

THE
129TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
OF
THE GRAND COUNCIL
OF THE
ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO BE HELD ON
FEBRUARY 13TH, 2021



PRELIMINARY REPORTS
JANUARY 20TH, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Roster of Grand Officers	3
Roster of Grand Superintendents	4
Roster of Living Past Sovereign Grand Masters	5
Allocution of the Sovereign Grand Master	6
Report of the Grand Secretary	19
Report of the Committee on Necrology	25
Report of the Archives & History Committee	25
Report of the Jurisprudence Committee	26
Report of the Publication Committee	29
Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution	30
Report of the Committee on Time and Place	31
Report of the Nominating Committee	32
Reports of Grand Superintendents	33

GRAND OFFICERS 2020 – 2021

ELECTED GRAND OFFICERS

SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER	Glen A. Cook Behle-Simons #544 (Utah)
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER	Mohamad A. Yatim Da Vinci #477 (New Jersey)
SENIOR GRAND WARDEN	Aaron M. Shoemaker Santa Fe #417 (Missouri)
JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN	Michael D. Cecil Mohican #134 (Ohio)
GRAND SECRETARY	Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. Father Murrow #10 (Oklahoma)
GRAND TREASURER	Lawrence E. Tucker Sam Houston #275 (Texas)
SENIOR GRAND DEACON	W. Berry Rigdon Waynesville #224 (North Carolina)
JUNIOR GRAND DEACON	John C. Elkinton Sam Houston #275 (Texas)

APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS

GRAND CHAPLAIN	Douglas R. Knauer Spartan #153 (South Carolina)
GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES	Duane L. Vaught St. Bernard de Clairveau #256 (Indiana)
GRAND MARSHAL	David J. Kussman Orange Coast #162 (California)
GRAND TYLER	E. Oscar Alleyne KMT #511 (New York)
GRAND LECTURER	Jeffrey L. Cook Cahokia Mounds #225 (Illinois)
GRAND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Chris M. Jessen Elizabeth St. Leger #386 (Missouri)

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS 2020 – 2021

California-North	Gregg A. Hall
California-South	Stephen E. Alderete
Florida-North	Henry A. Adams
Florida-South	Brett A. Gordon
Georgia	Clyde E. Griffin
Guam & Philippines	Arlen P. De Guzman
Gulf Coast	Gerald E. Klein
Illinois	
Indiana	Christopher J. Gamblin
Iowa	Wade E. Sheeler
Michigan	Corey F. Curtiss
Mid-Atlantic	Fred M. Palmer
Missouri	Kevin B. Sample
New Jersey	Michael S. Neuberger
New York	Frank I. Karwowski
North Carolina	John M. Walston, Jr.
Ohio-North	Theodore B. Korn
Ohio-South	H. Jeffery Shaw
Pacific Northwest	Joseph W. MacIntyre
Pennsylvania-East	Yasser Al-Khatib
Pennsylvania-West	Erastus Z. Allen
Rocky Mountain	Allen W. Record
South Carolina	George R. Peters
Tennessee	Robert G. Officer
Texas-Central	Jack M. Harper II
Texas-North	Jerry N. Kirby
Texas-South	Roberto M. Sanchez
Texas-West	W. David Melear
Virginia	James B. Bartley
West Virginia	Kendall L. Wilson, Jr.

LIVING PAST SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTERS

1993-1994	George O. Braatz, K.G.C.
1995 (hon.)	Thurman C. Pace, Jr., K.G.C.
1995-1996	James M. Ward, K.G.C.
1997-1998	Dalvin L. Hollaway, K.G.C.
1999-2000	Reese L. Harrison, Jr., K.G.C.
2000-2001	Jerry M. Owens, K.G.C.
2005-2006	Gary D. Hermann, K.G.C.
2006-2007	William R. Miller, K.G.C.
2007-2008	D. Allen Surratt, K.G.C.
2008-2009	Kenneth B. Fischer, K.G.C.
2010-2011	C. Michael Watson, K.G.C.
2012-2013	Joe R. Manning, Jr., K.G.C.
2013-2014	Matthew D. Dupee, K.G.C.
2014-2015	Robert G. Davis, K.G.C.
2015-2016	Douglas S. Moore, K.G.C.
2016-2017	Lawrence E. Tucker, K.G.C.
2017-2018	Gary B. Hinson, K.G.C.
2018-2019	David D. Goodwin, K.G.C.
2019-2020	Paul S. Newhall, K.G.C.

ALLOCUTION OF THE SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER

Brethren all:

ITINERARY

My official itinerary is appended to this report. In summary, I was in Scotland preparing to fly to Paris for their Grand Council meeting when the Covid virus interrupted world-wide travel plans. For the same reason, the Canadian Grand Council meeting was cancelled. I attended one of your in gatherings, constituted one Council, and attended numerous meetings virtually.

CONTINUITY

In last year's Program Committee report, the issue of continuity was stressed. Improving on this was one of my goals. To that end, I continued Past Sovereign Grand Master Newhall's decision to have the Deputy Grand Master serve on the Program Committee. I also had the Deputy Grand Master copied on correspondence. Whether he enjoyed this is another matter. I respectfully recommend to my successor that these practices continue.

I set up communication and meetings with the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Wardens, seeking their input, but also allowing them the chance to understand the issues a Sovereign Grand Master encounters. I also had our Director, Moises Gomez, added to the discussions of the Program Committee.

GRAND SECRETARY

I'm not sure we all realize the tremendous, perhaps unfair, burden we have placed on our Grand Secretary. You will hear a recommendation regarding a budget item on this position. I support that proposal.

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS

I appointed new Grand Superintendents for Michigan, South Carolina, Ohio-South, California, and Florida-South.

The Northwest Superintendency previously consisted of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. There was no Superintendent for the Councils in Colorado and Utah. I therefore established a new Superintendency for the Rocky Mountain region of Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado.

I also took the action to divide California, and form Superintendencies for the Northern and Southern areas of the State.

I formed a new Gulf Coast superintendency for Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, with the hope that my successors may further divide it.

I also took action to form a Superintendency for Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

PETITIONS FOR CHARTERS

New charters were granted for Councils in Lenoir, North Carolina; Suffolk County, New York; Newburyport, Massachusetts; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Birmingham, Alabama; and Munising, Michigan. Because of Covid restrictions, the constitution of the Councils did not occur in New York, North Carolina or New Mexico. I denied a petition for a new Council in the Wilmington, North Carolina area, as the petition was not in proper form, having no A.M.D. member as the petitioner. I also note there was already a Council in the area with only three reported members.

BY-LAWS

I approved by-laws for the following Councils:

- Osiris #49 North Carolina
- Mountain Empire #88 Virginia
- George H. Himes #214 California
- Lincoln Heritage #332 Indiana
- Col. William Barret Travis #344 Texas
- James M. Alter #446 Pennsylvania
- Elias Ashmole #563 Massachusetts
- Alabama #564 Alabama
- Stannard Rock #565 Michigan

The approved by-laws of George H. Himes #214 included a name change.

I rejected by-laws for the following Councils:

Spartan #153 (South Carolina): Rejected as they included a geographical jurisdiction limit. The Constitution does not include the power of a Council to limit its geographical jurisdiction. It is recognized that this limitation had been included for some time in the existing bylaws, but as there had been a proposed amendment of the by-laws, the bylaws should be fully consistent with current practice.

Henry Troy Hooper #312 (Georgia): Rejected as they purported to limit the geographical jurisdiction of the Council. The Constitution does not provide Councils the power to limit their geographical jurisdiction.

David R. Ford #338 (Indiana): Rejected for a number of reasons, including a proposal that a member be dropped from the rules by a one third vote for not abiding by the “by-laws, rules, and regulations” of the Council. No such powers granted to a council in the Constitution. Further, Council “rules and regulations” are not called for under the Constitution.

In each case, the Council was informed what the problem was, but I have no record of them submitting corrected amended by-laws.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

A few months ago, you looked at the A.M.D. website and you saw a program spread over five days with multiple bodies meeting and meals being served. This program did not occur by magic. A great deal of discussion occurred to meet the room, time and meal needs of all those groups attending. The credit for this masterful juggling is completely that of Most Ven. Bro. William Miller, who served as Co-chair of the Program Committee during the development of the agenda for the week.

It is important to realize that in adding meetings to our event, we had not negotiated this with the hotel when we entered into our multi-year contract. With the

assistance of Moises Gomez, our Director, and the approval of the Board of General Purposes, we added additional room nights, meeting rooms, and meals. This, of course, was for naught, as we moved to this virtual format.

COMMITTEES

My committee appointments are set out below. Such success as we have had this year would not have occurred without their superlative participation. My sincere thanks to all.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This required particular emphasis.

A clandestine Allied Masonic Degrees Grand Council was discovered in Brazil, claiming to operate with the sanction of this Grand Council. We took action to disavow this group, and it appears they have disbanded.

Our Brothers in the Allied Grand Council of France required assistance in documenting their governance of the degrees, subsequent to the disruption in French masonry of some years ago. A copy of my statement of February 24th, 2020, confirming the degrees they confer is attached.

Our Grand Council confers the six Grades of the Scarlet Cord, having received them from the Grand Conclave of the Secret Monitor of England. The Grand Conclave of England also needed assistance in documenting this history, due to a change of leadership and Grand Secretaries, as they did not have all documents demonstrating the grant of the authority to confer all Grades of the Order. Particular thanks to Most Ven. Bro. Matthew Dupee in assisting with this issue.

REPUBLISHED CONSTITUTION

Our Constitution had several amendments to it approved over the years, but they had not been incorporated into the document as a whole, and not necessarily included in the actual section amended. Under the leadership of Most Ven. Bro. Joe Manning,

the various amendments were incorporated, with multiple typographical and stylistic issues resolved, as seen on our Grand Council website.

GROUP EXEMPTION

In May 2020, with the advice of our Finance Committee Chair and the input of your Grand Master, the Grand Secretary published the forms for individual Councils to participate in our group exemption. Unfortunately, we do not have a resolution in seeking for a group exemption. The professional expertise of Rt. Ven. Bro. Duane Vaught has been particularly welcomed this year.

