

## **Grand Council Minutes 201st Assembly August 23-24, 2024**

The 201st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was held on Friday, August 23rd and Saturday, August 24 2024 at The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211.

### **OPENING BY THE GRAND MASTER AND OFFICERS OF GRAND COUNCIL:**

Grand Master, Most Illustrious Donald R. Kunego was introduced by the Acting Grand Marshal, Right Illustrious A. Harry Williams and given Grand Honors. M.:I.: Kunego welcomed all to the 201st Annual Assembly.

### **OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF GRAND COUNCIL:**

A constitutional quorum of Grand Council Officers and of Constituent Councils was determined to be present. The Grand Assembly was opened by Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego and the Grand Line officers in ample form on Friday, August 23rd at 8:00 PM. Grand Chaplain Charles M. Roberts gave the invocation. The Grand Post of Masonic War Vet's Honor Guard presented the colors. It was declared by the Grand Recorder that all councils present were entitled to vote.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

The following companions were assigned to committees, Credentials: M.:I.: David H. Raymond, Comp. Mike Miller and R.:I.: Steven Howard, with M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts as advisor. Committee on Grand Master's address: M.:I.: Richard Fowler, M.:I.: Francis Karwowski and M.:I.: Garry Hutchurson.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

The Committee on Standard Resolutions for this assembly made the following Resolutions. They were seconded, voted upon and passed:

- A) M.:I.: Richard Fowler: Moved that that the Minutes of the 201st Annual Assembly be approved when finalized by the Grand Recorder's office for publication and posting on the Grand Council Website.
- B) M.:I.: Gary Hutchurson: Moved that the Annual Reports of the elected Grand Council line officers with the exception of the Deputy Grand Master which are to be published as part of the 201st Annual Proceedings be approved.
- C) M.:I.: Francis Karwowski: Moved that all Companion Select Masters in Good Standing be invited to remain as visitors to this Annual Assembly, except at such time, as provided by the Constitutions.
- D) M.:I.: Charles Roberts: Moved that the Election of Officers be the Order of Business at 1:45 PM on Saturday, August 24, 2024; and that the nominating speeches be limited to three (3) minutes and seconding speeches to two (2) minutes.
- E) M.:I.: Richard Fowler: Moved that our visiting Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters who are not already Honorary Members of this Grand Council be made so.

### **CONDITION AND EXTENSION OF THE RITE REPORT:**

The motion to accept the submitted report on the Condition and Extension of the rite and spread it upon the minutes was made by R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott Deputy Grand Master it was seconded, voted upon and passed.

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### **GRAND LECTURER'S REPORT AND RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT GRAND LECTURERS:**

R.:I.: Frank Fancher stated that he has a "Short and Sweet" report. He reported that we have new rituals printed and available for purchase. He and the ritual committee are working on the Super Excellent Master Degree ritual to work with a reduced cast. It is becoming a long task but he wants to make it "right". He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

The Roll Call of the Assistant Grand Lectures for the Districts were made. The AGLs came to the East, were Greeted by the Grand Master and Grand Lecturer and accorded Grand Honors.

### **REPORT ON THE WEB SITE:**

The web site report was given by M.:I.: John Gallant, Grand Recorder. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MASONIC EDUCATION, MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

The Masonic Education, Membership and Public Relations report was given by R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu Grand PCW. He complimented our Grand Lecturer and AGLs on the Schools of Instruction they are holding. He reported on our Facebook page and recommended that our Companions join the group. At this time we have about one hundred and forty members. He highlighted a York Rite event that was put on by the NYC – First District and how well it was received by Brothers and Companions who were there. R.:I.: Kerimoglu made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **LIBRARY AND MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT:** (No Report)

### **RITUAL COMMITTEE:** (Given as part of the Grand Lecturers Report)

### **REPORT OF THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner presented the Long Range Planning Committee report. He referenced that the report will be in the electronic proceedings when published on the web site for the Companions to review. He congratulated Grand Master Kunego and the Grand Line Officers on a very successful 200th ceremony. R.:I.: Klossner made the motion to spread this report upon the minutes, it was seconded and passed.

