a Companion be allowed to fall in arrears for more than TWO years. To do so is to invite a demit.

7. I would therefore suggest that the newly installed Excellent High Priest establish a permanent Dues (delinquent) Committee at the very first Convocation of his administration, same to include either the King or Scribe. A Council officer is preferable because of that Officer's special interest (I hope) in the retention of every member. This Committee, collaborating with the Secretary, can become one of the most effective and important agencies in the whole administrative structure if the Seven points here recorded are carried out in whole or in part. Remember, where there are grievances this committee can, in most cases, resolve them, and in doing so they have re-activated another important member.

Remember also: that in almost every instance a delinquent member is an inactive member, and what's even more important, if he does not become active, he will not be a member much longer. Don't wait until it is too late. Go after him NOW!

"Go after him NOW!"

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

The Committee requests that all members be made aware of the availability of the awards and certificates and the steps necessary to obtain them. Illustrations are on the pages that follow.

GRAND CHAPTER AWARDS

Distinguished Service Award.....	John Dove Medal
District Trophy	Grand Line Bowl
Chapter Trophies	Grand Chapter Plaques

Grand Chapter Diplomas are available for any Companion when approved by his Chapter. The illustration is slightly modified. The Diplomas are printed in red, black, and gold on fine parchment paper with the Grand Chapter Seal affixed. The size is 10.75 x 13.5 inches. See sections 197-200 of the Digest.

Membership Honor Roll Certificates are awarded to those who have been the first endorsers on four or more petitions during one Capitular Year. Printed on parchment paper, they have the Grand Chapter Seal affixed. For first-line signers of ten or more petitions, a plaque similar to the Grand Chapter plaques is awarded at Grand Chapter by the Grand High Priest.

Certificates of Qualification are issued by members of the Committee on Work to companions who have demonstrated the required proficiency in Capitular Ritual which qualifies them to be installed as High Priest or King.

Certificates of Proficiency are issued to any Companion who has demonstrated his ability to confer the degree(s) certified. These are also issued by the members of the Committee on Work and may cover one or all of the Capitular Degrees.

Attendance Certificates are provided for any Companion who has attended every Stated Convocation of his Chapter during the Capitular Year. It is also available for any recently Exalted Companion who has attended the twelve consecutive Stated Convocations following the Convocation at which he was exalted.

Grand Chapter's Awards for Outstanding and Distinguished Service

During its Annual Convocation in October, 1975, Grand Chapter added to its Standing Committees a "Distinguished Service Awards Committee" and established a "JOHN DOVE MEDAL" as the Award for Outstanding and Distinguished Service to Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia. In October 1979, the committee was renamed the Meritorious Service Committee (John Dove Award).

The Committee, appointed by the Grand High Priest, is composed of five Companions who have attained the rank of Past High Priest. The Committee is authorized to select one Royal Arch Mason to be the recipient of the Award during each Capitular Year, and the Grand High Priest may, at his discretion, award an additional JOHN DOVE MEDAL each year.



OBVERSE



REVERSE

THE JOHN DOVE MEDAL

The JOHN DOVE MEDAL Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Royal Arch Mason by our Grand Chapter.

The qualifications of a prospective recipient should be carefully considered, based on the records of his efforts and accomplishments that indicate outstanding and distinguished service rendered to Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia by his dedicated implementation of the Program for Progress in all Three Phases.

It is important that the members of every subordinate Chapter realize that, no matter how deserving of the MEDAL a Companion may be, the Committee cannot consider him as a recipient unless his name has been submitted by his Chapter, with a résumé of his activities in Royal Arch Masonry.

No Chapter should let a worthy Companion be deprived of the opportunity of being considered as a recipient by failing to recognize him as such, and by not submitting his name to the Committee for their consideration.

THE ISH SODI (OR BEST MAN) AWARD

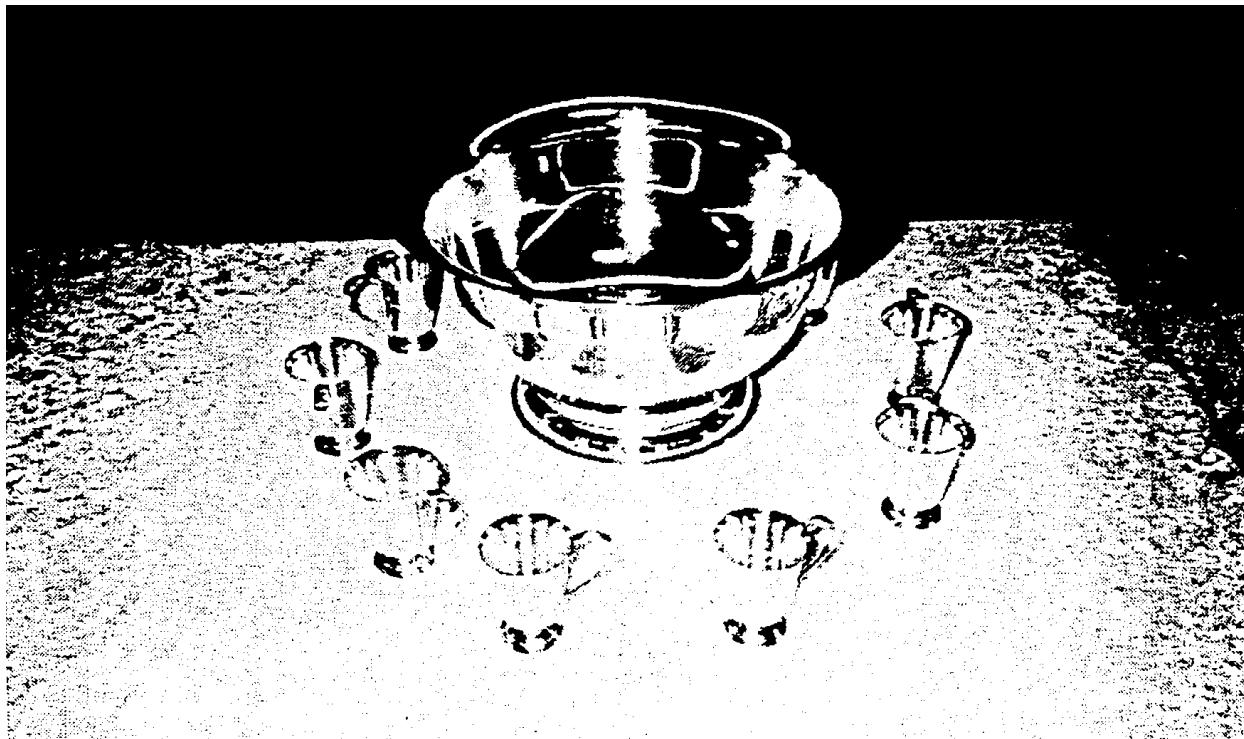
The ISH SODI AWARD may be awarded to two (2) Companions in any one (1) year by the Grand High Priest under the following guidelines:

- A. The nominee may not have been previously awarded the John Dove Award; but the receipt of the ISH SODI AWARD will not preclude him from receiving the John Dove Award.
- B. He must exemplify the highest regards for our precepts, statutes, rules, and regulations.
- C. He may not be a Grand Chapter Officer at the time of his nomination.