DECISIONS

1. Upon inquiry, it was my decision that rescission of an invitation to join a Council is governed by Article XXIV of the Constitution.

2. Included in your pre-printed handouts is my decision and accompanying rationale requiring conferral of the 5th and 6th grades of the Scarlet Cord in the appropriate Consistory or Council, as delineated in Article XXI, Section E of the Constitution.

3. Pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution, I called a special virtual meeting for October 2nd, 2020, for the purposes of authorizing the annual meeting of the Grand Council to also be held virtually, and to authorize a contract be signed to hold the 2022 annual meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Crystal City.

MISCELLANEA

While this issue will be covered in a separate committee report, we have not met expectations in providing this benefit to members. We did publish a volume, but it was long overdue. I would refer you to the Committee report which discusses reasons for this.

DUTIES OF SECRETARIES

Those who have served in leadership positions in any organization well know the critical role of the Secretary. We also know that when that role is not

fulfilled, there are critical lapses in functioning of the entity. It is with some dismay that I note many Secretaries don't appear to see the emails they are sent, even when under the signature of the Sovereign Grand Master. It has always been my view that local Masonic units should govern themselves. That said, if a Council has a Secretary that is unable/unwilling to use email, it is time to change the office holder.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

When we have disagreements in the governance of our Order, it is important to realize that we all share the same goal: to have joy in our Freemasonry, and particularly our Freemasonry as expressed in this Order. Simply because we differ on how to get to that goal should be no cause for pettiness or strife. It is also useful to have a sense of perspective. While the lessons of our degrees are of import, they are not decisions of life or death; they do not affect world hunger; they have no effect on the disease that has sorely affected our earth this last year. Thus, there really should be no cause for anger simply because we disagree on a process. Indeed, one might argue that how we handle disagreements reflects whether we have learned lessons of the degrees.

The opportunity you have given me this last year has resulted in my further growth and, I hope increased my capacity for further service to our Gentle Craft.

I leave you with my respect and my great wish that you have joy in your Freemasonry.

Glen A. Cook
Sovereign Grand Master

ITINERARY / ACTIVITY

2020

- February 22nd Tennessee A.M.D. In-gathering
Nashville, Tennessee
- April 13th Grand Council A.M.D. presentation (virtual)
Harry S. Truman, a Freemason
Discussion with Clifton Truman Daniel
- May 2nd Dogwood Council #171, A.M.D.
Vancouver, British Columbia (virtual)
- May 8th Grand Council A.M.D.
Officers meeting (virtual)
- June 4th Grand Council of Knight Masons of the U.S.A.
Guest at special presentation (virtual)
- June 20th John Harris Council #458, A.M.D.
Littleton, New Hampshire (virtual)
- June 25th Michigan A.M.D.
In-gathering (virtual)
- June 29th Herbert Arthur Fisher Council #442, A.M.D.
Alexandria, Virginia (virtual)
- July 10th Grand Lodge of the Republic of Georgia
Special presentation (virtual)
- August 8th Edgar F. Coonrod Council #493, A.M.D.
Hazelwood, Missouri (virtual)
- August 20th New Jersey & Pennsylvania A.M.D.
In-gathering (virtual)
- September 5th Grand Council A.M.D. of India
District of North & East India (virtual)
- December 5th Edgar F. Coonrod Council #493, A.M.D.
Installation of Officers (virtual)

December 16th Keystone Council #113, A.M.D.
 Blue Hen Council #388, A.M.D.
 Two by Two Lodge #15, R.A.M.
 Installation of Officers (virtual)

December 28th .. Herbert Arthur Fisher Council #442, A.M.D.
 Installation of Officers (virtual)

December 28th Borealis Council #223, A.M.D.
 Edmonton, Alberta (virtual)

2021

January 16th Alabama Council #564, A.M.D.
 Constitution of Council
 Birmingham, Alabama

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES Douglas S. Moore, *Chmn.*
(Elected by Grand Council) Matthew D. Dupee
 William R. Miller

ARCHIVES & HISTORY Robert G. Davis, *Chmn.*
 Jeffrey L. Cook

CREDENTIALS & REGISTRATION Moises I. Gomez, *Chmn.*
 Henry A. Adams

FINANCE Duane L. Vaught, *Chmn.*
 David D. Goodwin
 Bryce B. Hildreth

FRATERNAL RELATIONS Matthew D. Dupee, *Chmn.*
 Glen A. Cook
 D. Allen Surratt

JURISPRUDENCE Joe R. Manning, Jr., *Chmn.*
 Reese L. Harrison, Jr.

NECROLOGY..... Douglas R. Knauer, *Chmn.*
 Duane L. Vaught
 David J. Kussman

NOMINATING Joe R. Manning, Jr., *Chmn.*
Matthew D. Dupee
Paul S. Newhall

PUBLICATION Aaron M. Shoemaker, *Chmn.*
J. Robert Mullis

TIME AND PLACE Mohamad A. Yatim, *Chmn.*
Aaron M. Shoemaker
D. Allen Surratt
Moises I. Gomez

PROGRAM Glen A. Cook, *Co-Chmn.*
William R. Miller, *Co-Chmn.*
Mohamad A. Yatim (*A.M.D.*)
Matthew D. Dupee (*Acon*)
Bryce B. Hildreth (*Athelstan*)
James C. Herndon (*H.R.A.K.T.P.*)
Robert B. Maynard (*Knight Masons*)
Jackie W. Matthews (*Operatives*)



**LETTER OF CONFIRMATION OF RECOGNITION
AND AUTHORIZATION TO WORK DEGREES**

This letter serves to confirm that at the 108th Annual Communication of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America, it was recommended that this Grand Council recognize the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of France, based on their request of December 10, 1999. This Grand Council accepted the recommendation, and approved the exchange of representatives. See Pages 39-40, Annals 2000. This Act of Recognition, *ipso facto* recognized conferral of the degrees then under the control of the Grand Council of France.

Given under my hand this 24th day of the year 2020,

Glen A. Cook
Sovereign Grand Master



The Grand Council of the
Allied Masonic Degrees
of the United States of America

GLEN A. COOK, K.G.C.
MOST VEN. SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER

24 April 2020

Decision Regarding Conferral of All Grades of the Scarlet Cord

Background: The Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States has within its control the Grades of the Scarlet Cord, received from the English Order of the Secret Monitor.¹ Subsequently, ceremonies of each of the six Grades were transmitted to this Grand Council.

Article XXI of our Constitution provides that members who have “received” the 4th and 5th Grades shall be eligible to “receive” the 5th Grade. Additionally, certain Grand Council officers may nominate members to “receive” the grades. No candidates may advance who has not received all the preceding grades.

However, Article XXI, Section E provides that each of the Grades will be *conferred* in the appropriate consistory or council (italics in original).

This Grand Council has never conferred either the 5th or 6th Grade. It has conferred the other Grades and the President’s Ceremony. Nominations to the 6th Grade are now being made for members who were previously nominated to the 5th

¹ On July 21, 2010, the Grand Conclave of the Order of Secret Monitor of England and Wales relinquished control of the Royal Order of Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord so that it could become a stand-alone Grand Body in England and Wales. Thus, was formed The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord.

Grade, and were indeed given a certificate, but never had the Grade *conferred in a council*.

The issue: There has been a view expressed that the Scarlet Cord Grades, at least for Grades 5 and 6, should be treated as an honor as is the Red Branch of Eri, and that no ceremony is required, despite the language of Section E, requiring the grades be “Conferred in a Council” of Entrusted and “Conferred in a Council” of Princes.

Consultation: Opinions were sought from the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Lecturer, Scarlet Cord Committee, General Purposes Committee, and Jurisprudence Committee.

The named elected officers, the Grand Lecturer, and the Scarlet Cord Committee were unanimous in their opinion that the Grades should be conferred in a ceremony. The General Purposes Committee was also of the view that the Grades should be conferred in a ceremony.

The Jurisprudence Committee noted that there were no restrictions placed on our Grand Council by the English Order of the Secret Monitor on how to confer the six Grades of the Scarlet Cord, and that the subsequently created English Order of the Scarlet Cord could not retroactively place restrictions on the U.S. Order (*see* fn.1). Though not a jurisprudence issue, the Committee also noted practical difficulties in performing a ceremony for these Grades. Finally, the Committee opined that it was not required to interpret the word “receive” to require a “conferral.”

Rationale: It is agreed that the practices of our sister jurisdiction are not binding on this sovereign jurisdiction.

While it is not required that the word “receive” be interpreted in a certain manner, when one looks at the phrase, “*Conferred in a Council ...*” it clearly anticipates a ceremony. Further, we have ceremonies for each of these Grades. Certainly, that ritual must be there for a reason.

The Jurisprudence Committee is also accurate in noting various practical difficulties. While other appendant orders have national meetings where invitational

degrees and orders are formally communicated, there is no requirement that a conferral of these Scarlet Cord Grades occur in conjunction with the annual meeting of this Grand Council. Pursuant to Article XXI, Section I of the Constitution, the Sovereign Grand Master has the power, acting in his capacity as Grand Summus, to convene the Grand Conclave at such other times as may suit his pleasure. Thus, these Grades may be conferred regionally.

As an equitable matter, consideration must be given to those who have received the Grades by nomination and delivery of a certificate. This will be addressed in the decretal paragraph.

Decision: It is therefore my decision as Sovereign Grand Master that all Grades of the Scarlet Cord must be conferred in the appropriate consistory or council, as delineated in Article XXI, Section E.

Those who have previously received the Grades by nomination and delivery of a certificate are encouraged to attend a conferral of any Grade they have received in that manner, but such is not required as a condition of their nomination to the next Grade. A conferral of the next Grade of the Order in an appropriate Council is required.

Glen A. Cook
Sovereign Grand Master

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

The following table reports the changes in the number of constituent Councils during the year 2020.

