

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF MARYLAND



SEMI-ANNUAL
ASSEMBLY

MAY 3, 2025
ORIENTAL ROOM
Hunt Valley, Maryland



Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland
Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Maryland
Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland



Call Letter for Semi-Annual Meetings,
and
Special Grand Assembly for the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree
Annual Council of Anointed High Priests

Companions & Sir Knights,

By order of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, ME Comp. Rafael A. Rodriguez, Most Illustrious Grand Master, MI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas, Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK Scott G. Lapp, and Most Excellent President Robert B. Lumbert, an official notice is hereby given for:

**The Semi-Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland,
The Semi-Annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland,
The Semi-Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and
The Annual Meeting Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland**

The Grand Chapter will meet in Grand Convocation on **Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 7:30 pm.** to conduct all business proper to the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation. The agenda includes Finance & Budget, Election of 2026 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports as necessary.

The dress is a Tuxedo with a Red Jacket, Apron, & Jewels for Officers and a Coat & Tie for all others. Please wear your Chapter Apron.

Location: Oriental Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink, Cockeysville, MD

The Grand Council will meet in Grand Assembly on **Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 1:00 pm.** to conduct all business proper to the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly. The agenda includes Finance & Budget, Election of 2026 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports as necessary.

The dress is a Tuxedo, Apron & Jewels for Officers and a Coat & Tie for all others. Please wear your Council Apron.

Location: Oriental Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink, Cockeysville, MD.

The Grand Commandery will meet in Grand Conclave on **Monday, May 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm.** to conduct all business proper to the Semi-Annual Grand Conclave. The agenda includes Finance & Budget, Election of 2026 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports as necessary. The dress is Full Templar Uniform, Chapeau & Sword.

Location: Gothic Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink, Cockeysville, MD

Fraternally & Respectfully,

ME Comp William C. Eppig
Grand Secretary
Grand Chapter of Maryland

RIC. William C. Eppig
Grand Recorder
Grand Council of Maryland

SK Vernon H. Huebschman
Grand Recorder
Grand Commandery of KT in MD

The Grand Commandery has a proposed Amendment to the Constitution to be voted on at the Semi-Annual Conclave.

Existing By-Law

3. Each Commandery shall hold its annual election either on Good Friday or at its Stated Conclave next preceding that day.

Proposed By-Law

3. Each Commandery shall hold its annual election either on Good Friday or at its Stated Conclave before Good Friday. Each Commandery shall install its officers at its Stated Conclave after Easter. Elections and Installation of Officers shall not be conducted at the same Conclave.

Proposed by the Jurisprudence Committee

**The Annual Meeting Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland
April 26, 2025, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink**

9:30 am - GRAND CHAPTER LAW SCHOOL for qualified MEHP's-Elect is ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED for the CAHP Degree. Assemble in the Main Lobby of Freemason Hall.

9:30 am – 10:30 am - Oriental Room - COUNCIL OF ANOINTED HIGH PRIESTS Set up and Rehearsal (Officers Only)

10:30 am - Oriental Room - COUNCIL OF ANOINTED HIGH PRIESTS will hold its annual meeting and confer its Degree upon qualified candidates. This meeting is restricted to PHP's, current MEHP's, and qualified MEHP's-Elect. The Application Form is on the Grand Secretary's page of the Grand Chapter of Maryland (YORKRITEMARYLAND.ORG). No Fee is Required. The dress is a Tuxedo for Candidates and Officers. No Aprons or jewels are required; Masonic jewels and pins are traditionally not worn at this meeting.

**Grand Council will confer the TIM Degree on May 3, 2025, at 11:00 am at Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink Cockeysville, Maryland. Open to PTIM, TIM, and Candidates only.
Law School 9:30 am.**

Fraternally and respectfully,

ME Comp William C.
Eppig Grand Secretary
Grand Chapter of
Maryland

Ex Comp Bruce
Colburn
Grand Lecturer

RI Comp William C,
Eppig
Grand Recorder
Grand Council of
Maryland

Ex Comp Jeffrey Ament,
Grand Lecturer

Ex Comp Vernon
Huebschman
Excellent Secretary
Council of Anointed High
Priests of Maryland

SK Vernon
Huebschman
Grand
Recorder
Grand
Commandery
of KT in MD

Agenda
Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland
Annual Grand Assembly
May 3, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
Oriental Room - Hunt Valley, Maryland

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Grand Council Opening | MIGM. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 2. Credential Committee/Roll Call | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 3. Reception of MIPGM's | MIGM. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 4. Proceedings | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 5. TIM Proceedings | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 6. MIGM Report | MIGM. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 7. Grand Recorder's Report | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 8. Grand Treasurer's Report | MI Comp. John A. Rafine |
| 9. Grand Lecturer- Ritual Report, & SEM Degree | Comp. Jeffrey Ament |
| 10. Accounts & Finance | RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez |
| 11. Dispensations & Charter | RI Comp. Stephen Twomey |
| 12. CMMRF | RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez |
| 13. Fraternal Relations | MIGM. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 14. Grievance | MI Comp. Gordon A. Davids |
| 15. Jurisprudence & Constitution | MI Comp. John A. Rafine |
| 16. Long-Range Planning | RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez |
| 17. Membership | RI Comp. Stephen Twomey |
| 18. Recognition & Awards | MI Comp. Randall L Watson, PIGM |
| 19. Time & Place | RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez |
| 20. Sessions | MIGM Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 21. Youth Relations | Comp. Carl Michel |
| 22. Time Capsule 2000 Report | RI Comp. John A. Rafine |
| 23. Grand Council History | MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr. |
| 24. Unfinished Business | RI Comp. William C. Eppig |
| 25. New Business | MI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas |
| 26. Voluntary Remarks | Companions in attendance |
| 27. Election of 2025 Officers | MI Comp. Richard P. Naegel. PIGM |
| 28. Closing | MIGM Spyridon G. Treklas |

The MIGM may abridge or amend the order of these items at his discretion.

