

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter
Holy Royal Arch Mason's
for the State of Florida, U.S.V.I. and Jurisdiction
Grand Convocation for the Year 2017
WEDNESDAY April 12th, 2017

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons Grand Convocation for the Year 2017 opened ritualistically inform by St. James Chapter No. 26 headed by Excellent High Priest Marvin Motley at the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday the 12th of April at the Grand East 410 Broad Street on the 5th floor in the great City of Jacksonville, Florida.

Reception of Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest Enoch Mobley and cabinet at the hour of 10:00 a.m., following the song "Come by Here" was sung by the Rt. Ex. Ernest Powell, Grand Chaplain and Prayers following.

At the Hour of 10:12 a.m. the Reception of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lewis S. Thurston properly receive and the Grand Honors rendered by all Companions present to the Most Excellent Lewis S. Thurston.

The Most Excellent Thurston received the following dignitaries:

- Past Grand High Priest Russell Earl
- Grand Trice Illustrious Master Jeffrey C. Doyle of the Illustrious Union Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of Florida
- Right Eminent Grand Commander Rico Merritt of Union Grand Commandery No. 22 Magnanimous Order of Knights Templar of Florida
- Past Grand High Priest Arthur Mincey who is also a Past Eminent Grand Commander of Union Grand Commandery No. 22 Magnanimous Order of Knights Templar of Florida

Welcome to all Companions present was given by the Rt. Ex. Walter P. Russell, Grand King and a response given by District Deputy Grand High Priest Lawrence Sims of District No. 1.

The Roll Call of Chapters was read by the Rt. Ex. Daron Mosley, Grand Secretary and the following Chapters answered the call:

# 1 – Present	# 37 – Present	# 108 – Present	# 144 - Present
# 1A – Present	# 44 – Present	# 111 – Present	# 147 - Present
# 10 – Present	# 48 – Present	# 113 – Present	# 164 – Present
# 13 – Present	# 50 – Present	# 114 – Present	# 168 - Present
# 16 – Present	# 70 – Present	# 115 – Present	# 187 - Present
# 26 – Present	# 94 – Present	# 116 – Present	# 198 - Absent
# 27 – Present	# 105 – Present	# 118 – Present	# 201 – Present
# 32 - Present	# 107 – Present	# 121 – Present	# 203 - Present

Roll call of District Deputies Grand High Priest read by the Rt. Ex. Daron Mosley which was answered by the following:

# 1 – Present	# 6 – Present	# 12 - Present
# 2 – Excused	# 7 - Present	
# 3 – Present	# 8 - Excused	
# 4 – Present	# 10 - Present	
# 5 – Present	# 11 – Present	

Roll Call of Grand Officers by the Rt. Ex. Daron Mosley, Grand Secretary:

MEGHP Lewis Thurston – Present
DGHP Enoch Mobley – Present
Grand King Walter Russell – Present
Grand Scribe Elton Lewis – Present
Grand Treasurer Peter Bruton – Present
Grand Secretary DaRon Mosley – Present
Grand CCFC – Present
State Lecturer – Excused
Grand Instructor – Present
Grand Convention Director– Present
Asst. Grand Chaplain – Present
Captain of the Host - Present
Royal Arch Captain – Present
Master of 3rd Vail – Present
Master of 2nd Vail- Present
Master of 1st Vail- Present
Grand Sentinel – Excused
Grand Parliamentarian- Absent
Grand Medical Director – Absent
Grand Jewel Contest Director – Present
Grand Security – Absent

The Following Dignitaries arrived and were received accordingly:

- Past Eminent Grand Commander Cleveland Morley of Union Grand Commandery No. 22 Magnanimous Order of Knights Templar of Florida
- Past Grand High Priest Henry Puyol who is also a Past Eminent Grand Commander of Union Grand Commandery No. 22 Magnanimous Order of Knights Templar of Florida.

At the Hour of 10:37 a.m. Motion to accept the minutes of the 2016 Grand Convocation, and the 2nd Annual District Deputy Grand High Priest and Excellent High Priest Retreat and the 2017 York Rite Workshop by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113 and Second By Past Grand High Priest Malcom Haynes of Chapter No. 115. (Motioned Carried)

The rules of the Day was caused to be read by the Rt. Excellent Walter P. Russell, Grand King. Motioned to accept the Rules of the Day by Past High Priest Jerome Harris of chapter No. 26, Second by Excellent High Priest Christopher Johnson of chapter No. 118. (Motioned Carried)

RULES OF ORDER ARE DEFINED AND DELINIATED in the MEUGC – HRAM’s Constitution and By-Laws: Pages 25 & 26 ((a) thru (l)), Dated: April 2012.

The Rt. Ex. Daron Mosley, Grand Secretary gave the Grand Secretary Report. Motioned to accept the Grand Secretary Report by Past High Priest Herbert Meekins of Chapter No. 105, and Second by District Deputy James Minus of Chapter No. 168. (Motioned Carried):

Summary of the Financial Report :

Total Income \$116,636. 11

Total Expenditures: \$124,285.10

Summary of Membership Report:

Number of Members Exalted in 2016: 64

Number of Member Reinstated in 2016: 17

Total Membership in 2016: 768

Number of Fallen Companions in 2016: 9

The Rt. Ex. Peter Bruton, Grand Treasurer gave the Grand Treasurers Report. Motion to accept the Treasurer Report by Past Grand High Priest Lynwood Loper of Chapter No. 37, Second by Past High Priest Valentine McBride of No. 1. (Motioned Carried):

	General ACCT	RABA ACCT
Bal. Forwarded:	\$38,204.47	\$15,182.85
Deposit:	\$117,092.69	\$14,981.00
Expenditures:	<\$120,489.60>	<\$4,250.00>
SUB TOTAL:	\$34,807.56	\$25,913.85

RAM EVENTS (Paypal acct): \$645.92

MWUGL FOUNDATION BALANCE: \$2,120.04

MORGAN STANLEY (INVESTMENTS) BALANCE: \$20,979.99

SUB-TOTAL:	\$84,467.36
OUTSTANDING CHECKS:	<\$5,150.00>
TOTAL:	\$79,317.36

The Audit Committee gave its report by Past Grand High Priest Malcom Haynes of chapter No. 115 and District Deputy Grand High Priest Fletcher Williams of Chapter No.115 and Past High Priest Willie Wilson of Chapter No. 115. Motioned to accept the Audit Committee Report by Past Grand High Priest Jeffrey Doyle of Chapter No. 115 and Second by Rev. Ernest Powell of Chapter No. 44. (Motioned Carried).

Audit Period, 1 March 2016 – 28 February 2017.

Secretary Income		Treasurer Deposits
Totals: \$124,285.10	Difference \$454.50	\$124,739.60

Recommendations:

1. Add section to voucher form for annotation of voided requests. This was recommendation on last audit.
2. Recorder's funds received records should be kept in 3-inch 3 ring binder or divided into quarters in separate folders to prevent large bulk filing and opening of folders for records review.
3. Specific Periods could be established to make transfer of funds received by the Secretary to the Treasurer (Weekly, Bi-Monthly, or Monthly, etc.), May being done, however not apparent in the documents reviewed.
4. Treasurer should provide the Secretary a receipt for that transfer.
5. Secretary and Treasurer should be commended for their professionalism and dedication to accurately record and disburse accounting for the Grand Chapter funds entrusted in their care. If Recommendations are complied with the audit process can be facilitated in an acceptable time period and ensure all requirements of the audit process can be applied.

The Budget Committee Report was given by Rt. Ex. Peter Bruton of Chapter No. 37. Motioned to accept the Budget Committee Report by Past Grand High Priest Lynwood Loper of Chapter No. 37, and Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Fletcher Williams of Chapter No. 115. (Motioned Carried)

Proposed Budget: \$89,887.00

Expenses: \$89,887.00:

Liability Insurance Policy \$597.00
Benefit Association \$7,000.00
Sunbiz registration \$100.00
Travel/trans, etc. \$14,000.00
Donations \$5,000.00
C.R.A.M. \$1,000.00
MWUGL Foundation \$5,500.00
Honorarium/stipends \$7,500.00
Hospitality \$3,000.00
Charitable endeavors \$9,000.00
Joint Luncheon(YR / Gr. Session/Retreat) \$9,200.00
Admin fees \$3,000.00

Gen Conf Gr. Chapters \$4,000.00
Supplies/ritual's & regalia \$8,000.00
Lodging \$4,490.00
Book Stipend \$1,500.00
Fundraising \$2,000.00
GHP Testimonial (seed money) \$5,000.0

At the hour of 11:25 a.m. the Most Worshipful Grand Master the Honorable Walter Gulley Jr. and his Grand Cabinet entered the Grand Convocation and were received by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lewis S. Thurston with the Grand Honors rendered by the Companions.

