

# Grand Council R&SM of Ohio

## CRYPTIC NEWS

3rdQuarter, 2020 April 2020

**GRAND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP**

**MIC Grover D. Manning II, Grand Master**

*A highly unusual year.*

**Greetings Companions,  
Happy Easter!**

I hope this letter finds all of you safe and well. I am sure you've found alternate ways to stay entertained. I have read of Masons getting together through teleconferencing, zoom, etc. This morning I read that our MW Grand Master issued an Edict that Lodges may hold virtual meetings under certain guidelines. He has left it up to the heads of the appendant bodies whether we wish to do the same. I will be looking into this, as there must be a way to make sure everyone taking part is a member in good standing, using a sign in.

I do miss getting together with all the Companions, and was in the process of planning some visits out of State and to Ontario when the Grand Recorder started passing along the other State's Council's closures. Just like that, there was nowhere to go, then travel was restricted anyway. I've had the discussion with a few friends that when this is over, and we can enjoy getting together once again, that one of the results of this pandemic is that we will very much more appreciate being together once again. May the Great Architect of the Universe keep you healthy and out of harm's way. I am looking forward to seeing all of you, hopefully very soon. Please stay safe and take care.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Grover D. Manning II

Grand Master

Grand Council, R&SM of Ohio

## **RIC Michael A. Smith, Deputy Grand Master**

Greetings Companions of the Great State of Ohio,

As the Deputy Grand Master, I trust this message finds you and your family in good health during this time of extreme uncertainty. As you are aware, the COVID-19 has led our state leaders to issue a stay at home order. This is for the good of every citizen in the state in an effort to slow the virus spread and keep us healthy.

Our Grand Master has also issued an edit that has postponed or canceled all Masonic activity for the near future. This edit was issued to all appendant Masonic bodies which has affected Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery, to name a few. This has disrupted our Cryptic year in many ways, and no one knows what the future will bring and when we will be able to get back to work. I am sure you are all feeling the impact as it is leading to a total change in our everyday activities. During this time, we must remember our Masonic tenants of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and concentrate on taking care of ourselves, our families and our fellow companions.

I would encourage you to reach out to your fellow companions and check on them to make sure they are doing well. Many of our companions fall into the COVID-19 "high risk" group which makes our follow-up even more critical. It is important for the high-risk companions and their family to stay home and avoid as much contact as possible. A simple telephone call or note via "snail mail" or email to check on them goes a long way in showing you care.

Companions it is important to not forget to reach out to those companions who are candidates in your Council. These companions may have received one degree, two degrees or maybe were just elected to receive the degrees. It is important to keep Cryptic Masonry in their minds and we need

# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

## CRYPTIC NEWS

3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020

to make sure they know they are not forgotten. This would be a good time to answer any questions they may have about the degrees or Cryptic Masonry in general. Again, telephone or email would be preferred.

If assistance is needed reach out to your Council companions and Arch Inspector and ask. I am sure you will be assisted in any way possible as we are all Masons and will assist where and when we can.

Companions, it has been my pleasure to travel around the state this year to many inspections and other Council events. The work has been very positive, and many new companions are being brought to light in Cryptic Masonry. Congratulations to the new companions and the officers who have participated in the Inspections and events. Please keep the new companions engaged, remembering that every companion can contribute in some way which will make your Council more successful.

A number of Deputy Master meetings in the various Arches have been impacted by the order to not meet. Please be assured that every effort will be made to re-schedule these meetings once there is clarity regarding when we can all travel and meet without concern of becoming infected. Please try to attend once the meeting is re-scheduled to gain insight on what will be the FOCUS in 2020-2021.

I am looking forward to being with you soon.

Mike

---

## ARCH NEWS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Arch

Hello from the Southwest corner of Ohio. I hope everyone is enjoying the time at home with loved ones. I was sitting on the couch the other day and a Lady was sitting beside me. She said she was my wife, She's nice!! (Just kidding).

