

MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan
17635 Manitou Beach Road
Addison, Michigan 49220-9773



Official Publication of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Michigan
Capitular Growth in Michigan through Masonic Education -- "Quality Yields Quantity"

February 2008

OH MY GOD – WHO DIED NOW?

Hello Jim, this is Paul Howell calling. How are you and Helen doing?

"Oh My God – Who Died Now?"

How did you know why I was calling? "It's the only time that anyone from the ever calls."

Unfortunately, all too often that is the only reason that we contact a Life Member or a Widow. To let them know of someone who is ill or who has died.

How seldom do we call with good news, or just to say hello, it has been a long time since I spoke with you and just wanted to catch up on what is happening and how you are doing.

What should we be doing to insure that this trend, if it has begun does not continue? Why should we not want this trend to continue?

We each have a telephone by our side. Many of us have a computer, also. Both are effective means of communication and letting others know that you are in fact thinking about them. The telephone is the better of the two because you can hear their voice and the pleasure they are receiving in hearing from you. You can also tell more about how they are actually feeling. It is harder to hide yourself on a telephone than it is on the computer.

It is very easy to hide yourself and not know or understand others if you use neither of these forms of communication.

Be a true Mason. Give a different Mason or widow a call every day. Just to say that you are thinking about them. It only takes a minutes but leaves a lasting memory.

Would, also like to remind you that this works both ways. You haven't heard from anyone in awhile, contact them. Give them a call and reintroduce yourself. Find out how they are doing. If they are serving as an officer in your organization, thank them for their serving and their dedication.

"Oh My God – Who Died Now?" "No one that I know of. Just called to let you know that I was thinking about you, Brother."

Hello,

Paul Howell calling ☺

WHERE HAS THE PRIDE GONE?

Where has all the pride gone? Why are we so Lax in all that we do and say?

Aren't those excellent questions? Why don't we care anymore, about how we look and how we act? Why should anyone learn the work?

There is no need for me to learn it, no one else does. No one else cares. They all read from the rituals anyways and most of them cannot even read the ritual correctly as it is. I would look and feel strange and out of place if I attempted to learn or did learn the ritual work. Besides ritual isn't the most important thing there is in the Chapter anyways, *fellowship is!!!!* If they wanted me to learn the ritual they wouldn't have written it out in the first place.

Are these valid premises and responses to be considered?

No one else is putting out any time to learn the work for the Chapter. It is too easy to just fall back on the book, open it and read the word to the Companions and/or the Candidates.

To a certain degree, because so few are learning and attempting the work, from memory, they really do sometimes look out of place. In some Chapters it looks like the book is a part of the ritual and regalia of the work itself. For almost everyone has one out. Is it a part of the garb and regalia that we get dressed up in to see that the work is impressively being put on? Which brings me to another point – Why is it that so many chapters do not wish to get dressed up for the work of their Chapter. This makes the work that much more impressive and sets the mood for the degrees and the work itself.

It's easy to be lax. Why when I first joined the fraternity and the York Rite, no one ever came to a meeting if they were not dressed. We were all proud of the fact that we were coming to a Masonic Meeting. Today they walk in dressed in Blue Jeans, Coveralls, T-shirts, Tennis shoes or hunting boots.

They open the ritual and attempt to read their part assigned to them. In many cases it appears this is the first time that the ritual has been opened since the last meeting they attended. Perhaps we were surprised by this meeting, not realizing that it came up on this day every month. Remember when we use to have a minimum of two meetings every month for the Chapter, some Chapters held as many as 4 meetings a month. Why? So that they could practice the work of the Chapter and be prepared to impress the new candidates as they came through.

Why are we so Lax?

Where has all the Pride Gone?

Wish they would hurry up and close this meeting so that I can get home – CSI is on T.V. tonight! Bye, Paul.



Paul D. Williams, Grand High Priest

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“Quality Yields Quantity”

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST

My Companions:

It has been such a pleasure traveling around Michigan to the different Chapters, and meeting such wonderful Companions. The hospitality I have been shown, has been appreciated so much. I will be traveling further North in our jurisdiction as the weather breaks.

My travels this coming month, February, will start off with Washtenaw Chapter #6 in Ann Arbor on the 5th. I'll be at Mt. Vernon Chapter #37 in Samaria on the 8th. I hope to be in River Raisin Chapter #22 in Monroe on the 12th, Jackson Chapter #3 on the 13th, Capital Chapter #9 in Lansing on the 19th, and Salathial Chapter #23 in Three Rivers on the 20th. Salathial Chapter will be having a Joint School of Instruction with Sturgis Chapter #26 and Centerville Chapter #11 that night. Union Chapter #55 in Northville will be having their Inspection on the 27th, and I expect to be there, also.