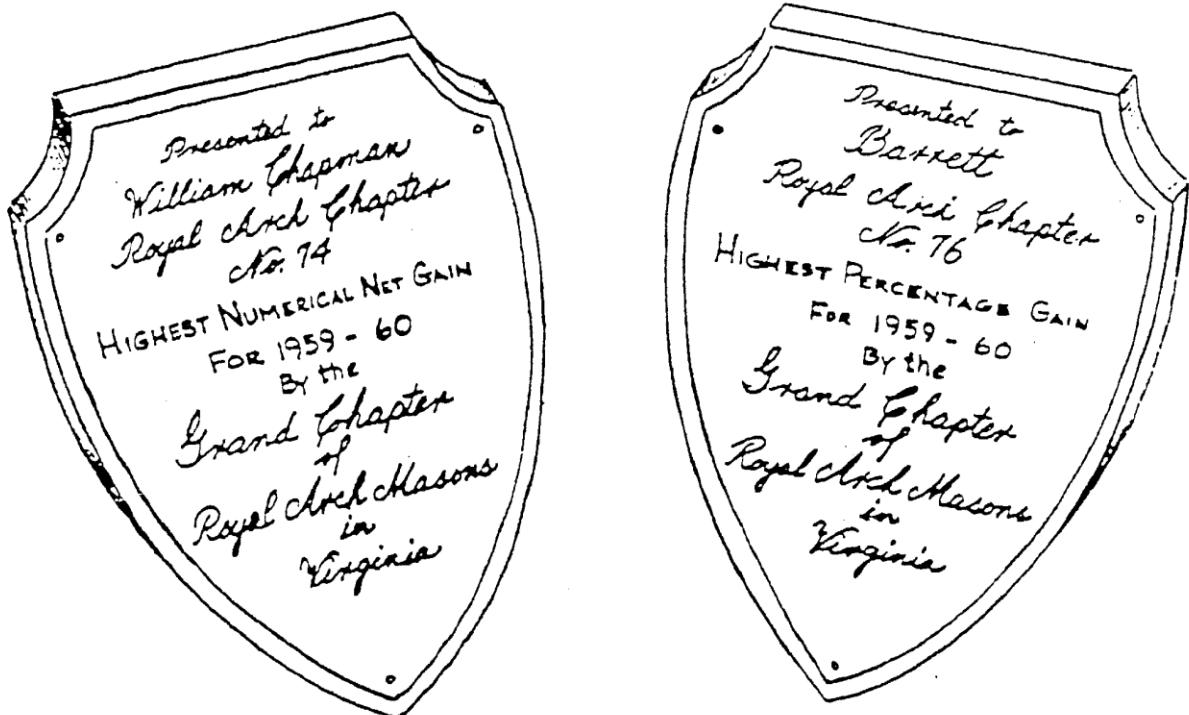
Grand Line Officers' District Trophy

The Grand Line Bowl is a sterling silver punch bowl of Paul Revere design. It was established as a trophy through the personal contribution of the Grand Line Officers of 1964-65 and is to be awarded at the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter to the District demonstrating the greatest interest, enthusiasm, and initiative in the Program for Progress. The decision as to which District is the winner will be made by a Grand Chapter Committee composed of the "Three Grand Masters of Veils." The trophy is to be engraved with the number of the District winning each, and will be in that District's custody until the next Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter. In addition, each succeeding Grand High Priest may award a cup or plaque to the District Deputy Grand High Priest of the winning District.

GRAND LINE OFFICERS' DISTRICT TROPHY



GRAND CHAPTER PLAQUES



Above are sketches of the plaques presented by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter annually to the Subordinate Chapter attaining the **Highest Numerical Net Gain** and **Highest Percentage Net Gain** respectively.

Awarded first in 1947 by our beloved Past Grand High Priest James N. Hillman, they became a permanent annual award under Past Grand High Priest J. Lewis Gibbs in 1950.

ROYAL ARCH MASON DIPLOMA

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia



Most Excellent Grand High Priest

To all whom these presents may concern, Greeting,
Know ye, that the bearer hereof, our trusty and well beloved Companion

Hath been regularly initiated into all the mysteries of Ancient Free Masonry,
Hath taken the degrees of MARK MASTER, PAST MASTER, SELECT MASTER,
ROYAL MASTER, MOST EXCELLENT MASTER and hath been exalted to the

Most Sublime Degree of ROYAL ARCH MASON on December 10, 2008,
and has performed all his works as a member of

N.C.

under our jurisdiction; to the entire satisfaction of all the Companions.

Therefore, we have granted him this DIPLOMA, and do hereby recommend

Our said Companion to the attention and confidence of all

ROYAL ARCH MASONs who are good and true, to whom he may present
Himself; and that this said Diploma may be of use to anyone else; we have
Caused our said Companion to sign his Common Signature in the margin hereof.

Given under the seal of the GRAND
CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONs
IN VIRGINIA at Richmond, this
9th day of May A.D. 2011

GRAND SECRETARY

HIGH PRIEST CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

The Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons

In Virginia



In accordance with Section 143 of the Digest of the Law, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia, this Certificate is issued to:

Companion _____ who has qualified himself to be elected High Priest of a Chapter as prescribed therein by the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia.

Done this _____ day of _____ A.I.25 _____ A.D. 20_____

No. 0107 _____

District Lecturer

Assoc Grand Lecturer

Grand Lecturer

No. 0107 _____ Date _____, 20_____

Issued to: _____

of _____ Chapter No. _____

For the year 20 _____ SEND TO OFFICE OF GRAND SECRETARY

No. 0107 _____ Date _____, 20_____

Issued to: _____

of _____ Chapter No. _____

For the year 20 _____ RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY



Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY AWARDED TO

Companion

AS A TESTIMONY OF HIS PROFICIENCY
IN THE
RITUAL OF THE FOLLOWING DEGREES

Mark Master	20	Examiner
Past Master	20	Examiner
Select Master	20	Examiner
Royal Master	20	Examiner
Most Ex. Mstr	20	Examiner
Royal Arch	20	Examiner

Grand Lecturer

VALID WHEN SIGNED BY GRAND LECTURER OR ASSOCIATE

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons in Virginia



Attest:

M. Ex. Grand High Priest

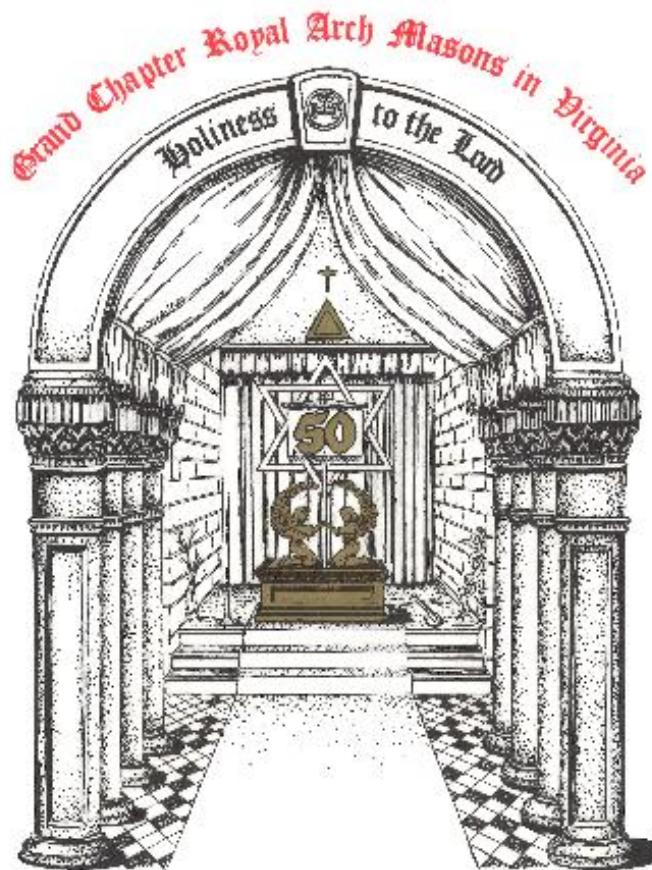
C E R T I F I C A T E O F A T T E N D A N C E

In recognition of MOST EXCELLENT SERVICE to _____
ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER NO. _____, in an endeavor to increase attendance at ALL STATED
CONVOCATIONS, this Certificate for EXEMPLARY ATTENDANCE is presented to Companion
_____, he having attended TWELVE CONSECUTIVE STATED
CONVOCATIONS of this Chapter from _____ TO _____.

Date: _____

Attest: _____
Secretary

FIFTY YEAR CERTIFICATE



To all whom these presents may concern.

Greetings;

Know ye, that the bearer hereof, our trusty and well-beloved companion,
member of _____ chapter no. _____
in appreciation of his having completed

Fifty Years
of Membership in the Royal Arch Chapter
He having been Exalted
is presented with this certificate.

SACRIFICE GRAND SECRETARY

PRINT EXALTED GRAND HIGH PRIEST

DRAWN BY GENE PARKER FAM
EXCELSIOR STATIONERY CO. NEW YORK

CERTIFICATE OF PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONSON IN VIRGINIA



CERTIFICATE OF PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

To whom these presents may come, Greetings. Know ye that

having fulfilled the requirements as set forth by the Grand Chapter, is hereby certified a
Perpetual Member of Royal Arch Chapter No. with
all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto; and that said Companion is commended
for his devotion and support of Royal Arch Masonry in Virginia for this and future
generations.

Done this 9th day of May, A.D. 2011



Grand High Priest

Grand Secretary

PROGRAM FOR PROGRESS

The Program for Progress was adopted by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia at its Annual Convocation in 1964. A detailed outline is found in the Proceedings of Grand Chapter for that year.