1. Grand Council Opening

MI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas

The Grand Council was opened in Ample Form by Most Illustrious Grand Master, M.I. Comp. Spyridon Treklas at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of conferring the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree and for the conduct of the Semi-Annual Grand Assembly with the following Officers in their respective places and stations or excused:

M.I. Spyridon G. Treklas	Grand Master
R.I. Comp. G. Andrew Martinez	Deputy Grand Master
R.I. Comp. Stephen R. Twomey II	Grand Principal Cond. of the Work
R.I. Comp. William C. Eppig	Grand Recorder
M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine	Grand Treasurer
Comp. S. Dirk Wilker	Grand Captain of the Guard (excused)
Comp. William J. Wickham, Jr.	Grand Conductor of the Council
Comp. Michael W. Shrank	Grand Marshall
Comp. Christian J. Miele	Grand Steward (excused)
Comp. Richard D. Smith	Grand Sentinel
Comp. A. Dean Burt III	Grand Chaplain
Comp. Jeffrey C. Ament	Grand Lecturer
M.I. Comp. William Hare, Jr.	Grand Historian (excused)
M.I. Robert B. Lumbert	G.G.C. Ambassador

The MIGM then invited the Officers of the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree to take their places for the opening of that Degree for Comp. William Miller.

Following the conferral of the TIM Degree and a break for lunch, the MIGM resumed the labors of the Grand Council at 1:03 p.m.

2. Credentials Report

RI Comp. William Eppig G. Rec.

MIGM,

Number of Councils Present	Seven (7)
Number of Voting Members	Eighteen (18)
Number of Non-Voting Members	One (1)

The MIGM, upon receiving this report, declared that the necessary number of Councils were represented to constitute a quorum and that the Companions in the Grand Council Assembly were properly noted in the proceedings. The Grand Recorder and Comp. Huebschman took attendance by roll call of all voting members.

This report was received and accepted by MIGM Spyridon Treklas.

3. Reception of MIPGM's

MIGM Spyridon Treklas

The Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters of this Grand Council were invited to present themselves west of the Altar. Those present were:

MIPGM Clifton R. Friel	2003
MIPGM Richard P. Naegele	2008-2009
MIPGM John A. Rafine	2017
MIPGM Robert B Lumbert	2018 -2019

MIPGM Clifton R. Friel responded to the greetings of MIGM Treklas after the extension of Grand Honors to the Corps of Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters.

4. Proceedings: Annual 2024

RI Comp. William Eppig

As the Proceedings of the 2024 Annual Grand Assembly are posted to the Grand Council Website for general review and information, I move that they be accepted as posted, subject to correction for typographical errors that do not affect the content or meaning of any passage, corrections of a substantive nature, or omissions upon review by the MIGM.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

5. Proceedings: Council of TIM's

RI Comp. William Eppig

This Grand Assembly was opened in ample form by MIGM Spyridon Treklas at 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of conferring the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree. A number of Companions supported the candidate on this date. The Grand Recorder confirmed that due notice had been sent to all qualified Companions to the best of our knowledge. MIGM Treklas then called off the Grand Assembly and invited the TIM Degree team to retire and prepare for the ceremonies.

The officers of the Council of Thrice Illustrious Master were:

King David	M.I. Comp. Gordon A. Davids, MIPGM, No. 20
Thrice Illustrious Master	Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, RIGRec, No. 5, 21
Thrice Illustrious Senior Warden	M.I. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, MIPGM, No. 2
Thrice Illustrious Junior Warden	R.I. Comp. Jeffrey C. Ament, PTIM, No. 5
Thrice Illustrious Steward	Comp. Alexander Dean Burt III, PTIM, No. 21

The candidate for the Thrice Illustrious Masters Degree was Comp. William Miller, No. 2.

The cast conferred the TIM Degree in full costume and in excellent form. TIM Vernon H. Huebschman opened the Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters in Due Form and asked the candidate to be prepared and presented for their Obligation, Anointing, and Instruction.

Special commendations go to PTIM Gordon A. Davids for his heartfelt rendition of King David's address and to Comp. Jeffrey Ament, who participated in the TIM Degree for the first time and did an outstanding job. MIPGM Robert B. Lumbert performed excellently as our T.I. Senior Warden, managing the long passages and the Anointing itself.

TIM Huebschman closed the Council in due form and returned the meeting to MIGM Treklas, who thanked all of them for their efforts. The MIGM adjourned the Grand Council for lunch, to reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
William C. Eppig
Grand Recorder

MIGM Treklas requested RIDGM Martinez to preside in the East so that the MIGM could deliver his report.

6. Report of the Most Illustrious Grand Master

MIGM Spyridon G. Treklas

Good afternoon, Companions,

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity again and thank you for entrusting me with our Council. There have been six months since we had our installation. Where did the time really go? Let's see...

During that period, several dispensations have been granted by me or by authority given by this office to the Grand Recorder's office or to Councils to either change or cancel a meeting night. Companions and especially you Tri-Illustrious Masters and Companion Recorders, it is very important to understand that only the Office of the Most Illustrious Grand Master and no other Grand Council Officer or Companion may grant you any dispensation.

Finance

The Grand Council finances are in an ok state. Not excellent, but ok. Last May, the finance committee stated that it did not want to make any proposals for changing the annual per capita assessments at that time. Unfortunately, a proposal needs to be revisited. During the past six months, we have tried to cut down expenses as much as possible. So far, although the three principal officers have traveled around the state to visit our Councils, no expense report has been submitted. Only the essential expenses have been distributed.

Visitations

The Grand Line has visited most of the twelve Maryland Councils so far. The plan was to visit all Councils before the semi-annual. However, because of circumstances beyond this Illustrious Grand Master's or the Council's Tri-Illustrious Master's control, the few remaining Councils will be visited before the summer break. We have received invitations to participate in some upcoming Councils' installations. We gladly and humbly accepted the invitation. So far, some of the Councils we have visited are in good shape; others need some help. One of which needs a lot more help. The Grand Principal Officers met with their current Officers to discuss the future of the Council. As I have mentioned during our visit, if you feel that you need help, the Grand Council is here to help you.

