

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF MARYLAND



SEMI-ANNUAL CONVOCATION

MAY 8, 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

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

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

SK Vernon
Huebschman
Grand
Recorder
Grand
Commandery
of KT in MD

Ex Comp Bruce Colburn
Grand Lecturer

Ex Comp Jeffrey Ament,
Grand Lecturer

Agenda
Grand Chapter Semi-Annual Convocation
May 8, 2025, 7:30 p.m.
Oriental Room Hunt Valley, Maryland

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Opening of Grand Chapter | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 1a. Preliminary Conference Report -by Roll-Call | Vernon Huebschman, PGHP |
| 2. Reception of Past Grand High Priests | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 3. Proceedings of 2024 Annual Grand Convocation | William Eppig, REG Sec. |
| 4. Report of the Grand Secretary | William Eppig, REG Sec. |
| 5. Report of the Grand Treasurer & Trustees | John Lister, REG Treas. |
| 6. Report of the Committee on Accounts & Finance | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 7. Report of the Grand High Priest | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 8. Final Roll Call - Committee on Conference | Vernon Huebschman, PGHP |
| 9. Nominations & Election of Officers for the 24 – 25 Capitular Year | Bruce Colburn, PGHP |
| 10. Report of the Grand Lecturer & Committee on Work | Bruce Colburn, Grand Lecturer |
| 11. Report of the Committee on Youth Relations & Scholarships | Richard Naegele, PGHP. Chair. |
| 12. Report of the Committee on Royal Arch Research Assistance | Andrew Martinez, PGHP. |
| 13. Report of the Committee on Time & Place | Darryl Smith, REGS |
| 14. Report of the Committee on Sessions Planning 2024 | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 15. Report of the Committee Correspondence & Fraternal Relations | Robert Lumbert, PGHP |
| 16. Report of the Committee on Jurisprudence & Grievance | Randall L. Watson, PGHP |
| 17. Report of Committee on Awards & Recognition | Robert Chase, PGHP |
| 18. Report of Committee on Events | William Miller, REGK |
| 19. Committee on Long Range Planning | Rafael Rodriguez, REGS |
| 20. Committee on Membership | Rafael Rodriguez, REGS |
| 21. Reports to be received and published, requiring no action | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 22. Doings of the Grand Officers | J. Bradly Thomas, PHP |
| 23. Unfinished Business from Prior Grand Convocation | Richard Naegele, PGHP |
| 24. New Business introduced at this Grand Convocation | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 25. Introduction of Distinguished Visitors | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 26. Announcements & Schedule Items | As required. |
| 27. Voluntary Remarks | Companions in attendance |
| 28. Official Remarks | Distinguished Visitors |
| 29. Installation of Officers | Fall 2024 |
| 30. Final Remarks: MEGHP | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |
| 31. Closing of Grand Chapter | Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP |

he MEGHP may abridge or amend the order of these items at his discretion.

1. Opening of Grand Chapter

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguez, GHP

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Rafael Rodriguez, called the Grand Chapter to order with the following Grand Chapter Officers. No substitutes seated:

Grand High Priest: M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguez

Grand King: R.E. Comp. William E. F. Miller III

Grand Scribe: R.E. Comp. Darryl Smith

Grand Secretary: M.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, P.G.H.P.

Grand Treasurer: R.E. Comp. John M. Lister

Grand Captain of the Host: Ex. Comp. Robert Reynolds

Grand Principal Sojourner: Ex. Comp. James Kinnear

Grand Royal Arch Captain: Ex. Comp. Michael Shrank

Grand Master of the Third Veil: Ex. Comp. James Jolley (**excused**)

Grand Master of the Second Veil: Ex. Comp. Gordon Munholland

Grand Master of the First Veil: Ex. Comp. J. Bradley Thomas

Grand Chaplain: Ex. Comp. A. Dean Burt (**excused**)

Grand Sentinel: Kenneth Kiessling (**excused**)

Grand Lecturer: M.E. Comp. Bruce G. Colburn

Deputy Grand Lecturer: Comp. Gordon Munholland

Deputy Grand Lecturer: M.E. G. Andrew Martinez

Deputy Grand Lecturer: James Kinnear

The MEGHP Rodriguez offered the opening prayer.

The MEGHP led the Pledge of Allegiance and directed that the Lights be set.

The Grand Chapter was then declared Open in Ample Form at 7:34 p.m.

1a. Preliminary Report on Conference

R. E. Comp William Eppig, G. Sec

MEGHP,

The register shows the following:

- 9 - Chapters represented of 15.
- 21 - Voting Members were present.
- 2 - Non-Voting members were present.

Attendance of voting members was recorded by PGHP Vernon Huebschman and Grand Secretary Eppig through a roll call of all qualified voting members.

2. Reception of Past Grand High Priests

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguz, GHP

MEGHP Rodriguz presented and welcomed the following Past Grand High Priest in attendance:

Year Elected	Past Grand High Priest
2004	Vernon H. Huebschman
2010 – 2011	Robert B. Lumbert
2014 - 2015	Randall L. Watson
2018	William C. Eppig
2019	Bruce G. Colburn
2021	Robert W. Chase
2022 – 2023	G. Andrew Martinez

Grand honors were conferred upon the gathered Past Grand High Priests, under the leadership of the MEGHP, as well as the assembled Companions. Most Excellent Companion Huebschman addressed the gathered Past Grand High Priests.

3. Annual Proceedings

R.E. Comp. William Eppig, G. Sec.

M.E.G.H.P.,

The Proceedings of the 2024 Annual Grand Convocation have been accessible on the Grand Chapter website since November 2024. Given that the 2024 Proceedings have been available for inspection and review, and will remain so, I hereby propose that they be accepted as posted, pending further corrections should any issues arise found.

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

4. Report of the Grand Secretary

R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, G. Sec

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. Although the I.R.S. requires this form to be completed every two years, the Grand Chapter needs it completed annually. Yearly filing helps prevent a failure to report, especially if a change in secretaries occurs. If this happens, you may lose your E.I.N. #.