Appropriately, the program was established at three levels with three phases of activity at each level. Three levels are: Grand Chapter Level, District Level, and Chapter Level. The three phases of activity in all three levels are: (1) Increasing Membership; (2) Increasing Attendance and Interest; and (3) Increasing Proficiency.

Summaries of the Grand Chapter, District, and Chapter Levels follow.

GRAND CHAPTER LEVEL

The Program for Progress has been initiated by:

1. The establishment of the Committee on Education and Service.
2. The assignment of definite areas of activity to the Grand Line Officers.
3. The quarterly (or more frequent) meetings of Grand Line Officers.
4. Emphasizing the importance of their presence at Schools of Instruction.
5. Requiring certification of qualification of High Priests before their installation.
6. The preparation and distribution of the Chapter Officers Guide Manual.

DISTRICT LEVEL

At the District Level, the Program for Progress has placed the following into effect:

1. Changing the date period for the selection of prospective appointees for the office of District Deputy Grand High Priest.
2. Requiring quarterly reports from these District Deputies during their term of office.
3. The organization of District Council Associations, composed of the current High Priest, Kings, and Scribes of the Chapters within the District.
4. The appointment of a District Lecturer within and for each District.
5. The organization of District Schools of Instruction.

CHAPTER LEVEL

At this level, you'll be working in all three of the phases mentioned earlier. Remember that any progress made by Royal Arch Masonry as a whole is but the sum total of the progress made in each and every Chapter. Please read and study the suggestions and ideas on the following pages and use as many of them as you can to promote progress in your Chapter and in Royal Arch Masonry throughout our Commonwealth.

CHAPTER LEVEL PRESENTATION

As there are six degrees in Capitular Masonry, so are there six important steps in your Program for Progress at Chapter Level. As these six degrees lead us to the Summit of Ancient Craft Masonry, these six steps will lead us to our goal, Royal Arch Masonry at the Zenith of its existence. These steps are presented in this Manual as suggestions of ways to improve your leadership and the progress of your Chapter, and are:

1. Increase proficiency in administrative procedures.
2. Increase proficiency in conferring the degrees.
3. Implement relationship with other Chapters.
4. Implement relationship with Grand Chapter.
5. Implement relationship with Symbolic Lodges.
6. Increase attendance, interest, and membership by promoting special programs.

Positive recommendations concerning the first five suggestions are presented for your consideration, as they apply to all Chapters in much the same way. Several ideas for special programs are listed in suggestion six. The programs that are used and the methods of presentation will depend entirely upon the circumstances existing in each individual Chapter. The establishment of committees to help you have many successful programs is presented in the section on "Committees."

SUGGESTION 1.

INCREASING PROFICIENCY IN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

This is done through improved knowledge of, and better usage of, the "DIGEST." The days are long gone when the average member was unaware of or unconcerned about the way in which the business of the Chapter is being conducted. In our modernistic times, dissatisfaction in this area often keeps members away from meetings and even causes some to withdraw from membership. Anyone who is a true Mason will not be displeased if the business is conducted in an orderly

manner and in compliance with Grand Chapter law. It is therefore recommended that your read your DIGEST carefully, giving sufficient time and effort to study the following items:

1. Officers of the Chapter: Eligibility – Election – Installation
2. Duties and Responsibilities of these officers
3. Fees and Dues: Payment – Non-payment – Remission
4. Petitions: Election or Rejection – Time limits for action
5. Affiliations: Honor Members – Visitors
6. Demits – Suspensions – Expulsions – Reinstatements
7. Ceremonies: Installations – Visitations of GHP or DDGHP – Fifty Year Members – Other Awards – Memorial Services
8. District Deputy Grand High Priest: Knowledge of duties prior to recommendation of nominee – Reports from Chapter to
9. Dispensations: Reasons – Requests for
10. Grand Chapter: Annual Returns – Attendance – Representation – Voting

If you are not fully able to understand any section of the DIGEST due to its wording, consult with your District Deputy Grand High Priest.

SUGGESTION 2.

INCREASING PROFICIENCY IN CONFERRING THE DEGREES

Some candidates become real Royal Arch Masons and some just members of the Chapter, often depending upon the manner in which the degrees have been conferred. To increase your membership, and from it get increased attendance and interest, teams from your Chapter should be able to confer all the degrees. Considering the future, alternates and replacements should also learn the Work.

It is suggested that you have a meeting with your line officers and determine your Chapter's capability and needs. Then have another meeting, bring in the District Lecturer. With his co-operation, draw up a plan for training your Chapter members in the Ritual as required. Set up a calendar of the District Schools and have all your members who will, attend. Have the Lecturer conduct Schools in your Chapter when expedient. Try to establish a group of "Instructors" within the Chapter who will coach those willing to learn when Schools periods are not in session.

Proficiency in Ritualistic Work requires individuals with knowledge of the Ritual, carefully prepared teamwork, and the desire to impress upon the candidate the precepts included in the degrees. As they move up, all the line officers should be taking an increasing interest in the Work. Having members who are not officers on the teams helps to increase interest and attendance. Do not overlook the importance of having everyone who can, and will, attend the Grand Chapter's Schools of Instruction.

Dates for the assembling of these schools, when confirmed, and any other information requested concerning them will be provided by your District Lecturer. As previously stated, the details of the Ritual are in the hands of the Grand Chapter Committee on Work, and may not be discussed in this Manual.

SUGGESTION 3.

IMPLEMENTING RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHAPTERS

Take an active part in the proceedings of your District Council Association and help your District Deputy and Area Liaison Officer promote the Program for Progress at District level and at Grand Chapter level.

Have as many of your officers and members that will, visit other Chapters in groups as often as possible, especially when an Official Visit is being made or the degrees are being conferred. The strength and existence of Masonry depends upon our demonstration of the “brotherhood of Man,” and is greatly enhanced by the Companionship that Royal Arch Masons enjoy and value so much. Friendly relationship between Chapters will stimulate attendance, and this will help increase membership.

Friendly contests between Chapters relative to attendance and proficiency in the Ritual are beneficial in many ways. Besides improving interest and attendance, they help in the development of leaders for the future. Small trophies and awards provided for individuals and Chapters in such contests have been presented with surprising results on previous occasions. Persuade the Chapters near yours to join with it in some of these contests.

SUGGESTION 4.

IMPLEMENTING RELATIONSHIP WITH GRAND CHAPTER

Your Chapter is not a component part, but a constituent part of your Grand Chapter. Decisions are made in Grand Chapter by delegates of Chapters voting according to their convictions. **MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOUR CHAPTER'S ANNUAL RETURNS ARE SENT IN ON TIME SO THAT YOUR CHAPTER WILL BE ENTITLED TO A VOTE IN GRAND CHAPTER. BE THERE TO REPRESENT YOUR CHAPTER AND CAST THAT VOTE.** For further information, refer to Section 156 of the DIGEST.

Convince your officers that they should all attend Grand Chapter so that they will have had some experience with its procedures when they become delegates representing their Chapter at Grand Chapter.

Use every opportunity during Grand Chapter Convocations to become better acquainted with those serving as Grand Chapter Officers. They want to assist and serve all Chapters, but will have to be informed as to how, when, and where they can render this service. This improved communication, with your reports to your Chapter concerning results obtained, will help your

members realize that their Chapter is a part of Grand Chapter, and not just a visitor looking on. Your best contact will be through your Area Liaison Officer.

Report to your Chapter what has occurred during Grand Chapter Convocation. Your responsibility for this report is the important reason for your being there and knowing what is going on.

SUGGESTION 5.

IMPLEMENTING RELATIONSHIP WITH SYMBOLIC LODGES

This is a very important part of your program for increasing membership. Royal Arch Masons, especially the officers of the Chapter, should regularly attend the meeting of their Symbolic Lodge. They should be as active in its programs as time and circumstances will allow. By attending in groups, they will demonstrate the unequalled benefit of Royal Arch Masonry: true Companionship. They will also be showing that they are still interested in their Symbolic Lodge and its activities. Remember that the Master Masons who decide to petition a Chapter because they have been impressed by the conduct of those known to be Royal Arch Masons will make very good Chapter members.