Visitations Outside this Jurisdiction

Your Most Illustrious Grand Master had the honor to represent the Grand Council of Maryland in to the neighboring Grand Council of Delaware. I want to point out that the relationships between the two Grand Councils is as strong as ever. Because of some misunderstandings, though, this year we did not have the chance to visit the Grand Council of the District of Columbia. We also have invitations from other jurisdictions at a longer distance than these two Grand Jurisdictions, but as it was mentioned before, we try to cut our expenses.

CMMRF

We have put together a plan to increase our participation in our main charity, the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF). During the annual installation, a paper was distributed to all Councils outlining some points of interest. One of them was asking the Tri-Illustrious Masters to appoint a local CMMRF Companion. His role will be to promote our charity everywhere locally possible. My Companions, I strongly believe in the motto "Think globally, act locally". We hope that by the end of next year, we will have all Councils in one hundred per cent participation. Something that I believe can be easily achieved. I will let the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master elaborate more on that later.

Membership

Companions, I will not put it in sugar-coated terms. Our membership is constantly shrinking. Every year, we are losing Companions, either through the Great Reaper or for non-payment of dues. The latter is something that we can prevent. We should not blindly go and remove the Companion from our ranks before we contact him and see what is going on. If we continue the same way and do not at least replace ourselves with one or two Companions, in a decade or two, there will be no Council. The membership committee, led by the Right Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Works, is working to put a plan together of what we can do to increase our membership. I will let the Right Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Works to elaborate more on that later. In addition, we still have a plan with the other two heads of the York Rite bodies to maybe put an amnesty program together and see if we can get some of the Companions who left us back into our ranks.

Councils

The Grand Lecturer and his committee have been tasked to create a Five Companions Opening. We hope this opening will help our Councils to open and do regular business when they do not have the required constitutional amount of nine Companions needed to open. This procedure is to be used only when the Councils need to open and do regular business work. This should not be used for the Council to do any degree work.

Awards

Companions, as you know best the Companion or Companions in your Council, I ask of you to submit the name of the Companion or Companions who deserve the award. In addition to the regular awards, the General Grand Council has additional awards that we can choose from, i.e.

- Friend Zabud Award – this is for new Cryptic Masons or for members who have recently become active
- Veteran Service Recognition – this is for all Veterans, whether or not they are members of the craft.
- First Responder Recognition – this is for all First Responders (Police, Fire Fighters, etc), whether they are members of the craft or not
- Youth Advocate – this is for all Youth Advocates being Masons or not

What a wonderful way to recognize our veterans, first responders, youth advocates, etc., and at the same time promote the Council and York Rite in general.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you again for entrusting me with our Council. Remember, we are all ambassadors of our Council. We should always strive to promote membership of the Council. We are all here to support the York Rite. Thank you for your kind attention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Spyridon G Treklas MIGM

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

7. Report of the Grand Recorder

RI Comp. William Eppig, G. Rec.

M.I.G.M.,

Congratulations to you and your officers on an excellent first half of the year.

990N: A yellow banner on the gateway page of yorkritemaryland.org links to the most efficient route to the I.R.S. 990N submission page. Though the I.R.S. requires this form to be completed every two years, the Grand Council needs it completed each year. Yearly filing helps prevent a failure to report, especially if a change in the Recorder occurs. If this happens, you may lose your E.I.N. #.

General Grand Council Annual Report: The General Grand Council Annual Report and accompanying fees were filed in November 2024. With the new MMS system, I am confident that this was the most accurate filing in years. We reported 806 members for the year 2024, of whom 24 were General Grand Council Perpetual Life Memberships. This gave us a \$60 discount on our assessments.

MMS: The new MMS has been online for almost a year. I know there are still some growing pains with a few of our recorders, but overall, I feel that the system has been well received. As stated above, we have the most accurate membership accounting in years. We also have access to several useful reports that are beneficial to our council and the Grand Council.

With the new MMS, we could utilize a dues card processing vendor. The Grand Encampment, Scottish Rite, and many other organizations use this vendor. I can assure you that the dues card process was much easier for me as Grand Recorder, and I thank the Grand Council for allowing the use of this vendor and Masonic member solutions.

I began inputting the awards based on the proceedings online. However, the information is incomplete. I urge all members to log in as a user to verify their information and let me know of any changes or additions.

Rituals: I received 100 reprinted Rituals in December of last year, and I thank Comp. Martinze, for taking the lead on having them printed. They are available to our council for \$10 each, plus shipping if needed. We are limiting them to 10 rituals per council at this time to ensure all councils can receive them. I would like to turn them over to the Grand Lecture so he can distribute them during his travels to the councils. If you need any in the meantime, please see me today. I understand that a committee will review, correct, and update the ritual over the next year or two in preparing for a new version.

Respectfully Submitted and move acceptance of this report.

William C. Eppig, Grand Recorder

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

8. Report of the Grand Treasurer

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine

Most Illustrious Grand Master Spyridon Treklas,

The treasury of this Grand Council is financially sound. Our 2024 operating expenses totaled \$18,767.69 which was \$ -1,357.31 under budget.

Our investment accounts have decreased by -4.086% as of March 30, 2025, and our investment account manager provided the following account review:

“Though markets generally peaked in February 2025, they were declining prior to the Tariff announcements on April 2, 2025, which accelerated market declines. Since bottoming at the end of April, we have seen some consolidation which has led to a recovery in account values. In addition, Treasury yields have declined from the highs we saw at the beginning of the year, which has increased treasury bonds and high quality corporate bond values. Though we expect continued volatility, we believe your portfolio is well positioned for what we expect moving forward.

We made our last allocation change to the model on April 10, 2025 in which we eliminated our short-term high yield bond position in favor of the NYLI Hedged Multi Strategy tracker ETF. In addition, we rebalanced the account back to the model on the same date. The most recent rebalance generally reduced our bond holdings, as they had outperformed equity assets, and allowed us to purchase additional equity shares at relative lower values.”