CONSTITUENT COUNCIL STATISTICS

NUMBER OF COUNCILS (on January 1st, 2020)	414
GAINS	
New Councils chartered	1
Charters restored	1
TOTAL GAINS (during 2020)	2
LOSSES	
Charters revoked	0
Charters surrendered	2
TOTAL LOSSES (during 2020)	0
NUMBER OF COUNCILS (on December 31st, 2020)	414

The changes in the number of members during the year 2020 reported by constituent Councils will be published in the 2021 issue of the *Annals*.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

NUMBER OF MEMBERS (on January 1st, 2020)	9,076
GAINS	
New active members	
New plural members	
Transferred in	
Reinstated	
TOTAL GAINS (during 2020)	
LOSSES	
Transferred out	
Resigned	
Suspended (for non-participation)	
Suspended (for non-payment of dues)	
Deaths	
TOTAL LOSSES (during 2020)	
NUMBER OF MEMBERS (on December 31st, 2020)	

CHARTERS

At our Annual Communication held on February 10th, 2018, it was reported that twenty constituent Councils were at least three years behind in the submission of their annual returns. Upon recommendation, the charters of these twenty Councils were revoked by a vote of the Grand Council.

The Sovereign Grand Master established a procedure by which any of these twenty Councils could seek the restoration of its charter through the submission of delinquent annual returns and fees. One of these twenty Councils finally satisfied this procedure during 2020 and is listed below. It is recommended that its charter be restored.

CHARTER RECOMMENDED FOR RESTORATION

Edward C. Echison #326 Indiana

In accordance with Article XII of our Constitution, the Sovereign Grand Master granted charters to three Councils since our last Annual Communication.

NEW COUNCILS CHARTERED

Elias Ashmole #563 Massachusetts
Alabama #564 Alabama
Stannard Rock #565 Michigan

Also since our last Annual Communication, two Councils have voluntarily surrendered their charters.

CHARTERS SURRENDERED

Triple Tau #54 New Jersey
Frederick T. Meyer #189 New Jersey

ANNUAL RETURNS

At our last Annual Communication, held on February 8th, 2020, it was reported that four constituent Councils had not yet submitted either of their 2018 or 2019 annual returns, making each of them two years behind. Upon recommendation, these four Councils were placed on probation by a vote of the Grand Council until such time as they submit the requisite annual returns and fees.

COUNCILS PLACED ON PROBATION ON FEBRUARY 8TH, 2020

Centennial #206	Colorado
John Wesley #293	Ohio
Great Plains #300	Kansas
Reavis "Red" Lewis #424	Ohio

Subsequently, one of these four Councils (Centennial #206) submitted its 2018 and 2019 annual returns and fees and, as a result, was removed from its probationary status and returned to good standing.

As of January 15th, 2021, the three Councils remaining on probation have not yet submitted either of their 2018 or 2019 annual returns. Additionally, none of these Councils has yet submitted its 2020 return either, making each of them at least three years behind.

As a result, in accordance with Article XVII, Section 3 of our Constitution, it is recommended that the charters of the following three Councils be revoked.

CHARTERS RECOMMENDED FOR REVOCATION

John Wesley #293	Ohio
Great Plains #300	Kansas
Reavis "Red" Lewis #424	Ohio

As of January 15th, 2021, there are four Councils who have not yet submitted either of their 2019 or 2020 annual returns, making each of them two years behind. As a result, in accordance with Article XVII, Section 3 of our Constitution, it is recommended that the following four Councils be placed on probation until such time as they have submitted the requisite annual returns and fees.

COUNCILS RECOMMENDED FOR PROBATION

Rex #47	Pennsylvania
Southeastern Ohio #119	Ohio
Harold Hartzell Thom #121	Nebraska
Green Dragon #524	Illinois

FINANCIAL REPORT

During the year 2020, our Operating Revenue (which includes per capita, degree fees, and sale of supplies) totaled \$141,990.98, while our Operating

Expenses (which includes all operations with the exception of Masonic Week) totaled \$73,932.28. This resulted in a Net Operating Revenue of \$68,058.70.

A statement of our revenue and expenses for the year 2020 will be included in the report of the Finance Committee.

FINANCIAL ASSETS

BALANCES (on December 31st, 2019)

Operating Account	\$198,030.29
Investment Account	\$424,768.32
Masonic Week Account	\$12,228.85
TOTAL	\$635,027.46

BALANCES (on December 31st, 2020)

Operating Account ⁽¹⁾	\$166,088.99
Investment Account ⁽¹⁾	\$623,852.26
Masonic Week Account	\$6,033.99
TOTAL	\$795,975.24

NET INCREASE (during 2020) \$160,947.78

(1) Note than \$100,000.00 was transferred from the Operating Account to the Investment Account on March 18th, 2020.

ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

In 2015, the Grand Council directed that the membership records of our constituent Councils be digitized. Over the past several years, an electronic membership database has been established and has now been integrated into the national database maintained by the M.M.S. (an affiliate of the K.T.E.F.)

Membership changes reported each year on the annual returns of our constituent Councils are being entered into this new database, thereby keeping our membership records up-to-date.

MEMBERSHIP (DUES) CARDS

An additional benefit of having our membership records within the M.M.S. system is that annual membership (dues) cards may be printed and distributed in the same manner as they have been for many years for Commanderies of Knights Templar.

As approved at our last two Annual Communications, pre-printed membership (dues) cards were distributed to the constituent Councils in late 2019 and late 2020. These cards have been very well received.

It is therefore the recommendation of the Grand Secretary that dues cards for the year 2022 be printed using this M.M.S. format and distributed to the constituent Councils in late 2021 and that the cost of printing and distributing the cards be again borne solely by the Grand Council.

GRAND MASTER'S COUNCIL #A

Recall that Grand Master's Council #A was one of the original A.M.D. Councils chartered at the formation of the Grand Council. Its purpose has always been to provide a Council for brethren who do not otherwise have another constituent Council to join.

Significant progress has been made in reestablishing Grand Master's Council #A. As of the end of 2020, seventy-four members had paid their 2020 dues of \$20.00. These members have subsequently received those benefits due the members of our other constituent Councils.

Additionally, this revitalized Grand Master's Council #A is available as a repository for members of Councils whose charters are revoked or surrendered, giving those members an opportunity to continue their association with the Allied Masonic Degrees.

ANNALS AND MISCELLANEA

The 2020 issue of the *Annals* was published and distributed to our constituent Councils during the summer of 2020. It is anticipated that the 2021 issue of

the *Annals* will likewise be published and distributed during the summer of 2021.

The 2020 issue of the *Miscellanea* was published in late 2020 and distributed to our constituent Councils in January 2021. This was the first issue of the *Miscellanea* published since the 2014 issue.

RED BRANCH OF ERI

The report of the various ranks of the Red Branch of Eri conferred by our constituent Councils upon their brethren since our last Annual Communication in February 2020 will be published in the 2021 issue of the *Annals*.

SCARLET CORD

During 2020, two conferrals of various grades of the Scarlet Cord were held as follows.

SCARLET CORD CONFERRALS

February 8th, 2020	Arlington, Virginia
1st Grade	40 candidates
2nd Grade	44 candidates
3rd Grade	44 candidates
February 22nd, 2020	Chattanooga, Tennessee
2nd Grade	18 candidates

Upon receipt of the requisite passing fees, the appropriate certificates have been shipped to the constituent Council Secretaries for distribution.

EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP STATUS

The report of requests from our constituent Councils since our last Annual Communication in February 2020 to confer emeritus status upon their brethren will be published in the 2021 issue of the *Annals*.

Fraternally submitted,
Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.
Grand Secretary

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY

To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America:

Since our last meeting on February 8th, 2020, the names of two hundred and sixty-four Brothers of the Allied Masonic Degrees have been reported to the Grand Council as having laid down the working tools of this life.

We thank the Supreme Architect of the Universe for the lives of these Brethren and the work they performed for our Order. We ask Him to grant us the privilege to meet them again in that Supreme Grand Lodge above.

Respectively submitted,

Douglas R. Knauer, *Grand Chaplain*

Duane L. Vaught

David J. Kussman

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES & HISTORY COMMITTEE

To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America:

The Archives and History Committee has no report, as no requests were received, nor anything submitted for publication or review during the past year. However, it is recommended that the Grand Secretary be placed on this Committee as he is the custodian of the Grand Council's archival material.

Respectfully submitted

Robert G. Davis, *Chairman*

Jeffrey L. Cook

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE

To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America:

Your Committee on Jurisprudence has reviewed the Allocution of our Sovereign Grand Master and notes three Decisions. Your Committee offers the following Opinions:

I. OPINION NO. 1

Question: Can an invitation be rescinded before reception into the Council?

Jurisprudence Committee Opinion: This question is governed by Article XXIV, Section 2 of the Constitution.

II. OPINION NO. 2

Question: In interpreting the word RECEIVE, as used in the 2012 adopted Scarlet Cord Article XXI, Sections H and I, as amended in 2014, is it necessary to have the relevant degree *conferred* upon an individual, in order for him to *receive* the degree?

Background: The Jurisprudence Committee researched all communications regarding the Scarlet Cord since our Grand Council received it from the British Isle's. No restrictions were found on how conferrals were to be handled. No definitions or restrictions were placed in our Constitution when we assumed control in 2012.

The Jurisprudence Committee further noted practical considerations in requiring an actual conferral. For example, geographic enormity of U.S.A., limited time at Masonic Week, eight years of no personal conferrals. The Opinion of the Jurisprudence Committee was that it is not practical, nor required, to interpret the word Receive by requiring a conferral.

In a Decision dated April 20th, 2020, Sovereign Grand Master Cook related he was receiving input from Grand Officers, and others, to interpret "receive" as actually being "conferred." Sovereign Grand Master Cook acknowledged practices of our sister jurisdiction

are not binding in this sovereign jurisdiction. Sovereign Grand Master Cook further acknowledged there are great practical difficulties in actually conferring the 5th and 6th Grades, based on our current method of operations.

Acknowledging the above, Sovereign Grand Master Cook stated he believed, “conferral in a Council ...” clearly anticipates a ceremony, when the ceremonies for each of these Grades exist. He acknowledged as an equitable matter, consideration must be given to those who have received the Grades by nomination and delivery of a certificate.