Be present when degrees are conferred in the Lodge, especially when the candidates become Master Masons. Congratulate them and establish a communicative friendship that may result in their desiring to become Royal Arch Masons. Encourage all your members who can, and will, to accept the responsibility of coaching Lodge candidates in their Catechisms. Do not seek petitions while the Lodge is in session nor during the fellowship period that may follow. They may be asked for, but should be obtained through personal contact in a dignified manner without violating any of the precepts of Masonry. Prospective members should know by the conduct of Royal Arch Masons in the Lodge that the Chapter does not just house a special group, but that it is the permanent dwelling place of the Summit of Ancient Craft Masonry. All Real Masons would like to arrive at that Summit.

Investigate the possibility of having a "Blue Lodge Night" as part of your attempt to increase membership. You will find some suggestions that will apply to such a meeting in the "Special Program Ideas" section of this Manual.

SUGGESTION 6.

INCREASING ATTENDANCE, INTEREST, AND MEMBERSHIP BY PROMOTING SPECIAL PROGRAMS

As King and as High Priest, your main objective should be to serve your Chapter in such a way that its membership increases and the members respond with increased attendance and interest in the activities of the Chapter. You know that there is more that could be said on this subject than we can present in this Manual. There are a great many programs that would bring about the desired results. We present a few of these as "Special Program Ideas." When you review these

and try them out, you may come up with some that will be even more effective. If you do, please pass them back to the Committee so they may eventually be passed on to the other Chapters. If you have success with some of the programs, you have done a lot for your Chapter.

IDEA 1. ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Try to have an anniversary celebration in your Chapter at least every five years. The items to be considered when planning one are: the preparation of a suitable program for the meeting, invitation of participants and guests as well as all members, historical information, entertainments, tokens of remembrance.

Planning for 50th, 100th, or 150th anniversaries should begin early enough to assure that sufficient funds will be available, and that a satisfactory meeting place will be provided. All whom you would like to have attend should be notified well in advance so that they can arrange to be present if possible.

IDEA 2. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

These are actually yearly anniversaries of the dates of Exaltations of members. It is a good program, especially for the smaller Chapters with few Exaltations during each year. To be fair to all, the program would have to be set up to include every member. It must be planned so that the time required to greet each one who is observing an anniversary does not interfere with some other program with equal or greater importance to the progress of the Chapter and to those who attend regularly, and not just on their "birthdays."

If you adopt this program for your Chapter, remember that it will be necessary to send a special invitation to each member at the proper time. This will require a screening of your roster to determine in which month each member was Exalted. Transportation may be required by some, and each one will have to be recognized on an equal basis. Should you overlook notifying any one member, it would be well to send him a written apology. This is one of the programs that has to be handled with extra care. Investigate carefully all the factors involved before setting up this program, because to start it and then drop it would not be good for progress of the Chapter.

IDEA 3. CHURCH VISITATION

Although we do not discuss religious doctrines in our Chapter meetings, the precepts we are teaching have been revealed to us by the Word of Truth. It will benefit everyone concerned if your Chapter will occasionally attend some church service in a group, accompanied by their families and Masonic friends who are not Royal Arch Masons.

IDEA 4. BLUE LODGE NIGHT (A Chapter Meeting)

At least once during your year as High Priest, have a special Chapter meeting for Master Masons who are not Royal Arch Masons. (The Chapter would not be opened.) Request every member of the Chapter to invite all of his Masonic friends who have not become

Royal Arch Masons to attend this type meeting. Let each member introduce his guest. Have a competent Royal Arch Mason present a brief talk on the subject of Royal Arch Masonry.

Provide appropriate entertainment and refreshments during a fellowship period following the meeting. Do not seek petitions during the meeting, but have them available should they be asked for. Make a note of those attending and follow up with personal contact, always encouraging Chapter membership whenever the opportunity presents itself.

IDEA 5. WORSHIPFUL MASTER'S NIGHT

If the Master of a nearby Lodge is a Royal Arch Mason, request him to be your guest speaker for a special occasion. The subject of the presentation may be specified by the High Priest or left up to the speaker. Have your members act as an attendance committee to contact all members of the Lodge who are Royal Arch Masons and persuade them to support their Master during his visit to the Chapter. When you have the chance, tell the Lodge members who do not belong to the Chapter what a good time they missed. The Master may also be a good one to contact with reference to your "Education Night" program.

IDEA 6. MASONIC EDUCATION NIGHT

Arrange for a competent speaker to present an informative message on Masonic subjects. Some suitable topics are, but many are not included in, our Digest or our Text Book. There are many volumes of information that can be presented in this manner. Some subjects to consider are:

Masonic History
Lessons from the Ritual
A Mason's Responsibilities
More Dynamic Leadership
Americanism

The Relationship of Masonic Bodies
The Landmarks of Masonry
Activating New Members
Creating a Better Image

There are many, many more of great value. Use as many of them as you can.

IDEA 7. HIGH PRIESTS' NIGHT

Invite the High Priests of the Chapters in your District and of neighboring Chapters to be special guests. Recognize them and their Chapter members accompanying them. Have one or more of them speak on topics related to our united effort to improve Royal Arch Masonry in its entirety. Ask them to tell your Chapter members which Special Programs have enabled them to make real progress. Also ask them for a report on the activity of the District Council Association and what is being planned for next year by that group. Conduct your program in a way that will show appreciation for their leadership and for what they have done for their Chapter and for Royal Arch Masonry as a whole.

IDEA 8. PAST HIGH PRIESTS' NIGHT

This program should be planned to show honor, respect, and appreciation for the Past High Priests who have served their Chapter well. If planned and conducted for that

purpose, it will encourage them to attend more often and will also encourage those in line to work harder, especially when they have become High Priests. It is suggested that a personal letter be sent to each Past High Priest inviting him to attend. A dinner with the wives prior to the meeting is another excellent way to honor the Past High Priest.

IDEA 9. DEMOLAY NIGHT

This can have a great influence for good, not only on the DeMolay group, but on the Masonic relatives who have not become Royal Arch Masons. Plan a brief business period and ask all Companions present to remain after the Chapter is closed. Then invite in the DeMolays and have them exemplify some of their Ritualistic Work. When they have finished, compliment them and their leadership, and invite them to share a fellowship period with the Companions of the Chapter. Remember that some of them may be prospective candidates for the Symbolic Lodge and also the Chapter.

THE ORDER OF DEMOLAY – YOUNG MEN ON THE GO

Over fifty years ago a young man had a glorious dream. Under the genius of his guiding hand, this dream became the Order of DeMolay. This was an organization of young men between the ages of twelve and twenty-one which was founded by a Mason, is guided by Masons, and supported by Masons. Over three million young men have taken the Vows at its Altar, and many of them have gone on to prominent places in all walks of life. Hundreds of thousands have petitioned Masonry in later adulthood.

The Order of DeMolay has a program that enables young men to master their own skills of leadership, self-reliance, and responsibility. Each DeMolay Chapter is organized to function in such a manner that the individual members plan their own social, athletic, civic, and fundraising activities, and thus learn firsthand the lessons of responsible citizenship.

Standing in the background and ready with a friendly word of advice and any other assistance when needed are the adult Masonic Advisors who do just that alone – Advise. The Advisors are volunteer Masons who give freely of their time and talent because of their interest in the youth of our communities. The advisor receives for all of his hard work the personal satisfaction of seeing “his Boys” grow into manhood and take their rightful place as leaders in his city, state, or nation. Posterity will not recognize us because of the size of our bank account, but we will be remembered as having been important in the life of a young man.

WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE?

IDEA 10. JOB'S DAUGHTERS' NIGHT

Since Job's Daughters are young girls, their parents and Guardian Councils should be invited to all meetings planned to honor them. The Chapter meetings should be closed early. All companions should be asked to remain to greet the visiting Job's Daughters and those accompanying them. The Job's Daughters would be asked to exemplify some part of their Ritualistic Program, and then be provided with some entertainment. The closing portion of the evening program should be a fellowship period, with refreshments.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF JOB'S DAUGHTERS

The Order of Job's Daughters was founded in 1920 in Omaha, Nebraska, by Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick. It is now international in scope with Bethels in the United States, the Philippines, Australia, Canada, and Brazil. Members are girls between the ages of ten and twenty who are related to a Master Mason and are banded together for character building through moral and spiritual development.

The meetings include a Ritualistic Ceremony based on reference to the Scriptural quotation found in the fifteenth verse of the forty-second Chapter of the book of Job: "And in all the land there were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren."