Caro Chapter No. 96 will have their eighty-eight Annual George Washington Birthday Celebration this year, at the United Methodist Church, on the 16th of February. Dinner at 7 pm., and I hope to see many of you there. This is such an enjoyable evening, as they have always had a good speaker, and the meal is always so delicious.

We will be honoring Excellent Companion Woodson (Woody) Orvis with the Meritorious Service Award, Region 3 on the 23rd, with social hour at 5:00 pm and dinner at 6:00pm-at the Romeo Masonic Temple. Going back to February 2nd, Saginaw Valley #31 will be hosting the Mid-Michigan all degree day. Please make every effort to be there. It will be an enjoyable day. The same event will be taking place March 1st at Kalamazoo Chapter #13, in Schoolcraft, mark your calendars.

The Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and District Deputy Instructors had a most enjoyable time at our Educational Seminar Retreat on January 12th. Our thanks to Grand Scribe Larry and his wife Kathy for all the hard work they put into this successful day. Also, thank-you to Wm. Fairchild, Grand King for assisting Larry.

At one of our sessions, it was brought up that in the Mark Master Mason Degree, some candidates were told to hold their work plumb by holding the stone straight out, horizontally, and the stone downward. Most Chapters were telling the candidates to hold their work plumb by holding the stone with their arm downward vertically, or plumb. It is my decision, that the stone should be held with the arm downward and vertical, or in a plumb position, with the letters facing away from the candidate. It is also my decision, that the stone should be placed on the floor by the Junior and Senior Overseers after examination, and then picked up by the Senior Deacon and the Candidate, rather than being handed to the Candidate by the Overseer.

Companions, I hope the groundhog sees his shadow as this will mean only 6 more weeks of winter. Well, that was the way I always thought it meant. I guess in states further south, it is the other way around. I hope you all survive the winter, spring will soon be here.

God Bless you all, and remember, *“Quality Yields Quantity.”*



Our Sincerest Thanks

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards and good thoughts for our daughter during this occasion of her surgery and recovery. It really helps to have caring friends, they are priceless.

Thank you ever so much. Fred & Janet Schneider



KING'S KORNER:

**William B. Fairchild, 627 S. 15th St., Escanaba 49829
(906) 786.8526 wfpopeye@uplogon.com**

Dear Companions:

I hope that all of you Companions, and your families had the greatest of Holidays. Another year has gone by, and I sit down and say “where did last year go?” Every year seems to go faster.

This year should be a great and exciting year. Most Excellent, Paul, has great ideas. The winter retreat, at Lapeer, was very well run and interesting. The meetings were split up so that the Grand Officers, DDI's and Past Grand High Priests each had their separate meetings in the morning. We got back together for lunch and then held joint meetings in the afternoon.

At this time, I would like to take a few minutes to congratulate R.E. Companion Fred Schneider for the dedication he gives to the Grand Chapter. Fred, has been director of DDI's, for nearly 10 years, and is retiring from the Directors' position at the upcoming Grand Convocation. Thank you Fred, for all of the hard work you have contributed to running the DDI Program. This is not any easy position to do. It will be very difficult to fill. Also, I want to thank your great Lady Janet. She has put in many hours of dedication. Thank you Janet. R.E. Companion Fred plans on remaining on as the Grand Sentinel, so we will still be seeing them around at many functions.

May God be with all of you Companions and your family's.

Bill & Ann



Indianapolis or Bust by Bicycle



Companions, as you may remember, in the last issue of the Triple Tau I started that I was going to Ride “Old Faithful” (my Bike) to Indianapolis, for the Tri Annual Meeting of General Grand Chapter, to raise money for R.A.R.A. We are in the process of looking at maps and discussing which way we will go. I will again be accompanied by my able-bodied assistant “Nurse Jane” who is also known as my daughter, Jennifer. She will be operating the sage wagon. To you non-bikers, that is mobile parts mobile, that is when she is not too busy antique shopping! Later this winter or early this spring we will drive down to Indianapolis to seek which route will work the best.

There has been an article prepared for the Royal Arch Mason Magazine which will come out this winter announcing the ride and asking for contributions. The Editor of the Royal Arch Magazine, Ed Sebring, has volunteered to be the Target for a PIE in the Face to be thrown by the Grand High Priest of the state that contributes the most money to R.A.R.A. So let's give OUR Grand High Priest that opportunity.

Companions, you have over the last three rides helped to raise over \$4,400 for RARA. If you or your Chapter would like to make a contribution to the fund, make your check out to Paul VanDeLester (and in the memo line put “RARA Bike Ride) 4115 East Kirby Road, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017.