On a serious note, social distancing and the stay at home order has placed our Councils in a unique situation. On one hand, we are all experiencing the stress of the times but on another, it affords us an opportunity to reconnect with our immediate families and slow down the hectic pace many of us have grown accustomed to. I urge each Companion to use this time wisely. Now is the time to reach out to Companions that have been missed from our Councils. Now is the time to pick up the phone, text or email a Companion that would love to hear a friendly voice. Our out of state Companions would probably enjoy catching up on the Buckeye State. Our older members may not be able to get to the store or get their prescriptions – a routine run to the grocery for yourself could very well be a Lifeline for one of our “family”. This is our time to show what being a Companion really means. Let's put our teachings into practice. Reach out and “touch someone”. You will be amazed at the friendly response you get from the Companions you reach out to. There are a few Tips on How to Make a Brotherly Phone Call located in the yellow section of the Council Leadership Manual, a page prepared by Merlyn E. Meredith, P.D.D.G.M. 22<sup>nd</sup> District.

Stay Positive. Stay Safe. Ish Sodi.

Ronald Myers

3rd Arch Inspector

# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

CRYPTIC NEWS  
3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020

## 5<sup>th</sup> Arch

The 5<sup>th</sup> Arch was pretty lucky inspection wise as we only had to cancel 1 inspection, Lancaster #3. The Arch Wide SEM is still on track for May 16<sup>th</sup> barring any further shutdowns. Several members have posted on our 5<sup>th</sup> Arch Facebook page that they are available to help anyone who is in need. This just shows the companionship that exists in Cryptic Masonry. Emails have gone out to every Illustrious Master and Recorder informing them of where we stand and what to expect in the short term. Planning is going on for next year, 2021, and for the Grand Council session in October. We are reminding everyone of the Grand Council plans to have a Raffle give away to members that attend Sunday/Monday to register and are there Tuesday for the drawing. We hope everyone is doing well and look forward to hear how we are going to handle the end of the year items for our councils.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Belt  
Grand Sentinel

## 7th Arch

Hello Companions;  
I hope that this finds each and everyone of you in good health and virus free. Masonically at this time of the year it seems strange that there are no inspections or meetings going on that we can go to. I'll be glad when things get back to normal. I can imagine by now most of you are getting tired of suffering from "Cabin Fever". I know that I am. Speaking of Cabin Fever it reminds me that we all have realities, friends and neighbors that might appreciate a phone call to check up on them and chat with them for a little while to make sure that they are alright. This is one way to spread some Brotherly Love and Relief. Remember we all are Brothers and Sisters in the eyes of our Lord, weather they are members of the Masonic Fraternity or not.

Ford Cole  
7th Arch Adjutant

## 8th Arch

Before the social distancing lock down, the 8th Arch completed all but three annual Inspections. Only one Super Ex was completed and the time frame left from May 11th to the 31st appears to be too short to pull all things together. The Councils that have not yet completed their Inspections are

# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

## CRYPTIC NEWS

3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020

sending in their paperwork for review, so that the administrative information can be recorded. They are being urged to send in the DKF checks now that consist of "pass through" funds.

We continue to send our Arch newsletter out monthly and we are keeping in touch with the Councils to see if we can help in any way. The years of service awards will be handled through the mail, as per the Grand Illustrious Master's instruction. All activities are on hold."

Wes Webber  
Grand Conductor of Council

### Diabetic Kids Fund

Only two months remain for the submittal of donations for the 2019-2020 Cryptic year. Remember, the cutoff date for the donations to count for this year is 31 May.

The donation amount to date is a little below normal for the year, standing at \$22,500.00. I encourage the Companions and Councils to dig deep so we can equal or top what is normal for each Cryptic year. I believe a goal should be at least \$50,000.00 annually. This would allow participation at the Camps for those kids who so desperately need to learn about this disease and how to best control it for them to live as normal a life as possible. LET'S DO IT FOR THE KIDS!

Fraternally Submitted  
A Companion Diabetic

### CELL COURSE

The mission of our Cryptic Education Learning and Leadership Course is improving the knowledge of our companions

A companion who is planning to complete the **CELL** course should print each test from the Grand Council web site, research the answers in the reference material, mark the exam then decide to send the completed course, or, return to the web site, transfer the answers and submit the quiz.

The following reference materials will be required

The Code of the Grand Council, dated 1 October, 2008, with updates in 2013 and 2018, the 2016 version of the Officers Manual and the R & SM and SEM Rituals. These are available from your Recorder. If you want a copy for yourself, they can be purchased, for a small fee, from the Grand Recorder.

Because of the limited number of resource materials, a Council may want to accomplish a group session, which is fine, however, each companion will need to submit the quiz on line.