DECISION: Sovereign Grand Master Cook issued the following:

It is therefore my decision as Sovereign Grand Master that all Grades of the Scarlet Cord must be conferred in the appropriate Consistory or Council, as delineated in Article XXI, Section E.

Those who have previously received the Grades by nomination and delivery of a certificate are **encouraged** to attend a conferral of any Grade they have received in that manner, **but such is not required as a condition of their nomination to the next Grade.** (*Emphasis added by Jurisprudence Committee.*) A conferral of the next Grade of the Order in an appropriate Council is required.

Jurisprudence Committee Opinion: Based on the above emphasis added phrase, the Jurisprudence Committee interprets the Sovereign Grand Master’s Decision to confirm and certify that those A.M.D. members who have received the 5th and/or 6th Grade prior to this 2021 Annual Assembly, by nomination and delivery of a certificate, to be fully vested with that respective 5th and/or 6th Grade.

Based on the above interpretation, the Jurisprudence Committee approves the above Decision.

III. OPINION No. 3

Sovereign Grand Master Cook called a Special Meeting of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the U.S.A. on October 21st, 2020 to consider three questions:

i. Shall the 129th Annual Communication of the Grand Council scheduled to be held on Saturday, February 13th, 2021 be changed from an in-person meeting to an electronic “virtual” meeting.

ii. Shall Masonic Week 2022 be scheduled for Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 through Sunday, February 13th, 2022 and, as the host of Masonic Week, shall the Grand Council enter into a contract with the Hyatt Regency Crystal Hotel to be the venue of the events, and

iii. Shall the 130th Annual Communication of the Grand Council be scheduled to be held during Masonic Week 2022 on Saturday, February 12th, 2022.

Jurisprudence Committee Opinion: The Jurisprudence Committee confirms the Sovereign Grand Master has authority for calling such a Special Meeting pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of our Constitution.

Respectively submitted,

Joe R. Manning, Jr, *Chairman*

Reese L. Harrison, Jr.

REPORT OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America:

We are pleased to report that, with the addition of several papers from our Canadian A.M.D. Brethren, a new volume of the *Miscellanea* has been published! It was sent to our printer in late 2020 and, after a slight delay due to the pandemic and the holidays, it has been shipped to our Councils.

We continue to encourage our Council Secretaries to submit *all* papers presented in their Councils to the Publication Committee. All papers should be provided digitally, with minimal formatting, in either .docx or .rtf format. Those papers not selected for publication in *Miscellanea* will be retained in the archives and may at a future date be made available securely and digitally to our membership.

Please direct these to the Grand Secretary and with a copy sent to publications@moamd.org. This will ensure that the papers are received in a timely manner, in a digital format and allow for the efficient production of *Miscellanea* in future years.

This committee reminds the membership that papers submitted for publication must be the original work of the author with sources cited. While we do not *require* the use of a style guide, the Publication Committee recommends the *Quarry Project Style Guide* which is available online at:

<http://thequarryproject.com/wp/the-quarry-project-style-guide/>

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron M. Shoemaker, *Chairman*

J. Robert Mullis

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America:

Earlier this year, Sovereign Grand Master Glen Cook asked me to lead an effort to republish our Constitution, incorporating amendments adopted, but not yet integrated into the document, which was last published in 2015. While the document was last published in 2015, it appears to have not been updated since 2005. The task quickly became more complicated with the discovery of numerous:

- Scriveners errors
- Grammatical errors
- Printing omissions
- Amendments not in proper form
- Amendments loosely written out in committee reports
- Amending one section, but not amending same topic in another section.

With the wonderful assistance of Grand Secretary Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr., each of the above problems was tackled. The following summarizes our actions:

- Obvious errors were corrected.
- A couple of sections, which were virtually incomprehensible, were reformatted, using the same words.
- Amendments in committee reports, even though not properly drafted, were inserted, if the committee report had been adopted by the Grand Council.
- Allowing Red Branch of Eri to have its own Article, similar to Royal Ark Mariners, Secret Monitor, and Scarlet Cord.
- Reserving the Appendices for such things as passing fees, which periodically need to change, due to inflation, etc.
- Great care was taken to not change any law.

While we are still operating under the version of the Constitution last printed in 2015, Sovereign Grand Master Cook directed that this republished version be posted on our website. This has allowed all members to review this republished version prior to the next meeting of our Grand Council. At our February 2021 meeting, after satisfying ourselves that all Grand Council adopted amendments have been incorporated and no law has been changed, the voting delegates can consider substituting this republished version for the 2015 published version.

I want to thank Most Ven. Bro. William R. Miller for his great assistance in the early stages of the project. We want to thank Sovereign Grand Master Cook for initiating this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Manning, Jr., *Chairman*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE

To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers, and Members of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America:

The 2022 Annual Communication of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America be held on Saturday, February 12th, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

Mohamad A. Yatim, *Chairman*

Aaron M. Shoemaker

D. Allen Surratt

Moises I. Gomez

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers, and
Members of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic
Degrees of the United States of America:*

Your Committee on Nominations submits its report
as follows:

Sovereign Grand Master Mohamad A. Yatim
Deputy Grand Warden Aaron M. Shoemaker
Senior Grand Warden Michael D. Cecil
Junior Grand Warden W. Berry Rigdon
Grand Secretary Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.
Grand Treasurer Lawrence E. Tucker
Senior Grand Deacon John C. Elkinton
Junior Grand Deacon Douglas R. Knauer
Board of General Purposes Glen A. Cook
(for three-year term)

Respectfully submitted,

Joe R. Manning, Jr., *Chairman*
Matthew D. Dupee
Paul S. Newhall

REPORTS OF GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS

Reports were submitted by Grand Superintendents regarding the activities over the past year in twenty-four of our thirty regions.

CALIFORNIA – NORTH

I would like to thank Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook, for appointing me as first the Grand Superintendent of California and then the Grand Superintendent of the California-North region when the state was split into two. These appointments were done in early March and then a week later Covid hit and the entirety of Masonic activity in California was halted by order of the Grand Master.

In the following nine months, we have still been entirely unable to meet in person in any Masonic affiliated organization. We have been allowed to meet in Zoom meetings, first socially and then to conduct business, while not being able to perform any esoteric ritual. As a result, we could not bring in new members, hold degrees, or enjoy the festive boards that the majority of our Councils have after their meetings. We could pay our bills, and elect and install officers. However the majority of our Councils chose to freeze the line of progression for officers, since the installed officers were unable to actually perform the majority of their functions or execute their plans due to the shutdown.

Our annual statewide In-gathering, usually held in May, was scuttled, which was a shame on many levels, but particularly because Most Ven. Bro. Cook had planned to travel to it to open the Grand Council to allow for the conferral of some of the higher degrees. This event has been put on by the former Grand Superintendent Gary Johnson for a number of years, and he plans to continue with it as soon as we are allowed to reopen. The November reschedule also had to be canceled.

When Stephen E. Alderete and I received our appointments the first task we were asked to accomplish was to divide the State appropriately. There are currently twenty-three active Councils in California and, based on geography, we suggested that eleven Councils be assigned to the North and twelve to the South. This plan was approved. As such, the following Councils are included in the California-North region: Western #41, Camellia City #98, Gold Country #135, Bay Cities #164, Redwood #165, Triangle #182, Central Coast Counties #213, Sequoia #228, Mosabel #238, Britannia #303, and Siminoff #485.

When we were appointed there were five of the twenty-three Councils that were delinquent in their annual return and per capita, we worked with the Councils and quickly got them all taken care of within the first couple of weeks. We also looked at the demised Councils and found one was still operating in the Southern California area, despite having had its charter revoked by the Grand Council several years ago. Rt. Ven. Bro. Alderete is working on getting that Council back into the fold.

Camellia #98, Gold Country #135, and Redwood #165 tend to hold joint events as their membership is small and they have a good synergy. The other Councils are self-sufficient, but do have a desire to come together for joint conferrals.

I wish I had more to report, when appointed I had made arrangements to visit each of the Councils, but that has been placed on hold until such time as the Grand Master releases us to meet.

Fraternally submitted,
Gregg A. Hall
Grand Superintendent
California-North

CALIFORNIA – SOUTH

I am thankful to Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook for appointing me as first the Grand Superintendent of the California-South region and to Rt. Ven. Bro. Gregg A. Hall for his recommendation for this appointment. As our appointments were made early in the calendar year, just before the Grand Master of California stopped Masonic activity in California, I have not been able to physically attend any of my Council's meetings. Though I have met some of the Sovereign Masters "on line" for informal meetings.

With Most Ven. Bro. Cook's decision this year to divide California into two regions, Rt. Ven. Bro. Hall and I have divided the twenty-three existing Councils based on geography as well as the freeway system. This resulted in the California-South having twelve Councils and California-North region having eleven. As such, the following Councils are in the California-South region: Melrose St. John #52, Inkopah #86, Queen's/Seaport St. John #93, San Fernando y San Juan #105, Channel Coast #114, Orange Coast #162, San Juan de Los Angeles #180, Conejo St. John #191, George H. Himes #214, Excalibur #218, Kit Carson #237, and Garden Grove #465.

At the time of the California split, there were five of the twenty-three Councils that were delinquent in their annual returns and per capita. Rt. Ven. Bro. Hall and I worked with the Councils and those issues were taken care of in a timely manner. At this time, I am working with the former St. Bernard-St. John #100, a Council in the California-South region that has still been working as if it was in good standing despite having had its charter revoked several years ago by the Grand Council for not filing annual returns and paying per capita.

To my knowledge, none the Councils in the California-South region have taken advantage of meeting via Zoom, Skype or Webex apps, at least not on a regular basis. This has resulted in no new members, practices, degrees, or enjoyed social meetings or dinners. As in the North, most of the Councils in the California-

South region have chosen to hold their line officers in place for another year. Our shut down in California has also affected our state In-gathering, that is held in conjunction with the California Grand York Rite Sessions and at which are conferred many of the “higher degrees”. Gary Jackson of Western Council #41, a Past Grand Superintendent, has for a number of years been instrumental in this In-gathering and hopes to be able to produce one last one before going into “Masonic retirement” this year.