Our investment account values for March 2025 and the three previous years were:

03/30/2025	\$ 221,778.55
10/31/2024	\$ 231,227.12
10/31/2023	\$ 181,915.06
10/31/2022	\$ 190,360.31

Our M&T Bank account summaries were:

X5570 Operating Account

Balance 11/01/2024	\$ 8,129.49
Deposits	\$ 7,448.50
Debits	\$ (9,107.21)
Balance 04/30/2025	\$ 6,470.78

X5361 Walk of Remembrance

Balance 11/01/2024 \$ 5,586.43
Deposits \$ 240.00
Debits \$ 0
Balance 04/30/2025 \$ 5,826.43

Detailed financial reports were submitted to and reviewed by our Accounts and Finance Committee.

Fraternally,

John Rafine, MIPGM
Grand Treasurer

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland Grand Treasurer's Report					
Raymond James Investment Account FY 2025 to date					
	11/29/2024	12/31/2024	1/31/2025	2/29/2025	3/31/2025
Beginning Balance	\$ 231,227.12	\$ 237,460.01	\$ 227,923.84	\$ 232,649.70	\$ 230,981.16
Deposits	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Income	\$ 240.81	\$ 1,017.06	\$ 120.91	\$ 200.71	\$ 785.65
Withdraws	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (618.19)	\$ -	\$ -
Change in Value This Statement	\$ 12,992.08	\$ (10,553.23)	\$ 5,223.14	\$ (1,869.25)	\$ (9,998.26)
Change in Value YTD	\$ 36,173.17	\$ 25,619.94	\$ 5,223.14	\$ 3,353.89	\$ (6,634.37)
Ending Balance	\$ 237,460.01	\$ 227,923.84	\$ 232,649.70	\$ 230,981.16	\$ 221,778.55
Time Weighted Performance YTD	18.40%	13.70%	2.02%	1.29%	2.74%
PORTFOLIO					
Cash and Cash Alternatives	\$ 6,812.75	\$ 6,813.90	\$ 6,196.62	\$ 6,197.33	\$ 6,198.11
Exchange-Traded Programs	\$ 230,647.26	\$ 221,109.94	\$ 226,453.08	\$ 224,783.83	\$ 215,580.44
FIXED INCOME					
PORTFOLIO TOTAL VALUE	\$ 237,460.01	\$ 227,923.84	\$ 232,649.70	\$ 230,981.16	\$ 221,778.55
ACCRUED INTEREST TOTAL					
PORTFOLIO TOTAL WITH ACCRUED INTEREST	\$ 237,460.01	\$ 227,923.84	\$ 232,649.70	\$ 230,981.16	\$ 221,778.55

Grand Chapter of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

Semi-Annual Assembly

2025

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland Grand Treasurer's Report						
Raymond James Investment Account Fiscal Year 2024						
	11/30/2023	12/29/2023	1/31/2024	2/29/2024	3/28/2024	4/30/2024
Beginning Balance	\$ 181,855.68	\$ 195,634.06	\$ 206,423.07	\$ 206,762.73	\$ 213,940.00	\$ 220,878.02
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Income	\$ 152.26	\$ 793.79	\$ 258.24	\$ 164.22	\$ 811.49	\$ 242.61
Withdraws	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (564.54)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (604.07)
Change in Value This Statement	\$ 13,626.12	\$ 9,995.22	\$ 645.96	\$ 7,013.05	\$ 6,126.53	\$ (9,009.55)
Change in Value YTD	\$ (1,450.00)	\$ 8,545.22	\$ 645.96	\$ 7,659.01	\$ 13,785.54	\$ 4,775.99
Ending Balance	\$ 195,634.06	\$ 206,423.07	\$ 206,762.73	\$ 213,940.00	\$ 220,878.02	\$ 211,507.01
Time Weighted Performance YTD	0.40%	6.05%	0.07%	3.56%	6.81%	2.28%
PORTFOLIO						
Cash and Cash Alternatives	\$ 267.13	\$ 1,671.91	\$ 5,924.36	\$ 6,088.58	\$ 16,845.34	\$ 6,149.62
Exchange-Traded Programs	\$ 185,398.33	\$ 194,770.86	\$ 190,847.57	\$ 197,859.42	\$ 204,032.68	\$ 205,357.39
FIXED INCOME	\$ 9,968.60	\$ 9,980.30	\$ 9,990.80	\$ 9,992.00	\$ -	\$ -
PORTFOLIO TOTAL VALUE	\$ 195,634.06	\$ 206,423.07	\$ 206,762.73	\$ 213,940.00	\$ 220,878.02	\$ 211,507.01
ACCRUED INTEREST TOTAL	\$ 98.96	\$ 138.54	\$ 178.13	\$ 217.71	\$ -	
PORTFOLIO TOTAL WITH ACCRUED INTEREST	\$ 195,733.02	\$ 206,561.61	\$ 206,940.86	\$ 214,157.71	\$ 220,878.02	\$ 211,507.01
	5/31/2024	6/28/2024	7/31/2024	8/30/2024	9/30/2024	10/31/2024
Beginning Balance	\$ 211,507.01	\$ 219,247.41	\$ 221,721.28	\$ 228,754.01	\$ 231,522.75	\$ 234,312.74
Deposits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Income	\$ 254.63	\$ 832.46	\$ 250.48	\$ 254.27	\$ 802.61	\$ 243.79
Withdraws	\$ -	\$ (62.33)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (613.04)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (647.86)
Change in Value This Statement	\$ 7,485.77	\$ 1,703.74	\$ 7,395.29	\$ 2,514.47	\$ 1,987.38	\$ (2,681.55)
Change in Value YTD	\$ 12,261.76	\$ 13,965.50	\$ 21,360.79	\$ 23,875.26	\$ 25,862.64	\$ 23,181.09
Ending Balance	\$ 219,247.41	\$ 221,721.28	\$ 228,754.01	\$ 231,522.75	\$ 234,312.74	\$ 231,227.12
Time Weighted Performance YTD	6.02%	7.22%	10.62%	\$ 11.95	\$ 13.30	11.81%
PORTFOLIO						
Cash and Cash Alternatives	\$ 6,404.25	\$ 6,638.34	\$ 6,026.64	\$ 6,027.91	\$ 6,029.14	\$ 12,375.88
Exchange-Traded Programs	\$ 212,843.16	\$ 215,082.94	\$ 222,727.37	\$ 225,494.84	\$ 228,283.60	\$ 218,851.24
FIXED INCOME	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
PORTFOLIO TOTAL VALUE	\$ 219,247.41	\$ 221,721.28	\$ 228,754.01	\$ 231,522.75	\$ 234,312.74	\$ 231,227.12
ACCRUED INTEREST TOTAL						
PORTFOLIO TOTAL WITH ACCRUED INTEREST	\$ 219,247.41	\$ 221,721.28	\$ 228,754.01	\$ 231,522.75	\$ 234,312.74	\$ 231,227.12