They take an active part in many philanthropic and benevolent projects, giving scholarships to deserving Daughters and providing an Educational fund from which a member may borrow to complete her education. The term of office in this Order is six months, and the highest office is that of Honored Queen. Each Bethel functions under adult supervision provided by its Guardian Council and Associate Guardian Council.

IDEA 11. RAINBOW GIRLS NIGHT

The suggestions regarding Job's Daughters Night apply equally to a night to honor Rainbows. The girls are very willing to meet with adult groups and exemplify ritual work for them, but since these meetings are often held on school nights and the girls generally have some distance to travel, an early time for their part of the program is deeply appreciated by girls and parents alike.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE INTERNATINAL ORDER OF RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

The Order of Rainbow for Girls was founded in Oklahoma by the Reverend Marke Sexson in 1922. Members are girls between the ages of eleven and twenty. A prospective member does not need to have a relationship to a Master Mason or an Eastern Star, but she does need to be recommended by a member of either Order.

The Order is based on the following verse from the ninth Chapter of Genesis: "I do set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a token of the covenant between thee and the earth for perpetual generations." An important part of the ritualistic ceremony is held by the sisters in a bow, where each color stands for a virtue or a study to be cultivated in a girl's daily life: red for love, orange for religion, yellow for nature, green for immortality, blue for fidelity, indigo for patriotism, and violet for service. Each girl is encouraged to belong to a church, but no specific religious teachings are permitted. The concept of service plays an important part in the teachings of the Order and in the activities of the Assembly. The usual term of office is four months, and the highest office is that of Worthy Advisor. Adult supervision is provided by the Mother Advisor and the Advisory Board, which consists of Master Masons, members of Eastern Star, and Majority Members of the Order. The meetings may be attended by Master Masons, members of the

Eastern Star, members of Amaranth, parents and guardians of members, as well as members of the Order.

In recent years a subsidiary group of younger girls, called Pledges, has begun to function in some areas. These girls are between eight and eleven, and they pledge themselves to join Rainbow when they are old enough. They have their own ritual and organization and are usually sponsored by and work closely with a Rainbow Assembly.

IDEA 12. LADIES NIGHT

Occasions should be especially planned for the honor and enjoyment of our ladies, whose willingness to have their husbands active in Masonry certainly should be appreciated. Ladies Nights should not be a part of the program of a Stated Convocation, but an evening set aside for that one purpose. The less formal and complicated the program is, the better it will be. Omit long introductions and speeches. Have a nice dinner, entertainment, have games with prizes and door prizes if you can. Keep things moving fast and smooth, and close up at a reasonable time.

IDEA 13. TWENTY-FIVE, FIFTY, AND SIXTY YEAR MEMBERS' NIGHT

Your Grand Chapter has special lapel buttons to be presented to Twenty-five, Fifty, and Sixty year members. The requirements for reception of one of these awards are twenty-five or fifty years aggregate membership in a Chapter or Chapters, with the last five years in a Virginia Chapter. Refer to Section 111 of the Digest. If available, a Grand Line Officer should be engaged to make the presentation. A ceremony for the presentation to the Fifty year member is printed in the Digest. The program should be planned so that these special members will appreciate the Chapter's recognition of their many years in Capitular Masonry.

IDEA 14. ACTIVATING NEW COMPANIONS

Activation involves the participant and the program. Actual participation results from placing of the new member in a productive role in a previously planned program. Respect for our officers and our laws is essential, but we must also convince the new member that we respect him for his desire to become a Royal Arch Mason, and that there is opportunity for self-expression in the working of the Chapter. This activity also provides the training and experience which are prerequisites for those who replace us as we pass on.

Study the characteristic of your new Companions carefully and assign them duties commensurate with their abilities. Some Companions who would not be able to confer the degrees in a manner acceptable to the Committee on Work could yet do commendable work as committee members. Among our Companions, as we look over their trends, we see not only Ritualists, but also visitors, entertainers, youth workers, musicians, stewards, maintenance men, and program planners.

The importance of the understanding and propagation of the Ritual may not be overlooked while discussing this subject. All new Companions who are capable of learning it and imparting it to even newer candidates should be given frequent opportunities to participate as often as possible.

A new Companion who is visiting Lodges and other Chapters as often as he can would be one to appoint on the visiting committee. Such visits help maintain the bonds of brotherhood. A Companion who has shown interest in religious activity would probably make a good member of the committee on sickness and distress. A Companion who likes to work with young people, when found suitable for the job, would be a good choice for you to associate with the DeMolay or the Job's Daughters programs.

Put the one who appears concerned about the finances on the committee that will contact those delinquent in dues. Use the one who is a musician or entertainer on your ladies or youth night programs. One interested in the public relations impression may be valuable on a building and grounds committee. If he is a good public speaker, help him find opportunity to use this talent in civic organizations as well as in the Chapter and Lodges. Above all, try to make every Companion feel that he is wanted as well as needed for continuing progress in the Chapter. In Masonry, there is a place for every willing worker. Do not give up until you have found something for each one of them to do in the Chapter, their lodge, or one of the youth organizations.

IDEA 15. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

A resolution was presented to establish a Perpetual Membership Program which would be beneficial to the individual Companion, his Chapter, and to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. This resolution was adopted by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter in 1987.

The plan requires that a Companion contribute a minimum of twelve (12) times his annual dues to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter Perpetual Membership Fund. This minimum can be increased by the Companion's Royal Arch Chapter or by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

The Grand Royal Arch Perpetual Membership Fund is entirely voluntary.

All contributions are retained by the fund, however, your Chapter and the Grand Chapter will continue to receive dues from your contribution after your death.

Chapters are encouraged to have a program to inform the Companions of the fund and its benefits to the Chapter and the Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEES SUGGESTED TO BE APPOINTED IN YOUR CHAPTER

1. ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE

A committee composed of Companions dedicated to the growth and preservation of their Chapter. They will contact all members they can and make every effort to have them attend regularly. The results will be relative to the cooperation of the committee with the Membership Committee, the Voucher Committee, the local Chapter Committee on Work, and the Special Program committees.

2. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A committee composed of Ambassadors to Blue Lodges and those who find pleasure in conferring the degrees. They should be fully qualified to explain what Royal Arch Masonry is to a Master Mason. As many of the committee as are able should be coaching those advancing in their Lodge. Whenever possible, they will attend neighboring Lodges in a group to demonstrate the Companionship that is ever present in any assemblage of true Royal Arch Masons.

3. LOCAL CHAPTER COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SERVICE

A committee of those who can effectively explain to any Companion the content of the Digest and Manual. They work with Chapter officers to improve administrative procedures; with all Companions to emphasize the responsibilities accepted in their several Obligations; and with Lodge members to convince them that Royal Arch Masonry is the prime source of additional Masonic information.

4. LOCAL CHAPTER COMMITTEE ON WORK

A committee that works closely with the District Lecturer and encourages all who will, especially the line officers, to learn how to confer the degrees. It determines that the Chapter has teams that can confer all the degrees and communicates with the Attendance Committee to obtain good attendance when degrees are being conferred. This helps convince the candidates that they are entering a worthwhile organization.

5. COMMITTEE ON SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

A committee that visits Companions and Lodge members who are invalids, hospitalized, or confined at home because of serious illness. It reports these conditions at Chapter meetings, sends out get-well cards, and has the flowers or other gifts the Chapter might donate delivered to the recipient. It makes visits or condolence to the bereaved families from whom a Companion has been removed by death, and sends out appropriate sympathy cards. It also contacts those apparently in financial difficulty, and recommends to the Chapter what it could do to alleviate the situation.

6. COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

A committee that assists the Chapter in the establishment, maintenance, and support of Youth Organizations. It is an important committee for developing good and lasting impressions of Masonry in general in the receptive mind of DeMolays, our prospective future Masons, and in those of the Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, prospective wives, mothers, and sisters of these DeMolays. In these young people are our hopes for a better future. First and early impressions are most lasting, but not well received if not presented in an impressive manner. Read the commentary on "DeMolay," "Job's Daughters," and "Rainbow Girls," which is presented with the suggested programs for recognition of these organizations.

7. VOUCHERS COMMITTEE

A committee that contacts every voucher, either in person, by telephone, or by mail, to remind him that if he wants the person whose petition he has signed to become a real Royal Arch Mason, he, the voucher, will be present during action on the petition and when the degrees are conferred on the candidate elected. The voucher should be continually reminded that he will be doing a lot for his Chapter if he convinces the newly exalted Companion he has sponsored to attend Chapter meetings regularly. This committee could have a beneficial effect on the growth of membership and attendance, and should work closely with the committees appointed to work in those areas.