The Grand High Priest called up the Rev. Ron Evans, Assistant Grand Chaplain who led the Companions with a Song and Prayer.

At 11:35 a.m. the Gavel was turned over to the Rt. Ex. Walter P. Russell, Grand King to receive the Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lewis S. Thurston for his annual State of the State Address:

“To: Honorable Walter Gulley Jr., 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master; Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge elected and appointed officers, Most Excellent Grand High Priests Charles T. Maxwell, Johnny McCray, Carl Finerson, Eugene C. Johnson, Henry B. Parker Jr., Deputy Grand High Priest Enoch Mobley, Grand King Walter Russell, Grand Scribe Elton Lewis, Grand Treasurer Peter Burton, Grand Secretary Daron Mobley, Grand Chaplain Reverend Ernest Powell, and all appointed officers - past and present; Department Heads of affiliated and concordant bodies; companions and visiting guests.

*“Amazing Grace Shall Always Be My Song of Praise, For
it was grace that brought my liberty...”*

Gratitude continues to be the word that flows from my heart. Gratitude is a virtue of “pa excellence.” When you continuously express it, it becomes more evident in your daily living. You enter a state of gratefulness, leaving you with the fullness of peace, harmony, love and unity. It is with heartfelt gratitude that the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter leadership team welcomes you to our 115th Grand Convocation.

The songwriter Hezekiah Walker said it best in his song “Grateful:”

*I am grateful for the things that You have done;
Yes I am grateful for the victories we've won.*

I am humbled in this moment to stand before you for a third year and report

the actions and vision of our beloved Jurisdiction.

One cannot begin to express gratitude, without first thanking his family. I thank my family for the many sacrifices that have afforded me the opportunity to lead this Grand Chapter. Thank you for your continued support and allowances made on my behalf for my time spent attending to Masonic business. Your efforts are most appreciated.

To our Grand Chapter, our vision and goals continue to shine brighter each year. The vision of a harmonious Jurisdiction is proving fruitful throughout our state and local chapters as we continue to fully excel in our efforts to R.E.P. - Represent, Educate and Participate with Holy Royal Arch Masonry.

As we continue to embody the wisdom of Past Grand High Priest John G. Riley, I again remind you that:

“It is said that when a man is exposed to the rigorous cold of the Artic climate, they are warned to refrain from sleep, as it is an indication that they are freezing to death, yet some of them will thoughtlessly nod and must be whipped and lashed to prevent the sleep of death, while others appreciating the good, voluntarily do so...”

As the 7th elected Grand High Priest, I continue to implore you that our due diligence here in the Grand Chapter means nothing if it is not reflected in our local chapters' progression. As PGHP Riley would say,

“For those whose have fallen asleep, **“Wake Up and Go to Work as you are taught in the Mark Master Degree!”**

With that being said, I gratefully report that **WE ARE AWAKE!** As a leader, I am humbly striving to manage our current state of affairs, with a consciousness of honor and integrity. This remains a personal goal and at the forefront is a commitment to be accessible to the membership. I, along with the cabinet, have worked to visit the jurisdiction as extensively as time and resources will permit in promotion of the work of Holy Royal Arch Masonry. Our visitations have yield great results of commitment to our vision and goals. It has also provided evidence of what needs remain throughout the jurisdiction. Herein, lies our report of your service!

NECROLOGY

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."
(2 Timothy 4:7, KJV)

Since April 30, 2016, I have been saddened by the loss of nine companions, most of whom I had an established brotherly relationship.

In this moment, we must all pause and acknowledge the Masonic life and legacy of **Past Grand High Priest Johnny L. King of Mt. Sinai #108 in Miami.**

In a moment of personal reflection, I am reminded of the 2016 Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Grand Communication. As the brothers were departing to have lunch, I noticed Companion King sitting alone. Prior to meeting, I watched him take all he had to make it down the long hallway to the meeting room. Knowing it was unlikely, that he would leave the building, I decided to remain as well. Grand Master Gulley graciously shared from his table with us. In a mentor/mentee moment, Companion King and I sat in the meeting room, sharing lunch and great conversation. I am indeed a better man from the wisdom imparted during that moment.

God allowed me to see the strength of our brotherly bond, with the transition of District Deputy Emeritus Horace Everett, in September 2016. In that moment Grand King Walter Russell proved to be a true example of the brotherly love we should have for each other. I thank God for their lifelong friendship and the support he and Excellent High Priest Keenan Johnson provided for the Everett family.

For me perhaps, of greater influence was the grace and dignity in which Theodore James of St. James Chapter #26, dealt with the effects of Lupus. This loss was indeed very personal for me for I have witnessed firsthand the ongoing struggles. PHP Theodore James of St. James #26, was indeed a catalyst in my Masonic journey for he was the first brother to visit me during the Masonic interview process; and through the years had proven to be a great friend.

We also celebrate the lives of six other companions who transitioned during the year:

- Emory Chandler Jr. – Mt. Pisgah #105, Gainesville, FL
- Charles Goodson - A.J. Junius #70, Jacksonville, FL
- William Oats - Carey P. Bentley #116, Miami, FL
- Hoover Blue - Bethel #37, Orlando, FL
- Willie B. Brown – Mt. Horeb #94, Miami, FL
- PGCGHP Samuel Jackson – Washington DC

GENERAL CONFERENCE:

The 2016 General Conference was a success and the jurisdiction of California was a gracious host. I was honored to see our Grand King Walter Russell

serving as chairperson of the General Conference Audit Committee with great professionalism. I was reappointed as the Deputy for General Conference South Alliance and am looking forward to representing with the Southern Alliance in the Bahamas during the month of July.

HEROINES OF JERICHO

Our relationship with the Heroines of Jericho is tremendous and statewide we are working to further that relationship. Last year, we attended zone visitations as a unified body and we will continue in this effort this year. In September 2016, we joined our sisters for their annual workshop in Orlando. This event was of great success. Congratulations to Deputy Calvin Atkinson, winner of the 2016 King Contest. The joint journal was our first effort, and it too was successful. Companion Brinson and Peter Bruton, you did well with assisting with the journal.

We still have work to do in ensuring every court has a Joshua and court directors. I ask that you join me in carrying the message to our sisters, "Fear not daughter of Zion," we are searching.

STATE OF THE NATION

*Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. **Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-- the LORD, who remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. **The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.***

Psalms 146 KJV

On January 20, 2017, we witnessed a transition of power from the 44th President, The Honorable Barrack Obama to the 45th President, The Honorable Donald Trump. During his final State of the Union address, President Barack Obama stated and I repeat, "The State of the Union is Strong."

As of February 3, 2017, the national unemployment rate was 4.8 percent which

is down from the rate of 2016 which was 4.9 percent. In January 2017, the nonfarm payroll employment rose by 227,000 per the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Job gains occurred in several industries, led by retail trade, construction, and financial activities. This is a change from 2016 job gains which were in food services and drinking places, health care and manufacturing.

Moving forward into what will indeed be a different time and space, we must watch and pray with due diligence; not just at the National level, but at our State and local levels as well. This is evident by unprecedented drama and unexpected turns, in the first three months of this year. As of today, our top media feeds read:

- Trump Wins
- Russian Hacking
- Hillary Clinton's emails and the FBI.
- Violence and the police.
- A vacancy on the Supreme Court.
- The rise of fake news.
- Massacre in Orlando.
- Republicans hold the Senate.
- Bernie empowers the left.
- The war in Syria.

None of these feeds are reflective of the needed economic focus that will determine our survival, not only as an organization, but as a people. In fact, over the past six months, we have seen the stock market improve and the economy grow. I would offer that now is the time to fill your storehouses for the lean times to come. Preparation in this season, will determine our success in seasons to come.

The election process must also become a priority. I recently read an editorial in which the writer stated, "As American citizens, I believe we have two obligations: voting and serving on a jury. Both processes secure our freedoms as citizens. Yet, we run from jury duty and avoid voting lines." As individuals, it is imperative that we become more engaged in the political process. Now is the time to focus on potential candidates; and frankly, hold those currently sitting in office accountable. We must register persons to vote, research voting records, show up and speak out at meetings; and support restoration of rights, counter fraud, and voter access initiatives.