### **REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN:**

The report was presented by R.:I.: A. Harry Williams, the Grand Historian. He was able to update the Grand Lodge reading program to have the Cryptic Council section changed with more appropriate books. He made the motion to have the submitted report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

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### **REPORT OF THE GRAND ARCHIVIST:**

The report was presented by R.:I.: Richard Powell, the Grand Archivist. His primary task was to create a set of brochures for preserving our Personal Masonic artifacts and recording a Brothers Masonic Legacy. He made the motion to have the submitted report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE:**

The report of the Judge Advocate was presented by M.:I.: Gallant, Grand Recorder. R.:I.: Paul G. Huck, Judge Advocate, worked with the Jurisprudence committee for the year to review proposed amendments and Council By-Laws.. He made the motion to have the submitted report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **JURISPRUDENCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Jurisprudence and By-Laws Committee was given by M.:I.: Richard Fowler. There was one Council requesting By-Laws changes. Motions were made to approve the requested changes, they were seconded and approved. He presented an amendment change to the Constitutions and By-laws to add the term "Past Grand Masters" to the list of those who compose the Grand Council. He made the motion to have the submitted report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT OF THE GRAND TRUSTEES**

The Grand Trustees report was presented on behalf of M.:I.: Ken Lockard by M.:I.: Gallant. M.:I.: Gallant made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER:**

The Grand Treasurers report was given by M.:I.: David H. Raymond. He presented a number of highlights on the General Fund and Escrow accounts and was happy to report that we are "still in the black". It has been a pleasant time this year. We did change Banks this year and he Thanked M.:I.: Roberts and M.:I.: Gallant for all their help. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT OF THE REVIEW AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

The Audit Committee report was given by R.:I.: Steven W. Howard, Grand Sentinel. He stated that the Audit Committee found the records of our Grand Treasurer in proper order. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **THE BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT:**

The Budget Committee report was made by M.:I.: David H. Raymond, the Grand Treasurer. The overall numbers are consistent with last year. With a beginning balance \$42,316.74, a projected income

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of \$40,011.00, expenditures of \$42,767.00, the projected balance as of July 31, 2025 will be \$39,560.24. With the expected per-capita for the year, we are projecting a budget in the red. However, as can be expected, not all line items are expended resulting in the budget being “ok” at the end of the year. M.:I.: Raymond moved to have report spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:**

Deputy Grand Master R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott presented his report. He admitted that it was a very busy year for him. He attended a number of events over the year. Some of the highlights include the 200th Anniversary day. Along with his Cryptic duties, he has also been installed as a Grand Marshal of the Grand Chapter Order of Easter Star. The hardest part of the year was the passing of his Mother. He Thanked all the Companions for their well wishes during that time and he has an amazing stack of cards from everyone. He is looking forward to a better year and traveling more. He moved to have his report spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **VESPERS SERVICE:**

The Vespers Service was conducted under the direction of M.:I.: Charles Roberts, Grand Chaplain. A copy of the Order of Service is appended to these minutes to be included in the proceedings of this assembly. A collection of \$590.00 was offered by the Companions and presented to the Charity Corporation.

### **CALL FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:**

Prior to the Call, M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego extended a round of applause for R.:I.: Gerald Irwin, Grand Musician, who was providing the musical accompaniment for our Grand Assembly. M.:I.: Kunego announced that Grand Council will resume in the morning at 8:30 AM with the reception of distinguished visitors follow by Necrology Report. Grand Council officers will be in their places at 8:15 AM. Ladies and guests are invited to take their seats by 8:30 AM. Labor will resume following the Necrology Report. He reminded everyone that room 156 is our hospitality room. R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu, Grand Conductor of the Council, called the Companions for Labor to Refreshment to resume their labor in the Secret Vault at the sound of the gavel in the East. Labor was suspended at 9:30pm.

### **THE NOBLE ORDER OF LARKS:**

The second annual conferral of the special and unique Noble Order of the Larks degree was performed following the end of the Friday night Grand Council session. The “Grand Lark” reported that \$280 dollars was collected by the flocks of Larks and donated to the Grand Charity Corp.

### **ASSEMBLY RECONVENED:**

The Annual Assembly of the Grand Council was reconvened in Public Session by Grand Master, M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego on Saturday, August 24th at 8:30am.