General Grand Chapter Annual Report: The General Grand Chapter 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 896 members for the year 2024, of whom 7 were General Grand Chapter Perpetual Life Memberships. This left us with assessments to pay to the General Grand Chapter for 889 members.

MMS: The new MMS has been online for almost a year. I know there are still some growing pains with a few of our secretaries, 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 helpful to our chapters and the Grand Chapter.

With the new MMS, we could use 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 Secretary, and I thank the Grand Chapter for allowing the use of this vendor and Masonic member solutions.

Royal Arch Magazine: In recent years, I have undertaken the task of rectifying the mailing list utilized by the General Grand Chapter to distribute the Royal Arch Magazine. This process was challenging due to the outdated Access database system, which contained numerous inconsistencies. However, with the implementation of the new Membership Management System (MMS), which is the most up-to-date and accurate system available, I successfully provided the current membership names and addresses to replace the previous data.

The quarterly bill in 2021 averaged \$715.00, totaling \$2,860 for the year. Last year, the average quarterly cost was \$643.00, amounting to \$2,572 for the year. The past spring issue, using correct data, incurred a cost of \$545.00, resulting in an annual expenditure of \$2,180. Consequently, this has yielded approximately \$680 in annual savings since 2021.

Respectfully Submitted and move acceptance of this report.

William C. Eppig, P.G.H.P., Grand Secretary

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

5. Report of the Grand Treasurer

R.E. Comp. John Lister, G. Tr

MEGHP,

The report of the Grand Treasurer is that the Grand Chapter is in good financial condition. The Treasurer's Final Report for 2024 is attached. Although the report shows the year being short \$5,756 in income, we spent \$ 8,091 less than budgeted and stayed in the black.

The Semi-Annual Treasurers Report for 2025, as of May 5, 2025, is attached, along with the 2025 Interim Report for the Trustees Reserve Fund. The Reserve Fund report shows the status of the account as of March 31 , 2025. The value of the account and its investments as of that date was \$596,362.78, that's a 1% decrease since November 1st.

Also attached, as reviewed by the Accounts and Finance committee, is the proposed budget for 2026

Respectfully submitted,
John M. Lister
Grand Treasurer

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

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Final Report - 2024

11/1/2023 through 10/31/2024

Using 2024 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME	\$ 24,563.08	\$ 30,400.00	\$ (5,756.92)
Council Anointed Hig Priests	\$ 520.00	\$ 600.00	\$ (80.00)
Exaltations	\$ 350.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (150.00)
Invest Inc	\$ 713.08	\$ 3,600.00	\$ (2,886.92)
Other Inc	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Per Capita	\$ 11,080.00	\$ 11,063.00	\$ 17.00
Transfer Income	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 14,637.00	\$ (2,737.00)
EXPENSES	\$ 22,307.99	\$ 30,400.00	\$ 8,092.01
1 - Grand Officers and Related Items	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,450.00	\$ (50.00)
1.1 - Grand Secretary	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (100.00)
1.2 - Grand Lecturer	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -
1.3 - Grand Treasurer	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
1.4 - Grand Sentinel	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
1.5 - Grand Organist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2 - Personal Expenses	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
2.1 - Expenses In Out State	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -
2.1.1 - GHP Personal Expenses	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
2.1.2 - Grand King Personal Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
2.1.3 - Grand Scribe Personal Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
2.2 - Expenses N. E. Region	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
2.3 - Regional Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2.31 - Grand Lecturer Instruction Mtgs	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
2.4 - Degree Team Expenses	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
3 - General Grand Chapter	\$ 5,602.39	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 297.61
3.1 - Dues General Grand Chapter	\$ 2,868.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 32.00
3.2 - Royal Arch Magazine for Members	\$ 2,634.39	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 265.61
3.3 - RAM Editor Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
3.4 - Triennial Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4 - Office Expenses	\$ 4,234.36	\$ 3,850.00	\$ (384.36)
4.01 - Office Supplies	\$ 122.57	\$ 450.00	\$ 327.43
4.02 - Printing Ritual Books	\$ 1,794.34	\$ -	\$ (1,794.34)
4.03 - Printing Annual Proceedings	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.04 - Postage and Delivery Expense	\$ 127.10	\$ 400.00	\$ 272.90
4.05 - Past GHP Jewel and Engraving	\$ 535.74	\$ 100.00	\$ (435.74)
4.06 - GHP Apron & Case	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.07 - Memorials	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
4.08 - Membership Program	\$ 918.90	\$ 500.00	\$ (418.90)
4.10 - Equipment Fund	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
4.11 - Dues Cards	\$ 125.76	\$ 400.00	\$ 274.24
4.12 - Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 409.95	\$ 100.00	\$ (309.95)
4.13 - Awards	\$ 200.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 150.00
5 - Service Contracts	\$ 3,477.64	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 822.36
5.1 - Office Rent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Final Report - 2024

11/1/2023 through 10/31/2024

5.3 - Insurance	Using 2024 Grand Chapter	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 77.36
5.4 - Web Site		\$ 795.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 305.00
5.4.1 - Membership Management System		\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
5.5 - Council Anointed High Priests		\$ 560.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 40.00
6 - Grand Sessions		\$ 860.55	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,639.45
6.1 - Hotel Guest Rooms & Svcs		\$ 782.55	\$ 500.00	\$ (282.55)
6.2 - Luncheons (Members & Ladies)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6.3 - Distinguished Guests Meals & Enter		\$ 78.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,922.00
7 - Charity		\$ 633.05	\$ 800.00	\$ 166.95
7.1 - Masonic Youth		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
7.2 - RARA		\$ (66.95)	\$ 100.00	\$ 166.95
7.3 - Grand Lodge		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Other 7 - Charity		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Grand Chapter RAM D Ross VanSant Fund Interim Report 2024

11/1/2023 through 10/22/2024 Using 2024 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME	\$ 3,062.74	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (437.26)
Invest Inc	\$ 3,061.86	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (438.14)
Donations Received	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
_IntInc	\$ 0.88	\$ -	\$ 0.88
Transferr Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EXPENSES	\$ 6,175.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (2,175.00)
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 175.00	\$ -	\$ (175.00)
Scholarships	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)