STATE OF THE STATE

Among the largest stories in our state, was the horror of the terrorist attack on the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. The state also endured two hurricanes, one of which occurred during the Deputy and High Priest Retreat in September 2016. The spread of the Zika Virus and the Ft. Lauderdale Airport shooting are also among the other things we have endured.

Governor Scott stated, , *“While heartbreaking, these tragedies have given me new perspective that the future of our state is even greater than our past accomplishments and we must be even more resolved to build a society where any child, no matter where they are from has the opportunity to live their dreams.”* He goes on to say, **“Floridians are fighters. Floridians are strong, Floridians are selfless!”**

I concur and must applaud all Floridians who unselfishly set aside our differences and even our philosophies to respond to the needs of our fellow residents and guests impacted by each of these tragedies. In these moments, our state did indeed shine, becoming a beacon of hope and compassion for her people.

Florida’s job market is slowly growing. This is evident in the state’s unemployment rate which is currently at 5.6 percent just .02 percent above the national level. We must be actively pursuing additional opportunities to grow jobs and ensuring that we have a workforce prepared to assume the positions as they arise. This comes with job training programs and education.

Efforts to improve education for our children, who represent our future, also improved. Florida’s fourth graders are number two in the world in reading and the National Council on Teacher Quality says we have the best equipped teachers in the nation, for the second year in a row. It is important that we continue to keep this momentum and ensure that our educators remain prepared and are able to assist their students in reaching their potential. We must also work to empower our children so they arrive to school ready to learn and are able to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them.

STATE OF THE CRAFT

We continue to excel in time of crisis. This continues to show success both at the local and grand level. I asked and you delivered by implementing local programs in your respective areas. Two chapters continue to excel in community service:

- Abraham Chapter #147 in Bradenton - Continuous to work with area youth supported by their scholarship luncheon held in January.
- Maxwell Chapter #115 & District 5 in Crestview - Annual participation in the “No Child Left Behind Day of Service.

Congratulations again to District Deputy Fletcher Williams Jr. Deputy of the Year and District Deputy Calvin Atkinson, Companion of the Year.

I continue to live by and challenge you with words expressed in KJV *Proverbs 29.18*, "Where there no vision, the people perish." We have made the vision plain and we continue to embrace the three goals established at the beginning of this administration in 2014:

- Increase membership by 25 percent,
- Continue working relationship with the Heroines of Jericho, and
- Encourage the local chapters to learn and apply the mission statement.

The brand is working. The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter is leading by example. We have branded our own shirts, jackets, coins, crowns cases, apron cases and bags. Through marketing and by creating our own products, we are able to ease the financial burden to our membership and generate additional funds to support our charitable efforts. We are hoping to further this endeavor through our communications with the Grand Lodge bookstore as part of our efforts to market our products.

As we look to an even brighter future for our order, we will continue with our current goals while adding one or two new goals along the way.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past twelve months, we have seen a continuation of growth in our membership, growth in Masonic education and growth in our relationships with each other. In summary, our accomplishments for 2016-17 are as follows:

- Encouraged the local chapters to learn and apply the mission statement,
- Maintained harmonious relationship with the Heroines of Jericho,
- Encouraged and supported three (3) chapters in obtaining regalia,
- Refurbished and upgraded the grand chapter's regalia and working tools,
- Continued promotion of the "5th Sunday Red Tie" church visitations,
- Held Annual Charity and Recognition York Rite Luncheon or Dinner,
- Contributed \$21,455,00 to various benevolent activities,
- Implemented two Ways and Means Fundraisers,
- Initiated the Dime Challenge for every chapter,
- Education Empowerment of \$200 per chapter,
- Donated \$250 in support of the Lupus Support Network,
- Donated \$400 to support the John G. Riley Museum's United States Colored Troops Education Project,
- Donated approximately 7000 pounds of shoes to Funds2Org,
- Conducted Deputy and High Priest Retreat, successfully in the midst of a Hurricane,
- Continued to work on Financial Empowerment and accountability,
- Conducted the first graduation class for the College of Royal Arch in September 2016 and second class in January 2017,
- Opened Life Membership enrollment, with a focus on members exalted

- in 2015 and 2016,
- Ensured that all local chapter uniform by-laws were properly recorded and filed,
 - Added four (4) Companions to the ranks of Past Grand High Priest,
 - Added eleven (11) new Excellent High Priests to the priesthood convention,
 - Reinstated the SIGNET Newsletter under the guidance of Companion Craig Stafford,
 - Honored with the 2017 9th Year York Rite class being named Lewis S. Thurston, and
 - Reappointed as the Southern Alliance Deputy for General Conference.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership team continues to amaze me. Last year, I challenged us to reach a goal of 1000 members by April 2017. There are many challenges facing our membership both internally and externally that resulted in us falling short. However, I invoke upon ye Companions, that we must be diligent in our prayers for one another.

In spite of our challenges, membership is increasing and we need to continue to grow new chapters. Revitalization and establishing such chapters remain on the trestle board. We are steadfast in our works and pursuing opportunities to grow chapters. We continue to look into inquiries regarding setting up chapters in the Live Oak, FL and British Virgin Islands; and reviving a chapter in Key West.

Retention - I also thank our chapters for purging their rolls. It is of the utmost importance that we continue to seek ways to retain our York Rite members. Each of us must help our local chapter reclaim and recruit new members. **Yes, we can recruit!** I have personally invited 12 companions back into our ranks since April 2016. This is not just a benefit for Holy Royal Arch, but also the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge. Please **remember every Master Mason has a claim to Holy Royal Arch Masonry. Ask yourself, "What am I doing to perpetuate our existence?"**

York Rite Weekend - College of Royal Arch - In January we celebrated the ninth year of bringing the brothers and sisters together for a weekend of wholesome instructions and fellowship. The return of the College of Royal Arch has been a major inspiration to the craft. Dr. Elton Lewis, our dean and his team continue to do an awesome job.

Statewide Exaltation – Once again, I congratulate all the members that were exalted during the 2016-17 year. At the 9th York Rite Weekend in January 2017, we performed, for the second time, a full exaltation for the new companions. Special thanks go to the statewide exaltation teams.

JEWEL CONTEST

Grand Instructor Willie E. Bowman did an excellent job in getting the word out and we faced the challenges of the contest being on a Friday. The next year contest will be held on a Saturday. I am expecting greater participation.

This year's winner St. James Chapter #26 had the opportunity to open our Grand Convocation under the leadership of Excellent High Priest Marvin Motley. Excellent High Priest Marvin Motley, your leadership is commendable and thank you for your service.

TRAVEL

Doing the period from April 12, 2016 to March 31, 2017, I made numerous visits and attended many events. The reception from all was exceptional.

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
April 15-21, 2016	Grand Communication	Jacksonville, FL
April 19-20, 2016	Re-elected as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the State of Florida and USVI	Jacksonville, FL
April 24, 2015	Zerubbabel Day Service	Tallahassee, FL
May 1, 2016	R.E. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Program	Melbourne, FL
May 6-7, 2016	Joint Zone 3 HOJ visitation	West Palm Beach, FL
May 21, 2016	Joint Zone 2 HOJ visitation	Gainesville, FL
July 3 - 7, 2016	Attended the Conference of Grand Chapters with Cabinet. GK Walter Russell presented during the workshop	Los Angeles, CA

July 9 - 11, 2016	Grandmasters Department Head meeting	Pensacola, FL
July 15 - 16, 2016	MWUGL Workshop	Jacksonville, FL
July 22 - 23, 2016	Florida Council of Deliberation	Jacksonville, FL
August 6, 2016	Albert Cobb Day	Orlando, FL
August 13, 2016	MWUGL Black and White Banquet	Orlando, FL
August 14-16, 2016	Imperial Council	Tampa
September 2-4, 2016	HOJ Mid-Year Workshop and the introduction of Deputy and High Priest	Orlando, FL
September 7, 2016	Homegoing of Johnny L. King	Miami, FL
September 10, 2016	Homegoing of Williams Oats	Miami, FL
September 10, 2016	Anniversary of Monticello Consistory #331	Monticello, FL
September 11, 2016	100 Men in Black, St. Matthews MB Church	Tallahassee, FL
September 17, 2016	Attended funeral of Fred Miller's father and 2 other friends	Eustis, FL
September 18, 2016	Prince Hall Day Observance	Jacksonville, FL
September 24, 2016	Birthday Celebration John G. Riley	Tallahassee, FL

