Grand Council Minutes 202nd Assembly August 15-16, 2025

The 202nd Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York was held on Friday, August 15th and Saturday. August 16 2025 at The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211.

OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY BY THE GRAND MASTER AND GRAND OFFICERS:

A constitutional quorum of Grand Council Officers and Constituent Councils was determined to be present. The Grand Assembly was opened by Grand Master M.·.I.·. Daniel D. Elliott and the Grand Line Officers in ample form on Friday, August 15th at 7:49pm. Grand Chaplain M.·.I.·. Charles M. Roberts gave the invocation. The Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of NY, was admitted under the escort of the Deputy Grand Marshal. He was accorded Grand Honors. It was declared by the Grand Recorder that all councils present were entitled to vote with the exception of Joseph-Warren Cryptic Council No. 37 and Fulton Council No. 50. M.·.I.·. Elliott welcomed all to the 202nd Annual Assembly.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The following companions were assigned to committees for the Grand Assembly, Credentials committee: M.·.I.·. David H. Raymond, Comp. Bruce B. McQuade and R.·.I.·. Murry Cohen, with M.·.I.·. Roberts as advisor. Committee on Grand Master's address: M.·.I.·. Richard Fowler, M.·.I.·. Francis Karwowski and M.·.I.·. Donald R. Kunego.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

A) M.·.I.·. Francis Karwowski: Moved that that the Minutes of the 202nd Annual Assembly be approved when finalized by the Grand Recorder's office for publication and posting on the Grand Council Website.
B) M.·.I.·. Charles M. Roberts: 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 202nd Annual Proceedings be approved.
C) M.·.I.·. Donald R. Kunego: 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.·. Richard Fowler: Moved that the Election of Officers be the Order of Business at 1:45pm on Saturday, August 16, 2025; and that the nominating speeches be limited to three (3) minutes and seconding speeches limited to two (2) minutes.
E) M.·.I.·. Steve Licht: 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.·. Richard Kerimoglu, Deputy Grand Master it was seconded, voted upon and passed.

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

R.·.I.·. Frank Fancher stated that he has a “brief” report. All District Grand Lecturers Conventions were completed and he thanked all the Companions who participated. He and the Ritual committee are working on the Super Excellent Master Degree ritual to be conferred with a reduced cast. It is becoming a long task but he wants to make it “right”. He hopes to be completed within a few more months. 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.·. Carl J. Klossner, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. He referred the Companions to the report contained in the printed proceedings. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT: (No Report)

REPORT OF THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

R.·.I.·. Ernest W. Parker, Grand Captain of the Guard, presented the Long Range Planning Committee report. He referred the Companions to the report contained in the printed proceedings. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

RITUAL COMMITTEE:

R.·.I.·. Fancher, Grand Lecturer, reported that the new ritual books are being well accepted. He is seeing improved Ritual work. He thanked the Companions on the Ritual Committee. He made the motion to have the report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN:

The report was presented by R.·.I.·. James Reichman, the Grand Historian. He presented his report. One of the projects that needed work was the archive of our Past Grand Master photos. The last PMIGM listed was M.·.I.·. Don Harrision. The Grand Historian will be working with our Grand Archivist to accumulate a Digital archive of information from the Companions. Where legacy is very important to save for future generations. He made the motion to have the submitted report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE GRAND ARCHIVIST:

The report was presented by R.·.I.·. Richard Powell, the Grand Archivist. He echoed the topics from our Grand Historian on the importance of the digital project. He reminded the Companions that we have a set of brochures for preserving our personal Masonic artifacts. 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 was presented by R.·.I.·. Paul G. Huck, Judge Advocate. He appreciated working with the Grand Master, particularly when the Grand Master listened to the one time he had to say "No". R.·.I.·. Huck called out to any Companions who are lawyers and who would be willing to work with him in the Office of Judge Advocate. 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 were two Councils requesting By-Laws changes. Along with the merger of two Councils – Hornellsville No. 35 and Nundawaga No. 92 to be know as Nundawaga No 35 meeting in Nunda NY. 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 by M.·.I.·. Donald R. Kunego. He referred the Companions to the report contained in the printed proceedings. He 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 referred the Companions to the report contained in the printed proceedings. 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 Illustrious Timothy Heslop, member of the Audit Committee. 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.·. Raymond, the Grand Treasurer.
He reported that the Grand Council leadership had a budget review meeting for this upcoming year. The participants agreed that we will need to make some financial decisions for upcoming years. He