8. DUES AND DEMITS COMMITTEE

A committee that contacts in person, whenever possible, any Companion that has become delinquent in dues. This could be done after the Companion has received proper notification from the secretary regarding his dues status, to convince him that there are reasons why he should not be in arrears. Before a demit is granted, the Companion requesting one would be visited by this committee and by his vouchers for the purpose of convincing him that he will be losing an important segment of his Masonic life if he withdraws from the Chapter. Should financial problems exist and the Companion is worthy, remittance of dues might be a better evidence of a true Masonic spirit than the granting of the demit.

9. SPECIAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEES

Separate committees appointed to plan and conduct each special program. This will help keep as many Companions as possible active in the Chapter, and will be the means of making use of their capabilities and qualifications. This does not suggest that a Companion may serve only on one committee, but that he should be on the committee with a purpose in which he is interested. For example, if a Companion is an Advisor to a DeMolay Chapter, he would be a good one to put on the committee planning the "DeMolay Night Program."

“THE ROYAL ARCH MASON” MAGAZINE

One of the very interesting and useful publications we have seen in Masonry is the magazine published quarterly by the General Grand Chapter under the name of “The Royal Arch Mason.” It is an informative, up-to-date, and interesting magazine for Masons of all degrees. It tells us what is going on in Masonry outside our own state. If you once read it, you will look forward to subscribing to it because of the particular interest its news has for Royal Arch Masons. Your secretary will provide you with an application for subscription and inform you as to the present cost rate. Any Mason may subscribe, and it makes a nice gift.

GRAND CHAPTER’S NEWSLETTER

The Grand Chapter’s Newsletter is published by Grand Chapter. READ YOUR NEWSLETTER. Secretaries should summarize pertinent points at Stated Convocations.

If you want news of your Chapter published, especially special events, programs, etc., send the information to the editor or the Grand Chapter’s Education and Service Committee. It is suggested that the Chapter’s Education and Service Committee be charged with the responsibility of sending items of interest to the editor.

Your success may be of value and assistance to other Chapters.

SELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS MORE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

We do not judge books by their covers, but by their content. We should not select men for positions of leadership for the one reason that they appear eloquent in the Ritual, nor just because they seem to be popular. There are many other factors to be considered. We should not let our prejudices nor our preconceived opinions confuse in our minds the difference between the meanings of the words “innovation” and “improvement.” We must select leaders who are qualified in the Ritual, and have leadership qualities.

While we are choosing those whom we trust will become real leaders, along with their Ritualistic accomplishments and their popularity, we must consider their abilities to provide real meaning to the Lectures delivered to the candidates; to read, understand, and explain the Virtues, Laws, and Landmarks of Freemasonry and the Laws and Proceedings of our Grand Chapter; to be friendly with all good men as well as with the Companions in the Chapter. We must make certain that their public relations are acceptable and that they are endeavoring, not only by words, but by deeds, to make Royal Arch Masonry attractive to its members and respected by non-members.

The idea, fostered by some members, that a Mason who is or has been active in some other organization is not good material for Masonic leadership is an opinion based on prejudice rather than on fact. A careful examination of the outline of their biographies would convince any

reasoning Mason that many of our truly great Masonic leaders also made significant accomplishments in other areas.

Select for your officers men who are Royal Arch Masons “Not in Word only, but also in Spirit;” those who are good Ritualists, but who have also demonstrated to others their knowledge and understanding of the moral lessons taught in that Ritual by the lives they live in public and in private. Choose those who are intelligent, sober minded, physically capable of performing their duties, and as well liked outside the Chapter as they are within. They should be friendly men who are loyal, competent, and determined; men who may have satisfactorily demonstrated their capability of leadership in any worthwhile organization, as well as in their Chapter.

THE YORK RITE

* BLUE LODGE

* CHAPTER

* COMMANDERY

PRESENTS

THE STEPS

OF MASONRY

The true Mason is ever seeking for more Light and Knowledge, and when he asks for this Light or Knowledge he is often told by well-meaning but mistaken brothers that “as a Master Mason he has received all there is in Masonry” and thus, while not being really satisfied, he believes, and the quest for Light ends.

The purpose of this article is to explain to the initiate and to the uninitiated, so far as may be done, the symbolism and connection between the degrees of the York Rite, and the Necessity of taking all of them in the pursuit of “more light” in Masonry.

First, we should dismiss from our minds the idea of division or separation between the three sets of degrees that compose the York Rite. Such a separation is merely formal and for convenience sake, not essential.

THE YORK RITE IS A WHOLE. You cannot stop on the way, and claim to be a Mason.

These degrees are full of the most important and beautiful moral lessons ever imparted to man. They are entitled, each and all of them, to be respected and loved for themselves alone, and not as stepping stones to something else.

The following is a brief account of the York Rite degrees:

SYMBOLIC DEGREES...BLUE LODGE

The Entered Apprentice is a bearer of burdens, the Fellowcraft is a skilled workman, and the Master Mason a director of the work.

The **ENTERED APPRENTICE** is taught symbolically to labor upon the building of King Solomon's Temple, to subdue his passions, and improve himself in Masonry.

The **FELLOWCRAFT** is carefully instructed in the principles of Geometry, and the Order of Architecture.

The **MASTER MASON** is taught the important lessons governing his conduct in the world and towards others.

CAPITULAR .. CRYPTIC DEGREES .. CHAPTER

MARK MASTER. The work on the Temple is continued as in the preceding degrees of the Blue Lodge. The candidate represents one of the workmen whose custom it was to have their work inspected at the end of each week. He presents a piece of work whose value is not appreciated at first, but later becomes "the head of the Corner." An important lesson is then taught...that we should never claim for ourselves the property of another. The degree stresses the dignity of labor, that all must work and receive wages according to their desserts.

PAST MASTER. This degree begins the preparation for the Holy Royal Arch. The candidate is taught that he must first learn to obey before he can learn to rule, and that he must learn to govern himself before he can govern others.

SELECT MASTER. In this degree is dramatized one of the incidents that occurred during the building of the Temple. It is closely connected with the Holy Royal Arch degree, and in fact it affords the explanation needed for its perfect understanding. It is highly dramatic and of great interest.

ROYAL MASTER. In this degree Hiram Abif is alive again, and imparts to the candidate the sublime teachings of useful labor on earth and a worthy end of life. The tragedy of his untimely death is again brought forward, with the great loss suffered by the craft.

MOST EXCELLENT MASTER. In this degree, King Solomon's Temple is at last completed and dedicated with imposing ceremonies to the service of the Most High God. King Solomon offers a sublime invocation, and fire comes down from Heaven and consumes the burnt offerings and sacrifices. The brethren rejoice that their labor is ended, lay aside their aprons, are greeted as Most Excellent Masters, and receive their reward. This ends the cycle of degrees having to do with the erection of King Solomon's Temple.

HOLY ROYAL ARCH. The candidates, three in number, witness the burning bush where Moses was given the command to return to Egypt and lead forth the children of Israel from bondage, and where God imparted to him the Ineffable Name. They then witness the destruction of the beautiful Temple erected by King Solomon and are carried away as captives to Babylon.

After 70 years in bondage, they are permitted to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the House of the Lord. On arriving, they find themselves in the midst of ruins, make themselves known to the Grand Council. Joshua, Zerrubbabel and Haggai set to work to remove the rubbish of the old Temple in order to lay the foundation of the new. Amidst these ruins they make many valuable discoveries which had lain buried in darkness for ages, and which complete the knowledge gained in the Symbolic degrees.

CHIVALRIC DEGREES .. COMMANDERY

ORDER OF THE RED CROSS. Our story goes back to the period of the Holy Royal Arch. In the reign of King Darius, when the Jews were returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple, a grand council was convened. Zerrubbabel participated in this council, represented by the candidate, and offered his services to travel to the Persian court and remind the King of his former promise to aid in the work. When Zerrubbabel's turn came he proclaimed the ALMIGHTY FORCE OF TRUTH.

The King was so pleased that he granted Zerrubbabel's request and founded a new order upon TRUTH. This is a proper preparation of the Order of the Temple.

Here we bid farewell to all the degrees having to do with the building of King Solomon's Temple, its destruction and the rebuilding of the city and temple, and go forward to the period of the Crusades when the Orders of Knighthood were formed to recover the Holy Sepulcher and to protect the pilgrims who went to visit its sacred shrines.