### **RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:**

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The following delegations were received and greeted personally in the East by Grand Master, M.:I.: Donald R. Kunego, Deputy Grand Master R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work R.:I.: Richard Kerimoglu:

R.:I.: Reginald Page, Deputy Grand Master of Maine,  
M.:I.: William C. Hare, Jr. Grand Master of Maryland,  
M.:I.: Manuel Ferreira III, Grand Master of Massachusetts,  
R.:I.: Earl Cole, Jr. Deputy Grand Master of New Hampshire,  
M.:P.: Mark David Gall, Grand Master of Pennsylvania,  
M.:I.: Roland E. Woodard, Grand Master of Vermont,  
M.:I.: Marvin E. Williams, Grand Master of PHA Grand Council of NY,  
M.:E.: Steven R. Shearer, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of the State of NY,  
R.:E.: R. Conrad Johnson, Grand Commander of Grand Commandery of the State of NY,  
Illustrious David Barnes, Representing G. Michael Morris of the Council of Deliberation of NY, AASR,  
R.:P.: Paul Smith, DDGGM North-East Dist., General Grand Council International,  
R.:W.: John Haslam, Sr., Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of NY.

R.:W.: Peter Unfried, the Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York entered and announced that Most Worshipful Steven A. Rubin Grand Master of Masons in the State of NY was about to enter. He was received by Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego, given Grand Honors and was seated in the East.

### **NECROLOGY REPORT:**

The Necrology Report was given under the direction of the Grand Chaplain: M.:I.: Charles M. Roberts. M.:I.: Roberts gave the eulogy for M.:I.: Edward Patrick Fagan, Jr., MIGM (2000-2001) and the 26 Companions who have left us. See the submitted written Necrology Service for details. M.:I.: Roberts moved that the report be spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL ORDER OF THE SECRET VAULT:**

R.:P.: Paul Smith the DDGGM of the General Grand Council International and the previous recipients of the Order of the Secret Vault conferred the public Degree, for the last time, upon M.:I.: Donald Kunego and R.:I.: Stuart Card.

### **LABOR RESUMED IN THE SECRET VAULT:**

Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego excused all non-Cryptic Masons, Ladies and guests from the assembly room and then graveled the 201st Annual Assembly to Order and it was reconvened at 9:45 AM Saturday, August 24th 2024.

Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego called for a representative of Dunkirk Council #25 to the East. He presented the Grand Masters Special Recognition Award to the Companions of Dunkirk Council. Past Grand Master M.:I.: Francis I. Karwowski escorted Right Illustrious Companion Richard McCarter Clark to the East. Companion Clark was presented with the Giles Fonda Yates Award.

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### **RECOGNITION OF 2023-2024 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS:**

As the Grand Recorder read the roll, each individual present assembled in the East where Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego greeted each.

- District 1 - R.:I.: Grant Held (Present)
- District 2 - R.:I.: Harry Williams (Present)
- District 4 - R.:I.: David Barnes (Present)
- District 6 - R.:I.: Steven Howard (Present)
- District 7 - R.:I.: Charles L. Hill (Excused)
- District 8 - R.:I.: James Kaim, Jr. (Present)
- District 9 - R.:I.: Michael B. Seeloff (Present)

M.:I.: Kunego raised the Council and R.:I.: A. Harry Williams Acting Grand Marshal, lead the Companions in presenting Grand Honors to the DDGMs.

### **RECEPTION AND GREETING OF THE PAST MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTERS:**

As the Grand Recorder read the roll, each individual present assembled in the East where Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego greeted each.

- Most Ill. John Mauk Hilliard, 1990-91 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Joseph A. Peloso, 1993-94 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Donald Harrison, 2003-2004 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Stephen A. Licht, 2004-2005 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Charles M. Roberts, 2005-2006
- Most Ill. Francis I. Karwowski, 2007-2008
- Most Ill. Arnold E. Palmer, 2009-2010, (Excused In a Care Facility)
- Most Ill. David H. Raymond, 2010-2011
- Most Ill. Richard C. Anderson, 2012-2013 (Excused)
- Most Ill. Leonard W. Mason, 2013-2014, (Excused In a Care Facility)
- Most Ill. Garry R. Hutchurson, 2016-2017
- Most Ill. Richard C. Fowler, 2018-2019
- Most Ill. Phillip J. Chandler, 2019-2021 (Excused)
- Most Ill. John A. Gallant, 2021-2022

M.:I.: Kunego raised the Council and R.:I.: Williams lead the Companions in presenting Grand Honors to the Past Grand Masters.