referred the Companions to the full report contained in the printed proceedings. 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.·. Richard Kerimoglu presented his report. He said that it was an honor to serve as Deputy Grand Master and a true pleasure to serve this Grand Council. He attended a number of events over the year. Some of the highlights included the traveling to Connecticut and Rhode Island, an Installation at the Triangle Chapter in Buffalo and the Dedication of Buffalo-Keystone Council No. 17 by the Grand Council Line. He presented a set of recommendations for the future growth and vitality of our Councils. 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.·. Roberts, and Illustrious Christopher Allen, Grand Chaplains. A copy of the Order of Service is appended to these minutes to be included in the proceedings of this assembly. A collection of $775.00 was offered by the Companions and presented to the Charity Corporation.

CALL FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT:

Prior to the Call, M.·.I.·. Elliott announced that Grand Council will resume in the morning at 8:30am with the reception of distinguished visitors follow by Necrology Report. Grand Council officers will be in their places at 8:15am. Ladies and guests are invited to take their seats by 8:30am. Labor will resume following the Necrology Report. He reminded everyone that room 156 is our hospitality room. R.·.I.·. Klossner, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, called the Companions from Labor to Refreshment to resume their labor in the Secret Vault at the sound of the gavel in the East. Labor was suspended at 9:00pm.

THE NOBLE ORDER OF LARKS:

The third 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 $180 dollars was collected by the flocks 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.·. Daniel D. Elliott on Saturday, August 16th at 8:30am.

RECEPTION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:

The following delegations were received and greeted personally in the East by Grand Master, M.·.I.·. Elliott, Deputy Grand Master R.·.I.·. Kerimoglu and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work R.·.I.·. Klossner:

M.·.I.·. G. Thomas Taylor, Past Grand Master of Delaware

M.·.I.·. Reginald Page, Grand Master of Maine
M.·.I.·. Manuel Ferreira III, Grand Master of Massachusetts
M.·.I.·. Earl Cole, Jr., Grand Master of New Hampshire
M.·.I.·. Joseph A. Kern, Grand Master of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
M.·.I.·. David Schuler, Past Grand Master of Vermont
R.·.I.·. Stuart Card – Introduced the Past Grand Masters of New York who were present
R.·.E.·. Jamie J. Kaim Jr., Grand King of Royal Arch Masons of the State of NY
R.·.E.·. John W. Scott, Grand Commander of Grand Commandery of the State of NY
R.·.V.·. Donald R. Kunego, Grand Superintendent for New York, Allied Masonic Degrees
Illustrious Richard J. Powell, rep. G. Michael Morris of the Council of Deliberation of NY, AASR
M.·.I.·. Richard A. Bourne, Grand Master of PHA Grand Council of NY
M.·.P.·. David Grindle, PMPGM, General Grand Council International, Acting GGCPCW

R.·.W.·. Angel Ruiz, Acting Deputy Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York entered and announced that Right Worshipful Robert L Hogan, Jr., Deputy Grand Master of Masons in the State of NY was about to enter. He was received by Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott, given Grand Honors and was seated in the East.

Following the introduction of the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Post of Masonic War Vet's Honor Guard presented the Colors. Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and the first verse of the National Anthem. Right Worshipful Robert L Hogan, Jr., thanked the Veterans and dismissed the Honor Guard.