This is all I have to report at this time; I am hoping to have more to report in my 2021 report.

Fraternally submitted,
Stephen E. Alderete
Grand Superintendent
California-South

FLORIDA – NORTH

We in the Florida-North region have seven Councils, all have been active in one way or another. Covid has been a major drawback for their activities, just as in other states. There has been good communication within and between all of our Councils. In some cases, Councils which could not meet actually met with other Councils in Zoom programs, combining their efforts.

In the panhandle area of our state, Emerald Coast Council #443 had one in-person meeting where they held their elections and installation, but due to Covid, their second meeting had to be cancelled. Emerald Coast #443 meets in Crestview, Florida, not Pensacola, and Karl Kirtley, is their Secretary. Their meeting dates for 2021 are April 17th and November 20th.

David E. Bailey Jr. Council #531 meets in Pensacola. It had four meetings during the year, but no degrees were conferred due to low attendance (because of Covid). Their Secretary is Joshua Schutts. Meeting dates for 2021 will be January 29th, April 30th, July 30th, and October 29th.

North Central Florida Council #423 meets in Middleburg, Florida. They had two meetings, both held in the Jacksonville Masonic Temple. The meal was furnished by the ladies of Middleburg Lodge and \$100.00 was donated to the Food Bank of Middleburg. The meeting was held with all protocols included. A paper was presented by the new Sovereign Master on "Masons in the Civil War from Ft. Sumter to the Surrender." The attendance was low, but enough to hold the meetings. The Council is doing well, and even though Covid remains a problem; they are doing what is necessary (through the guide lines of our Grand Master), to maintain interesting and effective meetings.

Wilbur W. Masters Jr. Council #322 met two times, both attended sparsely, but with sufficient members present to hold a proper meeting. Several dignitaries from Northeast Florida were in attendance. In August, the Council conducted degree work, and did courtesy work for Emerald Coast #443, which was unable to do work because of Covid. Discussion was held about the need to improve attendance at their meetings, if they wish to remain members. They currently have twenty-five members with four candidates. They need to attend or openings may be available for the new candidates. The meeting dates for 2021 are March 20th, July 17th, and November 6th, to be held at the Jacksonville Masonic Temple.

George H. Wolf Council #387 of Leesburg met for the installation of its officers. The April meeting had to be cancelled due to Covid. The lodges were closed by the Grand Master. The July meeting had three new members proposed. The Secretary, Tom Hobson resigned and David Rosenthal was appointed. The meeting was short, trying to avoid any spread of the virus. No papers were presented, however nominations were made for David Rosenthal, for the Red Branch of Eri (Knight Commander), and Larry Duff (Knight). The annual meeting was held on November 7th, with the installation of officers on January 15th, 2021. The Council meeting dates for 2021 will be April 3rd, July 3rd, and November 6th.

Wesley C. Harter Council #302 has meet three times this past year, but due to Covid, attendance has been low. Enough to open, but not enough for degree work; no degrees and no papers. They meet quarterly on April 23rd, August 27th, December 10th. I attended the January meeting and a full slate of officers were present and a good meeting was held. The membership appeared eager to complete their responsibilities efficiently.

William A. Bessent III Council #363 has been very active this year. They have held four meetings this year (one was by Zoom) with good attendance. At each meeting they had a paper presented, and normally, degrees were exemplified, however, due to Covid, attendance was low and the degrees were eliminated due to few members present. Their scheduled meetings for 2021 will be April 9th, June 25th, and November 5th.

A great interest continues in the Florida-North region in the Allied Masonic Degrees and they continue to be active and grow.

Fraternally submitted,
Henry A. Adams
Grand Superintendent
Florida-North

FLORIDA – SOUTH

It was my honor to have been appointed by Sovereign Grand Master Glen A. Cook in March of 2020 and to serve the Councils of the Florida-South region during this past year.

The six A.M.D. Councils of the Florida-South region are: Winter Haven #302 (Lakeland), Manasota #305 (Bradenton), Space Coast #366 (Merritt Island), Mystic Tie #374 (Pembroke Pines), George H. Wolf #387 (Bellevue), and City of Palms #419 (Ft. Myers). All Secretaries were contacted via email in March to discuss visitations. The Covid situation, however, prevented physical gatherings until the Grand Master of the

Grand Lodge of Florida allowed Masonic meetings to resume in June. All Councils during the closure of Masonic buildings were encouraged to use Zoom or another suitable electronic platform to hold meetings for the purposes of fellowship, communication, and to present research.

The status of the Councils are as follows: Winter Haven #302 seems to be stable and is trying to expand their membership. They meet on Friday's which might be an issue when trying to attract younger members. Space Coast #366 has a solid attendance of their membership, many of whom are past Grand Officers of the Florida York Rite Bodies. Mystic Tie #374 is about to hit their maximum number of twenty-seven Brothers and has started discussing the possibility of splitting into two groups in the next year or two. City of Palms #419 continues to attract a large number of members to their meetings, especially during their annual meeting where members present papers based on a pre-chosen topic/focus earlier in the year. During my visitation to each of these Councils, I spoke with them regarding the Order of the Red Branch of Eri and encouraged them to develop a standard whereby Brothers meet certain criteria for admission (e.g. presenting a certain number of papers, service as an appointed officer, etc.). I was unable to visit Manasota #305 or George H. Wolf #387 due to Covid restrictions, however, both Council Secretaries reported that meetings have now resumed, and I plan to visit these Councils in early 2021.

All Councils were contacted and expressed an interest regarding the possibility of holding an In-gathering. In addition, all Councils expressed an interest in performing the various Grades of the Scarlet Cord in the future. I plan on working closely with the Grand Superintendent for Florida-North (Rt. Ven. Bro. Henry A. Adams) for a possible statewide In-gathering and conferral of the Grades of the Scarlet Cord in 2021.

Three Councils (Manasota #305, Space Coast #366, and City of Palms #419) have a website linked to the Grand Council's main page. The remaining three Councils have been encouraged to pay the small fee to

develop a web presence and update electronic visitors with the current officers, meeting schedules, etc.

It has been my pleasure to serve the Grand Council as the Grand Superintendent for the Florida-South region during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett A. Gordon
Grand Superintendent
Florida-South

GEORGIA

The sixteen Councils in Georgia have experienced a year like no other in the history of Allied Masonic Degrees in Georgia. We have, for the most part, been unable to hold face-to-face meetings due to Covid restrictions set forth by our Governor, the C.D.C., and our Grand Master. Most of the meeting facilities in Georgia were shut down due to the restrictions. A few of our more resourceful Councils adopted a virtual method of meeting and are to be commended for doing so. Some Councils were able to have at least one face-to-face meeting before being curtailed. We were unable to hold our annual statewide meeting in July, which is normally the most outstanding event of the year. Councils were ready to perform their assigned degrees, but were prohibited from doing so due to the cancellation. All stand ready to pick it back up as soon as we return to normal. We truly hope for a better year in 2021.

It has been my pleasure to serve the Grand Council as Grand Superintendent for Georgia and I extend my appreciation to the Sovereign Grand Master for his diligent leadership during the past year.

Fraternally submitted,
Clyde E. Griffin
Grand Superintendent
Georgia

GUAM & PHILIPPINES

As of 2020, there are currently eight active A.M.D. Councils in the Philippines in good standing with the Grand Council: Filipinas #490, Davao #504, Cavite #506, Quezon City #507, Laguna #508, Fifth Mountain #521, Makati #534, and Manila #535.

These eight Councils have been active yearly in the fulfillment of their duties, each conducting their respective meetings diligently, in accordance with their by-laws, and utilizing the prescribed opening and closing rituals of the Grand Council A.M.D., U.S.A., including the toast list. These Councils have likewise been initiating new members and working the degrees in the ritual book under my close and constant supervision.

However, with the onset of the Covid pandemic, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines suspended all Masonic activities in the Philippines as early as March 9th, 2020 to ensure the safety of everyone. The suspension also included those activities of the appendant and allied bodies. Our local A.M.D. Councils have likewise ceased conducting physical meetings, but have instead conducted informal virtual caucus meetings for the time being. Even after the suspension was lifted last September 30th, 2020, there are still certain places deemed unsafe to conduct physical gatherings. As a result, our local A.M.D. Councils have decided to resume their meetings virtually. So far, all local A.M.D. Councils have already conducted their meetings for the year in accordance with their respective by-laws.

The very first year-end In-gathering of Philippine-based A.M.D. Councils was conducted online last December 28th, 2020, as organized by the office of the Grand Superintendent. All local Councils were fully represented by their respective officers and members.

The main itinerary for the online In-Gathering was basically to remind all local A.M.D. Councils to start working on their annual reports and the payments of their respective annual returns. Past Grand Superintendent, Rt. Ven. Bro. Evaristo Leviste, even

gave a crash course on how to properly use and fill-out the Grand Council forms. Communications from the Grand Council were likewise announced. Other matters pertaining to individual Councils have likewise been discussed and deliberated, and eventually settled.

As in the previous years of which I was the Grand Superintendent, I have been in attendance with each of the virtual meetings of all the Councils under this jurisdiction of the Grand Council A.M.D., U.S.A. I have likewise been in friendly relations with the other Grand bodies in the Philippines, such as the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines (under the General Grand Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International), the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the Philippines (under the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International), the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines (under the Grand Encampment Knights Templar, U.S.A.), along with other Orders that exist in the country such as the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, the York Rite Sovereign College, the Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis, the Knights of the York Cross of Honour, the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, etc., of which I also hold membership and office.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Arlen De Guzman
Grand Superintendent
Guam & Philippines

INDIANA

With the pandemic of 2020 and all the disruptions that were the result of the health crises in Indiana, many statewide A.M.D. goals were not achieved. Councils in the state did the best they could with putting things on hold, and getting back to them when things seemed more organized and a better understanding on how to at least communicate with “virtual” meetings among the members.