Grand Chapter of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland

Semi-Annual Assembly

2025

Grand Council of R&SM/MD							
04/30/25							
		GCR&SM Operating Account	2023-2024	FINAL as of 4/29/25	2025	2025	2026
			AS AMENDE	ACTUAL	APPROVED	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
INCOME		DESCRIPTION/TITLE					
	A	Per Capita effective 2024 based on 850@ \$11.50	\$ 9,775.00	\$ 9,096.50	\$ 9,775.00	\$ -	\$ 9,073.50
	B	Greeting Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	C	Interest/Dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	D	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	E	Transfer from Investments	\$ 10,100.00	\$ 9,034.84	\$ 9,390.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 14,176.50
	F	Ritual	\$ -	\$ 636.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	G	Fund Raising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	H	SEM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 950.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	I	Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	TOTAL		\$ 20,125.00	\$ 18,767.69	\$ 20,365.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
EXPENSES							
	1	Grand Recorder Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
	2	Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ 400.00	\$ 10.20	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
	3	Grand Treasurer Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
	4	Grand Sentinel Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	5	Grand Organist Gratuity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	6	Officers' Travel Expenses		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	6.1	MIGM	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
	6.2	RIDGM	\$ 250.00	\$ 211.25	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	6.3	RIGPCW	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	7	Per Capita General Grand (based on 850@\$2.50)	\$ 2,125.00	\$ 1,955.00	\$ 2,125.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
	8	Office Expenses (includes Ritual Books)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 296.87	\$ 500.00	\$ 9.45	\$ 500.00
	9	Annual Proceedings & Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 120.11	\$ 200.00	\$ 53.80	\$ 200.00
	10	Flowers & Memorials	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
	11	Sessions Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,271.31	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
	12	Grand Master's Apron & Case	\$ 800.00	\$ 419.84	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	13	Triennial Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
	14	CMMRF	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,258.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	14.2	CMMRF Fund Raising Expenses	\$ 700.00	\$ 755.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00
	15	Printing/Dues Card	\$ 250.00	\$ 561.11	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	16	Equipment & Software Purchases	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	17	Bonnie Blink Church Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140.00	\$ -	\$ -
	18	Award & Recognition	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	19	Membership/Degree Teams	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	20	Youth Group/ Hersey Trip	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
	21	Web Site	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 216.01	\$ 250.00
	22	Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
	23	SEM Degree	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	24	Insurance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,409.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
	25	Anniversary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	28	Fund Raising (advance-- recover from donation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	29	MMS Fees	\$ -	\$ 775.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 291.57	\$ 500.00
	TOTAL		\$ 20,125.00	\$ 18,767.69	\$ 20,365.00	\$ 2,070.83	\$ 24,000.00

9. Report of the Grand Lecturer

Comp. Jeffrey C. Ament

Most Illustrious Grand Master, Treklas,

In accordance with the responsibilities set forth in Article X, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland, I hereby submit the following report of the Grand Lecturer as of April 15, 2025. It is with deep respect and unwavering commitment to the advancement of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland that I present this report. As the new Grand Lecturer, I am honored with the opportunity to assist our Companions in their Masonic journey and to ensure that the excellence of our work, the integrity of our rituals, and the fellowship of our Councils remain strong. The following update provides key information on the progress of recent degree exemplifications, proposed changes to our practices, and ongoing efforts to enhance the Craft in Maryland.

- 1. Exemplification of the Royal and Select Master Degrees:** I am pleased to report that Companion William “Bill” Miller of Jerusalem Council No. 2 has successfully and proficiently exemplified the Royal Master and Select Master Degrees, as required to become a Thrice Illustrious Master. His performance has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the ritual work, floor movements, and lecture content, and he has met all requirements necessary to be recognized as proficient in these Degrees. He currently holds the position of Thrice Illustrious Master-elect of Jerusalem Council No. 2 for the 2025–2026 term. He is set to attend Law School and will receive the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree on May 3, 2025, during the Semi-Annual Session at the Grand Lodge in Maryland. A Certificate of Proficiency was provided to the Grand Recorder and Jerusalem Council’s Recorder on 15 April 2025.

Additionally, Companion Frederick Rossmark Jr. of Concordia Council No. 1 successfully and proficiently exemplified the Royal Master Degree on December 8, 2024, at Concordia Lodge in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Companion Rossmark has not yet demonstrated proficiency in the Select Master Degree, but I remain available to assist him in completing this important next step.

I continue to remain at the service of any Companion who wishes to exemplify the Royal and Select Master Degrees. I will coordinate efforts across the jurisdiction to ensure that these critical degrees are conferred with the dignity and reverence they deserve, in accordance with the time-honored traditions of the Craft.