Printed: 5/5/2025

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of MD Trustees Reserve Fund 2023-24

	Total Value Last Period	Credits / Debits	Change in Value	Total Value this Period
November-23	\$ 474,900.21	\$ 677.03	\$ 31,709.34	\$ 507,286.58
December-23	\$ 507,286.58	\$ 1,540.70	\$ 18,886.50	\$ 527,713.78
January-24	\$ 527,713.78	\$ 78.55	\$ 5,219.88	\$ 533,012.21
February-24	\$ 533,012.21	\$ 860.73	\$ 20,063.21	\$ 553,936.15
March-24	\$ 553,936.15	\$ 1,271.01	\$ 17,537.14	\$ 572,744.30
April-24	\$ 572,744.30	\$ 457.97	\$ (23,583.91)	\$ 549,618.36
May-24	\$ 549,618.36	\$ 860.79	\$ 11,369.96	\$ 561,849.11
June-24	\$ 561,849.11	\$ 1,575.11	\$ 1,593.85	\$ 565,018.07
July-24	\$ 565,018.07	\$ 94.99	\$ 13,445.91	\$ 578,558.97
August-24	\$ 578,558.97	\$ 883.41	\$ 12,101.08	\$ 591,543.46
September-24	\$ 591,543.46	\$ 1,605.01	\$ 23,114.10	\$ 616,262.57
October-24	\$ 616,262.57	\$ 95.01	\$ (13,538.93)	\$ 602,818.65

Value as of November 1, 2023	\$ 474,900.21
Value as of September 30, 2024	\$ 616,262.57
Total Gains (Realized & Unrealized)	\$ 141,362.36
	29.77%

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Randall Watson	2022-2025
John Maclay	2021-2024
John A. Rafine	2023-2026

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland 2025
Semi-Annual Convocation

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland			
2026 BUDGET PREPARATION			
Acct #	Description	Current Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2024-2025	Proposed Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2025-2026
1.0	Grand Officers Expenses & Related Items		
1.1	Grand Secretary	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
1.2	Grand Lecturer	\$ 400	\$ 400
1.3	Grand Treasurer	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
1.4	Grand Sentinel	\$ 50	\$ 50
1.5	Grand Organist	\$ -	\$ -
	Sub-Total	\$ 3,450	\$ 3,450
2.0	Personal Expenses		
2.1	Expenses GHP I/O State	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
	Expenses Grand King	\$ 250	\$ 250
	Expenses Grand Scribe	\$ 250	\$ 250
2.2	Expenses N.E. Region	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
2.3	Regional Meetings	\$ -	\$ -
2.3.1	Grand Lecturer Instruction Mtgs	\$ 100	\$ 100
2.4	Degree Team Expenses	\$ 250	\$ 250
	sub-Total	\$ 5,600	\$ 5,600
3.0	General Grand Chapter		
3.1	Dues General Grand Chapter (PC)	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,900
3.2	Royal Arch Mag for Members	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,900
3.3	RAM Editor Expense	\$ 100	\$ 100
3.4	Triennial Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,000
	Sub Total	\$ 5,900	\$ 7,900
4.0	Office Expenses		
4.1	Office Supplies	\$ 450	\$ 450
4.2	Printing: Proceedings	\$ -	\$ -
4.3	Printing: Ritual Books	\$ 500	\$ 500
4.4	Postage	\$ 400	\$ 400
4.5	Past GHP Jewel & Engraving	\$ 100	\$ 100
4.6	GHP Apron & Case	\$ 500	\$ 500
4.7	Memorials	\$ 100	\$ 100
4.8	Membership Program	\$ 500	\$ 500
4.10	Equipment Fund	\$ 450	\$ 450
4.11	Dues Cards	\$ 400	\$ 400
4.12	Miscellaneous	\$ 100	\$ 100
4.13	Awards	\$ 350	\$ 350
	SubTotal	\$ 3,850	\$ 3,850
5.0	Service Contracts		
5.1	Office Rent	\$ -	\$ -
5.2	Telephones		
5.3	Insurance	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
5.4	Website	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
5.4.1	Membership Management System	\$ 400	\$ 400
5.5	Council Anointed High Priests	\$ 600	\$ 600
	Sub-Total	\$ 4,300	\$ 4,300

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland			
2026 BUDGET PREPARATION			
Acct #	Description	Current Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2024-2025	Proposed Budget Nov 1 - Oct 31 2025-2026
6.0	Grand Sessions		
6.1	Hotel: Guest Rooms & Svcs	\$ 500	\$ 500
6.3	Distinguished Guests: Meals & Entertainment	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Sub-Total	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
7.0	Charity		
7.1	Masonic Youth	\$ 600	\$ 600
7.2	RARA	\$ 100	\$ 100
7.3	Grand Lodge	\$ 100	\$ 100
7.4	Scholarships	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	Sub-Total	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800
	Grand Total	\$ 30,400	\$ 32,400
	Income		
	Council Anointed High Priests	\$ 600	\$ 600
	Per Capita	\$ 11,063	\$ 11,063
	Investments	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
	Transfers	\$ 14,637	\$ 16,637
	Exaltations	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Total Income	\$ 30,400	\$ 32,400
	962 x \$11.50 =	\$ 11.50	
		\$ 2.50	RAGMAG
		\$ 9.00	
		\$ 3.00	GGC PER CAPITA
		\$ 6.00	MD GCRA

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Report - 2025
11/1/2024 through 5/5/2025 Using 2025 Grand Chapter