September 23-25	Grand High Priest John Small Testimonial and the York Rite Grand Convocation	Atlanta, GA
October 1, 2016	Traveled to Daytona Beach for the Knights Templar Workshop. The fellowship and training was very enlightening as always	Daytona Beach, FL
October 1, 2016	Attended the Union Prior Mid-Year workshop	Daytona Beach, FL
October 13-16	Travel to District 1A to visit with the Zoab Chapter	St. John VI
November 4-5	Southern Alliance Meeting	Florence, SC
December 9-10	Grand Master Zone 1 Visitation and what a wonderful reception I received from the grand	Panama City
January 5 - 8, 2017	9 th Consecutive York Rite Weekend; the highlight was the completion of the first year of the return of the College of Royal Arch and a full 7 th degree demonstration.	Jacksonville, FL
January 27-28, 2017	Most Ancient Grand Matron Zone 1 Visitation	Tallahassee, FL
February 4-5, 2017	Texas Annual Grand Session	San Antonio, Texas
February 17, 2017	Eustis Festival with Harmony Chapter #107	Eustis, FL
March 17-19, 2017	Tennessee York Rite Assembly Had an opportunity to present a lecture on the Flaming Sword.	Memphis, TN

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase the age of RABA membership in the grand chapter from 56 to 65. The Deputy and High Priests requested this change during York rite Deputy and High Priest meeting. Note: This will require an amendment to the constitution.
2. Request that each chapter provide a grant- in-aid of \$100 to a local student in 2017. The Grand Chapter will match the \$100.00.
3. Continue the donation of \$1500 to the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge Education Program Grant-in Aid.
4. Contribute \$1000 to the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge for the pending restoration project.
5. Continue the Haggai Award, a three-part program of Education and Fellowship for newly exalted companions. To receive the Haggai Award companions must complete the following mandatory and voluntary

requirements within one year:

- Part 1: Mentor Program;
- Part 2: Royal Arch History; and
- Part 3: Personal Adventure in Royal Arch Fellowship and Learning.

Let us applaud Past High Priest Thomas Gilchrist for bringing this great vision forward to the Grand Chapter. As your Grand High Priest, it is indeed a pleasure to be able to confer this award.

6. Continue, at a minimum, benevolence contributions to Lupus Support Network, R.E. Johnson Memorial Scholarship, John G. Riley Museum, General Conference, Bond Health Center, Capital Park Youth Baseball, Local Chapter Programs and State KOP.

In closing, this grand chapter continues to demonstrate what it means to be a Holy Royal Arch Mason to all that have the privilege to share this grand stage. As I travel, I am shown nothing but kindness. I hope you have found the same in return.

This year we set new levels of giving and receiving while staying within the bounds of the craft. There will always be challenges, but God has given us the ability to thrive, even in such moments. Let us ***not become weary in well doing.***

Excellent High Priests, please continue to budget and operate within your means. Each year we must be reminded of the possibility of the coming lean years. Try to save at least 10% of your revenues annually.

District Deputies, you are to continue to audit the chapter records and report to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, any findings of concern.

Again I say, "Let us begin anew! Let us welcome the next year during which we will continue to foster better relationships with one another and build greater chapters.

Finally, thank you all for embracing the vision of a "Harmonious Jurisdiction." I leave you with these two scriptures:

"Be diligent to know the state of your flock and herds. At night as the flock beds down the shepherd counts the flock to make sure he hasn't left someone behind."

- Proverbs 27:23

"Without Faith it is impossible to please God"- Hebrew 11:6

Let us walk in Faith, knowing we have left no companion behind! May God continue to bless and keep you is my prayer! Holiness to the Lord! Holiness to

the Lord! Holiness to the Lord!

Yours in the bond of 3 x 3,

Lewis S. Thurston

Lewis S. Thurston
Most Excellent Grand High Priest”

At 12:09 p.m. Motioned to accept and forward to the Committee on the Grand High Priest Address Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lewis Thurston Annual State of the State Address by Past High Priest Theodus Baker of Chapter No. 26, Second by Past Grand High Priest Loper of Chapter No. 37. (Motioned Carried)

At 12:10 p.m. The Committee on the Grand High Priest Address gave its report by Rt. Ex. Deputy Grand High Priest Enoch Mobley and all Past Most Excellent Grand High Priests and Past Grand High Priests. Motioned to accept the Annual State of the State Address by Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest Johnny McCray of Chapter No. 70, Second by Past Grand High Priest Ronald Williams of Chapter No. 114. (Motioned Carried)

At 12:20 p.m. The Gavel of Authority was turned over to the Most Worshipful Grand Master the Honorable Walter Gulley Jr. for the purpose of Elections. All seats declared vacant. The Most Worshipful Grand Master asked: “How shall we hold?”. Motioned by Most Excellent Lewis S. Thurston of Chapter No. 26 that election be held by nominations, Second by Past High Priest Harold Walbey of Chapter No. 70. (Motion Carried)

The following Officers were elected for the Year 2017-2018:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest – Lewis S. Thurston
Rt. Ex. Deputy Grand High Priest – Enoch Mobley
Rt. Ex. Grand King – Walter P. Russell
Rt. Ex. Grand Scribe – Elton Lewis
Rt. Ex. Grand Treasurer – Peter Bruton
Rt. Ex. Grand Secretary – Daron Mosley
Rt. Ex. Grand Chaplain – Rev. Ernest Powell

Past High Priest Fred Miller of Chapter No. 107 will replace District Deputy Grand High Priest Wesner Pierre as Deputy for District Two.

The Most Worshipful Grand High Priest Walter Gulley and The Most Excellent Grand High Lewis S. Thurston exited the Grand Convocation to visit the Heroines of Jericho.

At 1:25 p.m. a special prayer was led by Rev. Starling for Comp. Michael Griffin who is in the Intensive Care Unit at a local hospital.

At 1:35 p.m. Committee's Report continued starting with the Committee on Foreign Correspondence by Past Grand High Priest Lynwood Loper of Chapter No. 37. Motioned to accept the report by Past High Priest Gus Rich of chapter No. 44, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Kirk Hammond of Chapter No. 164. (Motion Carried)

"On behalf of our Most Excellent Grand High Lewis Thurston and this Grand Chapter the following communications were sent to the following recipients: General Grand Conference Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons, General Conference Grand High Priest Leslie Dean, Kenneth Brown President G.G.C.H.R.A.M. Southern Alliance, MEGHP DeJohn Hampton Mississippi, MEGHP JR Smalls Georgia, MEGHP Willie Tate Texas, MEGHP David Murray Ohio, MEGHP Tyrone Peterson Bahamas, MEGHP Wayne Parnell, MEGHP Earnest Womack, MEGHP Victor Pettus, George B Winston III Grand King Delaware, PMEGHP Willie Robinson, Joseph Collins, John Robinson Georgia, Jerry Hampton Grand Secretary Texas, Duwan M Mason Sr. Grand CCFC Texas, Earl Lyons Grand CCFC Georgia, Companions Andre Kemp, Johnny Deberry, William Gibbs, Donald Gray, Felix Griggs, Wendell Hussey, Isaac White, LaBrone Roberts, Robert Pace, Frederico Moore, Andrew J Jackson, Alvin Dyer, Abner Mallory, Ronald Pillow, Michael Lovings, Joel Mends, Antonio Sullivan, Lawrence Clemmons, Lamont Banks, Caldwell Jenkins, Corry Moore, Raymond Robinson, Rodrequies L Thompson, Otis Barnett, Harry Hutcherson, James Harris, Roderick Johnson, Joseph A Futch, Jason Fisher, Gil Yarborough, Greg Barnard, Paul Mondie Jr., Frederick Rogers, Kevin Frierson Sr., Charles Beasley, Darryl S Coleman Sr. Charles Bethea, Al James Thomas Sr., Bishop McFarland and Robert Glenn.

2017 York Rite Weekend Proclamation
2017 Annual Session

Proclamation Communication was sent to the following on behalf of the MEUGCHRAM and MEGHP Lewis Thurston. MEGCHRAM GA intent to attend session and Testimonial for MEGHP John Small; Condolences to family of PGCGHP Samuel Jackson; MEGCHRAM Texas of intent to attend 2017 York Rite Session; Information concerning MEGHP Thurston and Session dates.