- 2. Support for the Super Excellent Master Degree (SEM):** While there are currently no plans to confer the Super Excellent Master Degree in the immediate future, I remain fully prepared to support its execution should the opportunity arise. This support includes assistance with site coordination, ritual organization, and active participation in any

capacity required to ensure a successful and meaningful conferral. The SEM Degree holds a special place in the progression of our Companions, marking a profound and memorable moment in their Masonic journey. When the time comes to continue this tradition, I will rely greatly on the experience and dedication of those who have participated in previous conferrals. I also warmly welcome any Companions who are willing to volunteer when a call is made.

3. **Abridged Select Master Opening Proposal:** Appended to this report, is an abridged Select Master opening I'm proposing to establish formal procedures for assembling a Council of Select Masters for "normal business" with only five officers, as approved on May 16, 2017, and codified in Standing Resolution of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of Maryland, 18, of the Constitution of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Maryland. By providing a formally recognized procedure for opening with a reduced number of officers, we ensure continuity of operations, and uphold the dignity and structure of our meetings without compromising ritual integrity.
4. **Grand Council Ritual Book Update:** I am fully prepared to assist in updating our ritual books as needed, to correct any discrepancies and provide more detailed descriptions of Council layout(s) and floor movements. Additionally, I warmly invite any Companions who are willing to volunteer their time and expertise to contribute to this important effort. The importance of this update cannot be overstated, as it ensures that future generations of Companions will be able to perform our degrees with the same precision, reverence, and understanding as those who have come before them. This project is a vital step in preserving the legacy of the Royal and Select Masters of Maryland.

In closing, I remain deeply committed to supporting the work of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland and to assisting our Companions in their journey toward greater light and understanding. The degrees of the Royal and Select Masters continue to provide wisdom, knowledge, and guidance, and I look forward to continuing to serve in this capacity, ensuring the continued strength and integrity of our Craft.

Should you require any further information or clarification on the matters outlined above, I remain at your service.

Respectfully submitted,
Comp. Jeffrey Ament

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

10. Accounts & Finance

RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez

The Finance Committee met and reviewed the Grand Treasurer's records. The Committee found that the records are squared. The Grand Recorder's records are presented in his report, including a spreadsheet that contains the proposed budget for the 2025 -2026 operating year (November 1, 2025 - October 31, 2026), which was prepared based on previous actuals and MIGM Treklas's plans for the year.

At our 2024 Semi-Annual session, the Accounts and Finance Committee proposed to raise the per capita dues for the 2026 Capitular Year during the Semi-Annual 2025 meeting. In the financial interest of the Grand Council, the Accounts and Finance Committee proposes a raise of per capita dues to \$14.00 per member (from \$11.50) in order to help remain solvent. This decision is based on the fact that an increase to \$13.00 would be too low (and might prompt an immediate need to raise them again the following year) and an increase to \$15.00 would be seen as excessive, thus the Committee has compromised at \$14.00.

Fraternally Submitted,
Companion G. Andrew Martinez, RIDGM, Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

In alignment with the report's recommendations, R.I. Comp. G. Andrew Martinez proposed that the Grand Council increase the per capita fee imposed on the councils to \$14.00, which will take effect with the 2025 Annual Report, scheduled for submission in September 2026. R.I. Comp. Stephen R. Twomey II seconded the motion. Following deliberation, the motion was adopted unanimously.

11. Dispensations and Charter

RI Comp. Stephen R. Twomey II

No dispensation or Charter received by the committee.

Fraternally,
Stephen Twomey

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

12. CMMRF

RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez

Maryland's donations to the Cryptic Masons Masonic Research Foundation (CMMRF) have turned around this past 2024 Cryptic year, with Maryland donating \$5,841 to CMMRF (of their grand total of \$192,811.48).

I would like to thank the following individuals for their 2024 contributions:

- Neilson Peter
- Robert Lumbert
- Gordon Davids
- John Rafine
- Joel Todd

A big thank you to MIPGM Robert Lumbert, who this year will receive a Nine Arch Triangle Plaque.

I would also like to thank the following Councils for their generous donations, earning extender bars for their plaques.

- Hiram Council No. 5 - 3 Bars
- Enoch Council No. 10 - 1 Bar
- Harmony Council No. 20 - 1 Bars

Earlier this year, I sent a letter out to let our Councils know that March is CMMRF Month. Maryland answered the call with total donations of \$1,199.00 being donated in the first quarter of this year. Thank you all!

For continued donation support, we still have a supply of the Sesquicentennial challenge coins for sale (\$20 each), whose sales go towards supporting CMMRF. CMMRF is truly a worthy charity whose medical research is working to find cures for Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms, Cancer, Diabetes, Heart failure, Stroke, Arthritis, and Pancreatitis.

Everyone most likely knows someone with one of the disorders C.M.M.R.F. addresses. Every dollar donated is an opportunity to change a life forever. If you visit www.cmmrf.org, you will see many testimonials about the medical advances this organization has provided. As always, if you need materials or further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally Submitted,
Companion G. Andrew Martinez, RIDGM, Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez presented the Grand Council with \$240.00 from the sales of the challenge coins as a donation to CMMRF and presented MIPGM Lumbert with a Nine Arch Triangle Plaque.

13. Fraternal Relations

MIGM Spyridon Treklas

I have engaged in discussions with the MEGHP and EGC regarding the establishment of an amnesty program for members who have been suspended. It is our belief that many of these members may not have received appropriate billing statements or may have encountered financial difficulties, rendering them unaware of how to avert suspension. It is hoped that this initiative will facilitate their reintegration into the Council.

Additionally, I have initiated contact with the Grand Council PHP to reestablish our relationship. Although the IGM is currently traveling abroad, I shall continue to pursue this effort.

Respectively,
Spyridon Treklas, MIGM

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

14. Committee on Grievance

MIPGM Gordon A. Davids

No information was submitted to this committee for report to the Grand Council.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

15. Jurisprudence and Constitution

MIPGM John A. Rafine

Most Illustrious Grand Master Spyridon Treklas,

No issues were presented to this committee for review during this reporting period.

