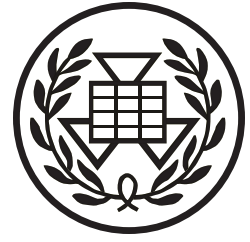




THE WORD



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

Getting in touch

Need to contact the Grand High Priest or our Grand Secretary? Here's their contact info:

Jim Tome, MEGHP

P.O. Box 264
Sycamore, Illinois 60178
Tel (815) 508-3878
Email JMTome@RAM-IL.org

All Requests for Dispensation, notifications of degree work, and other general inquiries should be addressed to our MEGHP.

Barry Weer, REGSecretary

c/o: Bloomington Consistory
P.O. Box 3695
Bloomington, Illinois 61702
Tel (309) 838-0230
Email BWeer@RAM-IL.org

Please send all secretarial inquiries, notifications of degree work, changes to membership or Chapter status, and requests for information.

Randy Vawter, *The Word* editor

Tel (309) 357-2932
Email RVawter@RAM-IL.org

It's all about the goal

It's said that great leaders don't set out to be a leader, they set out to make a difference. It's not about the role, but always about the goal. Do you agree?

Coming up this month are two of our four Leadership Conferences & Town Hall meetings. These are excellent opportunities for your Chapter's leaders – heck, everyone! – to come out and learn valuable skills and ideas that will improve your Chapter. Dates and locations for the four conferences are:

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

Here's a great opportunity to invite the leaders of your local Lodges too. These sessions are open to all Master Masons, so why not bring along a few from your Lodge? Even better if they are not yet York Rite Masons – there's no better way to show them yet another benefit of being a Royal Arch Mason!

You can register by visiting the new Grand Chapter web site at RAM-IL.org or by sending an email with your info to leadership@RAM-IL.org. Hurry, deadlines approaching!

Have you seen our new web site?

Take a look at RAM-IL.org when you have a chance, Companions. It's our brand new web site, packed full of new sections, features, and information about our many new (and old!) programs. Every day we're adding something new and you'll be able to find just about anything you could want there. There's even a whole new section for potential new members!

Question & answer

Q. Our Chapter opens "concurrently" with our Council and Commandery, who all meet on the same night. Is that okay or allowed?

A. No. There is no ritual in either the Chapter red book, Council purple book, or Commandery tactic book that allows or tells how to open "along" or concurrently with another body. In fact, none of the three Bodies' bylaws allow it either.

It is preferred that each Body open and close per the ritual. Honestly, the Grand Chapter's ritual is the simplest and quickest in all of Freemasonry. There's no reason why your Chapter can't open, conduct business (or have instruction or confer degrees) and then close. Would the Grand Lodge allow your lodge to open concurrently with another Body? We didn't think so.

Q. Do we need to read minutes at our meetings?

A. You can post them on the Secretary's desk, at the sign-in table, and even email or mail them to your membership ahead of time.

No, you do not need to read the minutes, but make sure everyone knows what went on.

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

Are you speaking to your members?

It's obvious, but we all know that talking to our members, finding out what they want, and then delivering on those desires is key to the ongoing growth of our Chapters. Here's part one of a four-part series from new Companion, Scott Dueball. You wonder what the key to success with your Chapter is? Read on, Companions:

"I received my Capitular degrees in Indiana. Since then, I have been an on-again, off-again member of the York Rite having moved around the country and now settling back in the Northwest Suburbs. I represent the demographic that we need to address: a member who took his degrees because he sought further light who now is more or less completely inactive."

"In business, we know that it is cheaper (less effort) to keep customers than it is to find new ones. Retaining each new companion is essential. Active Companions are at least more likely to be more active in the Craft Lodge (our only pool of membership) than the average Mason. Therefore, every active Companion is our conduit for Master Masons seeking to become York Rite Companions."

"Through my experience with the Craft Lodge, each Chapter should seek to address 2 questions. First, 'Why did a Companion not come back?' and second 'How can we do better with the next Companion?' Understanding my inactivity is the first step preventing another Companion's absence in the future. Over the next few months, I plan to lay out some of these questions and address some possible solutions."

How close are we to 300?

You may remember that the Grand Chapter's goal this year is 300 new Companions. How close are we? Well, as of the date of this publication, we're at 16. We need to step it up, Companions.

If every Chapter can bring in just four Companions this year, we'll be at over 250 new Companions, pretty close to our goal. How can you do that?

How about visiting nearby Lodges and talking about the Royal Arch? Or send a list of your events to local Lodge Secretaries every month. Or hand out our new RAM brochure and petition!

Getting more “Likes”: Ramp-up your Facebook game

It's the truth: Whether or not you “get” Facebook, almost all of your Chapter's members are active there – every day. Hopefully you have started a Chapter Facebook Page. If not, check out the August edition of *The Word* to see tips on how to get one started.

Once the page is started, now what do you do with it? First let's make sure you have “Likes” to your page. Think of “Likes” as fans or followers. It's your audience who you are speaking to.