The following communications were received by this office – Testimonial for MEGHP GA, John Small; El-Beth-El 7th Annual Stop the Violence Recognition Program; MEGCHRAM GA Proclamation; General Conference Grand Chapters Annual Session in California, MEW.H. Mack Grand Chapter Alabama Gr. Session; Most Ancient Union Grand Court HOJ FL Souvenir Journal Ad; MEGCHRAM Texas, Proclamation; Death Notification for PGCGHP Samuel Jackson; Southern Alliance Meeting, Proclamation; Invitation to attend 2017 Texas York Rite Weekend; Information for General Conference Grand Chapters 2017 Session in Nassau Bahamas; MEGCHRAM North Carolina York Rite Weekend Proclamation; Request from MEA.P. Hall GC Washington DC for information regarding our MEGHP and annual session dates; James Hutcheson DGHP Bahamas regarding 2017 York Rite Weekend; MEGCHRAM Mississippi, Proclamation for Grand Convocation; Copy of demit for John H Aaron Jr. from MEGCHRAM California to MEUGCHRAM Florida; MEGCHRAM Tennessee, Annual Session; MEGCHRAM Ohio, 2017 Grand Convocation; Notification of intent to attend MEUGCHRAM York Rite Weekend from Virginia delegation, PMEGHP Maxwell Kentucky, GCDGHP Blake, GCG Scribe Medford Campbell."

The Committee on the College of Royal Arch gave its report. Motioned to accept the report by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Kirk Hammond of Chapter No. 164.

“The following courses were given at the 114th Annual Grand Convocation:

- All Degree Paths: “Moses Part 2 – The Tabernacle and the Camp”, Instructor: PHP Elton Lewis

The following courses were given at the three Zone Visitations on our Satellite Campuses:

- School of Spiritual Studies: “Melchizedek”
- School of Ritualistic Works: “Opening and Closing Ceremonies”
- School of Administration & Leadership: “Membership – Part 2” The locations of the

Satellite Campuses:

- May 7, 2016 – West Palm Beach, FL
- May 21, 2016 – Gainesville, FL
- June 3, 2016 – Tallahassee, FL

At the 2nd Annual DDGHP & EHP Retreat we held a graduation for those who had obtained Associate Level degrees. The following were conferred Associate Level degrees at this graduation:

- Associate of Arts in General Studies
 - o Clayborn Armstrong
 - o Krishna Beckford
 - o Robert Johnson II
 - o Jeremiah Mackey, Sr.
 - o DaRon Mosley
 - o Peter Pilgrim
 - o Ronnie C. Rawls
- Associate of Arts in Ritualistic Works
 - o Darryl I. Baker
- Associate of Arts in Administration & Leadership
 - o Lionel Sprauve
 - o Sonny L. Williams

The following courses were given at the 9th Annual York Rite Workshop:

- School of Spiritual Studies: “Moses Part 1 – The Life of Moses”, Instructor: Rev. Dr. Maurice D. Wilson
- School of Spiritual Studies: “Moses Part 3 – The Laws of Moses”, Instructor: Rev. Stanley R. Jones
- School of Ritualistic Works: “HRAM Working Tools”, Instructor: PHP Lawrence A. Sims
- School of Administration & Leadership: “Protocol”, Instructor: PHP Jason L. Fernandez

We have companions registered for the College of Royal Arch Masonry from the jurisdictions of Kentucky, Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, Ohio, The Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Mississippi, and North Carolina.

We have also been able to provide our Orientation to the entire Jurisdiction of Kentucky through the assistance of PGHP Mark C. Maxwell of Kentucky. The orientation was provided at their Annual York Rite Workshop and was very well received. Since then, there have been several instances where there were more Companions participating in our online courses from Kentucky then there have even been from our own Jurisdiction.

The following courses have been offered online over the last year:

- School of Spiritual Studies
 - o Introduction to C-RAM
 - o The Old Testament
 - o The New Testament
 - o Enoch
 - o Moses Part 2 – The Tabernacle and the Camp
- School of Ritualistic Works
 - o Introduction to C-RAM
 - o Royal Arch Masonry and its History
 - o Chapter Officers and Furniture
 - o HRAM Signs, Passwords, and Tokens
 - o Moses Part 2 – The Tabernacle and the Camp
- School of Administration & Leadership
 - o Introduction to C-RAM
 - o Grand Chapter Fee Structure
 - o Membership Part 1
 - o Membership Part 2
 - o HRAM Meetings
 - o Effective Communicating and Public Speaking
 - o Moses Part 2 – The Tabernacle and the Camp”

The Committee on Exaltations gave its report by Willie Bowman, Grand Instructor of Chapter No. 147. Motioned to accept the report by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Kirk Hammond of Chapter No. 164.

“Narrative on the Activities and the Resulting Actions since the 2016 Grand Convocation

1. A total of 64 new Companions were exalted between 2016 and 31 March 2017. 27 New Companions were exalted during York Rite Weekend on 5 January 2017. 37 Exaltations conducted by local chapters.
2. The 2017 York Rite Weekend Exaltation was ritualistically excellent and a full dressed production. New Companions expressed appreciation for the realistic experience and excited to be Royal Arch Masons!
3. Thank you to our Statewide Exaltation Degree Team Members for excellent ritualistic work:

Position	Name
Degree Work Director	Companion Thomas Gilchrist
Furniture Setup Coordinator	Companion Lawrence Sims
Excellent High Priest	Companion Jerome Harris
King	Companion Oliver Martin

Scribe	Companion Paul Fenning
Captain of the Host	Companion Theodus Baker
Royal Arch Captain	Companion Miguel Albino
Principal Sojourner	Companion David Dixon
Master of Veil (3)	Companion Herbert Meekins
Master of Veil (2)	Companion Maurice Wilson
Master of Veil (1)	Companion Craig Stafford
Sentinel	Companion Michael Griffin
Grand Instructor/Education	Companion Willie Bowman
MEM Preparation/Education	Companion Terrance Davis
Secretary	Companion Daron Mosley
Treasurer	Companion Peter Bruton

4. Seven Companions qualified and were presented with the Haggai Award during York Rite Weekend:

- a. Mt. Horeb Chapter #94-Companions Craig Stafford, Dontaki Robinson, Justin Dorsey
- b. A.J. Junius #70-Companions Winfred Shipman, James Gillard
- c. St. James #26-Companions Ecitrym Lamar, Jeffery D. Harris

5. The newly Exalted Class was named the “Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lewis Thurston Class of 2017” as the first named of newly exalted classes with the class also electing a class president, secretary, and treasurer. Thanks to Companion Jerome Harris for bringing forth this idea and initiative.”

The Committee on the Administrative Handbook by District Deputy Grand High Priest Fletcher Williams of chapter No. 115. Motioned to accept the report by Past Grand High Priest Lynwood Loper of Chapter No. 37 to turn the report to the Executive Board for Final approval, Second by Past High Priest Willie Bowman of Chapter No. 147. (Motion Carried)

“1. Page 2. Add the Mission Statement of the Grand Chapter

2. Page 2. Remove all unauthorized grades that are not part of the Holy Royal Arch Masons. 3. Page

3. Change signature page

4. Page 18: (Tasks to complete in the Death of a Companion) The Worshipful Master of the local Lodge should be the only contact with the family and to disseminate information as required.

5. Page 20: (Masonic Dress for Various Occasions) Add the following: Dress 4: District Deputy Grand High Priest: Masonic Dress for DDGHP will be Black pants, Red Blazer, White Shirt; Red Tie or Bow Tie; Black Shoes; Black Socks; White Gloves; Royal Arch Crown; and Royal Arch Apron or as the MEGHP prescribes. Dress 5: Past Grand High Priest and Grand Chapters Officers: Prescribed by MEGHP.

6. Page 23. (Conducting Financial Audits) Change requirement for audit to semi-annual. This is the same recommendation made during the audit of the Grand Chapter and approved.

7. Page 25-26. That portion that pertains to the Installation of the Excellent High Priest will be dealt with in the recommendations sections.
8. Pages 32 – 35. (Protocol Formats) Ensure that these pages are consistent with the GM’s protocol listing.
9. Page 38. (Preparing Annual Reports) Please change the communications to be sent months to correspond with April, May, and June as mandated.
10. Page 39. (Preparing Annual Reports) Under (h) change the requirement to 3 copies.
11. Page 39. (Preparing Annual Reports) Under (j), delete “he makes himself a copy of the report and remittance and then”.
12. Page 40. (Zerubbabel Day Observances) Change Zerubbabel Day observances to the 4th Sunday in April.
13. Pages 68 – 69. (Establishing/Maintaining an off-site Grand Secretary’s Office) There has to be a time that documents from previous years are archived at the Grand East.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Administrative Handbook is the Bread and Butter for the Grand Chapter and Subordinate Chapters. The document should be reviewed every two years by an established Committee whose sole function is the Administrative Handbook or the year prior to the election of a new MEGHP.
2. That the DDGHP install all elected officers of the Subordinate Chapters to include the EHP as indicated in the Administrative Handbook.
3. That the DDGHP has the authority to call for summer dress in his District.
4. Off-site Grand Secretary’s Office procedures need to be reviewed by the Grand Chapter Officers and all records except current year plus one should be maintained at the Grand East. All documents should be committed to electronics to make for easy review; however, hard copies for sale to Subordinates can be kept.
5. If approved the Handbook changes should take effect after the Grand Convocation 2018.”