Even though at times the outlook was bleak, “the show must go on” and so it did for one particular Council. The charter of Edward C. Echinon Council #326 was revoked by the Grand Council in 2018 as a result of its being very behind in its returns and other required submissions. I was assigned to help the newly appointed Officers of Edward C. Echinon #326 to return to a normal operation of business. After introducing myself to the Sovereign Master, I was met by all the membership, with them wanting to help me in any way they could. I am happy to report that all members came to my aid, and under the direction of the Sovereign Grand Master, met every requirement and as a result members long forgotten are active and back enjoying their membership in that Council.

The statewide In-gathering which was planned naturally was cancelled for 2020. It looks to be a possibility to reorganize and hopefully it will be rescheduled again for the fall of 2021 to be held in or around Indianapolis, Indiana.

Even with the pandemic, I was able to make some visitations which included the following: (i) a “virtual” Special Communication of the Grand Council on October 21st, 2020, (ii) Thespian Council #464 on November 13th, 2020, and (iii) St. Bernard de Clairvaux Council #256 on November 24th, 2020.

Even though the year 2020 was a true testament to ones resolve to find faith in their moral beliefs, one memory I am particularly fond of is my visit to St. Bernard de Clairvaux #256. This Council is singular in its history and its place among the A.M.D. Councils of Indiana. It has a wonder group of members and the hospitality they afford is second to none. I was asked by the incoming Sovereign Master Stephen Kroman to be his Installing Officer. A wonderful evening was had by all that were in attendance.

I look forward to continuing to work and help meet the goals of the Grand Council, particularly for the Councils in the state of Indiana. It is a pleasure to serve this Grand Council and Sovereign Grand Master

Cook, as he was excellent to work with on the many items that I was assigned. Hopefully I will be able to visit more Councils in 2021, when we get ourselves to a point that we can return to the fraternal activities we so richly enjoy.

Submitted respectfully,
Christopher J. Gamblin
Grand Superintendent
Indiana

IOWA

It was my pleasure to serve the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the U.S.A. during the past year as Grand Superintendent for Iowa.

Little did any of us realize when we gathered together in early February of 2020 for Masonic Week in Arlington how much our lives would be changed in a few short weeks by the onset of the Covid pandemic.

I pray that my brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees have been safe from this terrible scourge that has affected our world. I have greatly missed attending Masonic activities. I am sure that each of you share those sentiments.

Iowa has four Councils: Hiram C. Bennett #441 (Burlington), T.S. Parvin #290 (Muscatine), Cedar Rapids #390 (Cedar Rapids), and Polaris #449 (Des Moines). The Councils in Iowa are, for the most part, functioning well.

I was able to attend a meeting of Polaris #449 in early March. It was a good meeting with lots of planning for activities that were planned for the rest of the year. Unfortunately those plans had to be scrapped due to the pandemic.

I was also able to attend a meeting of Hiram Bennett #441. I am very proud of this Council as new life has been breathed into it after being dormant for the past few years.

It was a disappointment that Cedar Rapids #390 had to cancel its annual Christmas breakfast meeting. This is always an enjoyable time as the members enjoy a gourmet breakfast with their ladies.

It was my pleasure to attend two Zoom meetings held by the Grand Council during this past year. Thank goodness that we have had this technology available to us to continue the work of our various Masonic bodies.

I had the pleasure this past year of serving as Master of Kadosh of the Des Moines Scottish Rite Consistory. After the onset of the pandemic, we looked for virtual activities that we could hold for our members in the Des Moines Valley. It was our honor to host our Deputy Grand Master Mohamad Yatim for a very interesting presentation on the 15th and 16th degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Thank you Rt. Ven. Bro. Mohamad for a great presentation.

It has been my pleasure to serve the Grand Council this past year as your representative in Iowa. To our Sovereign Grand Master, I thank you for your leadership during this past year. It has been a challenging year for you and all leaders of the various Masonic organizations.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in person at our 2022 annual meeting.

Fraternally submitted,
Wade E. Sheeler
Grand Superintendent
Iowa

MICHIGAN

Although this year has looked a little different than others while we battled a world wide pandemic, we have managed to accomplish much in Michigan. It has been a distinguished honor and pleasure to serve the brothers of Michigan and this Grand Council in 2020. The leadership and support provided by the Sovereign Grand Master Glen A. Cook and his officers during this time is to be commended, as is the diligence and

dedicated service of our Grand Secretary Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr.

My aim, in Michigan, has been to connect with leaders and members of every Council in person or virtually and understand their needs and then share news and support from the Grand Council. A.M.D. has been considered an “elite” group in Michigan in the past. I prefer that we think of A.M.D. as selective as opposed to exclusionary.

My focus is building small incubators for Masonic study, discussion, enthusiasm, and energy that can then be used to serve as spark plugs of our local Craft Lodges. Simultaneously, members are strongly encouraged to study, discuss, and perform the degrees that the A.M.D. preserves to create a unique, high-value experience, akin to University of Freemasonry. Here we will utilize the unique program (preserved degrees) and configuration (limited invitational membership) to expand interest in Masonry and Royal Arch by increasing the number of A.M.D. Councils and statewide activities and more importantly provide a much needed outlet and charge for enthusiastic members.

I was pleased to visit every Council in Michigan at least once and install many Officers for the ensuing year. Every Council was able to complete their election in accordance with the Constitution and orders of the Sovereign Grand Master. I was able to bring greetings from our Sovereign Grand Master and promote the degree work, the Order of the Scarlet Cord, the Red Branch of Eri, and the services offered by the Grand Secretary. It was a pleasure to spend time with the brothers and hear their needs and ideas.

I am actively looking for new opportunities to form Councils. In some cases, Masons have attended the non-private portions of our In-gathering and then joined the Royal Arch in order to then participate in the A.M.D. Building on that, there are several areas of Michigan that are in need of an A.M.D. experience and opportunity and I am actively courting those interested

and able with the aim to build many more Councils in Michigan.

In November, six companions submitted a petition to form Stannard Rock Council in Munising, Michigan. This is the first A.M.D. Council in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Its membership will grow quickly, and I am sure there will be opportunities for other Councils in the north. I was pleased to receive the new members, constitute the Council, install the officers, and present the new charter to Sovereign Master Bill Leveque on January 13th, 2021, on behalf of our Sovereign Grand Master.

Some Councils with storied histories have requested a refresh and extra support this year. Marcellus #320 was one such Council. Wanting to take all steps to ensure a long legacy, service to their brothers, and opportunity for future brothers, they asked me to assist in planning for the future. I formed the Southwest Michigan Council Support Taskforce and invited Ven. Bro. Kevin Perry and Bro. Todd Schmitz from Kalamazoo Valley #417 and Mt. Moriah #128 respectively to join me in ensuring the members of Marcellus #320 had the resources and regular support they need to sustain and thrive well into the future. They are planning to focus on the Red Branch of Eri and perhaps the Order of the Scarlet Cord to provide a unique experience. I will form similar support groups as I find Councils need them in the state.

Michigan held a virtual In-gathering in June 26th, 2020 with speakers Rob Moore of the Detroit Masonic Temple Library Archive and Research Center, Christopher Potts, Mitch Patchkowski, and our Sovereign Grand Master Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook. Our 2021 In-gathering is scheduled for Friday, June 25th, 2021 at the Detroit Masonic Temple Library, Archive, and Research Center. Thistle and Rose #271 will perform the Order of the Secret Monitor and Kalamazoo #417 will perform the Royal Ark Mariner degree. As always, we'll have cigars, beverages, and fellowship. Ladies and non-A.M.D. members enjoy a special wine tasting and program and tour, if desired.

Registration will be available on www.amd-mi.org and our Facebook page. Local A.M.D. Councils like Mt. Moriah #128 are planning their own virtual symposiums in 2021.

With the help of Brandon Mullins, of Thistle and Rose #27, we have created a website sharing meeting dates and contacts of Councils to encourage intervisitation and sharing of degrees. Visit www.amd-mi.org to take a look. We also have an active Facebook page at “Michigan Allied Masonic Degrees.”

Many Councils are interested in transitioning from dinner clubs to reading, researching, discussing, and performing degrees. Kalamazoo Valley #437 confers degrees in house, as does George C. Sellars #450. In recent years, Thistle and Rose #27 has performed degrees at the statewide In-gathering.

In closing, Allied Masonic Degrees in the state of Michigan is on the rise and driving interest in the Royal Arch Masons. The Councils will continue to build on that momentum in the coming year and provide high value Masonic experiences to their members with support of the Grand Superintendent.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Corey F.G.L. Curtiss
Grand Superintendent
Michigan

MISSOURI

I wish to thank the Sovereign Grand Master for the opportunity to serve him and to continue to serve our Grand Council and the Allied Masonic Degrees Brethren of the State of Missouri.

Unfortunately this last year has been, shall we say, less that productive on all fronts. Of the fourteen Councils in Missouri, some have continued to meet and abide by city, state and county social distancing and meeting guidelines, while others have not been able to meet at all due to restrictions. I was not able to make any official visits to any Councils, however I was able to

make several virtual meeting calls for a few and installed officers in one. I continue to receive communications from some of the Councils, but not all of the Secretaries will respond to requests for information and provide meeting notices. Should my appointment continue, I will endeavor to establish lines of communication with all Councils.

I personally congratulate the Sovereign Grand Master on the very successful year he has had, considering our current environment, and wish him the best in our upcoming Annual Communication, bearing in mind all of the challenges he faces with conducting a virtual meeting. I also applaud our Grand Secretary. I feel he has done and continues to do an amazing job facing all of the challenges of the past year. The communication and level of effort provided by Rt. Ven. Bro. Schoolfield is second to none.

May we never see the likes of 2020 again.

Fraternally and Most Respectfully,
Kevin B. Sample
Grand Superintendent
Missouri

NEW JERSEY

Brethren, the year 2020 was a very strange year. We had planned our New Jersey In-gathering, as always, we had speakers lined up, degree teams in place, and then Covid hit, shutting down all in-person Masonic meetings. Did we cancel? Did we fret? Never, we adapted.

We held our In-gathering on August 20th, 2020, via Zoom as a joint meeting with the Pennsylvania-East and Pennsylvania-West regions, who likewise had to cancel their in-person In-gatherings. We had about 100 Brethren from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Canada, and even Brethren from the Philippines.