### **ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES:**

As the Grand Recorder read the roll, each Grand Representative present assembled in the East where M.:I.: Kunego greeted them.

It was announced that R.:I.: John Haslam, Sr. (New Hampshire), R.:I.: William M. Korn (Ohio) and R.:I.: Garry W. Krom (Utah), are the newest Grand Representative near the Grand Council of NY. They were presented with their appointment patent and letter. M.:I.: Kunego raised the Council and R.:I.: Williams lead the Companions in presenting Grand Honors to the Grand Representatives.

### **PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO OUR VISITORS:**

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As the Grand Recorder read the esteemed list, the visiting Grand Masters assembled in the East where M.:I.: Kunego greeted each and presented them with their Certificates.

M.:I.: William C. Hare, Jr. Grand Master of Maryland,

M.:P.: Mark David Gall, Grand Master of Pennsylvania,

M.:I.: Marvin E. Williams, Grand Master of PHA Grand Council of NY,

M.:I.: Roland E. Woodard, Grand Master of Vermont

M.:I.: Kunego raised the Grand Council and R.:I.: Williams lead in presenting Grand Honors to the Grand Representatives.

### **REMARKS FROM OUR VISITORS:**

M.:I.: William C. Hare, Jr., Most Illustrious Grand Master of Maryland brought fraternal greetings and appreciation on behalf of the distinguished guests present today. He thanked the Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego for all the courtesies extended to him and his guests. It has been a great weekend with the companions of New York.

### **REMARKS FROM OUR CONCORDANT BODIES REPRESENTATIVES:**

M.:E.: Steven R. Shearer, Grand High Priest, presented a quick talk and remarked on the importance of Balance. He thanked M.:I.: Kunego for the courtesies of the evening and remarked how pleasant it has been to travel with him across the region.

R.:E.: R. Conrad Johnson, Grand Commander, indicated how happy he was to be here. It has been a long year and traveling with M.:I.: Kunego, a fellow Vet and Brother has been a joy. He extended his congratulations to the entire team and it has been an outstanding year.

Illustrious David Barnes, of the NY Council of Deliberation, stated it is pleasure to be here today. He extended the greetings of Illustrious G. Michael Morris of NY and the Illustrious Waster Wheeler of the NMJ. He is proud to be a member of the AASR and a Cryptic Mason. We have a great product in Masonry and it is vital to get it out to our Companions and brothers.

### **REMARKS FROM OUR GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL VISITORS:**

R.:P.: Paul Smith, DDGGM North-East Dist., extended the greetings MPGM William Snyder. He reminded everyone that the North-East Conference is just two weeks away. They welcome all Grand Council and Grand Chapters members to the conference. It is important to attend as there are scheduled a number of good programs to help the Grand Officers learn ways to move your Jurisdictions forward. General Grand Council is here to work with you and help out in any way. There are a number of awards that can help to present your good works. They have a First Responder's award, a Veteran's award and others that can be presented in a public setting. He reiterated how vital "Value" is in Masonry in all its phases. There is the "Third Meeting" meeting problem where we need give the newly made Mason and even a Cryptic Mason a reason to join and stay. He described the importance of the CMMRF in research. It is located at the University of Indiana and doing research that is saving lives. He is looking forward to presenting some General Grand Council Awards tonight.

In closing he stated that Cryptic masonry runs strong in NY, and Thanked M.:I.: Kunego for the courtesies extended to him.

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### **REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER:**

M.:I.: John Gallant, Grand Recorder presented his report. He discussed his membership report, we do have some gains but continue to have losses. The MMS process of transiting our Councils is continuing and will hopefully the process will be done or close to done next year. He made the motion that the Grand Recorders report and the supporting documents be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:**

Grand Master M.:I.: Donald Kunego turned the gavel of authority over to the Deputy Grand Master R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott, and he gave his Most Illustrious Grand Master's Allocution. A solid round of applause was given to M.:I.: Kunego for his dedication to our craft this year. Deputy Grand Master Elliott made the motion that the Allocution turned over to the Committee on the Grand Master's Address, for reporting on later today, it was seconded and approved. The gavel was returned to Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego.