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME	\$ 16,333.60	\$ 30,400.00	\$ (14,066.40)
_DivInc	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
_IntInc	\$ 0.26	\$ -	\$ 0.26
_Rlzd Gain	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations Received	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Council Anointed High Priest	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ (600.00)
Exaltations	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)
Invest Inc	\$ 1,696.34	\$ 3,600.00	\$ (1,903.66)
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 11,063.00	\$ (11,063.00)
Transfer Income	\$ 14,637.00	\$ 14,637.00	\$ -
EXPENSES	\$ 13,293.55	\$ 30,400.00	\$ 17,106.45
1 - Grand Officers and Related Items	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 1,750.00
1.1 - Grand Secretary	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
1.2 - Grand Lecturer	\$ 200.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00
1.3 - Grand Treasurer	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
1.4 - Grand Sentinel	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
15 - Grand Organist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2 - Personal Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
2.1 - Expenses In Out State	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
2.1.1 - GHP Personal Expenses	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
2.1.2 - Grand King Personal Expenses	\$ 125.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00
2.1.3 - Grand Scribe Personal Expenses	\$ 125.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00
2.2 - Expenses N. E. Region	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
2.3 - Regional Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2.3.1 - Grand Lecturer Instrction Mtgs	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
2.4 - Degree Team Expenses	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
3 - General Grand Chapter	\$ 3,853.25	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 2,046.75
3.1 - Dues General Grand Chapter	\$ 2,667.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 233.00
3.2 - Royal Arch Magazine for Members	\$ 1,186.25	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 1,713.75
3.3 - RAM Editor Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
3.4 - Triennial Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4 - Office Expenses	\$ 891.61	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 2,958.39
4.01 - Office Supplies	\$ 82.34	\$ 450.00	\$ 367.66
4.02 - Printing Ritual Books	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4.03 - Printing Annual Proceedings	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.04 - Postage and Delivery Expense	\$ 166.80	\$ 400.00	\$ 233.20
4.05 - Past GHP Jewel and Engraving	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
4.06 - GHP Apron & Case	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.07 - Memorials	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
4.08 - Membership Program	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
4.10 - Equipment Fund	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
4.11 - Dues Cards	\$ 607.47	\$ 400.00	\$ (207.47)
4.12 - Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 35.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 65.00
4.13 - Awards	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Semi-Annual Report - 2025

11/1/2024 through 5/5/2025 Using 2025 Grand Chapter

5 - Service Contracts	\$ 4,848.69	\$ 4,300.00	\$ (548.69)
5.1 - Office Rent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5.3 - Insurance	\$ 2,122.64	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 77.36
5.4 - Web Site	\$ 1,931.05	\$ 1,100.00	\$ (831.05)
5.4.1 - Membership Management System	\$ 795.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (395.00)
5.5 - Council Anointed High Priests	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
6 - Grand Sessions	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
6.1 - Hotel Guest Rooms & Svcs	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
6.3 - Distinguished Guests Meals & Enter	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
7 - Charity	\$ -	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00
7.1 - Masonic Youth	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
7.2 - RARA	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
7.3 - Grand Lodge	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
7.4 - Scholarships	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00

Printed: 5/4/2025

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of MD Trustees Reserve Fund 2024-25

	Total Value Last Period	Credits / Debits	Change in Value	Total Value this Period
November-24	\$ 602,818.65	\$ 708.42	\$ 30,755.87	\$ 634,282.94
December-24	\$ 634,282.94	\$ 1,635.04	\$ (28,360.70)	\$ 607,557.28
January-25	\$ 607,557.28	\$ 100.03	\$ 5,937.15	\$ 613,594.46
February-25	\$ 613,594.46	\$ 878.18	\$ (1,799.55)	\$ 612,673.09
March-25	\$ 612,673.09	\$ 1,625.35	\$ (17,935.66)	\$ 596,362.78
April-25				
May-25				
June-25				
July-25				
August-25				
September-25				
October-25				

Value as of November 1, 2023	\$ 602,818.65
Value as of March 31, 2025	\$ 596,362.78
Total Gains (Realized & Unrealized)	-1.07%

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Randall Watson	2022-2025
John Maclay	2024-2027
John A. Rafine	2023-2026

6. Report on Committee of Accounts and Finance

R.E. Comp. William Miller, G. K.

The Accounts and Finance Committee reviewed the Grand Chapter's finances with R.E.G.T. John Lister found that our finances are in good shape and align with the budget. Companion Lister presented his budget for the upcoming year, and I asked the Convocation to approve and accept it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Miller, REGK

It was moved and seconded to accept the report, and after discussion, the report and the 2026 Budget were approved.

MEGHP Rafael Rodriguez formally requested R.E. King, William Miller, to assume the East to submit his report as Grand High Priest.

7. Report of the Grand High Priest

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguez, GHP

It is with great humility, gratitude, and a profound sense of duty that I present this report detailing the first six months of my term as Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

The early part of this term has been both rewarding and inspiring, as I have had the opportunity to travel extensively, witness the enthusiasm and dedication of our Companions, and represent this Grand Chapter with pride in multiple jurisdictions.

One of the key highlights during this period was the presentation of the 2025 Worshipful Master's pin, a token of recognition and appreciation for those assuming the Oriental Chair in our constituent lodges. I was honored to travel throughout the state alongside Most Worshipful Grand Master Randall L. Watson and his Grand Line, participating in lodge installation ceremonies and personally delivering these pins. These visits not only reinforced the strong bond between the Symbolic and Capitular bodies, but also allowed for meaningful engagement with the Craft at the local level.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Companions who assisted with these presentations during the month of January. Your support and presence at these events were vital and greatly appreciated. The unity and teamwork displayed by our Companions made each occasion a memorable and dignified event.

In addition, I have made it a priority to visit each of the constituent Chapters within our jurisdiction. These visitations provided valuable opportunities to engage directly with our local leadership and membership, to listen and to encourage continued excellence in ritual work, education, and outreach. The hospitality extended by each Chapter was exemplary, and I was deeply impressed by the commitment and energy evident throughout our jurisdiction.

The Grand Chapter also collaborated with the Maryland Court of Chevaliers to coordinate a Chevalier/DeMolay Bowling Tournament, a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and fun. Over 25 DeMolays, Advisors and Grand Chapter officers attended, showing enthusiastic support for our Masonic youth. The event was a tremendous success, filled with laughter, competition, and the spirit of brotherhood that connects generations within the Masonic family.