Under the “More” tab on your Chapter Page you should see an “Invite Friends” button. From there, click on the friends you would like to invite (don't forget Grand Chapter Officers!). Facebook will automatically send your friends suggestions to “Like” your Chapter's Facebook Page, which helps to get your messages out to more people (Plus you need 25 “Likes” to customize your Facebook “web address”).

If you are having difficulty with your FB page, please don't hesitate to contact me at crobertson80@yahoo.com or 309-648-1793.

– Charles Robertson, EGRAC,
crobertson80@yahoo.com

Invitation to Petition: The easy way to grow membership

Did you know the Grand Chapter instituted the Invitation to Petition, a process for inviting in new members, just like the one the Grand Lodge has? Yep, and it produces RESULTS! Listen to this:

“This fella that our Chapter invited into the Royal Arch using the Invitation to Petition is a young man who I work with. He is as sharp as they come and very interested in Masonry. I saw him this morning at work and stopped him in a hall way.”

“I started out our conversation by saying, ‘Congratulations are in order to you my friend. You have been accepted into a fraternity of Royal Arch Masons.’”

His eyes got wide. ‘We have many of the same requirements as the lodge does — annual dues, initiation fees, investigations, etc. But, if you say “yes” to joining, I will take care of your initiation fees because I know you will enjoy this. If you remember correctly, in the Third Degree you were given a substitute word. Join the Royal Arch and you will receive the REAL word!’”

“Not only that, I have plans for you. I foresee you getting involved at the Grand Level. I think I can help you with that. I'm telling you, NOW is the time to join this group. It's thriving!”

“His reply? ‘Ohhh, Heck ya!’”

How does the Invitation to Petition process work? Just like at lodge, you complete an application form (available from your Chapter Secretary, DDGHP, Grand Officer or the RAM-IL.org web site) and submit it at your next Chapter meeting.

A ballot is taken and, if all clear, your Secretary contacts the potential member, informs them of any fees and dues, and, if the candidate accepts and makes suitable payment, you and your Chapter are on your way to gaining one more member!

We have reports of three Chapters who are using this program with great success. One is challenging every active member to suggest the name of one brother. Another Chapter has a goal of one suggestion every meeting. This program is designed to help your Chapter get new members. But it needs one thing – your suggestions.

Are you a veteran?

Two very exciting new announcements for veterans. First, the General Grand Chapter is now offering a special Veteran's Jewel available for any Companion veteran who has served in our Armed Forces. You can see a picture and order them (\$25 each) by visiting RAMINT.org/VJA.pdf. What a great way to honor your Chapter's veterans, perhaps at a special ceremony or dinner!

Next up, the Grand Chapter is putting together a special Veteran's Committee that will help Chapters around the state to recognize their vets, help coordinate assistance when they are made aware, and come up with programs to honor and celebrate the sacrifice our veterans have made in the service of their country.

One thing the committee will be doing is working with Chapters to collect the names of their veteran Companions, which will be added to a new section of the RAM-IL.org web site!

Would you like to help out with this committee? We thought so! Just send an email to our MEGHP, Companion Jim Tome, at JMTome@RAM-IL.org and we'll get in touch with you with more details and a game plan to get this effort rolling.

Charity begins at home

The Royal Arch Masons Charitable Foundation (RAMCF) made a donation of \$10,000 to Marcfirst of Bloomington, the non-profit organization that serves the disabled and disadvantaged in the Central Illinois region. This is the third year that Marcfirst served as the recipient of the RAMCF's charity.

Plans are underway for the RAMCF to ramp-up its new fundraising programs this year. These include:

Life Membership Raffle: This is returning for a second year. One lucky member won a lifetime membership to his lodge and five others had their annual dues paid to various bodies.

Sporting Events: Hockey and baseball events are planned for this fall/winter as well as the spring of 2017. Stay tuned for these great fellowship-building and fundraising events.

Craft Beer Tasting Event: This one is still in the planning stages, but if all goes well, our 2017 Grand Sessions will include a MASSIVE craft beer tasting and judging event.

As always, your Chapter can make any donation to the RAMCF by sending a check to our Grand Secretary, Barry Weer. Remember — Faith, Hope & Charity. But the greatest of these is Charity.

Chapter PRIDE starts with YOU

Are your meeting sidelines getting pretty bare? Are less and less Chapter officers showing up for your stated convocations? Has it been a long time since you've balloted on a petition or conferred degree work? What's going on?

Maybe your Chapter is suffering from a lack of PRIDE. It's something we are seeing more and more of. Lack of enthusiasm. No communication. Missed meetings and excuses. What can be done?

It starts with YOU, Companion. Make it a point to honor your commitment to be an active member. If you can't make every meeting, be sure to keep in touch with your Chapter and offer help elsewhere. Take on a fundraising effort. Help mentor new members. Volunteer to call inactive Companions and invite them back. Learn a small bit of degree ritual. Offer to give a Masonic presentation or program. In short, show you own pride – then others will too!