### **GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY CORPORATION:**

Grand Master M.:I.: Donald Kunego announced that it was eleven o'clock am and called M.:I.: Roberts, President of the Charity Fund Corporation to the East to convene the annual meeting. M.:I.: Roberts made the motion that the minutes of the last Charity Fund Corporation be accepted, it was seconded and approved. M.:I.: Roberts reported that this past year was challenging and the Committee is actively moving forward with long range planning, both at 5 years and 30 years, for our Grand Charity. Contributions continue to decrease and this is a real concern that less income could affect our status as a Charity Corporation. We have a window of 7 to 12 thousand dollars in income to remain tax exempt. Unfortunately, we have been at the lower end for a while. It is vital to encourage our councils and members to remember the Charity Corp for their giving. We are able to give out our charity gifts this year and we hope for to be able to do the same for next year. He reminded all our Councils that every recorder **must** turn over the charity donations given by a companion with in the month it is received. As we are all members of the Charity corp this is required by law. This year only 46% of our Councils gave a donation. We are asking all our Councils to give any amount to the Charity Corp. We are grateful to all who have donated so far. He made the motion that the Charity Fund Corporation report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved. The Charity Corporation Audit committee presented its report and made the motion that the Audit report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **ADDRESS OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER:**

Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego called upon M.:W.: Steven A. Rubin, Grand Master for his brief remarks. He recognized the distinguished Companions in the East and recognized our Brothers in the Military and as First responders. He reiterated how great it is to be with us this morning, all gathered together in the craft and especially in the York Rite masonry. His Motto is - "Its called Brotherhood", this simple phrase captures the essence, the spirit, the bond we all share in our gentle craft. He urged all of us to "renew your commitment and renew your efforts to our Craft". He was given a warm round of applause by the Companions.

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### **LUNCHEON:**

Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego ordered the Grand Principal Conductor of the Work to call the Assembly to recess until 1:15 PM for lunch. The Grand Chaplain gave a blessing for lunch.

### **RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:**

The Annual Assembly was reconvened by Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego at 1:35 PM in the Assembly room.

### **ISH-SODI AND AWARDS:**

R.:I.: Carl J. Klossner presented the report on the Ish Sodi and Awards committee. There were no companions eligible for the Ish Sodi awards this year. Membership Gains & Attendance Awards: Most Greetings and 5 or more Companions: Columbian Council No. 1 {7 new companions}, Central City Council No. 13 {6 new companions}, Joseph Warren Cryptic Council No. 37 {6 new companions}; 10% or Greater Increase in Membership: Joseph Warren Cryptic Council No. 37 {6 new companions for 24% increase}, Central City Council No. 13 {6 new companions for 16.2% increase}, Rotica Council No. 12 {3 new companions for 11.1% increase}. Best Attendance at Grand Council Annual Assembly: Goshen Council No. 93 had nine companions present. The recipients were congratulated with a warm round of applause. The following Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet: Grand Council State of NY Cryptic Mason of the Year; General Grand Council International Cryptic Mason of the Year, General Grand Council International Adult Youth Leadership Award, and the Lady of the Council Award.

### **GRAND LECTURER'S CONVENTION AWARDS:**

R.:I.: Frank Fancher, Grand Lecturer, presented the following awards from his Grand Lecturers Conventions across the Jurisdiction. The Jay Kossef Award for primary officer attendance: Dist 1: Suffolk Council #76 and Dist 4: St. George's Council #74. The Rex Long Award for best attendance: Dist 1: Suffolk Council #76, Dist 2: Goshen Council #93, Dist 4: St. George's Council #74 and Dist 8: Doric Council #19. The recipients were congratulated with a warm round of applause.

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS:**

M.:I.: Francis Karwowski reporting for the Committee on the Grand Master's address wished to congratulate M.:I.: Kunego on his travels within the extended term. We appreciate all his work on the 200<sup>th</sup> events, the 200th unique pins and coins, the introduction of the travel passport, the special time capsule, the appointment to the office of Grand Archivist and the E. William Whittaker award. His recommendations and dispensations are all valid. They approved his Allocution, with gratitude and without reservation. M.:I.: Karwowski moved that the report be spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:**

R.:I.: Steven Howard presented the report of the Credentials Committee. There were 12 Illustrious Masters, (2 proxy); 2 Deputy Masters, (1 proxy); 2 Principal Conductors of the Work; 49 Past Illustrious Masters for a total of 67 registered Companions; 13 Official Visitors and 16 Ladies were present for this Annual Assembly. There were 21 of our 27 Councils represented. R.:I.: Howard made the motion to spread this report upon the minutes, it was seconded and passed.