KNIGHTS OF MALTA AND MEDITERRANEAN PASS. The members represent soldiers of the Cross, and the Order is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. The candidate humbly solicits to be admitted to the privilege of the Mediterranean Pass to enable him to safely undertake a pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulcher, and also to be enrolled as a Knight of Malta.

The ceremonies of the Pass degree refer to the shipwreck of Saint Paul upon the island of Melita or Malta, and the viper that came out of the fire and clung to his hand, as related in the Acts of the Apostles.

ORDER OF TEMPLE. We now approach one of the grandest and most impressive degrees in all Masonry, the true capstone of the York Rite. The candidate represents a knight of the period that succeeded the Crusades, who had made a vow to visit the Holy Sepulcher, and seeks admission into the ranks of the Templars, the better to fulfill that vow. As a trial of his worthiness, there is enjoined upon him seven years of preparation, beginning with an unarmed pilgrimage in the direction of the Holy Shrine. After having served six years of this preparation he is commanded to devote the remaining year of preparation to penance as a trial of faith and humility. Beautiful lessons of the death and ascension of our Blessed Saviour are inculcated, and the candidate is at last received into full fellowship, in the most solemn manner.

The ancient order of the Temple was suppressed, its members disbursed, and the warlike spirit of the Order has passed away; but there remains a spirit of refined and moral Chivalry which enjoins the members to be ever ready to defend the weak, the innocent, the helpless and the

oppressed, and at last to be greeted as Brethren, and received into the “widely extended arms of the blessed Emmanuel.”

EXPLANATION OF THE CAPITULAR AND CRYPTIC DEGREES

Under certain circumstances, sensitive candidates occasionally have some doubt in their minds as to what is being taught them in the conferring of the Capitular Degrees. If this situation becomes evident, it is recommended that the Chapter, if it will help the candidate understand the events that have occurred, use the following commentaries for explaining the degrees. They are definitely not to be considered as part of the Ritual of the degrees, but are material which will help the candidate from becoming confused, and will make him feel that he is actually receiving additional Masonic information.

MARK MASTER'S DEGREE

When the candidate is presented with the Mark or penny, it becomes his permanent possession. In the center of the Mark is a circle in which the candidate will have engraved some symbol or design. This design may be an arrangement of his initials, or something symbolic of his profession or occupation. He is requested to draw a sketch of the design selected on a form presented to him and return it to the Secretary prior to receiving the Royal Arch Degree. This design will be filed with the permanent records of the Chapter in the “Mark Book.” The only restriction as to the design selected is that it must not be a duplicate of one already selected by a previous candidate.

The symbolism of the Mark Master's Degree, unlike all other degrees in Masonry, may be comprehended in the symbolism of one emblem, the Keystone. Around this is woven the whole of the narrative. It was this that caused the humiliation of the skillful Craftsman in his desire to produce some good and useful work, and his long period of sorrow and dejection by its rejection. Consequently, to this symbol he owed his honorary advancement and recognition of his skill.

We need no legend to estimate the value of the Keystone in its material sense. To the Operative Mason of today, it is an invaluable aid in the science of architecture. How much more so would it have been in ancient days when it would appear that the knowledge of its use and construction was actually confined to a privileged few of the higher class of Temple builders. To speculative Mark Masons of today, it not only constitutes the jewel of the degree, but also bears the special Mark chosen by the Mark Mason in his advancement to this honorable degree.

The importance of the Keystone in the Mark Master's Degree becomes greater as we progress through the Capitular Degrees, for we find it as a central feature of a ceremony in the Most Excellent Master's Degree, and finally when wrenched from the arch in which had been placed, it again became an important feature of the Royal Arch Degree.

There is considerable evidence and proof of the antiquity of this degree and the use of some of the Mark symbols, both in ancient and modern times, among eastern and western as well as heathen and Christian communities. Masonic Marks have been found on columns of the ruins of Herculaneum believed to be over three thousand years old. Other Masonic Marks date back to

1136 at Melrose Abbey. The oldest known record of conferring the degree was recorded at a Conference of Operative Masons held in Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh, Scotland, on December 12, 1598.

PAST MASTER'S DEGREE

We are convinced that you are seriously engaged in seeking to improve your knowledge of Masonry, else you would not have requested to receive the Degrees as conferred in the Royal Arch Chapter. The remarks which follow are not to be accepted by you as part of the prescribed ritual of the Degree of Past Master, or as suggestions for any modification or addition thereto. They are presented to you for your edification in Masonry, and to prevent any misunderstanding concerning the purpose for, and manner of conferring this degree.

Analysis of the response from many Brethren who have been asked to comment on this Degree indicates that in at least two areas, a lack of complete understanding has caused serious questions to arise in the minds of some candidates as to the desirability of pursuing their advancement in Masonry. Some of you, who have been impressed, and rightly so, by the decorum and harmonious atmosphere of brotherly love which should, and usually does prevail within the walls of the Temple of a Master Mason's Lodge, have been confused and disturbed by the apparent lack of order and disregard for Masonic principles which accompany the conferring of this Degree.

To put your mind at ease concerning this situation, we need but to explain to you the purpose of this Degree is to teach each candidate the necessity of preparing himself to render satisfactory service to Freemasonry in any office he may be selected to serve, before accepting that office. This means that, in addition to the Ritualistic Work, he must also obtain a knowledge of the principles which govern the conduct of a Lodge, he must learn how to control himself in difficult situations, and must, at all times, give first consideration to the welfare of the Lodge and the Brethren. The manner of conferring the Degree is designed to emphasize these requirements.

The more advanced student of Masonry, seeing in the Progressive Degrees of the Order a comparison of the orderly building of the oral character of a Mason with the orderly construction of the first Temple, often notices the apparent disruption in the continuity of the traditional account caused by the insertion of this Degree at this time - it not having any discernible connection with, or place in, the story of the planning and execution of this wise design by our First Most Excellent Grand Masters. The explanation for this apparent anachronism is based on the fact that it is not possible to countenance an innovation in the Body of Masonry, and is amplified by the information which follows.

Previous to the year 1797, all Degrees of Masonry were conferred under the authority of a Master's Warrant or a Charter. By order of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, it becomes the duty of every Warden of a Lodge, upon being elected, to qualify himself to preside in the Lodge by receiving the Degree of Past Master as it was given prior to 1797. From this we see that to be a Master of a Lodge, one must have received the Degree of Past Master.

During the period when Chapters of Royal Arch Masons were governed by Lodges, in which the Degrees were then always conferred, the only Masons allowed to receive the Degrees were those who had actually presided as Master in the Lodge. We can therefore summarize by saying that

every candidate for the Royal Arch Degree must have been a Past Master. When the Royal Arch Chapters became independent, to abolish this regulation would have been an innovation, so it had to remain in effect.

The Royal Arch Chapter conforms to these tenets and principles by making you a Past Master prior to Exalting you to the Most Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason. We trust that a review and study of the Ritual of this Degree and the foregoing explanation will remove all doubt from your mind as to the purpose of this Degree and the manner in which it has been conferred; and that you will continue to advance in Masonry more completely convinced that a beautiful lesson in character building is contained in each Degree.

SELECT AND ROYAL MASTER'S DEGREES (CRYPTIC DEGREES)

The Degree of Select Master is intended to complete the legend and to exemplify the manner of preservation of those sacred treasures which are recovered in the Royal Arch Degree. The scene of this Degree is laid in an underground vault or crypt and the events which characterize it are of intense interest. The Lecture contains the full story of the Degree.

The Degree of Royal Master undertakes to amplify the Degree of Master Mason as conferred in the Symbolic Lodge. It possesses such dignity and beauty that all are surprised at its sublimity and teachings, thus making it one of the most impressive ceremonies of Ancient Craft Masonry. The Lecture is explanatory of the articles contained in the Holy of Holiest of the Temple, including the Ark of the Covenant, a knowledge of which is essential to those who would fully understand the Degrees following this one. The principal characters are King Solomon and his royal associates.

These Degrees are also known as the “Council” or “Cryptic” Degrees. In all but two jurisdictions in this country, these Council Degrees are conferred in separate and distinct bodies holding their charters under a Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters from a part of the Royal Arch Chapters. Thus, each candidate for the Chapter Degrees in these two jurisdictions receive six degrees instead of the four received in all the others.