**ALL MONEY COLLECTED GOES TO R.A.R.A. NOTHING
GOES TO THE COST OF THE RIDE. ALSO, REMEMBER:
THIS GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTABLE.**

Mid Michigan All Chapter/Council Degrees

Feb 2	8:00 a.m. Registration	Saginaw
Feb 9	Jail and Bail	Port Huron

All Degree Day

Feb 16	St. Ignace, Mackinac Chapter 134 Open 9:30 am Luncheon at Noon	
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Tri-State Degrees and Orders Days

(Indiana, Michigan, Ohio)

Feb 23, 2008 in Bryan, Ohio

- ****** CAPITULAR /CRYPTIC DEGREES******

9:00 a.m.	Mark Master Degree Begins	
3:00 p.m.	Select Master Degree	
7:30 p.m.	Super Excellent Master Degree April 24, Bryan, Ohio	Ohio

****** Knights Templar ******

March 1 in Angola, Indiana

9:00 a.m.	Order of the Red Cross	Tri-State Cast
12:15 p.m.	Order of the Temple	Michigan

Kalamazoo All Chapter/Council Degree Day

March 1	8:00 a.m. Registration	Schoolcraft
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All Order Day

March 15	Battle Creek KT	Battle Creek
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Chapter Outdoor Degree Day

June 14	8:00 a.m. Registration	Dowagiac
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Grand York Rite Golf Outing

August 3	Gladwin Golf & Country Club	Gladwin
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Please contact the Secretary/Recorder of the various bodies for more specific information regarding the event that you have in mind of attending or bringing a candidate to receive the Degrees and Orders.

THE CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS "Capitular Masonry"

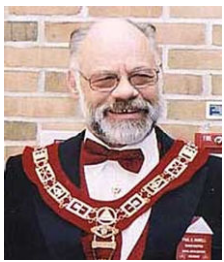
While the keystone is the principal locking stone of the Arch, the Copestone is the top, or cap of the entire wall. Therefore, the Royal Arch of Freemasonry, "the Copestone of Ancient Craft Masonry," is known as the **Capitular Rite**.

MARK MASTER DEGREE: In ancient times, stonemasons placed an identifying symbol upon their work. This symbol was known as their "**Mark**". Operative Masons in England and on the continent of Europe have left their "Marks" on stonework dating from the medieval period of European history.

The "Marks" were normally inscribed upon their work with an engravers chisel and mallet and consisted primarily of a combination of straight lines identifying the work of each craftsman. In Operative Mason's Lodges, Freemasons were registered by their "Marks". The practice continue today in the **MARK MASTER'S DEGREE** of American Royal Arch Masonry.

The "Candidate" is instructed to make his "Mark"

The York Rite of Freemasonry: A History and Handbook by Frederick G. Speidel, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, 1989.



Paul C. Howell, PGHP, Grand Secretary

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Secretary's Scribbles:

My Companions:

February has fast come upon us. Beth is busy going back over all of the Annual Returns from last year along with all of the monthly reports that you have submitted since then. She is attempting to bring the materials for your Chapter as up to date as the information that you have presented to us. By so doing when she prints out your Chapters Dues Cards this month, they will, hopefully, be as accurate as your records are.

I will be busy putting together the materials for the Annual Return during the month of February, also. We are hopefully going to be able to have this available of the Web Page so that you can down load it, fill in the correct information and email it back to me. If we are able to get this ready then it would sure save you a lot of time and effort in your preparation and filing. We really are attempting to make your job easier. It can be difficult enough as it is. Why not make it easier?

The Rituals went fast. The Ritual Review Committee is preparing for a 2nd printing. They hopefully have finished going over the ritual and will make their recommendation to the Corporate Board within the next couple of weeks so that we can go to press and get them into your hands. I am making a list of those who want new rituals. Let me know who and how many you need.

The Red Book Review Committee presented what they had accomplished in the last 3 ½ years to the Officers and Past Grands in attendance at the Educational Seminar, some call "Retreat" in Lapeer on January 12th. This is not an easy job that they have in going over the Red Book and rewriting many sections into modern language, without changing any of the meanings or intents of the authors. They are also attempting to consolidate so that they do not cause for duplication within the Red Book.

No working Committees task is easy and I will admit that they earn every penny that they get.....Oh I forgot. Sorry. This is a volunteer organization. Thanks again and in advance to all for your hard and dedicated work.

Always keep a smile on your face and a chuckle in your voice.



