

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



SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS
FEBRUARY 1ST, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report of the Board of General Purposes	68
Report of the Finance Committee	70
Reports of Grand Superintendents	74

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

*To the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master,
Officers and Members of the Allied Masonic Degrees of
the United States of America.*

Your Board of General Purposes has thoroughly reviewed the Allocation of the Sovereign Grand Master and commends our Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master for its completeness. This Board commends Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master Cook for his service and acknowledges the exceptional manner in which he has performed the duties and the responsibilities of this high office. He has directed this body through the most intense and challenging year that we have experienced due to the Covid restrictions limiting our travels and meetings. He has represented this Grand Council with dignity and honored both the Grand Council and his office as Sovereign Grand Master. We extend our deep thanks and appreciation for his service.

The Board of General Purposes commends the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master for his judgment in the appointment of the various committee members and officers for the year. All officers, members, and Councils appreciate and commend his foresight in appointing Most Ven. Bro. Joe R. Manning, Jr. to organize and to republish the various amendments that comprise the Council's Constitution.

This Board concurs with the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master's expression of thanks to Rt. Ven. Bro. Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr., Grand Secretary, for his careful attention and dedication to the duties of his office. He has earned the respect and appreciation of all who have worked with him and of all Brethren who have benefited from his work.

The members of the Board of General Purposes commend the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master Cook for instituting new Superintendencies in many states that needed additional individual support from The Grand Council.

The Board of General Purposes approves the action taken by the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master that resulted in the formation of six new subordinate Councils and the denial of two petitions as recorded in his Allocation.

This Board ratifies the action by the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master Cook to approve by-laws of nine Councils and to reject, with suggested corrections, the by-laws of three Councils.

The Board of General Purposes approves the following decisions of Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master Cook as outlined in his Allocation, as emphasized below:

1.) Decision that rescission of an invitation to join a Council is governed by Article XXIV of the Constitution;

2.) Decision of 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; and

3.) Decision, in accordance with Article VI, Section 3, of the Constitution, to call special virtual meeting for October 2nd, 2020, for the purpose 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 Regency Crystal City.

Again, the Board expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master Glen A. Cook for successfully leading The Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America with dignity, foresight and empathy during the stressful 2020 Masonic Year.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

Douglas S. Moore, *Chairman*

Matthew D. Dupee

William R. Miller

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

As detailed in this report there are a number of financial issues facing this Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees and while it might be desirable to address and solve them all at once such is not practical. Therefore priorities must be set. The committee, has addressed some of these issues and others will have to wait for future years. The issues the committee has prioritized this year may not be the same set of priorities set by the committee in other years but overall we continue to improve.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

The Grand Council established an investment account at Hefren-Tillotson in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania with initial transfers of \$277,805 in 2018. An additional \$100,000 was transferred into the account in 2019 and the same in 2020. The investment income was \$50,848 in 2019 and \$99,289 in 2020. The balance at December 31st, 2020 is \$625,072. Investments are following our investment policy of 60% equities and 40% fixed. The annualized return for year 2020 was 15%. The Grand Council A.M.D. Finance Committee works with our Investment Advisors and monitors the accounts and performance.

TAX ISSUES

There are a number of tax issues in our Grand Council which I will briefly enumerate.

1) As previously reported, prior to our current Grand Secretary, some of our tax returns have been filed late or were simply not filed at all. We received penalty notices totaling approximately \$6,600. Chairman Vaught corresponded with the I.R.S. and they agreed to waive these penalties. We did pay \$200 interest on penalties because for that amount it seemed prudent to

pay and have the issue settled. This year's development was a refund of that interest.

2) A previous Grand Secretary of this Grand Council refused to consider an I.R.S. Group Tax Exemption for our Councils. In fact he recommended that local Councils make incorrect tax filings to obtain tax I.D. numbers. It is not to criticize but rather to note that each Council established since then has had to file an individual Form 1024 with a substantial filing fee or operate without a legitimate tax exemption. The Grand Council cost of obtaining a Group exemption is minimal. The annual maintenance of such an exemption is minimal. This is very common practice used by many, perhaps most, U.S. Grand Lodges and by many Appendant bodies.