The Grand Council of Virginia was the second Grand Council of Select and Royal Masters in the world, that of Connecticut being the first. Virginia's Grand Council was organized in Richmond on Christmas Day in the year 1820. There were a dozen or more Councils organized before the Grand Council, in 1841, decided to merge with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia under condition that Grand Chapter would perpetuate the Degrees of Grand Council in their proper form.

Since that date, the Council Degrees have formed an integral part of the Chapters in this jurisdiction, being conferred between the Degree of Past Master and that of Most Excellent Master. To conform to their true chronology, and contrary to the practice in other states, Virginia confers the Select Master's Degree before that of Royal Master. A Council is regularly opened in the bosom of a Royal Arch Chapter, the two degrees are conferred in their proper sequence, the Council is then closed in due form, and the Royal Arch Chapter “resumes labor.”

MOST EXCELLENT MASTER'S DEGREE

The ceremonies exemplified in this Degree represent those at the completion and the dedication of King Solomon's Temple. The workmen have completed their labors. The capstone has been placed in the principal arch, the Temple is completed, and the Ark of the Covenant which has been so long without a resting place has been safely seated.

It was King David who first proposed to build a house wherein the Lord God of Israel might be worshipped. For this purpose, that monarch, long before his death, had numbered the workmen, appointed overseers, prepared a great quantity of brass, iron, and cedar, and had amassed an immense treasure to support his enterprise. Because David was a man of blood, God, through the Prophet Nathan, forbid him to build the house, and that work was reserved for his son, the Wise King.

The foundation of the Temple was laid on Mount Moriah in the year 2992 and finished in the year 3000, a little over seven years being occupied in its construction. Six months after its completion, the Temple was dedicated with solemn ceremonies to the worship and service of the True and Living God.

Solomon assembled all the tribes of Israel and the people entered the outer courts of the Temple, viewing its magnificence. The High Priest alone entered into the Sanctum Sanctorum. Then a procession was formed to repair to the city of David to bring forth the Ark of the Covenant. Amid the dancing, shouting, and praise of the people, they brought up the Ark and placed it within the Sanctum Sanctorum. King Solomon then ascended a brazen scaffold he had built and offered up that sublime invocation, only a portion of which has been rehearsed for your edification in this degree.

The Masonic Temple which we have been erecting is now completed and dedicated. This Temple represents the Temple of the present life. The foreign country, into which, after its completion, every Mason will eventually travel is that "undiscovered country from whose borne no traveler returns." The wages for his labors that a Mason is to receive are the rewards of a well spent life and the knowledge of Divine Truth, which the Great Architect of the Universe will bestow upon all who have faithfully performed their task.

By this Temple, which we have now dedicated to the service of the Supreme Being, we are reminded that we should dedicate this spiritual building, this Temple which we have been erecting within ourselves, to the service of the one True and Living God. "Know ye not that ye are the Temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" Though we might know for a certainty that all earthly things are transient and that in time, the decay of ages will crumble our magnificent temple into dust, yet we are persuaded, if we have erected this temple of our inner life by the Square, the Plumline, and the Rule, its foundations will never crumble nor decay.

Then let us, my Brethren, take care that each of us labor in the erection of our temple here so that, when we depart this for that far distant country from whence we shall never return, we may there receive the wages of faithful craftsmen.

This Degree is conferred only in the United States and Canada. It is not included in the Degrees in the Royal Arch Chapters of other countries.

THE ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

You have now arrived at the SUMMIT of Ancient Craft Masonry - historically and traditionally perhaps the most important degree. The ritualistic grandeur of this Degree, with the rebuilding of the Temple and the recovery of the True Masonic Word, emphasizes that the Royal Arch Degree, as the SUMMIT, indeed completes the Master Mason Degree. The Word – its loss, recovery, symbolism – and the relationship, hopes and rewards that can come only with exaltation are yours as a Royal Arch Mason. The real Meaning of the True Word, in essence, is knowledge of Divine or Absolute Truth, which includes the relation of man to Deity, to the Universe, and to his fellow man. While partially concealed in the language of the Ritual, this is the real teaching and meaning of the Royal Arch Degree.

The Royal Arch degree was being conferred in England in 1740 or shortly thereafter. At first, as was the case of many other Degrees, it was conferred by one Mason upon another. Later, those who received it grouped themselves together in what they termed Royal Arch Lodges and proceeded to confer the Degree under the assumed authority of a Craft Lodge Warrant. According to the records at York, the term "Chapter" was used for the first time on April 29, 1768.

When the second or "Ancient" Grand Lodge was formed in 1751, the Royal Arch was adopted – not as part of the Degree of Master Mason, but as a fourth or supplementary sublime Degree, the Holy Royal Arch. At first it was conferred only upon those who had presided as Masters of Craft Lodges, but as this was soon found to limit the Degree too closely, men who had not so presided were permitted to "Pass the Chair," thus becoming Virtual Past Masters and eligible to receive the Royal Arch Degree.

The first Grand Chapter in the world was organized in London in 1767, under the sanction of Lord Blaney, Immediate Past Grand Master of that Grand Lodge. Despite the fact that the Royal Arch Degree originated on the other side of the Atlantic, the earliest known minutes of its having been conferred are found in the records of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 of Fredericksburg, Virginia, dated December 22, 1753. The Brother who presided on that occasion was a military visitor, the candidates being the Master, Junior Warden, and Secretary of the Lodge. There is nothing to indicate that the Degree was again conferred there, nor that it was ever contemplated as a permanent addition to their Work.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia was organized during the years 1806-1808 in Norfolk, Virginia, by Norfolk United Royal Arch Chapter No. 1, Union Royal Arch Chapter No. 2, and Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3. These numbers were assigned by Grand Chapter in accordance with the age of the Chapters known at that time. They had been in existence since about 1805 after having conferred the Royal Arch Degree under the auspices and Charters of their respective Master Mason Lodges, known as early as 1790. These three Chapters are still working prominent among the other 79 Chapters in Virginia.

DEGREE OF ANOINTED HIGH PRIEST

The Degree of Anointed High Priest as conferred in a Convention of the Grand Council of Anointed High Priest of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Virginia is at least one hundred and eighteen years old. This

degree, which sets the recipient apart to the Holy Order of High Priesthood, is an honorarium that is to be bestowed upon the High Priest of a Royal Arch Chapter, and no one may receive it until he has been duly elected to preside as High Priest in a regular Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. It is also a prerequisite prior to appointment as a District Deputy Grand High Priest.

It is recommended that you carefully read Sections 3, 133, and 142 of the DIGEST with reference to the importance of this degree.

Application for the degree must be made to the Secretary, Grand Council of Anointed High Priests, prior to mid-day of the first day after the opening of Grand Chapter. The degree is usually conferred on the afternoon of that day. A beautiful Masonic Bible and a Certificate of Membership is given to each Anointed High Priest.

DEGREE OF THRICE ILLUSTRIOS MASTER

This degree is an honorarium and is one of great solemnity, impressing the candidate with the principles of filial fidelity and fraternal love. It is intended as a ceremony that exemplifies the relinquishing by a presiding officer of the reins of power and authority to his successor.

This degree is usually conferred following the conferral of the degree of Anointed High Priest. Prospective candidates must register with the Secretary, Grand Council Thrice Illustrious Master, prior to mid-day on the second day of Grand Chapter. Membership cards and emblems are received by each Thrice Illustrious Master.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES*

Freemasonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it is not organized for profit and none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but is all devoted to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational in that it teaches by prescribed ceremonials a system of morality and brotherhood based upon the Sacred Law.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism; the Volume of Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a lodge is in session; reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial [sic]; and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may forgather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity.

Through the improvement and strengthening of the character of the individual man, Freemasonry seeks to improve the community. Thus it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and personal responsibility, enlightens them as to those things that make for human welfare, and inspires them with that feeling of charity, or good will, toward all mankind which will move them to translate principle and conviction into action.

To that end, it teaches and stands for the worship of God; truth and justice; fraternity and philanthropy; and enlightenment and orderly liberty, civil, religious, and intellectual. It charges each of its members to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which he holds allegiance, and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.

It believes that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect, and opinion may unite rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds, and opinions can assemble.

Believing these things, this Grand Lodge affirms its continued adherence to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics, or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

It further affirms its conviction that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but dangerous to its unity, strength, usefulness, and welfare for Masonic Bodies to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any

way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of government officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties. The true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgment and the dictates of his conscience.

**Adopted at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in 1939.*

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