I encourage everyone to take the course, especially if you are a Companion interested in servicing as an officer. Hopefully, this will convince you of becoming the Illustrious Master of your Council.

Fraternally Submitted  
Stephen C. Hill PMIGM Cell Chairman

# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

CRYPTIC NEWS  
3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND RECORDER

Greetings Companions:

We are 9 months into our Cryptic Year and from the reports that are coming to me it would appear that the majority of Councils were having a successful year until we had to close due to the current crisis. I greatly miss seeing and visiting with you. My Companions, your safety is my major concern. I cannot emphasize enough how much I appreciate the hard working Recorders with which the Councils in Ohio are blessed. The tremendous time and effort they give to their Councils continue to not only keep their Councils healthy but benefit the entire Cryptic Rite. Many of you are staying in close touch and I enjoy the calls and emails. If you need help in any way please let one of your Grand Officers know. We have resources that we can direct you to.

Dues Cards have been printed and will be mailed mid-April. My personal thanks to all the Council Recorders who have turned in their gain and loss reports so that the cards can be printed as accurately as possible.

Much information can be found on our web site. Included in the many forms is an application for a lifetime endowed membership. The address is (<http://ohiograndcouncil.com>)

The CELL Course is also available there

If you need information that is not there, please contact me at the Grand Council office and I will be pleased to assist you.

Our Grand Council Officers report that they had been enjoying their travels throughout the State and visiting with all the Councils and Companions. We hope to be able to resume our visits with you as soon as the travel and meeting ban is lifted.

Please do not hesitate to call the office if we can be of any assistance to you.

Bobby G. Campbell, PMIGM  
Grand Recorder



# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

CRYPTIC NEWS  
3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND TREASURER

### Meeting the Challenge

Wow! What trying times we are experiencing. Never in our lifetimes have we dealt with issues like Covid-19 facing us today. However, as brothers/companions of the greatest fraternity in the world, we have a bond with each other and a faith that helps us to endure the temporary changes in our lifestyles. Most all of us have experienced and endured life changing events or trials, survived, and perhaps have become stronger as a result. We will do so again!

In terms of economics, my first concern has been all the fund raising events our Councils had planned for our Diabetic Kids Fund. While those scheduled after early March did not happen, we hope that the companions can find some alternate sources of funds to help our diabetic kids. Perhaps more important is the financial health of each of our Councils. While dues collected almost a year ago should meet expenses of the current year, what is in store for next year? Will some of our companions have difficulty supporting their Councils next year? Some Councils are blessed with funds in reserve, however, others are not so fortunate. This has a direct bearing on the finances of the Grand Council.

Even if one does not have any invested funds, we are all aware of the decrease in value of those funds worldwide. Although the Grand Council has yet to rely on those funds to support our daily operations, it is quite disconcerting to realize the temporary loss in value of those funds. Having not yet received the reports for March, the February reports took us to the lowest value in some time.

Going back to my introductory paragraph, this is a trial for each of us to endure and grow stronger in many ways. We are thankful for our state government leaders, our MW Grand Master Newton and MI Grand Master Manning's decisions to help us to maintain good health while this virus is present.

Wishing you the best,  
Bob Rettig, PMIGM  
Grand Treasurer



# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

CRYPTIC NEWS  
3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020

*Attend at the Altar*

*By Companion Jack A. Holloway*

*Illustrious Associate Grand Chaplain, Grand Council of Florida*



Masonic Altar

Photo Credit: freemasoninformation.com

# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

CRYPTIC NEWS

3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020

**Hilkiah the high priest told Shaphan the court secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the LORD's temple," and he gave the book to Shaphan, who read it. ... Then Shaphan the court secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book," and Shaphan read it in the presence of the king. ... 2 Kings 22:8,10**