On the inter-jurisdictional front, I had the privilege to represent the Grand Chapter of Maryland at the Annual Communications of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Washington, D.C., and the Grand Chapter of Delaware. At both events, our Maryland delegation was warmly received, and I was proud to convey the fraternal greetings of our Grand Chapter. These visits help to strengthen the bonds of Capitular Masonry across state lines and reaffirm our commitment to the greater Masonic family.

We also had the honor of attending the Annual Communication of the Holy Hiram Grand Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch Masons, Prince Hall Affiliation. It was a joy to spend time with our Prince Hall Companions and to share in the fellowship and unity that bind us together. Our mutual respect and support serve as a shining example of the universality of our Craft and the enduring strength of our Masonic principles.

In recent months, I have had the pleasure of attending several conferrals of the Royal Arch degrees across various Chapters in our jurisdiction. It has been heartening to witness firsthand the collaboration among Chapters in delivering these degrees with precision, pride, and reverence. The spirit of cooperation and mutual support demonstrated by our Companions in conferring the degrees is a testament to the strength and unity of our Grand Chapter. I commend all those who participated and encourage continued joint efforts to provide our candidates with the highest quality of Capitular instruction.

As we look forward to the remainder of the Capitular year, I remain committed to fostering excellence in our Chapters, supporting our leaders at every level, and enhancing the unity and vibrancy of Royal Arch Masonry in Maryland.

I extend my deepest appreciation to each of you for your continued support, trust, and dedication to the Craft. May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to bless our Grand Chapter and guide our labors.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

Rafael A. Rodriguez
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

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

M.E. Comp. Rodriguez resumed in the East to continue with the meeting.

8. Committee on Conference, Final Report

R.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, G. Sec.

The register shows the following:

- 9 - Chapters represented of 15.
- 21 - Voting Members were present.
- 2 - Non-Voting members were present.

9. Nominations and Elections:

M.E. Comp. Bruce Colburn, PGHP

MEPGHP Colburn presided over the nominations and Elections of the Officers of the Grand Chapter for the 2025 – 2026 Capitular Year. The following were nominated.

R.E. Comp. Raphael Rodriquez, Most Excellent Grand High Priest
R.E. Comp. William Miller, Right Excellent Grand King
R.E. Comp. Darryl Smith, Right Excellent Grand Scribe
R.E. Comp. John M. Lister, Right Excellent Grand Treasurer
M.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, Right Excellent Grand Secretary

The outgoing Trustee was identified as Comp. Randall Watson, PGHP Watson, was re-nominated for an additional three-year term.

Comp. Robert Reynolds was nominated for the office of Grand Scribe, but withdrew his nomination.

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

10. Report of the Committee of Work

M.E. Comp. Bruce Colburn, PGHP

This year, there were no new exalted High Priests. However, there is one who is in the process of certifying, and the possibility of two others by next May.

To the best of my records, there have been 8 companions exalted since October of 2024, and 14 others in various stages of the degree path. The Grand Chapter has attempted to arrange special degree conferrals on two occasions, but the availability of a location and an available date has stymied those efforts. Fortunately, several Chapters were able to proceed on their own.

Submitted,
Bruce Colburn, PGHP, Grand Lecture

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

11. Youth and Scholarships Report

M.E. Comp. Richard Naegele, PGHP

MEGHP,

Your D. Ross VanSant Scholarship committee reviewed five applications this year. They are ranked below:

1. Andrew Henthorn current GPA 4.04
109 South Carolina Ave,
Pasadena, MD 21122
Affiliation: Bennie G. Owens DeMolay Chapter; Son of Norman Henthorn Druid Chapter
No. 28
UMBC
2. Rylie Berzinski (repeat) current GPA 4.0
203 Polaris Ct.
Walkersville, MD 21793
Affiliation: Niece of John Austin James F. Allen Chapter No. 33
West Virginia University
3. Kaylee Wisniewski
7735 Fairgreen Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21222
Affiliation: Dundalk Assembly #3 Rainbow for Girls; Daughter of Mark Wisniewski Tuscan
Chapter No. 42
University of Pittsburg
4. Brianna Tackett
45909 Church Dr.
Great Mills, MD 20634
Affiliation: Job's Daughters Bethel #42
Frostburg State University
5. Luke Fox
7904 Liberty Circle
Pasadena, MD 21122
Affiliation: Son of Brent Fox Concordia Chapter No. 1
UMBC

We are unaware of the amount available for this year, but we recommend giving a scholarship to all five applicants, if possible. One is a repeat recipient from 2024.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve the Grand Chapter in this capacity.

Fraternally,
Richard P. Naegele, MEPGHP

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

A motion was proposed and seconded to provide a \$1000.00 scholarship to all five applicants. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Report of the R.A.R.A. Committee

M.E. Comp. G. Andrew Martinez, PGHP

Our Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Maryland Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) fundraisers are going very well this year. Our challenge coin sales are still going strong, and another 15 have been sold over the last few months, raising a total of \$1700.00 from their sale to date. These coins are limited minting; only 100 have been pressed, and now only 15 remain for purchase.

MEGHP Rodriguez also produced laser-engraved tumblers with “Royal Arch Mason” on them this year, which have garnered another \$600 in donations. MEPGHP Chase has also been selling Royal Arch polos and hats, which have garnered another \$400 in donations. Thank you both for your tireless work on behalf of RARA, which has helped bring in a total of \$1300 in donations so far this year.

I have not received an annual report for Maryland’s RARA donations this year. However, please remember to promote this worthy cause in your Chapters. I am currently putting together a newsletter with RARA information to assist you in this charity’s promotion. If you need information to distribute, just let me know or direct your members to givetorara.org. RARA is a truly worthy cause!

Respectfully Submitted,
Companion G. Andrew Martinez, MEPGHP, Chairman

MEPGHP Martinez presented the Grand Chapter with a sum of \$1180.00 allocated for RARA. The following is a detailed breakdown of the sources from which these funds were raised: \$620.00 derived from tumbler sales, \$420.00 generated from hat sales, and \$140.00 obtained from coin sales. Special thanks are extended to PGHP Robert Chase for his efforts in ordering and selling the hats.