Robert E. Cooper Grand Principal Sojourner

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Cedar Springs 49319-9629
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Grand Chapter Multi-Year Program Coming

Every organization must grow and improve itself, in order to remain viable and relevant to it's established purposes. Royal Arch Masonry is no exception, as a matter of fact, one of it's primary missions is to improve man. We

must all be involved in the process if it is to be successful. As the leaders of your organization, it is specifically our responsibility to actively lead in this improvement. Your Grand Chapter Officers are developing a multi-year program to accomplish these objectives. Your suggestions and recommendations are earnestly solicited.

We believe that the program should support our Blue Lodge foundations, spread light and knowledge to our companions, and improve ourselves. We are planning to entitle this effort "Enhance the Secret", in response and support of the Grand Lodge's "Share the Secret" theme.

There will be several initiatives related to the program. We hope to review and extend current programs and introduce some new ones. Such "Enhance the Secret" Tools are:

Area Degree Teams, Establish a Mentor Program, Member Goals, Chapter Activities, New member information packet, Ritual Awards

The first of these tools that have been proposed is the Mentor Program. Create to assist and guide our new members in the various aspects of the Royal Craft. You may down load this proposed program from the "Downloads" page of our web site (www.ram-mi.org). Just go to the page and look for the "Proposed Mentor Program" and click on it.

Stay tuned to the Triple Tau for further information on the progress of this effort.

Your support will be critical to the success of these initiatives. Your feedback and ideas will be needed. Thank you very much.

Recognition Dinners

February 23, 2008: Romeo Chapter No. 17 to recognize Ex. Companion Woodson Orvis, Region 3 Michigan Meritorious Service Award.

April 12, 2008: Bedford Chapter 188 to recognize Ex. Companion John G. Roe, Region 2 Michigan Meritorious Service Award.

May 24, 2008: Manistique Chapter No. 127 to recognize A Eugene Smith, Region 1 Michigan Meritorious Service Award.

March 29, 2008: Grand Rapids Chapter No. 7, reception to honor Jim Kiefer into the Grand Chapter Line. Grand Rapids.

April 26, 2008: Iosco Chapter No. 83, reception to honor Louis McCray into the Grand Chapter Line. Alma Pathways.

In anticipation of his election as Grand High Priest for 2008-09 Bill Fairchild has set the date of 20 September, 2008 for his reception.

More information on all of the above to follow.
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



**The Round Robin
is a Success!!!**



The above pictured Companions were exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason on January 17, 2008, at Colonial Chapter #187, as part of the Round Robin program instituted among several southeast Michigan Chapters, namely: Washtenaw #6; Union #55; Wayne #182; Colonial #187, and Sunlight #189. These Companions began their trek through the degrees in September 2007, receiving the Mark Degree at Wayne Chapter, then the Past Masters Allegory at Union Chapter in October, followed by the Most Excellent Masters' at Sunlight Chapter in November and culminating with the Royal Arch Degree at Colonial Chapter in January 2008.

They are from left to right –
front row: George M. Fiotakis, George Armstrong, Geoffrey Armstrong (father and son), William Aumann, Timothy Block
back row: Eric J. Aldstadt, Enrique Garcia and Daniel J. Marshall.

There was a very large turnout for this degree night, including Paul D. Williams, MEGHP, and several Grand Officers.

Pictured in the background are Grand Secretary Paul C. Howell, MEPGHP (1997), and James E. Hawn, PHP Union Chapter (1997 – 98) and PGC Knights Templar of Michigan (2003).



CARO CHAPTER NO. 96 Royal Arch Masons of Michigan

are gathering together
to for their
Eighty-eight
Annual Celebration
of:

George Washington's Birthday

Saturday, February 16, 2008
7 o'clock in the evening
Fellowship Hall
Caro United Methodist Church



Traditional Turkey
Dinner
with all the fixings
& cherry pie
\$15.00 per person

Contact: Chester Gross, PHP, Sec. for reservations
989.673.7875 or via email: chetson@centurytel.net



Livingston Chapter No. 30 - Masters' Recognition Dinner

January 12, 2008 – Howell Masonic Temple

Livingston Chapter No. 30 has been hosting a Masters' Recognition Dinner for many years. All of the newly installed Masters and their families of Livingston County are invited to attend as guests of Livingston Chapter. The Masters are presented with their Masters' Pin along with a Plaque indicating that they are the Master of their Lodge for the coming year.

All of the Masters of Livingston County were able to be in attendance that evening. They are pictured from left to right as follows: Tom McCallion – Brighton Lodge #247; Frank Callahan – High Priest of Livingston Chapter #30; James Stinar – South Lyon Lodge #319 (in back); Art Gareau – Livingston Lodge #76 (in front); Bill Skrepnek, DDI for Grand Chapter; Tom Jarvis – Fowlerville Lodge #164; Bill Wheeler – Webberville Lodge #485; Howie Lonskey – Howell Lodge #38.

