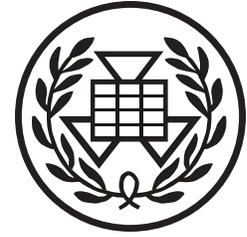




THE WORD



HELPFUL ADVICE, TIPS, AND INFORMATION TO MAKE YOUR CHAPTER BETTER

Who are your officers for the new Capitular Year?

Here are the elected and appointed Grand Chapter officers for 2016-2017:

James Tome: MEGHP
 Jerry Starks: REDGHP
 Bo Cook: REGK
 Randy Vawter: REGScr
 Dick Yena: REGTreas
 Barry Weer: REGSec
 Dean Clark Sr.: EG Chaplain
 Tim Vice: EG Capt. of the Host
 Patrick Robin: EG Princ. Soj.
 Charles Robertson: EG Royal Arch Captain
 Scott Dayton: EGM3V
 Ryan Irby: EGM2V
 Michael Dooley: EGM1V
 Ed Steffy: EG Steward
 Brian Pettice: EG Steward
 Charlie Bremner: EG Sentinel
 Tim Ward: EG Webmaster
 Jack Hall: EG Organist
 Patrick Jones: EG Historian
 Todd Creason: EG Orator

Give these hard-working officers a hearty welcome when they come to your Chapter. They are here to help you - and do whatever it takes to make you a success!

New programs for 2016

Want to increase membership? How about keep new members interested - and bring back the inactive ones? And by getting certified in ritual, you not only run an efficient Chapter, but you get back to our tradition - the conferral of our degrees.

Here's what's new with our Grand Chapter programs this year:

The 300 Program

We have a goal of 300 new Companions. You can do your part by using the Invitation to Petition Program, visit your supporting Lodges, and generally explain to our brethren how the Royal Arch complements and completes their Lodge experience.

3-by-3-by-3 Program

Keep members active with this great new program! Just keep a record of three newly exalted Companions attending three Chapter convocations this year, PLUS three inactive members also attending three Chapter convocations. Chapters participating will get special recognition at Grand Sessions!

100 Ritual Certifications

Getting First Level Certification is easy! Just know all the ritual, movements, and ties to open and close Chapter, go to and from refreshment, receive your DDGHP, and receive the MEGHP. Already over 35 Companions statewide are studying for this certification level!

Grand High Priest's Circle of Excellence Program

Before our MEGHP visits a Chapter, he'll ask the High Priest the name and backstory of a Companion in need of special recognition. Then, at the MEGHP's official visit, a special award will be given to that Companion. It's just one way we're focusing on guys who are making a difference!

Question & answer

Q. Are officers in my Chapter suppose to wear officer jewels during Chapter meetings?

A. Your Chapter's bylaws more than likely address this question. The same question can be asked of our lodges. Would officers in your lodge attend meetings without wearing the officer jewels? Of course not – neither should your Chapter. Officer jewels should always be worn.

Q. My Chapter does not have Royal Arch aprons. Instead we use the available aprons from the lodge. Are we required to wear Royal Arch aprons?

A. Yes, you are! If your Chapter does not have aprons, send me a private message and I will check with Chapters who might have a surplus of Royal Arch aprons.

Q. Do you really expect to exalt 300 new members in Illinois this year?

A. Of course! If every chapter would use the Invitation to Petition program, or a Committee is appointed to find new members, and if Chapter members visit lodges in the area and introduce Royal Arch Masonry, then we are destined for success.

Have another question? Email RVawter@RAM-IL.org

Some thoughts about the Veil Fund

Companions, your veil fund committee met the Wednesday before the Grand Sessions started. We had a lively meeting, coming up with some good ideas to help increase donations coming into the Fund. According to our bylaws, the goal of this fund is to build the endowment to a sum of \$250,000. This will help defray the future operating costs (read: slow down future per capita increases!).

This year the fund increased by \$12,693.47 – due in large part to the sales of our mini Arks of the Covenant – to a total value of \$151,671.13. We ask that you keep purchasing the Arks as a fundraiser. Other ideas mentioned were to collect \$1 from your attending members at your meetings and donate it quarterly to the Fund. You can also hold fundraisers, such as a food stand in your community. One member of the committee suggested, that he as a Jeweler would make pins and symbols out of gold and charge only for the materials. Companions if you have an idea, please submit it to the Veil Fund Committee. Thank you!

– Leonard Stoecker, email: stoeckerl@frontier.com

What is the RAMCF?

The Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation was established back in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Tax deductible (check with your tax consultant) donations are graciously accepted and donations are dispersed to our annually-chosen charity, which is once again Marcfirst in Bloomington. We will be donating \$10,000 to Marcfirst at a special ceremony at their facility on Sunday, August 21st.