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

13. Report of the Time and Place Committee

R.E. Comp. Darryl Smith, G.S.

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 (submitted by REPGC Chuck Warns).

Based on the rates contained in the two proposals, the committee determined 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.

The committee is still exploring other options, and if a better alternative arises, we will notify the three leaders of possible action.

Faternally,

Daryl Smith, GS, Chairman

It was moved and seconded to accept the report and location. After discussion, it passed unanimously.

14. Report of Sessions Planning and Activities

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguez, GHP

York Rite Session 2025 has been scheduled for October 24-25, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. 21842

Grand Council – Friday, October 24, 2025 – Afternoon

Grand Commandery – Saturday, October 26, 2025 – Morning

Grand Chapter – Saturday, October 25, 2024 – Afternoon

After the 2024 Grand Session, the committee met to review the outcome of the sessions, including the facilities, meals, programs, and events. Although most of the comments were positive, there are some areas that can be improved, such as meal service, registration desk, etc. The committee will be working with the Hotel staff to ensure these areas are addressed for the upcoming 2025 York Rite session.

Additionally, there is communication going on between the ladies to develop a program for them for that weekend.

If a companion has any ideas on how to make this a great event, please forward your suggestions to the committee and we will work on incorporating them to the plans.

We are looking forward to another great York Rite Session in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafael A. Rodriguez, MEGHP

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

15. Correspondence & Fraternal Relations

M.E. Comp. Robert Lumbert, PGHP

No Report

16. Report of Jurisprudence & Constitution

M.E. Comp. Randall Watson, PGHP

M.E.G.H.P. and Companions,

No issues have been referred to your Committee on Jurisprudence & Constitution since the Annual Grand Convocation.

Amended – The committee is required to review the amendments to the bylaws of Concordia Chapter #1. Following this review, the committee will notify the MEGHP for the purpose of obtaining Grand Chapter approval.

Randall Watson, M.E.P.G.H.P., Chairman

The updated report was moved and seconded as amended and passed unanimously.

16a. Report on Grievance

M.E. Comp. Randall Watson, PGHP

M.E.G.H.P. and Companions,

No issues have been referred to your Committee on Grievance since the Annual Grand Convocation.

Randall Watson, M.E.P.G.H.P., Chairman

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

17. Report of Awards and Recognition

M.E Comp. Robert Chase, PGHP

M.E.G.H.P. and Companions,

The committee report will be submitted at the Annual Grand Convocation in October.

Robert Chase, PGHP, Chairman

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

18. Report on Events

R.E. Comp William Miler, G.K.

On April 13, 2025, the Annual King's Bowling Tournament, more appropriately named the Chevalier DeMolay Bowling Tournament, was held at the Timonium Bowlero.

I want to especially thank Grand Chevalier Rafael Rodriguez IV, who was mainly responsible for this successful event.

Several DeMolay Chapters were represented while the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was represented by Most Excellent Grand High Priest Rodriguez and his wife, and Most Excellent Grand Scribe Smith and his wife.

Although it was a very enjoyable afternoon, it is safe to say that none of the participants will be heading to the PBA.

Events are still being planned.

- Several Brothers in the Western Maryland region either are awaiting all four degrees or needing the Royal Arch degree. To address this issue, working with Enoch Chapter the Mark and Past Master degrees will be conferred most likely on one of the regularly scheduled Enoch meeting night. The Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees will then be conferred most likely on a Saturday. Discussions are still being finalized for the cast members and date.
- Plans are being developed to have a Table Lodge with the Hiram Holy Grand Chapter Holly Royal Arch Masons (Prince Hall) and the Maryland Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The tentative date is August 3, 2025, and the venue the Boumi Temple. This will be an open event.

Fraternally.
William Miller, GK

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

19. Report Long-Range Committee

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguz, GHP

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen and sustain Capitular Masonry in Maryland, the Long Range Planning initiative has concentrated on two primary areas of focus: ritual work and membership engagement.

In the area of ritual work, we are encouraging and supporting Chapters in building their capabilities to regularly and proficiently confer the Royal Arch degrees. This emphasis is not only to ensure that candidates receive a meaningful and memorable experience but also to preserve the integrity and excellence of our ritual traditions. Many Chapters have responded with renewed energy, forming degree teams, engaging in joint conferrals, and committing to higher standards of ritual performance. I commend these efforts and encourage every Chapter to continue prioritizing ritual development as a cornerstone of their work.

The second major area of focus is membership engagement. During my Grand Visitations, I have consistently expressed the importance of reaching out to Companions who have become inactive. Whether due to personal circumstances, loss of interest, or other reasons, these Companions remain part of our Masonic family. I have asked each Chapter to take deliberate steps to reconnect with them - through phone calls, written invitations, and personal outreach - reminding them that they are valued and welcome.

Equally important is the need to retain and engage our newer members. To that end, I have called upon each Chapter to develop educational programs and initiatives that inspire curiosity and deeper involvement in the Capitular degrees. Educational efforts can include short presentations, historical insights, degree symbolism discussions, and structured mentorship programs. These tools not only enrich the Masonic journey of our new Companions but also strengthen the future leadership and vitality of our Chapters.

These two pillars—ritual excellence and meaningful member engagement—form the foundation of our Long Range Plan. They are not short-term fixes, but enduring commitments that will ensure the continued growth, relevance, and legacy of Royal Arch Masonry in Maryland.

Let us move forward with unity, purpose, and a renewed dedication to the high ideals of our Craft.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafael A. Rodriguez
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

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

20. Report Membership Committee

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguz, GHP

As of the date of this report, our membership remains below 10% of the total Grand Lodge membership. A revised membership trend analysis will be presented during the Annual Session in October 2025, following the completion of annual reports from each Chapter. This year, we did not have any new Most Excellent High Priests. However, our Grand Lecturer and Deputy

Grand Lecturers are currently working with several companions on the certification process, and we expect to have at least two new Most Excellent High Priests next year.