A very enjoyable and memorial program was presented and had by all.

I Just Can't Learn!!!

How many times have you heard said this statement? I just can't learn! I wish I could.

Let me tell you that you are never too old. You can learn, so can I, it just takes us a little longer now, perhaps.

How can we learn a part in any of the degrees in Masonry?

First off you have to go to read the entire Degree several times until you understand the degree and what it is and how it flows together. Just learning your "words" will never make it.

How many times have you gone to a degree and when you left at the end of the night said to yourself, that person knew every word, but I don't think that he understood anything he said. He didn't understand the degree, therefore he was unable to convey the degree to others.

Once you have learned the degree and what it means, how it flows then begin to learn your part. This can only be done if you understand your part. What does a word mean in the sentence? How can you recite a portion of ritual if you do not know what the words even mean or what the correct pronunciation is for the words. Most of you have a Computer with Internet access – Go to it!!! Look up the work. Find out its meaning and correct pronunciation. Often times you will be shocked to find that the sentence doesn't really say what you

thought that it was saying.

You will be amazed at how much easier it is to learn any part if first off you understand the entire Degree, then understand your part within the degree, how, when, where and why it fits where it does and finally you understand exactly what it is that your part is attempting to say.

Once you have learned what it is that you are trying to say, it then is easier to learn and give the part. It may not be "ritualistic" letter, word perfect, but, it will be presented in an easy smooth manner that will permit everyone in attendance to understand the ritual, its meaning and its impact.

If you have a new part you must read it over (study it) every day. If you have a part that you have done before, once or one hundred times, read it over, several times, before you go in that day to give the part.

We would all much prefer to hear someone say, I wouldn't have read the ritual if I had known that I was going to have to do the part or that I had known soon enough so that I could have properly prepared.

No ritual can be learned in the manner of minutes. Everyone can learn, it just takes a different amount of time and effort on each person's part.

Become like the Little Train that Could!

General Grand Chapter – Ritual Award
“Without the Hope of Fee or Reward”

The General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International announces the establishment of an award to acknowledge those companions who work “Without the Hope of Fee or Reward” and excel in ritualistic work.

A beautiful jewel has been struck for this purpose and it shall be awarded to those Companions who have performed the following ritualistic parts:

1. Conferred the Mark Master Degree as Right Worshipful Master
2. Conferred the Past Master Degree as Right Worshipful Master
3. Conferred the Most Excellent Master Degree as Right Worshipful Master
4. Conferred the Royal Arch Degree as the High Priest (Joshua)

The Companion must have performed the above parts *from memory*, on at least two (2) occasions for actual candidates. The work must be accomplished between the time period of January 1, 2000 and August 15, 2008.

Nominations

Secretaries of Constituent Chapter are to send nomination forms to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary is to send the nomination form to the General Grand High Priest, who will have the Companion’s name inscribed on the jewel and returned to the Grand Secretary for presentation. The jewel shall be presented to the Companion at a Chapter Convocation.

* * * *Please note? This award may or may not be continued into the next triennium.* * * *

Nomination Form

(Please duplicate as necessary)

I certify that Companion _____ a member in good standing
of _____ Chapter No. _____ in the Jurisdiction of

Michigan has performed the required ritualistic parts
and is entitled to wear the Ritualistic Jewel.

_____, 200____
Secretary Date

Constituent Secretaries send to:
Paul C. Howell, PGHP, Grand Secretary
17635 Manitou Beach Road
Addison, MI 49220

Grand Secretary will forward to Larry E. Gray, GGHP, General Grand Chapter RAM International

Directory corrections and changes:
Grand Chapter Office:

New Number (Paul): 517.262.5140
To reach Beth: 517.262.4070

Correct Wayne Turton, PGHP email address:
wturton@mi.rr.com

Correct James J. Vann, PGHP email address:
mason1@cass.net

General Grand Chapter contact info:

ME. Comp. James H. Hodge, Gen. Grand Sec.
P.O. Box 128, Greenfield, Indiana 46140-0128
Tele: 317-467-3600 Fax: 317 467.3899
RAMINTL@sbcglobal.net

Your Royal Arch Publication

Companions:

This is your Royal Arch Publication. You have ideas that you would like others to read about!

You have events, past and upcoming, others should know about!

You have pictures others should see!

Submit them to the Triple Tau editor, that’s me, Paul Howell, by the 15th of the month for them to get in the next issue.

Give me your ideas and information and I will put them together for you.