3) During 2020 we obtained the necessary consents from most Councils and drafted an application for Group Exemption. Shortly before we filed the I.R.S. announced that they would not accept any group exemption applications until they had revised the application process. This is disappointing but is beyond our power to alter. We continue to monitor the situation and when the I.R.S. resumes acceptance of applications we will make what modifications as may be necessary and apply.

MASONIC WEEK

The Grand Council Program Committee handles the financial arrangements for Masonic Week. Masonic Week is a project of this Grand Council but is not included in this budget except for any budgeted expenditure to be made to the program committee.

For 2020 we are reporting a loss of \$6,195 from Masonic Week (exclusive of the contribution to the program committee). 2019 provided a surplus. For the two years combined the surplus was \$1,252. Timing is a significant factor in the surplus or deficit of a single year.

2020 BUDGET

Total 2020 expenses were under budget by \$36,068. As with 2019, the biggest savings were in Grand Master expense, publications and supplies for sale. The savings on the Grand Master expense relates largely to Covid.

No budgeted expense categories were exceeded in 2020.

Strong investment income in 2020 combined with the overall under-budget expenses resulted in a very good year.

2021 BUDGET

Attached is the proposed 2021 budget. The budget, which again does not include Masonic Week except for payments to the program committee shows a surplus of \$21,900. The budget projects less revenue than was budgeted or realized in 2020, thus a conservative position.

a) A \$5,000 increase is budgeted for the Grand Secretary stipend.

b) \$5,000 is being budgeted for Red Branch of Eri in connection with an increased number of persons purchasing regalia for Knight Grand Cross.

c) \$3,000 is being budgeted for Scarlet Cord regalia, an increase of \$2,000. This related to equipment to confer the fifth grade and regalia for the anticipated recipients.

d) \$2,500 is being budgeted for obtaining a group tax exemption. We did not spend the \$1,000 that was budgeted for 2020.

e) Other budget increases, if any, are less than \$1,000.

f) The budget for publications is being reduced by \$4,000 reflecting our gain on the goal of up to date publications.

We recommend approval of the 2021 budget and acceptance of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane L. Vaught, *Chairman*

David D. Goodwin

Bryce D. Hildreth

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2021

	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 PROPOSED
REVENUE			
Per Capita/Fees/Fines	\$115,000.00	\$125,036.00	\$115,000.00
Sale of Supplies	\$20,000.00	\$16,751.95	\$15,000.00
Net Investment Income	\$9,000.00	\$99,289.00	\$10,000.00
Other Revenue (IRS refund)		\$203.03	
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$144,000.00</u>	<u>\$241,279.98</u>	<u>\$140,000.00</u>
EXPENSES			
Accounting	\$1,750.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,750.00
Bank Charges	\$100.00	\$45.50	\$100.00
Donations	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Elec. Mem. Database	\$6,900.00	\$6,824.40	\$7,500.00
Equipment Expense	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Gr. Master Expense	\$8,000.00	\$996.00	\$8,000.00
Gr. Master Int'l. Travel	\$4,000.00	\$909.46	\$4,000.00
Gr. Sec. Expense	\$4,000.00	\$1,112.36	\$4,000.00
Gr. Sec. Stipend	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
Grand Officer Regalia	\$1,000.00	\$880.00	\$1,500.00
Group Exemption (2021 only)	\$1,000.00		\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Office & Clerical	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Office & Computer Sup.	\$3,000.00	\$1,154.83	\$3,000.00
Postage / U.P.S.	\$6,000.00	\$2,650.02	\$6,000.00
Program Committee	\$3,000.00	\$2,947.13	\$3,000.00
Publications	\$29,000.00	\$21,620.83	\$25,000.00
Red Branch of Eri			\$5,000.00
Rent	\$3,000.00	\$2,408.00	\$3,000.00
Scarlet Cord	\$1,000.00		\$3,000.00
Supplies for Sale	\$15,000.00	\$9,563.75	\$12,500.00
Web Page	\$250.00	\$120.00	\$250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$110,000.00</u>	<u>\$73,932.28</u>	<u>\$118,100.00</u>
NET REVENUE	<u>\$34,000.00</u>	<u>\$167,347.70</u>	<u>\$21,900.00</u>
MASONIC WEEK			
Revenue		\$44,214.53	
Expenses		\$50,409.39	
MASONIC WEEK NET REVENUE		<u>(\$6,194.86)</u>	

REPORTS OF GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS

Additional reports were submitted by Grand Superintendents from three regions regarding activities over the past year.