We had two lectures (i) "Thoughts on Brotherhood" by our Sovereign Grand Master Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook and (ii) "The Life and Works of Brother James H.

Doolittle” by Brother Douglas Edge. Both lectures were steeped in the beauty of brotherhood. Most Ven. Bro. Cook discussed the lessons of David and Jonathan, and Bro. Edge discussed Doolittle and his Raiders. While we could not perform any degree work, a good time was had by all the Brethren.

In addition, the Brethren of the New Jersey stepped up to the challenge, and all across the state and all year long, members volunteered their services to act as lecturers on Zoom for Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and any organization that sought light during the dark times of 2020. Masonry never stops.

Fraternally submitted,
Michael S. Neuberger
Grand Superintendent
New Jersey

NEW YORK

The report for the year of 2020 is as follows. Given the unusual and dire circumstances that engulfed the world and our state, we were at the mercy of a devious and deadly virus. That being said, we were able to have some communications with the Councils in New York State before we were under strict guidelines which saved us from exposure and kept us safe. Thank you Sovereign Grand Master for looking out for us.

There was inquiry into officially sanctioning and consecrating a new Council in the state, the petition was presented and approved, however we were not able to complete this due to the Covid restrictions. Plans are that we hope that can be completed this year in 2021.

I was able to attend some regular meetings prior to the lockdown period, so there was some activity and always interest in the Allied Masonic Degrees. We are looking forward to returning to meeting in person; Zoom meetings do not have the same impact.

We thank the Grand Council for looking into the prospect that we will be under a blanket umbrella for the I.R.S. It will alleviate a lot of issues, primarily by

the small Councils; those who do not have a full capacity of members.

In closing, I thank you for allowing me to act as the representative of the members of New York, and hope that I might be able to serve the Grand Council in the future.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
Francis I. Karwowski
Grand Superintendent
New York

OHIO – SOUTH & OHIO – NORTH

A meeting was held with Rt. Ven. Bro. Ted Korn and Rt. Ven. Bro. Jeff Shaw about the responsibilities for Superintendents and dividing up the Ohio A.M.D. Councils. Rt. Ven. Bro. Shaw started on the process of contacting each Ohio A.M.D. Secretary to ensure we had correct information for each Council and used the information gathered to create an email contact list for all A.M.D. Councils within Ohio. Rt. Ven. Bro. Shaw also started work on a list of when each Ohio A.M.D. Council meets. Several Councils took some time to get information from the Secretary and we actually had to resort to contacting other members of some Councils to complete the information. Rt. Ven. Bro. Shaw distributed this information to Rt. Ven. Bro. Mike Cecil and Rt. Ven. Bro. Ted Korn once it was complete so each of us had it to use when needed.

We also worked with several Councils to get annual returns completed and in a few cases working with the Grand Secretary to get information about the closing of A.M.D. Councils which a few indicated they had already voted to close. Rt. Ven. Bro. Shaw also worked with one Council to get a potential new Secretary so they could get their delinquent information corrected and start actively meeting again. We jointly decided that due to the Covid situation, this year we would forego having a statewide In-gathering.

From March 16th through June 10th, the Grand Master of Ohio issued an edict requiring Masonic bodies to hold only virtual gathering and nothing in person. In November, when the Grand Master of Ohio issued an edict requiring Lodges to hold only virtual gathering and nothing in person, Rt. Ven. Bro. Shaw contacted Rt. Ven. Bro. Cecil and, after a discussion in which we agreed on how to handle this situation, Rt. Ven. Bro. Shaw sent a note to all Ohio A.M.D. Councils recommending that they also abide by the edicts issue by the Grand Master of Ohio concerning the Covid situation.

Rt. Ven. Bro. Korn has also began some discussions with Rt. Ven. Bro. Corey Curtiss from Michigan to invite him down to our A.M.D. Councils for educational talks.

This year has been challenging for all Ohio A.M.D. Councils due to the Covid situation. It has also made communications more difficult as many times Councils had to wait until the last minute to determine if they would even be able to meet. More than once at the last minute, an A.M.D. Council we were going to visit had to cancel their meeting due to a Covid related situation.

In those A.M.D. Councils we were able to visit, they were very appreciative of having someone from the Grand Council present to support them in their efforts. Many are now regularly including us on their email (or postal mail) distributions to their membership.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Jeffery Shaw
Grand Superintendent
Ohio-South

Theodore B. Korn
Grand Superintendent
Ohio-North

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

This year has to be the worst in history regarding meetings. Covid has halted regular meetings in all the states that comprise the Pacific Northwest: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. By using the internet, a few Zoom meetings have taken place, but they lack the personal contact that Masons most enjoy.

Just before the Covid lockdowns, I did attend the annual York Rite Sessions in Alaska in March. The two A.M.D. Councils met together. I presented a short talk on updates on the degrees coming under the A.M.D. banner. New officers were elected and I installed them into their new offices.

Of the Zoom meetings held, they have been well attended. There were appropriate educational videos presented. Overall, those attending these meetings liked the opportunity to see their Brothers and do a bit of catching up.

I pray that this Covid pandemic can soon be brought under control and we can once again meet as Brothers face to face.

Fraternally,

Joseph W. MacIntyre
Grand Superintendent
Pacific Northwest

PENNSYLVANIA – EAST

Members from various Councils in the Pennsylvania-East region attended the annual meeting of the Grand Council which was held on February 8th, 2020. The Pennsylvania-East team, for the fourth consecutive year, conferred the third grade of the Ancient Order of the Scarlet Cord (O.S.C.). The feedback was once again very positive from members and candidates.

The Allied Masonic Degree Council activities were affected by the Covid pandemic in the Pennsylvania-

East region from the beginning of March 2020. Brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees benefited from the Sovereign Grand Master's guidance that was provided in March and updated in July of this year. All Councils conformed with the guidelines that were outlined.

The joint Pennsylvania-East and Pennsylvania-West In-gathering was scheduled for August 22nd, 2020. Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic the In-gathering was cancelled and substituted with a joint virtual In-gathering of the New Jersey, Pennsylvania-East, and Pennsylvania-West regions. The virtual In-gathering was attended by 100 dignitaries and A.M.D. members from different Councils across the United States, Canada, and the Philippines. The virtual In-gathering program consisted of two lectures as follows: "Thoughts on Brotherhood" by Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook, Sovereign Grand Master, and "The life and works of Brother James H. Doolittle" by Bro. Douglas E. Edge of James M. Alter Council #446 of Pennsylvania-East.

All nineteen A.M.D. Councils submitted their annual returns for 2019 to the Grand Council. I made the recommendation to the Sovereign Grand Master that Councils should send a copy of their returns to the Grand Superintendent in order to facilitate follow-up through having access to the updated list of Council officers and their contact information.

The Brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees in Pennsylvania-East reported, on multiple occasions throughout the year, their longing for in-person A.M.D. meetings. Some Councils held virtual meetings that helped them remain connected and active. Several brethren also participated in the Emergent Communication of the Grand Council on October 21st, 2020 and participated in voting on the critical issues that affected Masonic Week 2021 and 2022 respectively.

Respectfully submitted,
Yasser Al-Khatib
Grand Superintendent
Pennsylvania-East

PENNSYLVANIA – WEST

The following report summarizes 2020 Allied Masonic Degrees activity in Western Pennsylvania.

My communications to the twelve councils in the western region included notifications of A.M.D. policy on holding meetings during the Covid pandemic and notifications of the August 20th, 2020 (virtual) In-gathering that we co-hosted with the eastern region of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

I assisted the Grand Secretary and my eastern Pennsylvania counterpart in finding contact information for Pennsylvania A.M.D. Council officers. I worked with the Grand Secretary to assist a Council in submitting a delinquent 2019 annual return.

As there were few AM.D. meetings during the year due to the pandemic, there was not much to do administratively. I attended to several requests during the year, mainly of a perfunctory nature involving questions of procedure.

As this is my last report as Grand Superintendent, I would like to thank all of the officers and members for their assistance and indulgence during my six years in this office. I will continue to enjoy your company in the coming years and look forward to catching up at our next in-person gatherings.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Erastus Z. Allen

Grand Superintendent

Pennsylvania-West

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Upon my appointment as Grand Superintendent to the newly formed Rocky Mountain region, I was excited about the possibilities, and opportunities, especially the chance to visit all the Councils within the newly formed region. Unfortunately, due to the issues caused by the Covid pandemic, much of what was expected did not

occur. There were some highlights of note, which I will detail below.

First and foremost, our region, and specifically Behle-Simons Council #544, was most pleased and immensely proud that our new Sovereign Grand Master Glen A. Cook Sr. hailed from Utah. Behle-Simons #544 was quite excited to present and introduce our Most Ven. Brother as Sovereign Grand Master in our stated meeting. I was particularly pleased to be collared as Grand Superintendent by Most Ven. Bro. Cook, as it represented a continuation of the personal bond between him and me, as it was Most Ven. Bro. Cook who conducted me through the degrees of Masonry more than twenty years ago.

Following the guidance of our Sovereign Grand Master, and the guidance of Grand Masters of Masonic Jurisdictions, many of our Councils did hold Zoom meetings to discuss papers and degrees. I was fortunate to be able to attend a couple of these Zoom events. Additionally, several members of the various Councils were in attendance during the Grand Council's Zoom event in April.

Within the Rocky Mountain region at the beginning of 2020, we had two Councils facing probation for not filing 2019 returns timely, and one Council facing having its Charter revoked for failing to submit annual returns for two years. I am pleased to say that in all three cases, the Councils filed their returns and paid the fees owed. Therefore, all Councils within the Rocky Mountain region are now in good standing.

With Covid hopefully abating, I have no doubt that the opportunities hoped for this past year, will come to fruition in the future.

Fraternally submitted,
Allen W. Record
Grand Superintendent
Rocky Mountain

SOUTH CAROLINA

After my appointment in February 2020, I contacted fifteen of the twenty South Carolina Councils.

The onset of the Covid pandemic has shut down the meetings in 2020. In March, the Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina ordered the suspension of all Masonic meetings.