How can you help in 2016-2017? Well, our Life Membership Raffle is back and you can also make direct donations. Also, various items are available as in-kind gifts for your donation, such as our collectible lapel pins and license plate frames. There are also many fundraising events planned all over the state.

So whether it's your time, treasures, or talents, any and all help is welcome. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

– Patrick Robin, Fundraising Committee Chairman,
email: patrick@randrcorp.com

Facebook is NOT Going Away or Why Every Chapter Should Have a Facebook Page

It is imperative that we keep up with technology, especially when trying to bring in younger members. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, etc) is an easy and free way to connect with your members – as well as potential members.

Setting up your chapter page is easy. Do a Google search of “setting up Facebook Page” or contact me for help.

The trick to a successful Chapter Facebook page is to post information that those that Like your page will find of interest. I would highly suggest to not use the page to post memes and other miscellaneous posts that are not related to what your Chapter is doing.

Be on the lookout through the year for tips and tricks to help you bring your Facebook Page to the next level. If you’re having difficulty with putting together a Facebook Page, please don’t hesitate to email me and I will be more than happy to help you on your Facebook journey.

– Charles Robertson, EGRAC,
crobertson80@yahoo.com

Check out the RAMCF.org web site

The new web site for our Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation (RAMCF.org) just launched! It allows online donations, a store to purchase items, a fundraising event calendar, information and an application for the Society of Zerubbabel and much more!

The best part though? The section “For our Chapters” that includes information about the RAMCF, our brand new brochure to hand out, ideas for fundraising, and more.

Leadership Seminars & Town Halls

How can your Chapter be the best in the state? Simple, have your dais officers – and any up and coming Companions – attend our upcoming Leadership Seminars and Town Hall Meetings. There are four planned for this fall:

- September 17th in Canton
- September 24th at Medinah
- October 15th in O’Fallon
- November 19th in Homer

Starting time is 9am (8am registration), noon lunch (\$10) and the town hall at 1pm. It’s FREE to attend, just reserve your spot by emailing leadership@RAM-IL.org.

Ideas for a fun stated convocation

Everyone hates meeting minutes and rehashing old business. And every Chapter needs ideas to keep new Companions active – and bring back those we haven’t seen in some time. So why not make your meetings fun? The Grand Chapter has a variety of ideas and resources for you including these short “programs”:

- Masonic Bingo
- Capitular Tic-Tac-Toe
- Chapter of Confusion
- Capitular Pictionary
- Order of the Overseers

Want more information or guidelines on how to run these short programs and presentations? No problem! Just email our MEGHP at JMTome@RAM-IL.org and we’ll send out everything you need.

Two “new” appointed Grand Chapter officers

You may have noticed two new officers in our list on the sidebar on the first page: Grand Historian and Grand Orator.

These are two “new” (as in, it’s been a long time since we’ve had these as full officers) appointments and we have BIG PLANS for each Companion.

Companion Patrick J. Jones has agreed to take on the Grand Historian role and he’ll be working with our General Grand Chapter to complete some recent history of our Grand Chapter here in Illinois. He can also help your Chapter to unveil its history, such as you might want for a rededication.

Companion Todd Creason, a noted Masonic scholar here in Illinois, has taken on the role of Grand Orator. In addition to providing esoteric papers, programs, and presentations on the traditional and mystical, aspects of Royal Arch Freemasonry, our Grand Orator is helping to design a new Orators Program as a complement to the more traditional ritual aspects of our particular brand of Freemasonry.

Exciting times ahead!

Two horses

Just up the road from our home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you get a closer look you will notice something quite interesting...

One of the horses is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made him a safe and comfortable barn to live in. This alone is pretty amazing.

But if you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell. It is coming from a smaller horse in the field. Attached to the horse's halter is a small, copper-colored bell. It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so he can follow.

As you stand and watch these two friends you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and that the blind horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting he will not be led astray.

When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, he will stop occasionally to look back, making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, your Companions do not throw you away just because you are not perfect. Or because we have problems or challenges. We watch over each other and even bring others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse, being guided by the little ringing bell of those who are placed in our lives. And at other times we are the guide horse, helping others to find their way.

Which will you be today?

The Keystone Quest is coming!

Our brand new Education Committee is busy working on plenty of projects, including a series of Capitular Short Talk Bulletins. But right after the first one is released a week or so, they're working on round one of the Keystone Quest.

Expect to see this in your Chapter's mail by the end of October. The second round should be out then by the end of January 2017 and we'll finish up at the 2017 Grand Sessions with the final, third round.

Get studying, Companions!