Fraternally,
John Rafine, MIPGM, Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

16. Long Range Planning

RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez

This past year I have been working with the Grand Chapter and Grand Council to assess the status of the 14 Chapters and 12 Councils that comprise those grand bodies in the hopes of identifying a path forward to address how to increase York Rite membership as Blue Lodge membership declines. (I also hope to work with the Grand Commandery reviewing the 10 Commanderies within that body in May.) I will be giving a synopsis of the findings of the 3 Grand Bodies (once completed) at the York Rite College meeting on May 31 to explore what possibilities are available

to strengthen our Maryland York Rite. I will also include that synopsis as part of the Long-Range Planning report for the Annual Report at the Grand Sessions in October.

Fraternally Submitted,
Companion G. Andrew Martinez, RIDGM, Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

17. Membership

RI Comp. Stephen R. Twomey II

It should be noted that no formal membership reports have been submitted to the Grand Council in recent years. As a result, this report includes data spanning back to 2020 to provide a more complete and contextualized view of our membership trends over time. While this has made for a longer report, the extended analysis was necessary to fully understand where we stand and how we've arrived here.

This report reflects on the membership trends of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Maryland, covering the period from 2020 through April 11, 2025. Over these five years, we've experienced cycles of growth, contraction, and transition that speak both to the resilience of our membership and to the work that still lies ahead.

Between 2020 and 2022, our jurisdiction saw steady growth, rising from 804 to 847 active members. This progress was modest but meaningful, driven by new member greetings, minimal suspensions, and stability across many constituent councils. That positive momentum began to taper off in 2023, when statewide membership increased only slightly—by 7 members—followed by a sharp reversal in 2024.

The 2024 membership drop, totaling 54 Companions, marked the largest single-year decline in recent history. Much of this downturn can be attributed to the implementation of our new membership management system, which was rolled out at the end of 2023 and into early 2024. This transition enabled a more accurate update of member statuses across councils, resulting in a higher-than-usual number of deaths recorded and a considerable increase in suspensions due to non-payment of dues. In many cases, these were members who had long been inactive or unaccounted for and were finally updated in the system.

As of April 2025, the statewide membership has decreased slightly to 794—a net loss of 6 members year-to-date. While this still reflects a downward trend, it is far less severe than the losses reported the previous year and may signal a stabilization of our numbers. Several councils have already begun efforts to reverse this trend by greeting new members and reinstating previously suspended Companions. These early signs are encouraging, but continued attention is needed.

Sustainable growth for Cryptic Masonry in Maryland is ultimately tied to our presence and engagement within the Blue Lodge. Our ability to maintain and grow council membership is directly related to how many Master Masons are introduced to and successfully navigate through the Chapter degrees. To that end, each council is strongly encouraged to develop a structured plan for outreach to its feeder lodges. Council officers should take an active role in visiting lodges in their region, talking about the York Rite as a whole, and creating personal connections that spark interest and curiosity. These visits can be informal or part of scheduled lodge programs and should be focused on explaining the value, purpose, and experience of the York Rite journey.

Equally important is the need for clear and consistent communication of our degree conferral schedules—across Chapter, Council, and Commandery bodies. Masons who express interest in the York Rite should not have to wait months without knowing when or where the next degree cycle will take place. Councils should make it a priority to coordinate with their local York Rite bodies and ensure that Blue Lodge members have easy access to a degree calendar, ideally distributed throughout the region and supported with personal outreach.

Internally, we must also improve how we communicate with our existing members. Many Companions who have fallen away did so not out of dissatisfaction, but because they lost contact with the body or weren't informed of events. Councils should explore a combination of email, phone, printed mailings, and in-person visits to ensure their members remain connected and informed.

Looking ahead, the path to growth lies not only in bringing new members in, but in keeping current members engaged, valued, and informed. Our jurisdiction has the leadership, experience, and fraternal strength to meet this challenge. With intentional outreach, renewed Blue Lodge relationships, and a revitalized focus on communication, we can look to the future with confidence and resolve.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen R. Twomey II, R.I. Grand P.C.W.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

18. Recognition and Awards

MI Randal Watson

This report will be given at the Annual Assembly in October.

19. Time and Place

RI Comp. G. Andrew Martinez

Two locations have been proposed for the 2026 Grand Sessions, the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa & Marina in Cambridge (submitted by GPCW Twomey) and the Holiday Inn Ocean City (being worked by REPGC Chuck Warns.) At the writing of this report, only one set of

estimates has been received for the Hyatt Regency, which has not been fully reviewed by the three Grand Bodies. The Holiday Inn estimate was expected to be received by Friday, April 25, 2025. Unfortunately, until the three Grand Bodies can make comparisons of the two estimates, this Time and Place Committee cannot make a fair recommendation and will request the floor be open for discussion at the Semi-Annual. **Update to report:** Based on the rates contained in the two proposals, the committee determined last night, that the Holiday Inn Ocean City proposal is the most desirable for the 2026 Grand Session. The final room rates and meeting rooms are still being negotiated.

Fraternally Submitted,
Companion G. Andrew Martinez, RIDGM, Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

20. Session 2025

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

21. Youth Relations

Comp. Carl A. Michel, Jr.

Most Illustrious Grand Master,

Your Youth Committee thanks you for the opportunity to serve this august body by working with our Masonic Youth. They young men and women will be part of our future either through joining the fraternity or encouraging their spouses to join. Their successes today will only afford greater good for our communities in the future with our support.

Membership, as we all know, is the central string that connects us all. We know what we have to offer, but explaining this to the uninformed is challenging, even for us. Imagine trying to explain ideals and principles as a teen and pre-teen to teens and pre-teens. What a challenge but one they are up to.

At the time of this writing Maryland Rainbow has completed their yearly sessions and a new Youth leader has been installed. The room was packed and the energy was fantastic. The DeMolay and Job's Daughters both showed up in support of Rainbow. We recommend everyone to attend the Installation next year. The Maryland Rainbow website at the bottom of this report will provide you with contact information for their organization.