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### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

The following Companions were appointed tellers for the elections: I.: David Pritt, R.:I.: Murry Cohen and V.:I.: Steven Gobert. The Companions were reminded of the time limitations on nominating and seconding speeches by the Grand Master. The gavel was turned over to M.:I.: Richard Fowler to conduct the Election of Officers for the 2024-2025 Cryptic Year.

R.:I.: Murry Cohen nominated R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott for the Office of Most Illustrious Grand Master. The motion was seconded by R.:I.: Louis Irizarry II. No further nominations were made. Nominations were declared closed. The Tellers found one unanimous ballot for R.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott as Most Illustrious Grand Master. The assembly extended him a round of applause. He thanked all and agreed to serve.

M.:I.: Kunego was nominated for the office of Trustee for three years. There being no other nominations, the Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for the Trustee nomination. He accepted and agreed to serve.

The office of Grand Steward was now in order. The declared candidate was R.:I.: A. Harry Williams. He was placed in nomination and duly seconded. There being no other nominations, the assembly elected R.:I.: Williams by acclamation. The Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for R.:I.: Williams.

The office of Grand Standard Bearer was now in order. The declared candidate was R.:I.: Steven Howard. He was placed in nomination and duly seconded. There being no other nominations, the assembly elected R.:I.: Howard by acclamation. The Grand Recorder was ordered to cast one unanimous ballot for R.:I.: Howard.

A motion was made by M.:I.: Francis Karwowski and seconded that all elected Grand Line officers, with the exception of the Grand Standard Bearer and Grand Steward, be “moved up” or advanced one station in line as they were all unchallenged and that the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary succeed themselves. All accepted and agreed to serve in their new Office.

### **THE TILED INSTALLATION OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MASTER-ELECT:**

The tiled installation of M.:I.: Daniel D. Elliott. took place, with M.:I.: Richard Fowler conducting the private installation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master-Elect. The Grand Master following his private installation was escorted to the East and given Private Grand Honors. He thanked his Installing team for their fine work. He highlighted parts of his address and stated his full address would be given at the public installation ceremony.

### **TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Time and Place Committee for the 202nd Annual Assembly was given by M.:I.: Gallant. The 202nd Annual Assembly of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of NY will be held on August 15-16, 2025 at The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, Albany, NY.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Most Illustrious Grand Master called for any unfinished business at this time. The Grand Recorder reported that there was no unfinished business to come before this Annual Assembly.

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### **CLOSING OF THE GRAND ASSEMBLY:**

Most Illustrious Grand Master called upon M.:I.: Roberts for the Benediction. The 201st Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of NY was closed at 2:45pm.

### **OPEN INSTALLATION OF ALL GRAND LINE OFFICERS:**

The Open Installation took place in the Grand Assembly room at 3:00pm. The Elected and Appointed officers of Grand Council and District Officers were installed in their several places and stations.

### **THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER DEGREE CONFERRAL:**

The TIM degree was conferred in the Grand Assembly room at 4:15pm. There were 16 incoming Illustrious Masters who received the TIM degree.

### **THE GRAND ASSEMBLY BANQUET:**

The banquet took place in the Grand Assembly room at 7:00PM. The Representatives of the Youth Groups present were conducted to the head table and presented their Messages for the year. Junior Past Grand Master M.:I.: Kunego thanked them for their presentations and presented them with their gifts from Grand Council to help them with their programs. Additional presentations and awards were presented by PMIGM Kunego and Right Puissant Paul Smith, DDGGM North-East Dist of the General Grand Council International. The following awards were given: General Grand Cryptic Mason of the Year to Right Illustrious Maurice I. Cohen; General Grand Cryptic Youth Leadership Award: Mrs. Kristina Groff, the NY Cryptic Mason of the Year to Right Ill Stephen S. Goebert; the E. William Whittaker Grand Master's Award: Most Illustrious David H. Raymond, Ladies of the Council: Lady Mary Howard and Lady J. Kirsten Busch Johnson. Words of wisdom were delivered by our all distinguished Guests of the East. PMIGM Kunego gave closing remarks of thanks and introduced the Most Worshipful Steven A. Rubin, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York for concluding remarks. The benediction was given and all assembled, retired in Peace and Harmony.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M.:I.: John A. Gallant, PMIGM  
Grand Recorder