As outlined in the Long-Range Planning report, it's crucial for Chapters to explore creative and fresh approaches to attract new Companions and keep current members actively involved in Chapter life.

Many Chapters have already taken positive steps by hosting open table Chapters, themed dinners, family-friendly events, dinner theater nights, and ghost tours—all aimed at building fellowship and strengthening engagement among members, both new and returning.

In support of outreach and growth, the MEGHP is currently working with the Grand Lecturer to revive the Fervency and Zeal program. This important initiative is presented in Blue Lodges to educate Master Masons about the York Rite, increase visibility, and generate interest in continuing their Masonic journey through the Capitular degrees.

The Grand Chapter leadership—including the MEGHP, REGK, PGHP, and other officers—remains committed to equipping our Chapters with the resources and support needed to grow. I look forward to the remainder of this term and remain optimistic that we will close the year with measurable growth across the York Rite of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafael A. Rodriguez
Most Excellent Grand High Priest

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

21. Reports Received and Published requiring no action M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguz, GHP

ME Comp. Bruce Colburn reported on the use of the Fervency and Zeal and The Peculiar Stone programs. Both are utilized as presentations to create interest in joining the Royal Arch. They require a team and need to be performed from memory. Both programs are available on the website and can be obtained from the Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer.

RE Comp. Eppig reported that he reviewed the available records and added the awards the companions earned to their profiles in the MMS. He also emphasized that members need to register for MMS usage so they can update their personal information and notify us of any mistakes if they received awards from the Grand Chapter.

He also suggested that the Award Committee review all the awards presented by the Grand Chapter and codify them along with their requirements. This should be added as an appendix to the Constitution.

22. Doings of the Grand Officers E. Comp. J Bradley Thomas, GM1V

My report consists of responses from officers who completed the online form. There were 36 responses from seven officers.

Based on the responses:

- Ten different Chapters have been visited to date
- 67% of the reported visits were on behalf of the Grand Chapter
- At 91% of those visits, the officers did not participate in the degree work of the Chapter.

In addition to the Chapter visits, several officers attended the following events:

- November 9, 2024- Hiram Holy Grand Chapter RAM of MD PHA
- November 16, 2024- The Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge A.F.A.M. of Maryland
- January 2025- Lodge installations to present WM pins
- March 3, 2025- A Maryland Public TV fundraiser with the Holy Hiram Grand Chapter RAM of MD PHA
- April 26, 2025- There were two events held. Several Grand Officers attended one or both events:
 - The Mid-Atlantic York Rite Conference, hosted by the General Grand Chapter RAM International and General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International
 - The Council of Anointed High Priests at the Grand Lodge

Numerous remarks were made for the visits and can be provided by the Grand Secretary.

It has been my honor to serve you and the Grand Chapter.

Respectfully submitted,
J Bradley Thomas, GM1V

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

23. Report on Unfinished Business

M.E. Comp. Richard Naegle, PGHP

None.

24. New Business Introduced at this Grand Convocation

Grand Secretary Eppig notified the Grand Chapter that Maryland DeMolay has requested donations and sponsorships for their 2025 Conclave. Previously, the Grand Chapter donated \$200.00 to sponsor an ice cream truck. **Comp. Eppig moved to donate \$200.00 towards sponsoring the ice cream truck.**

The motion received a second and passed unanimously.

25. Introduction of Distinguished Visitors

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguez, GHP

The MEGHP introduced and welcomed the following individuals:

SK Scott G. Lapp - Right Eminent Grand Commander of Maryland
SK John H. Austin - Mid-Atlantic Department Commander, Grand Encampment
Randall L. Watson – Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland

26. Announcements and Scheduled items

Announcements were made during the Events Report, Remarks, and on the website for the visitation schedule.

27. Voluntary Remarks

ME Comp Lumbert reminded everyone about the brochure provided by the General Grand Chapter. The brochure is well-made and serves as an excellent way to get information into the hands of prospective members. They cost around \$10.00 for a pack of 25 or 50. He recommends that the Grand Secretary determine the accurate cost and ordering information and send it to the Chapters.

ME Comp. Martinez informed everyone about a planned Table Chapter in conjunction with Hiram Prince Hall, scheduled for August 3, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. More information will be provided soon.

28. Official Remarks Distinguished Guests

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguez, GHP

SK Lapp expressed his appreciation for the introduction and thanked the members of the Grand Chapter for their warm welcome. He congratulated the re-elected officer and wished everyone a successful second half of the year.

SK Austin appreciated the warm welcome and congratulated everyone on the outstanding year so far. He explained the York Rite Leadership program offered by the Grand Encampment, which is open to everyone, and registration is available online.

MWGM Watson thanked everyone for their warm welcome and conveyed greetings from the Grand Lodge. He expressed appreciation for the Grand Chapter presenting the Master pins. He reflected on the York Rite companionship he observed over the last six months, especially at the Regional Meeting and the Council of Anointed High Priests with our out-of-state visitors. He knows this will continue for years to come.

9. Installation

Grand Chapter Installation will be held in October 2025.

30. Final Remarks of the Grand High Priest

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguz, GHP

MEGHP Rodriguz thanked everyone for their confidence in re-electing him for another year and looks forward to serving the Grand Chapter. He expressed gratitude to all who attended and looks forward to seeing everyone as he travels throughout the state.

31. Closing of the Grand Chapter

M.E. Comp. Rafael Rodriguz, GHP

The MEGHP offered a closing prayer.

The MEGHP directed that the Lights be broken and declared the Semi-Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland closed at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



M.E. Comp. William C. Eppig, P.G.H.P.
Grand Secretary



The Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland

Oriental Room, Freemason Hall, Bonnie Blink
Cockeysville Maryland

April 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

This Bicentennial Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland was opened in full form by the Most Excellent President with the following officers in their stations and places:

M.E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, PGHP	Most Excellent President
Ex. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas	Excellent Vice President
M.E. Comp. A. Dean Burt III, P.P.	Excellent Chaplain
Ex. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP	Excellent Secretary
Ex. Comp. John M. Lister	Excellent Treasurer (Excused absence)
Ex. Comp. Christian E. Jensen	Excellent Master of Ceremonies
Ex. Comp. William C. Eppig, PGHP	Excellent Conductor
Ex. Comp. Christian J. Miele	Excellent Herald
Ex. Comp. Dennis W. Ewing	Excellent Steward
Ex. Comp. Robert W. Reynolds	Excellent Sentinel, Acting

M.E. Comp. Lumbert led the assembled Companions in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the USA.