GULF COAST

During the 2020 year, the territory in which I serve as Superintendent was expanded to include Alabama and Louisiana.

Alabama has three Councils: Ten Sephiroth Council No. 255, Old Cahaba Council No. 339, and the newly Constituted Alabama Council No. 564.

Mississippi has three Councils: Tom Q. Ellis Council No. 109, Thomas Olin Gore, Sr. Council No. 174, and Le Fleur Council No. 561.

Louisiana has two Councils: Pierre Francois DuBourg No. 527, and Men of Mt. Moriah No. 38.

Due to the Covid pandemic, things have been relatively quiet on the Gulf Coast with the exception of the new activity in Alabama. The newly formed Alabama Council No. 564, was constituted on Saturday January 16th, 2021, by Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook, Sovereign Grand Master.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the U.S.A. during the past year as Grand Superintendent for the Gulf Coast.

Fraternally submitted,
Gerald E. Klein
Grand Superintendent
Gulf Coast

MID-ATLANTIC

I would like to thank Most Ven. Bro. Glen A. Cook for appointing me as first the Grand Superintendent of Delaware, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., thus creating the Mid-Atlantic Division. This appointment was done in early June in the middle of Covid closures. All Masonic activity was halted. We have been doing Zoom meetings for the most part. In the following ten 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.

There are currently six active Councils in Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C. based on geography and the number of Councils in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. It was determined to have one Grand Superintendent for all the Councils below and create the Mid-Atlantic region: Keystone #113, Chesapeake Bay #278, Freestate #308, Tide Water #334, Blue Hen #388, Crimson #483, and New Rome #554.

When I was appointed there was one of the six Councils that was delinquent in its annual report and per capita, after a few emails from the Grand Secretary, they have made themselves current and did so by the end of 2020.

Keystone #113 and Blue Hen #388 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. We are also in talks to join New Jersey, and Pennsylvania with some of their In-gatherings.

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,
Fred M. Palmer
Grand Superintendent
Mid-Atlantic

NORTH CAROLINA

The state of the Allied Masonic Degrees continues to be somewhat mixed in North Carolina. There are twenty-five chartered Councils in North Carolina, of which ten are struggling in membership and meetings. I contacted every Council in North Carolina this year and am updating contact information on each. I also personally visited seven Councils this year before the meeting restrictions issued by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina closed all meetings.

I was unable to attend the South Carolina A.M.D. In-gathering at Camden, South Carolina this year; they also were under quarantine restrictions and did not meet.

I was pleased to receive reports that about 40% of the North Carolina A.M.D. Councils are exemplifying the degrees. I feel that over the years the organization has shifted from preserving and conferring the degrees to just submitting and reading research papers at meeting. While research papers are always welcome, I do remind many A.M.D. members that we are a degree preservation body and should try to actively work some of those degrees. Several of the Councils have even put together degree regalia for conferrals.

I attended the North Carolina State Association of the A.M.D. meeting at Winston-Salem, North Carolina, which acts somewhat like an In-gathering for the state. The State Association has made it a point to present a degree for the last eight years to allow A.M.D. members from other Councils to witness the degrees, if their

Councils are not actively presenting any. There were nineteen Councils represented at the meeting. The Association elects a President and Vice-President annually who help coordinate a program on the A.M.D., as well as forward information from the Grand Council.

In closing, I would say that the future of the Allied Masonic Degrees in North Carolina is good. While some of the Councils are struggling in membership, this is to be expected with a shrinkage in York Rite membership. Some of these Councils will possibly have to merge with stronger Councils, but overall, there is a renewed interest in doing the degree work. It is hoped that the Councils will be very selective in extending invitations for membership, and seek out those with similar interests in these degrees.

Respectfully submitted,
John M. Walston, Jr.
Grand Superintendent
North Carolina



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