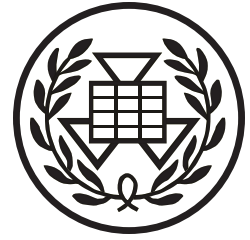




THE WORD



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

Who are your officers for the new Capitular Year?

Well, nothing is guaranteed, but as of the printing of this newsletter, here's our best guess:

Jim 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.
 TDB: EG Royal Arch Captain
 Charles Robertson: EGM3V
 Scott Dayton: EGM2V
 Ryan Irby: 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

Again, who knows how elections and advancements may work out at Grand Sessions, so if we're off base, good luck to whomever is elected and appointed!

Welcome to your newsletter

As your Grand Scribe for this Capitular year, I have been assigned to produce a Grand Chapter newsletter which will be sent out to every Chapter's High Priest and Secretary each month. This new newsletter is intended to assist Chapters in "spicing up" your meeting and to assist High Priests in planning events, fundraising, membership retention, etc. And anyone can contribute!

This newsletter is different from *Hiram's Words*. Consider this publication as a "tool" for better meetings. Hopefully it will help to foster meaningful conversation with members. Be sure to note the "small" format of the information communicated here and how it will be designed to be hands-on, allowing the High Priest, officers and Secretary to make use of this newsletter at or before Chapter meetings.

This is a changing publication and I need YOUR help to make it better. Please feel free to send me your ideas or comments to RVawter@RAM-IL.org

– Randy Vawter, Right Excellent Grand Scribe

Did you register?

If you're reading this publication, you must have picked it up at our Grand Convocation. Be sure you have registered so that we know you attended this conclave. The registration desk is located on your right at the end of the hall if you came in the main entrance. While you are here, be sure to attend our Break-Out Sessions after lunch. One last thing: Please remember to stop by the Grand Chapter Store located next to the registration desk. We have plenty of new updated ritual books for sale, as well as the original Blackhawk ritual and the "new" version!

Question & answer

Q. If our Chapter is required to fill the office of Steward, where would he sit?

A. Great question! A Chapter Steward does not have an assigned seat. Some Chapters reserve the Lodge's Junior Deacon place to seat him. But it's OK if he sits on the sidelines too. The only requirement is that you annually install a Steward in your Chapter.

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

Special ceremony

Many Chapters don't know that they can order a 50-year (there are other years too!) lapel pin from our Grand Secretary. There's a certificate and card too. And we even have a 50-year member presentation program from the General Grand Chapter that Chapters can request to have given at their meetings (maybe by a Grand Officer?).

How many of us?

As of our latest Annual Returns, there are 4,692 Companions in various Chapters in the State of Illinois. Of those, 521 are 50-year members and 626 are life members, leaving just 3,543 dues paying members to fund our Grand Chapter.

Grand Reception

Reserve this date on your calendar: Sunday, September 25, 2016. It's the Joint Grand Chapter-Grand Commandery Reception at the Medinah Shrine in Addison, Illinois. This event will start at 5:00pm. The theme is "Yorktoberfest" (a Bavarian-style, casual celebration!). Business casual is the dress code, though lederhosen are certainly welcome! More information will be provided for reservations.

When should my Chapter request dispensation?

A dispensation request is normally designed for the Grand High Priest to allow an exception of any or all situations that is not covered under your Chapter's bylaws or the bylaws of the Grand Chapter. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest is the decision maker for granting or allowing such requests. Every request should be in writing and give a brief explanation for the request. If necessary, include a date when your Chapter will complete the requested dispensation which will bring your chapter "back to whole." If this date is not met, then a second dispensation request is required. All written dispensations should be emailed or mailed to the Grand Secretary's office with (in the case of mailed request), the impression of your Chapter's seal and signed by the EHP and Secretary. A follow up response sent to the Grand Secretary's office explaining the outcome of the requested dispensation is required. The Grand High Priest's decision on the request must be read at your next stated convocation.

New Royal Arch brochure & petition

The new RAM-IL.org web site will feature a brand new Royal Arch Masons brochure and Chapter-only petition that you can download. After July 18, visit RAM-IL.org/getapetition

Ritual certifications

The Grand Chapter is in need of more certified ritualists! Every Chapter should have at least one First Level Ritualist. It is the easiest of all to obtain. One opportunity to learn is at the Central Illinois Capitular Standard Club held every first Sunday of the month in Normal, Illinois. You can also request training and testing for ritual certification jewels through your DDGHP.