The Committee on Ways and Means gave its report by the Rt. Ex. Walter P. Russell, Grand King of Chapter No. 94. Motioned to accept the report by Past High Priest Manuel Herrera of Chapter No. 113, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113, without any recommendations. (Motion Carried)

“The funds2.org shoe drive has been very successful. To date we have collected over 7,000 pairs of shoes and this endeavor has raised approximately \$2772.50.

Findings of the committee:

Here are the charitable activities for the year.

Most Ancient Union Grand Court	\$500.00	Donation to Youth Palace
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R.E. Johnson Scholarship	\$1,000.00	Scholarship Donation
John G Riley House (Rock A Thon)	\$100.00	Donation
Benevolent	\$350.00	Wheel Chair Donation
MWUGL Foundation/Book Stipend	\$1,500.00	C. H. Henry Grant-in Aid, Mr. Tyler Paula
MWUGL Annual Donation	\$3,000.00	Donation
MWUGL Black Tie Affair	\$5,000.00	Companions Donation
KOP	\$500.00	Donation
No child without health care	\$150.00	Donation
Northwestern Band	\$250.00	Band Uniforms
Lupus Support Network	\$250.00	Donation
Jewel Contest Donation	\$300.00	Donation
Daughters of Light	\$375.00	Donation
El-Bethel Divine Holiness Church	\$100.00	Donation
USCT 2 Regiment Reenactment Color Troop	\$400.00	Donation
Abraham Chapter #147	\$100.00	Scholarship Luncheon
Nero Prince Council - Albert Cobb Day	\$75.00	Donation
Bond Health Center	\$250.00	Donation
Lincoln Neighborhood Center	\$250.00	Donation
General Conference Scholarship	\$100.00	Donation
Grand Chapter Give AWay	\$1,000.00	Donation
Grand Princess Captain	\$100.00	Testimonial

Grand Total Charitable Allocation to include Donations: \$ 15,650.00

Income generated from 2016/2017 activities:

Retreat Weekend giveaway \$2835.00
 York Rite Weekend giveaway \$2027.00
 Shoe drive \$974.80

We the members of the committee find that if we put together more fundraisers for our Grand Chapter it will assist us with our yearly budget, also addition charitable endeavors within the local chapters and within the jurisdictions.

Recommendations:

- We have an education committee joint giveaway during the Retreat Weekend in September
 - o 100 tickets at \$100.00
- York Rite Weekend giveaway in January 2018
 - o 1000 tickets at \$5.00
- We ask companions to continue to collect for the shoe drive with goal of 100 bags of 25 pair.”

The Committee on the Grand Chapter History gave its report by the Stanley Lamarre, Grand Lecturer of Chapter No. 113 and District Deputy Grand High Priest Darrell Johnson of Chapter No.

105. Motioned to accept the report by Rt. Ex. Elton L. Lewis, Grand Scribe of chapter No. 113, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113. (Motion Carried)

“Through research the following information were obtain:

1. From the Jacksonville Directory printed for the 1904: and accounted of organization listed on page 1904 listing under the heading of Colored Masons of Jacksonville which has an account of our Grand Lodge with John H. Dickson listed as Grand Master and several Grand Officers.

Also an account of the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter with: G W Parker of Pensacola as Grand High Priest, John G. Riley of Tallahassee as DGHP, D W Jewett of Orlando as Grand Secretary.

An account of Gethsemane Commandery No.1 KT and its officers.

An account of Harmony Lodge No.1 and its officers

And lastly an account of Hiram Chapter No. 3 and its Officers.

An inquiry was made to obtain further clarification of records from this Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter nothing conclusive came about; as we know this is one of the years we have missing from our records.

2. From the Ocala Evening Star Newspaper Volume VI: Wednesday August 29th, 1900 under the heading of Colored Masons of Florida:

“The occasion was reported that the colored masons gather to display a monument in honor to the memory of our late Grand Master Samuel H. Coleman who lost his life 18th months ago in a railroad crash in Drifton, Florida. The following Masons are listed:

John H. Dickerson Grand Master, O. J. Coleman Deputy Grand Master of Madison, T. L. J. Banks Grand High Priest of Jacksonville.

3. The Weekly Tallahasseean Newspaper: Thursday October 25th 1900 under the heading Grand R. A. Convention.: Its reads as follows:

“St. Peter’s Holy Grand Royal Arch Chapter, Jurisdiction of Florida, has closed its first Grand Annual Convention, which was held in the city of Tallahassee October 9-11, 1900, Companion E. L. J. Banks, G.H.P. presid-ing. The session was one of intense interest and great profit, and companions returned home highly impressed with the hospitality of our people. Sixteen Chapters were represented, showing marvelous growth in Capitulative Masonry, since ten months ago. Fraternal greetings came from several foreign Grand Jurisdictions giving approval and encouragement to the well begun work. Railroads were liberal with rates, and newspapers kept in touch to get the publishable part of the proceedings.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Grand H.P., E. L. J. Banks, Jacksonville;

Deputy G.H.P. W. G. B. Kinlaw, Apalachicola;

Grand King, O. J. Coleman, Madison;

Grand Scribe, J. T. Davis, Greenville,

Grand Treasurer, R. B. Griggs, Tallahassee;

Grand Secretary, J. G. Riley, Tallahassee.”

Inquiries were made concerning to all the above documents certain records were forward to me but none concerning the years of these accounts, as these are the years missing from our records.

Recommendations:

- Further research be taken up concerning our Grand Chapter history of its early years, if possible to obtain various accounts through various sources and CCFC reports of various Grand Chapter proceedings concerning our Grand Chapter.

- A search be made through the early records of our local Chapters for physical records of our proceedings, proclamation or letter head concerning this Grand Chapter if possible and forwarded to this committee or the Grand High Priest.

- All Grand Chapter proceedings or a copy there of be turned over to this committee.”

The report included 2016 Grand Convocation and the Annual York rite Workshop of January 5th, 2017.

The Committee on Education gave it report By the Reve. Ernest Powell of chapter No. 115. Motioned to accept the report by the Rt. Ex. Elton Lewis, Grand Scribe of chapter No. 113, second by Grand Instructor Willie Bowman of Chapter No. 147. (Motion Carried)

“1. Education Empowerment - We would like to earmark \$100 per chapter to be used for the Education Empowerment program. This program encourages the giving of a grant in aid to a deserving student of \$200.00 for a book stipend to a student in High school entering college, trade school, college or university. Remit documentation for donation.

2. MWUGL Scholarship - Encourage chapters to work with their local lodges to identify a student and assist with preparation of the MWUGL scholarship application. Deadline for the MWUGL scholarship is January 31, 2018. MEGHP Thurston plan to allocate time doing York Rite to review the application process.

3. L. Harold Gray scholarship - We will select a student from the above mention item to submit for the L. Harold Gray scholarship with the General Conference of Grand Chapters (GCGC). This is due May 2017.

4. Tyler Paula - Continue donation for Tyler Paula 2017 at the sum of \$1,500.00.

In closing the Grand Chapter would like to continue donation to Tyler Paula 2017 for the sum of \$1,500.00. May this year be a blessing to all of us, thanks again for the support from this great jurisdiction of the State of Florida.”