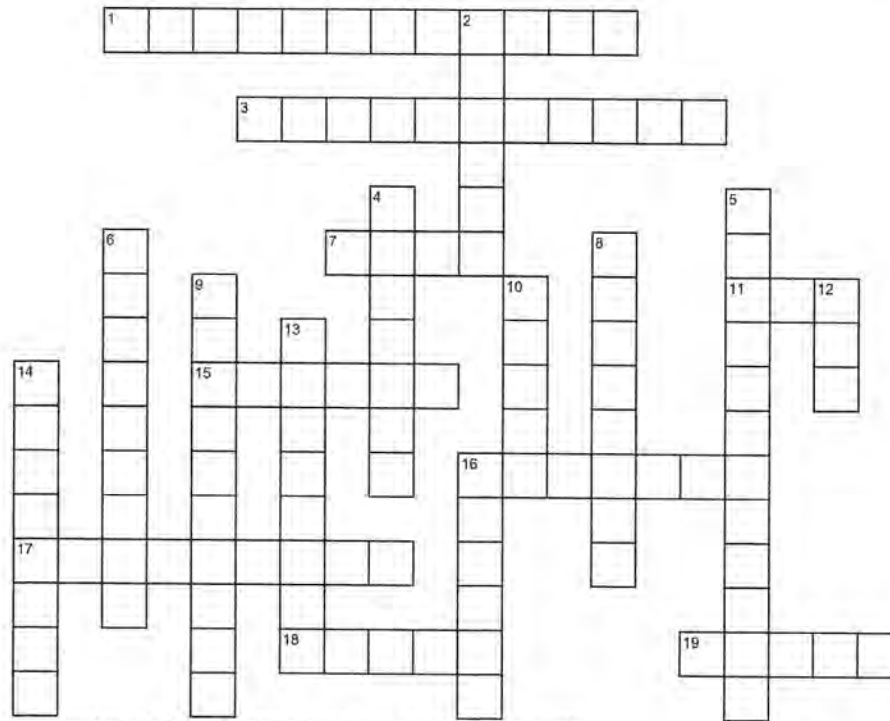
Companions, This is not a bible passage that we see printed on a plaque or on a list of favorite verses; but the Bible records real time and history and tells it like it was - and is. The Book of the Law had been lost for many decades and had been found amongst the rubble of the Temple while doing some restoration. It is easy to put something aside and then reap the phrase, "out of sight, out of mind". We have a much better phrase Companions, "Attend at the Altar". Each meeting we open the Bible as our great and guiding light to help us keep God's holy precepts from being lost amongst the rubble of our minds. Ritual is not just for show but the way our fraternity has planned to persevere in the Word of God as the rule and guide of our conduct as men.

**O Lord, may our faith be firmly grounded in your word, our understanding divinely inspired, our desires pure and our hearts ever fixed on you. Amen**



# Grand Council R & SM of Ohio

CRYPTIC NEWS  
3rd Quarter, 2020 April 2020



Custom puzzle made for Bobby G. Campbell by Linda L. Burke, using Crossword Weaver(TM)

## ACROSS

- 1 The \_\_\_\_\_ assists the Arch Inspector with his duties
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ is awarded to outstanding Council Recorders.
- 7 Number of Arches in the State of Ohio
- 11 No additional fee shall be charged or collected for the \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 In the Royal Master Degree (first section) the Bible is opened Psalms \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 The Council \_\_\_\_\_ protect each member by specifying the date, time, and place of each stated meeting at which official action can be taken, so that the member can, if he chooses, participate in the decisions of the council.
- 17 The Degree of Super \_\_\_\_\_ Master shall be conferred in full form at least once each year in every Constituent Council working under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Council of Ohio
- 18 In the Select Master Degree the candlestick has \_\_\_\_\_ branches
- 19 2008-2009 Grand Master, Grand Council of R & SM of Ohio

## DOWN

- 2 In the beginning of the Royal Master Degree the gong rings \_\_\_\_\_ times
- 4 With the exception of Inspections, the \_\_\_\_\_ must be read at each stated Assembly of a Constituent Council
- 5 A Constituent Council must request a \_\_\_\_\_ to meet at a location other than the location listed in their By-Laws.
- 6 A petitioner for degrees must be a \_\_\_\_\_ Mason
- 8 Current 2009-2010 Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of Ohio
- 9 The Diabetic Kids Fund is also known as the Grand Council \_\_\_\_\_ Fund.
- 10 A \_\_\_\_\_ is issued by the Grand Master to represent him for official Grand Council business
- 12 Council officers shall be elected at the first stated meeting in \_\_\_\_\_ of each year
- 13 In the Royal Master Degree the table of the holy vessels includes: Candelsticks, Flowers, Lamps, Tongs, Bowl, \_\_\_\_\_, Basins, Spoons, Censers, and Hinges (small & large).
- 14 R & SM supports the \_\_\_\_\_ Kids Camps
- 16 The jewel of the Marshal is the crossed \_\_\_\_\_ joined with the Trowel