DelMar Job's Daughters will be holding their yearly sessions Mother's Day weekend in Cockeysville at Grand Lodge. They will celebrate the accomplishments of their year and the new Adult Leaders will be installed. The ladies of DelMar Job's Daughters are working hard to increase

membership and work with the other youth groups to increase attendance at fun events. We are looking forward to a fantastic year with much excitement from the incoming leadership.

Maryland DeMolay continues to work on membership, activities and communication. The chapters continue to work on new and exciting programs to fulfill the needs on the younger members and keep the older members coming back. Their Rifle Tournament just concluded and these young men learned valuable lessons in gun safety, cleaning, and responsible ownership. Having hands on activities like these will hopefully move them out of the gaming mindset and into a practical one where they understand that there is no 2nd or 3rd life after your first one is gone. Their Annual meeting will be in July at Salisbury University. Paperwork should be out to the Councils requesting small donations to help them cover costs associated with specific items. These items are listed with full amounts needed but any donation, no matter the size will do to assist them. We look forward to seeing the Jurisdiction going for three years in a row of positive growth.

Activities are on the rise and participation continues to build across all three youth groups. Work continues to rebuild the membership numbers and strength the educational programs for our future leaders.. The excitement and fun these members are having is addictive! All groups are looking for Advisors, men and women, who are willing to assist them to mentor their members and help them with their growth into adults. **THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME TO MENTOR IS THE MOST VALUABLE COMMODITY YOU COULD GIVE!** If you want to experience much gratification in your life, step into the role of a mentor for these organizations.

This committee member again recommends the Grand Council investigate creating an award for new Royal and Select Masters, similar to the Grand Lodge Zerubbabel Award Program for new members. Not only does the program encourage new members to become active in all aspects of the lodge but it requires the participant to visit at least one youth group meeting. I have witnessed firsthand how impressed these masons are with our masonic youth and have had conversations with them when they visited. I can only imagine how active our new Royal and Select Masters would be if they had an award to strive for right after becoming a member, which would in turn benefit their Council with attendance and help with degrees and activities.

We extend an invitation to all York Rite Masons to visit a Youth Meeting or activity during the next year to experience what we offer our members and to see the good works our members perform throughout the year for their respective groups, the community and those in need. Who knows, you may find yourself asking how you can help or asking a relative or young person in your area if they would be interested in learning about these organizations. While we cannot guarantee the young men will join or the young ladies will marry men who join, we can guarantee that if we as York Rite Masons take the time to actually talk and listen to these future leaders, not only will we probably learn something valuable from them or about ourselves as men and

masons, but we just may make that connection which causes that young person to want to be like us and become part of the Senior Fraternity and all it has to offer.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the Grand Council of Maryland in this most important function. Each of these organizations represents a substantial investment in the future of Masonry and we sincerely appreciate your support of our activities. Please visit each website <https://www.mddemolay.org>, <http://www.gomarylandrainbow.org>, and <https://delmarjdi.org>.

Fraternally submitted,
Comp. Carl A. Michel, Jr., PTIM

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and passed unanimously.

Maryland DeMolay sent a mailing asking for sponsorships to help defray the cost of Conclave to its members. RI Comp. Eppig moved to donate \$100.00 to help sponsor the ice cream truck at their conclave. MIPGM Neagel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

22. Walk of Remembrance Report

M.I. Comp. John A. Rafine

Our account balance as of 09/30/2024 was \$5,586.43. During this reporting period, we received checks for four brick purchases totaling \$240. There were no debits, and our account balance as of April 30, 2025, was \$5,826.43. A work order was received from Merkle Monuments to engrave 26 bricks at a cost of \$1,300 for the 2025 Grand Lodge Officer bricks, expected to be completed in about 4-6 months, weather permitting. Additional brick purchases received during this period may be appended to this work order.

As previously reported, sales of Walk of Remembrance bricks are infrequent, with the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the Order of the Eastern Star continuing as our main supporters. We need to get the word out to our membership that bricks are available for purchase. The current cost is \$60 per brick and can be purchased by and for anyone.

Fraternally,
John Rafine, MIPGM

23. Grand Council History

MI Comp. William C. Hare

No Report.

24. Unfinished Business

RI Comp. William C. Eppig

MIGM,

Two items remain from the previous year. The first pertains to the recommendation to increase the assessment that was deferred from last year's semiannual meeting. This matter has been addressed at this meeting.

The second item pertained to the printing of a new Ritual book. The Grand Lecture addressed this subject in his report.

Fraternally,
William Eppig, RIGR

25. New Business

MIGM Spyridon G. Treklas

None

26. Voluntary Remarks

Companions in attendance

Comp. Hubschman expressed his displeasure with the Grand Commandery's decision to withdraw from the joint York Rite website and its impact on the Grand Chapter and Council and Maryland York Rite unity.

RI Comp Eppig provided a brief history of how and why the current website was developed, explaining the input from all three bodies and noting that it is the property of York. He recommended that having experienced website designers refresh the site would be beneficial, acknowledging that he is not one himself.

MIPGM Rafine gave an update on MIPGM Hare's surgery and recovery.

27. Election of Officers

MI Comp. Richard P. Naegel

MIPGM Naegle presided over the nominations and Elections of the Officers of the Grand Council for the 202 – 2025 Cryptic Year. The following were nominated.

RI Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas - Most Illustrious Grand Master
Comp. G. Andrew Martinze - Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master
Comp. Stephen Tomey, II - Right Illustrious Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
MI Comp. John A. Rafine - Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer
RI Comp. William C. Eppig - Right Illustrious Grand Recorder

There being no further nominations, the ballot was closed, and the Grand Recorder was directed to cast a unanimous ballot for the above Companions.

28. Closing Remarks

MIGM Spyridon G. Treklas

None

29. Closing

MIGM Spyridon G. Treklas

The Grand Chaplain Burt offered a closing prayer.

The M.I.G.M. directed that the Lights be broken and declared the Semi-Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Maryland closed at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wil C. Eppig".

William C. Eppig
Grand Recorder