

Companions,

It's an honor and pleasure I \ serve this year as MEGHP. Here's an update to the Grand Chapter schedule:

February 2017

Tue 21st – Grand Visitation to Salem Chapter No. 18, – Cumberland - 7:30PM

Thur 23rd – Druid Chapter No. 28 – Cockeyville – MEM Degree – 7:30PM

Sat 24th – Grand Lodge Regional Meeting – Centennial Lodge, Upper Marlboro - 9:00AM

Tue 28th – Grand Visitation to Concordian No. 1 – Odenton - 7:30PM

March 2017

Wed 1st – Grand Visitation to Eastern Shore Chapters Nos.17, 22, 29 and 36 – Denton – 7:30PM

Fri 3-4th – New York Grand Convocation - Albany, NY

Tues 7th - Grand Visitation to Baltimore #40 – Elkridge - 7:30 pm - PM Degree

Thur 9th - Grand Visitation to Druid #28 – Cockeyville - 7:30 pm – RA Degree

Fri 10th - Delaware Grand Convocation – Wilmington, DE

Sat 11th - Bull Run Quarry Assemblage – Winchester, VA – 10:00AM

Wed 15th – Adoniram Chapter # 21 – Cockeyville – 10:30AM

Fri 17th - District of Columbia Grand Convocation- Washington DC

Fri 17th - IORG Formal Opening – Hunt Valley Inn – Cockeyville – 7:00PM

Sat 18th - IORG Installation – Hunt Valley Inn – Cockeyville – 7:30PM

Sun 19th – Rosacrucians – Catonsville - 5:30PM

Wed 22nd - Grand Visitation to Phoenix #7 - 7:30 pm

Thur 23 - Hiram Council # 25 – Cockeyville – 7:30PM – Royal and Select Master Degrees

Sat 25th - Super Excellent Master Degree – Scottish Rite Temple – 10:00AM (R&SM Degrees)

April 2017

Mon 10th - Grand Visitation to Enoch #23 – Frederick – 7:30PM

Wed 19 - Adoniram Chapter #21 – Cockeyville – 10:30AM.

Sat 28th - - Thrice Illustrious Master Degree – Cockeyville – 10:00AM

Sat 28th - Anointed High Priest Degree – Cockeyville – 2:00PM_

Attached are copies of Edicts

EDICTS (2016-17)

Edict 1 – Receiving Petitions

To the Chapter MEHP, Secretaries and Members, it has come to the attention of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, there has been some irregularities in the reception of petitions for new candidates seeking admission into the Royal Arch Chapter of Maryland. The irregularities have included accepting petitions and then proceeding to confer the Mark Master on a candidate before verifying that he is eligible to receive the degree; also, in accepting and conferring the degrees upon a resident of an adjoining State without prior approval of the Grand Chapter in which he resides.

The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, A. F. & A.M., requires any newly raised Master Mason to show his proficiency in the Catechism of the Master Mason Degree, before he can join any of the collateral bodies in Maryland.

In addition, a Master Mason living in another State must be granted a “Waiver of Territorial Jurisdiction” by the state in which he resides before he can be accepted into a Royal Arch Chapter in Maryland. If he is a member of good standing in a Blue Lodge in Maryland, whether or not he resides in Maryland, the proficiency requirement still holds.

I, by the authority in me vested as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, do issue the following order:

- The Secretary of all Royal Arch Chapters accepting a petition for the Royal Arch Degrees will provide the Grand Secretary with the name of the petitioner as well as his Blue Lodge Number in order to verify he is a Master Mason in Good Standing;
- For any petitioning Master Mason who resides outside the state, the Chapter must seek a Waiver of Territorial Jurisdiction from his home state. As soon as a Secretary receives a petition from an out-of-state Brother, he need to forward the contact information immediately (within 48 hours) to the Grand Secretary who will apply the same haste to securing a Waiver.
- A Chapter receiving a petition for the degrees less than seven (7) days prior to a scheduled conferral of the Mark Master degree, may seek approval via an email to the Grand Chapter Secretary. All pertinent information should be included to include the petitioner’s name and his member identification number on his Blue Lodge Dues Card

EDICT 2 – Voting On Petitions; also Conferral of Degrees

The Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland stipulates (Subordinate Chapters, Article XII, Section 2) “Five (5) members of a Chapter are necessary to transact any business other than the opening and closing of, and the conferring of degrees in a Mark Master’s, Past Master’s, or Most Excellent Master’s Lodge. Nine Royal Arch Masons are still necessary for the opening, closing and conferral of the Royal Arch Degree

Chapters can open in the Past Master Degree and conduct any necessary business, such as reading of minutes, paying any necessary bills, and accepting petitions, provided there are at least 5 members of the Chapter present, (Article X!!, Section2), therefore,

I by the power in me vested as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, do order the following:

Balloting on Petitions

- To ballot on a Master Mason’s petition to become a Royal Arch Mason, there must be at least five (5) members of the Chapter present, and.
- To elect new officers of a Chapter, there must be at least five (5) members of the Chapter present.

Conferral of Degrees:

- For the Royal Arch Degree, there must be nine (9) Chapter members present;
- For the Most Excellent Master degree, there should be at least five (5) Chapter members present,
- For the Past Master, there should be at least three (3) Chapter members present, and
- For the Mark Master degree, there should be at least seven (7) Chapter members present.

Edict 3 - Change of Location

Most Excellent Grand High Priest issued an Edict on Change of Location on 7 January 2017 stating, per the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, (Article XII, Subordinate Chapters, Section 21, no Chapter shall change its place of convocation from one village town or county to another, without having obtained permission from the Grand Chapter or in case of emergency or urgent necessity during the recess of the Grand Chapter, the existence of such emergency or urgent necessity to be a matter resting to the sole discretion of the Grand High Priest, making it needful or advisable for any Chapter to change its place of convocation, the Grand High Priest may approve such change by an official edict, which shall be considered as an amendment to the Charter of such Chapter, so far as its permanent place of Convocation is concerned. The Grand High Priest shall report such edict to the Grand Chapter at its next Annual Convocation.

DISPENSATIONS (2016-2017)

Attitude of Prayer

MWGM Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr. issued an edict dated November 24, 2014 establishing an official Attitude of Prayer to be used at all masonic functions and ceremonies; consisting of placing the right hand over the heart and bowing the head slightly. During his term, MEGHP Louis F. Bandell, Jr. had issued an edict on this topic that was broader in scope, and provided for placing the right hand over the heart during prayers, obligations and other times when the Bible on the Altar was being handled; consistently with the Grand Chapter's Constitution and provisions, this edict expired in October 2010 when his successor was installed.

I by the authority in me vested as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, do continue the custom of placing the right hand over the heart during all opening and closing prayers, and during the Pledge of Allegiance

Thanks for your continued support and devotion to our Order,

Patrick A. Curtis,
MEGHP
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