On August 24th, the Grand Master of South Carolina entered a phase one reopening of Lodges and appendant bodies, with strict adherence to federal, state, local guidelines. Following the guidelines, we cannot have any Zoom meetings. Only members may attend meetings, visitors may not.

I keep in contact with Secretaries on-line. As soon as we may meet in person, I will be attending meetings.

This has been an interesting year and we will hope for the best in 2021.

Fraternally submitted,
George R. Peters
Grand Superintendent
South Carolina

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee A.M.D. Association held its 14th Annual In-gathering at the Tennessee Masonic Grand Lodge building on February 22nd, 2020. In attendance were 65 members of the Allied Masonic Degrees including sixteen first-time attendees, five out-of-state visitors including Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook, Sovereign Grand Master of the A.M.D. of the U.S.A. We had eleven A.M.D. faithful members who had not missed an In-gathering for the past five years.

Also in attendance were several leaders of Tennessee Masonry, including Past Grand Masters, Past Grand High Priests, Past Grand Illustrious Masters, and Past Grand Commanders. The days events began at 10:00 a.m. and lasted until approximately 4:00 p.m. A wonderful lunch was had, and an educational talk was given on Observant

Lodges during the meal. Attendance for the festival has remained stable over the years.

The following degrees were conferred by degree teams from Tennessee.

- Royal Ark Mariner Ray S. Garton #403 (Dickson)
- Superintendent Nicholas E. Oldham #378 (Sparta)
- Excellent Master Johnson-Sanders #416 (Tullahoma)
- Knight of Constantinople . . E. Leslie Webb, Jr. #357 (Knoxville)
- Wor. Commander Noah Arch McClanahan #358 (Mt. Juliet)
- Installed Master (St. Lawr. the Mar.) . Emerald Isle #346 (Memphis)

The Second Grade of the Order of the Scarlet Cord was also conferred; it is anticipated that we will have a three-year cycle for this Order.

The ten councils in Tennessee continue to grow in numbers and interest. Each taking pride in their own Councils with educational talks, fellowship, conferral of degrees, etc. There is some interest of a new Council being formed in the 2020 year and we will welcome the newly formed Council into the Tennessee A.M.D. family.

In 2021, our Tennessee A.M.D. Association will be twenty years old and the association will be planning a special event or our next In-gathering. The Tennessee A.M.D. Association was formed on March 26th, 2001 at the Grand Lodge building in Nashville, Tennessee. The purpose of the formation of this association was to give A.M.D. members the opportunity to meet with each other for fellowship and to exchange ideas. The association grew as the numbers of councils grew and in 2007 held its first festival.

Submitted by,
Robert G. Officer
Grand Superintendent
Tennessee

TEXAS – CENTRAL

It was my honor and pleasure to represent our Most Ven. Grand Master, Glen A. Cook, as the Grand Superintendent of the Texas-Central region during this past Masonic year. Entering 2020, each of the eight Councils represented in Texas-Central had high hopes. Sadly, as Texas began to lockdown in early 2020, a majority of the Councils were not able to have met in person. This prevented degree work from being done, as well as enjoying our bonds of friendship and brotherly love. Furthermore, our Texas Allied Masonic Degrees Association (which meets within Texas-Central), was not able to have its statewide weekend long annual meeting either. It is at this meeting where most Councils from across Texas come together and perform most of the A.M.D. degrees in their entirety, and from memory.

From an administrative standpoint, I am pleased to report that after due diligence, each Council within Texas-Central is current in their Annual Returns. I would like to thank our Grand Secretary, Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr, for his assistance in this matter as well.

I look forward to 2021, and in being able to break bread with my fellow Companions of the Allied Masonic Degrees in person. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

Courteously,
Jack M. Harper II
Grand Superintendent
Texas-Central

TEXAS – SOUTH

It is indeed a great honor to represent our Grand Master, Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook as his Superintendent for the Texas-South region during the year 2020. At the beginning of the year, I contacted all the Councils in my region and offered any assistance that may be necessary. I informed the Councils of the possible opportunities within the Allied Masonic Degrees and encouraged them to attend Masonic Week in Crystal City, Virginia as well as Texas A.M.D. Day in

Waco, Texas. However, all of this was prior to the Covid pandemic causing major shutdowns throughout the world. The In-gathering of the Texas A.M.D. Association scheduled for June 5th & 6th was cancelled, as well as several other planned visits.

Once the Grand Master of Texas opened Masonic activities within the Jurisdiction of Texas, I had the honor and pleasure of representing our Sovereign Grand Master, Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook at several Councils in the southern part of Texas. I made several visits, and brought greetings from our Sovereign Grand Master, including having the honor of conferring the Knight Commander of the Red Branch of Eri and other chair degrees, as well as installing the officers at Sam Houston Council #275 and also Andrew H. "Tony" Bass Council #475.

Early in the year, while on a trip to Brazil, it was brought to my attention that a group styling themselves as "The Supreme Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Brazil" was clandestinely operating in Brazil. They were claiming that they were affiliated and had received a charter from our Grand Council. I brought this to the attention of our Sovereign Grand Master Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook, as well as the Grand Secretary Rt. Ven. Bro. Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. This resulted in a letter dated March 20th, 2020 by the Sovereign Grand Master that there was no such affiliation with "The Supreme Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of Brazil" and that no member from said Council may be admitted into any meeting of a Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees under this Grand Council.

On October 9th, 2020, I was invited by Rt. Ven. Bro. Christopher J. Gamblin, Grand Superintendent for Indiana, to attend a meeting of Valparaiso Council #470. I was asked to give a short presentation on the history of the Royal Arch Mariners Degree. Afterwards, the Royal Arch Mariners degree was conferred on the nineteen members present.

Lastly, I was approached by a few Companions from Austin, Texas, as well as from Hawaii, who have an interest in possibly chartering a Council. I have given them counsel on the formalities, and recommended practices in starting a new Council, and will be in communication with them offering any assistance they may need. I have informed Rt. Ven. Bro. Jack M. Harper II about the companions inquiring in the Austin area, since that is his region.

It has been an extreme pleasure serving the Grand Council as Superintendent for the Texas-South region for the past year, and serve along such great and respected Masons who are my counterparts throughout the state. To the Sovereign Grand Master, I thank you for your leadership during this past year, and for your faith in me for this position.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberto M. Sanchez
Grand Superintendent
Texas-South

TEXAS – WEST

I would like to thank Sovereign Grand Master Glen A. Cook for appointing me as Grand Superintendent for the Texas-West region. As many understand, 2020 has been a difficult year for meeting in person with the Councils in this area, and many of the members live in rural areas with poor internet service, making it difficult for virtual meeting. However, I have been in touch with the Councils in this area and we are working on plans and goals to help revive and grow our Councils when we are permitted to do so by the Grand Council.

Fraternally submitted,
W. David Melear
Grand Superintendent
Texas-West

VIRGINIA

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve our Sovereign Grand Master as his personal representative to Virginia this past year. It has been to say the least a very interesting year due to the pandemic. However, A.M.D. in Virginia marches on.

Virginia has at present twenty-three A.M.D. Councils, whose current conditions range widely. The Councils average about twenty-three members with the largest at twenty-seven and the smallest at fourteen. I believe this is attributable to the location and number of current Royal Arch Chapters in Virginia and the continuing loss of members due to suspension, demit and death. Virginia has about 2,600 Royal Arch Masons at present.

Our Councils are in various conditions from those who meet three to four times per year, present research papers regularly, and look for interested Royal Arch Masons to complete their ranks. Unfortunately, we have some who meet only once per year to essentially replace officers and then in between we have some who meet only as a lunch or dinner club. Most, however, are in the first category.

With 2,600 eligible members for A.M.D., our total A.M.D. membership is 513, or about 20% of our membership. I believe that if we were to peel the onion back on membership, we'd find that that is probably too large a number for the size of Virginia's Grand Royal Arch Chapter. I believe that many Councils, while filled with really great Masons, have only a handful of members who are truly interested in Masonic or Masonic-related research. Many have members who wish only to "belong to another Masonic organization" or to get a ticket punched. I am finding that we have many older members who enjoy the fellowship and are fountains of Masonic history, tradition, etc., but are essentially taking up "slots" in a Council and no longer are interested or able to do the research a Council needs. Many are Emeritus members of Councils, but many are not.

We also have the issue that in the last couple of years, some Councils have folded because their sponsoring Royal Arch Chapter turned in its charter, merged with another Chapter, or disinterest set in as the same officers were having to repeat over and over and decided to go another direction.

As for 2021-2022, many Councils, when the pandemic restrictions are lifted, are anxious to begin to exemplify the degrees of A.M.D., to include those of the Red Branch of Eri and the Order of the Scarlet Cord. I hope to be able to participate with those Councils and will encourage regional meetings of Councils in those areas when feasible.

With respect to the office of Grand Superintendent, I would recommend to the Deputy Sovereign Grand Master that he look at appointing additional Grand Superintendents in Virginia, based on the five regions of the state, or Deputy Grand Superintendents to assist the Grand Superintendent with oversight. Speaking only for myself, attending Council meetings in any area of the state other than in Northern Virginia requires an overnight stay. With additional Superintendents responsible for their own areas or as Deputies working with the Grand Superintendent, Virginia would be much better served. Looking at the makeup of the Grand Council, there are many states with multiple Superintendents that have much fewer than 23 Councils.

I continue to be concerned about attendance. During this pandemic many Councils have not even met; most others have used teleconference capabilities or have met in numbers less than ten. I have been present on several Zoom meetings, but even the Zoom attendance falls short of what one might consider as an adequate number for the success of the Council.

I will continue to work with the Sovereign Masters and Secretaries to strengthen the Councils and will seek ways to align our Councils with active Royal Arch Chapters to assist with membership issues.

I look forward to this upcoming third year as Grand Superintendent and hope that in February of 2022 we can meet together again in my home state for our annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
James B. Bartley
Grand Superintendent
Virginia



THE
130TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
OF
THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE
ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WILL BE HELD AT THE
HYATT REGENCY CRYSTAL CITY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA
ON
FEBRUARY 12TH, 2022