The Committee on Life Membership gave its report by Rt. Ex. Walter P. Russell, Grand King of chapter No. 94. Motioned to accept the report by District Deputy Grand High Priest Fletcher Williams of chapter No. 115, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113. (Motion Carried)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER (2017)

1. Robert J. Godfrey	Robert J. Godfrey #201
2. Darrell Johnson	Mt. Pisgah #105
3. Larry Jones	Royal Palm #121
4. James Jones	Pompano #164
5. Erik Curry	Joshua #32
6. Calvin S. Atkinson, Jr.	Joshua #32
7. Timothy Alvin	Anthony T. Stafford #10
8. Darrious Bryant	Joshua #32
9. Dr. James L. Gallon	Joshua #32
10. Christopher Scott	Bethal #37
11. Charles Parrott	Finerson #168
12. Craig Hall	Mt. Horeb #94
13. Anthony Turner	Mt. Horeb #94
14. Jessie Randle Jr.	Mt. Horeb#94
15. Russell Grieg	St. James#26
16. Darrell Lawrence	Triangle #187
17. Howard Maddox	A. W. Franklin #118
18. Thomas Gilchrist	A. W. Franklin #118
19. Christopher Johnson	A.W. Franklin #118
20. Cameron Matthews	Finerson #198
21. Courtney Wilson	Finerson #198
22. Gus Rich	Ezekiel #44
23. Herbert Meekins	Mt. Pisgah #105
24. Willie Bowman	Abraham #147
25. James Norman	Finerson #198
26. Steve Rodriguez	Mt. Horeb #94
27. Byron K. Johnson	Joshua # 32
28. Rudolph Givens III	C.P. Bentley # 116
29. Joseph Lewis	Thomas # 114
30. Paulemond Mompremier	Royal Palm # 121
31. Jeremiah Mackey	Jereboam # 16
32. Kenneth Bristow	Providence # 113
33. Willie Wilson	Maxwell # 115
34. Clinton Brown, Jr	Bethel # 37
35. Patrick Worlds	St. James # 26
36. Robert Johnson	Joshua # 32
37. Richard Stewart	Robert J. Godfrey # 201

The Committee on Life Membership is happy to render the following: When this administration took office, there were (26) slots available, only (9) of them had been filled, "Mind you, this program was in its infancy Stage". Under the present administration, and with the assistance of all concerned, these slots were raised to (48) each.

At 2:25 p.m. the Arrival of the Most Excellent Lewis S. Thurston and Rt. Eminent Grand Commander Rico Merritt. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lewis S. Thurston address the concern of the Ways and Means Committee.

Committee's report continued at 2:30 p.m. The Committee on Jewel Contest gave its report by Grand Instructor Willie Bowman of Chapter No. 147. Motioned to accept the report by Past High Priest Reginald Hardee of Chapter No. 37, Second by Past Grand High Priest Henry Puyol of Chapter No. 94. (Motion Carried)

"The only Chapter to compete this year, which I'm looking forward to next year for more chapters to compete, was St. James Chapter #26. Though they were the only Chapter to compete, I do believe that they would have given other chapters a run for their money. They had a young Companion by the name of Marvin Motley filling in as the Excellent High Priest who I believe has less than a year under his belt. This young man blew it out the water. Great Job, great job!

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Lewis Thurston along with Excellent Companion Willie E. Bowman, Grand Instructor will be presenting the winner their award on behalf of Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Lewis S. Thurston and the Most Excellent Union Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter at this year's 115th Annual Grand Convocation.

We are a hard-working committee and are pleased to serve this jurisdiction and provide the Companions with the education that they have been asking for. I would personally like to thank this team for supporting not only me, but the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Florida, PHA.

As Chairman of this Committee, I couldn't have accomplished this without the assistance and leadership of the Companion of judges on this committee.

Recommendations

- • That the Committee correspond earlier on conference calls to better clarify the rules and regulations.
- • Within 30 days after each annual contest send out the info for the following year
- • Ensure that all communications are sent to appropriate party(s)
- • Send out the results sooner to all concerned"

The Committee on the King Contest Rules and Regulations gave its report by Rt. Ex. Russell, Grand King of Chapter No. 94 with only recommendations. Motioned to accept the report by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Kirk Hammond of Chapter No. 164. (Motion Carried)

“This contest was held in the beautiful city of Orlando, Florida on the 2nd of September 2016.

The results were as follows: Kings Contest Results were as follows:

Winner – DDGHP, Dist #10 Calvin Atkinson 1
1 st Runner up – Anthony Phillips #105
2 nd Runner up – DDGHP Ronnie Rawls Dist #8

Total earnings reported for the King Contest \$2,292.00

Results: The winner could win the opportunity to go to the Beautiful Island of the Bahamas in July 2017 to represent the Jurisdiction of Florida during the 2017 General Grand Conference of Holy Royal Masons Kings Contest.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue having the King Contest in September during the Heroines of Jericho’s Mid Year and Deputies Retreat. Each district should be represented by one candidate per district.

It was asked that each district raised a minimum of \$500.00 each. Proceeds from this endeavor / contest will go towards the support of the charitable endeavors of the MEUGC.”

The Committee Report on the Signet by Rt. Ex. Walter P. Russell, Grand King of chapter No. 94. Motioned to accept the report by Past High Priest Manuel Herrera of Chapter No. 113, Second by Grand Instructor Willie Bowman of Chapter No. 147. (Motion Carried)

“October 2016 earmarked the forming of The SIGNET Newsletter team. The re-launch of the newsletter paid tribute to its Visionaries during the January 2017 York Rite Weekend. The Committee was established January 24, 2017.

Newsletter Re-launch consisted of:

STANDARD PAGES and ARTICLES

1. Cover Page
2. Content Page
3. Grand High Priest Message
4. Editors Epistle

COLLEGE OF HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

1. About the college HEALTH and WELLNESS
2. Lupus Foundation of Florida HAGGAI AWARD
3. Criteria SAVE THE DATE
4. 115th Annual Grand Convocation
5. 2018 Testimonial Banquet for MEGHP Lewis Thurston

BUSINESS ADS

1. 12 Ads”

“It is the Committees finding that the aforementioned content of The SIGNET Newsletter has the flexibility to adapt its content to undergird the mission of the Grand Chapter when appropriate. Thusly, the Committee recommend the Grand Chapter consider the following to maximize dissemination of information.

1. Have local Excellent High Priest read the Most Excellent Grand High Priest newsletter address and other pertinent information to Chapter Members as official communication
2. Invite the Most Ancient Grand Matron of the Heroines of Jericho to submit a friendly appeal to Companions to become Worthy Joshua’s along with member benefits. In doing so, peace love and unity will abound the more between Companion and Heroine.
3. Adopt other mediums of information exposure, such as social media platforms.”

The Committee on Charters and Dispensations gave its report by Rt. Ex. Enoch Mobley, Deputy Grand High Priest. Motioned to accept the report by Rt. Ex. Elton Lewis of chapter No. 113, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Fletcher Williams of chapter No. 115, for information purpose only.

“Greetings!

The Committee on Charters on Charters and Dispensations respectfully submit that there were no new charters or dispensations issued this year.”

The Committee on Technology gave its report by Rt. Ex. Enoch Mobley, Deputy Grand High Priest. Motioned to accept the report by Past Grand High Priest Lynwood Loper of chapter No. 37, second by Past High Priest George Foster of chapter No. 37. (Motion Carried)

“Grand Chapter Website:

- All documents are up to date
- Daily web space backups are done by host
- Site last updated 3/29/2017
- We are working with the Grand Scribe Lewis & Companion Hammonds to get the College of Royal Arch Website Populated

Recommendations:

The Committee recommends that all appointed officers submit their photo”

The Committee on Resolutions gave its report by Rt. Ex. Elton Lewis, Grand Scribe. Motioned to accept the report by District Deputy Grand High Priest Fletcher Williams of chapter No. 115, Second by Past High Priest George Foster of chapter No. 37. (Motion Carried)

“This Grand Chapter issued nine resolutions this fiscal year; all of which were death resolutions. The following are the Companions whose families received death benefits from The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter:

- Theodore James #26
- William E. Oates #94
- Johnny L. King #108
- Horace L. Everette #121
- Emory Chandler, Jr. #105
- Willie B. Brown, Jr. #94
- Charles Goodman #70
- Hoover Blue #37
- Samuel Jackson – Jurisdiction of Washington DC”

The Committee of Hospitality gave its report by District Deputy Grand High Priest Lawrence Sims. Motioned to accept the report by Past High Priest Valentino McBride of Chapter No. 1, Second by District Deputy Grand High Priest Jason Fernandez of Chapter No. 113. (Motion Carried)

“2017 YORK RITE WEEKEND HOSPITALITY

With regard to the 2017 York Rite Weekend, this committee coordinated and facilitated the events culminating the Holy Royal Arch Workshop held on January 6, 2017 at the Grand East in Jacksonville, Florida. The York Rite “Meet & Greet” Reception was held at the Double Tree Hotel on that evening and was attended by Companions & Heroines of subordinate chapters throughout the jurisdiction of Florida as well as several dignitaries and honored guest in attendance from across the country. Working in conjunction with Ms. Lillie Vereen and her staff of food preparers and servers, the committee was able to host what has been deemed by some to be “the BEST HOSPITALITY” yet rendered.