Those Most Excellent Past Presidents in attendance were introduced:

- M.E.P. Comp. A. Dean Burt III, PP
- M.E.P. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, PP
- M. E.P. Comp. Robert M. Penny, PP
- M. E.P. Comp. Randall L. Watson, PP

Among those attending were eight Past Grand High Priests of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and the current Grand High Priest:

- M. E. Comp. Robert W. Chase, PGHP
- M. E. Comp. Bruce Colburn, PGHP
- M. E. Comp. William C. Eppig, PGHP
- M. E. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP
- M. E. Comp. Robert B. Lumbert, PGHP
- M. E. Comp. G. Andrew Martinez, PGHP
- M. E. Comp. Richard P. Naegele, PGHP
- M. E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, PGHP
- M.E. Comp Rafael Rodriguez, MEGHP

The Most Excellent President introduced the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, M. E. Comp. Randall L. Watson, PP.

The Most Excellent President greeted nine Past High Priests visiting from neighboring jurisdictions, who were invited to attend the Council meeting.

The Excellent Secretary stated that as the minutes for the 2024 Council of Anointed High Priests had been published within the Proceedings of the Semi-Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and that as no comments or corrections had been offered, he then moved that the Minutes be accepted as published. Seconded by Ex. Comp. Bruce Colburn and passed unanimously.

Excellent Companion John M. Lister was excused from this Council to care for his wife, but he did file a summary report of the funds.

o Beginning Balance 2025:	\$ 4,605.56
o Annual Administrative Fee	\$ (175.00)
o Interest	\$ 0.37
o Grand Chapter Deposit	\$ 560.00
o Total Available	\$ 5165.93

The following bills were submitted for reimbursement:

- o Vernon Huebschman, PP Jewel (C. Nusinov Jeweler) \$ 1457.50
- o Vernon Huebschman Jewel Case (Fratline) \$ 26.70

Motion to pay by Ex. Comp Spyridon Treklas, Seconded by Ex. Comp. William Eppig and Passed unanimously.

The Secretary made a motion that the following donations be approved Second by Ex. Comp. Christian Jensen, and passed unanimously:

- o Grand Lodge of Maryland \$ 100.00
- o Stephen J. Ponzillo Jr. Museum & Library Endowment Fund \$ 100.00

The Secretary reported on the work done by a committee of M.E. Comp Dean Burt, M.E. Comp. Robert Lumbert and himself to render the existing Ritual Book into digital form. Included in this effort was the addition of floor work directions. A digital copy of the proposed Digital Ritual Book had been sent to all the officers. No comment has been received to date. The Secretary then moved that this Council accept and adopt this Digital Ritual Book for future use, allowing for corrections for typographical errors, misspellings, and omissions; and that minor corrections

could be done by the Secretary as required, but that changes in the content of Ritual would require an amendment voted upon by the Council. This motion was seconded by Ex. Comp.. Christian Miele and passed unanimously.

The Most Excellent President opened a discussion on promoting future sales of the remaining 200th Anniversary Coin.

The Most Excellent President and Excellent Chaplain then conducted the Communion Service. As there were candidates this year, it was decided that the Communion Service should still be part of the Council meeting.

The Secretary motioned that with the retirement of M.E. Comp. Lumbert, the Line be advanced one station, and Excellent Companion G. Andrew Martinez fill the station of the Steward. Without further nominations, the M.E. President declared those officers duly elected.

The Secretary then nominated Ex Comp. John M. Lister as Treasurer, Seconded by Ex. Comp. Dennis Ewing. There being no further nominations, the M.E. President declared Ex Comp. Lister duly elected.

The Secretary then reported that after ten years of service, he wished to retire from his position and nominated M.E. Comp. Richard P. Naegle to succeed him as Excellent Secretary. Seconded by Ex Comp. Dean Burt, and there being no further nominations, he was also declared duly elected.

M. E. President Robert Lumbert then proceeded to install the officers of the Council for the 2025 – 2027 term. The following officers were present for installation:

❖ M. E. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas	Most Excellent President
❖ Ex. Comp. Christian E. Jensen	Excellent Vice President
❖ M.E. Comp. A. Dean Burt III PP	Excellent Chaplain
❖ Ex. Comp. William C. Eppig, PGHP	Excellent Master of Ceremonies
❖ Ex. Comp. Christian J. Miele	Excellent Conductor
❖ Ex. Comp. Dennis W. Ewing	Excellent Herald
❖ Ex. Comp. G. Andrew Martinez, PGHP	Excellent Steward

Ex. Comp John M. Lister was not present to be installed as Excellent Treasurer.

Ex. Comp. John Maclain was not present to be installed as Excellent Sentinel.

M. E. Comp. Dean Burt presented the Past President's Jewel to M.E. Comp. Robert M. Lumbert, PP., after explaining that it is the custom of the Council of Anointed High Priest that there are no jewels of office or other pins or badges worn in this body. M. E. Comp. Burt noted the many accomplishments of M. E. Comp Lumber during his term, which include the development of the CAHP 200th Anniversary Coin, the refurbishment of the Altar Silver, the 200th Anniversary

celebration itself, and two excellent conferrals of the Order of High Priesthood during his term of office.

Following voluntary remarks from the members and visitors and the Most Worshipful Grand Master's compliments for an excellent meeting, the business of this Council of Anointed High was concluded.

M.E. Comp. Spyridon G. Treklas closed this Council of Anointed High Priest in due form and with Brotherly Love and Affection.

Respectfully submitted,

Ex. Comp. Vernon H. Huebschman, PGHP
Excellent Secretary, Retired