This committee wishes to offer special recognition to Companions, Wilfred Shipman, Alonzo Wilson, as well as several others from Jacksonville’s District #1 for providing assistance in the setup and preparation for the Meet & Greet. Special recognition again is rendered to PHP George Foster & PHP Freddie Miller for your patience, production, and service in providing guest refreshments throughout the evening.”

“Observations:

It is also the desire of this committee to provide musical entertainment in a manner that is wholesome to all in attendance as well as pleasing to those requesting a variety of musical genres. With that we have extended an offer to PGHP Lynwood Loper to join and assist the committee with the preparation of musical playlist for future events.

Lastly, it is the desired mission of this committee to extend our hospitable efforts to be as inclusive to the needs of our visiting guest as possible. We have actively discussed that we should coordinate the pick-up and/or dropping off of our visiting guest at the airport, hotel(s), meetings, and other places they need or desire to go during their stay within the jurisdiction.”

The Committee on Registration gave its report By Rt. Ex. Daron Mosley, Grand Secretary.

Advance Registration total: 196

Onsite Registration Total: 0

Actual Attendance: 104:

The Committee on Necrology gave its report by Excellent High Priest Stanley Jones:

The Committee reported 9 Companions travelled to that undiscovered country:

1. Past Grand High Priest Johnny L. King – Mt. Sinai #108, Miami, FL
2. District Deputy Emeritus Horace L. Everett – Royal Palm #121, Palm Beach, FL
3. PHP Theodore James – St. James #26, Tallahassee, FL
4. Emory Chandler Jr. – Mt. Pisgah #105, Gainesville, FL
5. Charles Goodson - A.J. Junius #70, Jacksonville, FL
6. William Oats - Carey P. Bentley #116, Miami, FL
7. Hoover Blue - Bethel #37, Orlando, FL
8. PHP Willie B. Brown, Jr – Mt. Horeb #94, Miami, FL
9. PGCGHP Samuel Jackson – Washington DC

Grand Convocation for the year 2017 Financial Statement

Advanced Registration	196	\$ 7,845.00
Exempt	59	N/A
Total Registration	196	N/A
Actual Attendance	104	N/A
Name Badges	John Aaron # 198	\$ 15.00
HRAM Shirt & Regalia		\$165.00
Memorial Breakfast		\$ 60.00
CRAM Registration		\$ 25.00
Rituals/Constitution By-Laws		\$175.00
Total		\$ 8,285.00

At 3:00 p.m. the Companions joined in a circle linking arms. The Grand Convocation for the year 2017 for the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons for the State of Florida, U.S.V.I. and Jurisdiction closed with a Prayer Led by Rev. Eddie Starling.

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter

Holy Royal Arch Masons

for the State of Florida, U.S.V.I, and Jurisdiction

10th Annual York Rite Workshop

Saturday January 6th, 2018

Registration was held on the 5th Floor of the Grand East on 410 Broad Street Jacksonville Florida by Rt. Ex. Daron Mosley, Grand Secretary. The hour of 9:30 a.m. Candidates assembled for exaltation with the exaltation team which consisted of:

EHP	PHP Jerome Harris of Chapter No. 26
King	PHP Oliver Martin of Chapter No. 70
Scribe	PHP Paul Fenning of Chapter No. 50
Secretary	PHP Daron Mosley of Chapter No. 114
Treasurer	PHP Peter Bruton of Chapter No. 37
M1V	EHP Maurice Wilson of Chapter No. 147
M2V	PHP Peter Pilgrim of Chapter No. 16
M3V	PHP Herbert Meekins of Chapter No. 105
Captain of the Host	PHP Theodus Baker of Chapter No. 26
Royal Arch Captain	EHP Miguel Albino of Chapter No. 147
PSJ	PHP David Dixon of Chapter No. 13
Sentinel	PHP Michael Griffin of Chapter No. 147
Grand Instructor	PHP Willie Bowman of Chapter No. 147

The following candidates were present to receive the August and Most Sublime Degree of the Holy Royal Arch:

Xavier Skipper	Zerubbabel Chapter No. 1
Juan Vega	Zerubbabel Chapter No. 1
Anthony Wright	Zerubbabel Chapter No. 1
Sharn Jones	Joshua Chapter No. 32
Jarret Hayes	A. J. Junius Chapter No. 70
Domonic Lawson	A. J. Junius Chapter No. 70
James Silverdahl	A. J. Junius Chapter No. 70
Charles Taylor III	A. J. Junius Chapter No. 70
Eric Mitchell	A. J. Junius Chapter No. 70
William Brown	Mt. Pisgah Chapter No. 105
Robert J. Filer III	Mt. Pisgah Chapter No. 105
Earl D. Fisher	Mt. Pisgah Chapter No. 105
Sherman S. Missick	Mt. Pisgah Chapter No. 105
Joshua Morris	Mt. Pisgah Chapter No. 105
Zachary Young	Mt. Pisgah Chapter No. 105
Darren J. Etienne	Thomas Chapter No. 114
Vernon M. Robinson, Jr	Thomas Chapter No. 114
Dwayne Joachin	C. P. Bentley Chapter No. 116

Todrick Lannigan

C. P. Bentley Chapter No. 116

Cedric Walker

C. P. Bentley Chapter No. 116

Bruce Barnes

C. P. Bentley Chapter No. 116

Robert Davis

C. P. Bentley Chapter No. 116

Ranarte Allen, Sr.

Augustus W. Franklin Chapter No. 118

Dennis E. Moore, Sr.

Augustus W. Franklin Chapter No. 118

Eric Turner

Augustus W. Franklin Chapter No. 118

The hour of 12:55 p.m. the 2018 Exaltation was completed and 25 new Companions were exalted to the August and Most Sublime Degree of the Holy Royal Arch.

The 10th Annual York Rite Workshop opened in Ritualistic Form by EHP Canary Williams of Chapter No. 44.

The gavel of authority turned over to Rt. Ex. Enoch Mobley, Deputy Grand High Priest who receive the Most Excellent Grand High Priest Lewis S. Thurston. The Companion assembled gave the MEGHP Thurston a most welcomed greeting, accompanied with the Grand Honor.

Rt. Ex. Enoch Mobley turned over the gavel of authority to the MEGHP Lewis S. Thurston who received PMEGHP James Ferguson of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The MEGHP Thurston afterward received the following dignitaries:

Ill. Jeffrey C. Doyle, Grand Thrice Illustrious Master of Union Grand Council of Florida

Sir Knight Rico Merritt, Grand Eminent Commander of Union Grand Commandery No. 22

Sir Knight Henry L. Wright, Eminent Prior of Florida

Devotion was led by Rev. Eddie Starling and the Rt. Ex. Ernest Powell, Grand Chaplain Led the Companions with the song "Keep me Near the Cross" and Prayer.

The Most excellent Lewis S. Thurston presented the following Companions with a Past Grand High Priest certificate:

PGHP Harold Walbey of Chapter No. 1

PGHP Darrell Johnson of Chapter No. 105

PGHP Lonnie Dixon of Chapter No. 147

PGHP Robert Godfrey of Chapter No. 201

The Haggai Awards were presented to two Companions:

Comp. Darryon Robinson of Chapter No. 105

Comp. Allen Caceres of Chapter No. 113

PMEGHP Henry Parker brought Welcome and Greetings to all Companions present with a response by PMEGHP Carl Finerson.

The Rt. Ex. Elton Lewis gave a presentation on College of Royal Arch Orientation

and DDGHP Fletcher Williams gave a Presentation on Leadership which focus on various key points. 2:40 p.m. PMEGHP Carl Finerson provided feedback on the presentation of Leadership.

At 2:45 The Most Worshipful Grand Master Hon. Walter Gulley, Jr. and his cabinet were received accordingly.

Recognition of the 25 newly exalted Companions named the "Charles T. Maxwell" class of 2018.

PHP Theodus Baker of Chapter No. 26 facilitated the C-RAM class on the Past Master's Degree. The Most Worshipful Grand Master the honorable Walter Gulley, Jr. gave his remarks at 3:50 p.m.

At 4:20 p.m. The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter Raffle Ticket drawing took place with the following winners:

1 st Place	Keith Mc Carthy	\$700.00
2 nd Place	Caldwell Jenkins	\$500.00
3 rd Place	Fredrick Joyner	\$300.00

At 4:30 p.m. the Companions joined in a circle the Rt. Ex. Rev. Ernest Powell led with prayer and the M.E.U.G.C. HRAM of Florida, U.S.V.I. 10th York Rite Workshop was closed.