NECROLOGY REPORT:

The Necrology Report was given under the direction of the Grand Chaplain: M.·.I.·. Roberts, Illustrious Michael Weisberg, R.·.I.·. Stenrick Adams and Illustrious Allen. M.·.I.·. Roberts gave the eulogy for R.·.I.·. David Shirer, Grand Musician, R.·.I.·. A. Harry Williams, Grand Steward and the 19 other 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 upon M.·.I.·. Daniel D. Elliott and R.·.I.·. Robert Rodgers.

LABOR RESUMED IN THE GRAND ASSEMBLY:

Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott excused all non-Cryptic Masons, Ladies and guests from the assembly room and then graveled the 202nd Annual Assembly to Order and it was reconvened at 9:45am Saturday, August 16th 2025.

RECOGNITION OF 2024-2025 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS;

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

District 1 - R.·.I.·. Grant Held (Present)
District 2 - R.·.I.·. Louis Irizarry III (Present)
District 4 - R.·.I.·. David Barnes (Present)
District 6 - R.·.I.·. David B. Pritt (Present)
District 7 - R.·.I.·. Charles L. Hill (Excused)
District 8 - R.·.I.·. James Kaim, Jr. (Present)
District 9 - R.·.I.·. Robert L Drzewucki (Present)

M.·.I.·. Elliott raised the Grand Council and 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.·. Elliott 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 (Excused)
Most Ill. Richard C. Fowler, 2018-2019
Most Ill. Phillip J. Chandler, 2019-2021 (Excused)
Most Ill. John A. Gallant, 2021-2022
Most Ill. Donald R. Kunego, 2023-2024

M.·.I.·. Elliott raised the Grand Council and 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.·. Elliott greeted them. M.·.I.·. Elliott raised the Council and lead the Companions in presenting Grand Honors to the Grand Representatives.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO OUR VISITORS:

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

M.·.I.·. Joseph A. Kern, Grand Master of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
M.·.I.·. Reginald Page, Grand Master of Maine

M.·.I.·. Richard A. Bourne, Grand Master of PHA Grand Council of NY
M.·.I.·. Earl Cole, Jr., Grand Master of New Hampshire

M.·.I.·. Elliott raised the Grand Council and lead in presenting Grand Honors to our Honorary Members.

REMARKS FROM OUR VISITORS:

M.·.I.·. Earl Cole, Jr., Grand Master of New Hampshire, brought fraternal greetings and appreciation on behalf of the distinguished guests present today. He thanked Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott for all the courtesies extended to him and the guests. It has been a great weekend with the companions of New York.

REMARKS FROM OUR CONCORDANT BODIES REPRESENTATIVES:

R.·.E.·. Jamie J. Kaim Jr., Grand King, extended the regrets of M.·.E.·. Mark Peerson, Grand High Priest, who was unable to attend. He thanked the Cryptic Council for keeping our ritual traditions alive and preserving our Masonic history. He thanked M.·.I.·. Elliott for the courtesies of the evening and remarked how pleasant it has been to travel with him across the region.

R.·.E.·. John W. Scott, Grand Commander, indicated how happy he was to be here. He thanked M.·.I.·. Elliott, for the fun they have had over the year. He extended his congratulations to the entire team and it has been an outstanding year.

Illustrious Richard J. Powell, 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 active members of the NMJ. He expressed how great is was to see the York Rite and Scottish Rite Masons, who are are active in both rites and how we are all family. He extended his congratulations to Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott and wished Good Luck to Deputy Grand Master R.·.I.·. Kerimoglu.

REMARKS FROM OUR GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL VISITORS:

R.·.P.·. Paul C. Smith, DDGGM North-East Dist., extended the greetings MPGM William Snyder and all Cryptic Masons from the North-East. He was very happy to be here in NY and appreciated our acceptance of a Red Sox's fan. He reminded everyone that the North-East Conference is just two weeks away, right here in Albany NY. It is a York Rite focused program for both the Grand Council and Grand Chapter members. He discussed the Columbian Award from General Grand Council, it is awarded to one Companion in the Region once every three years. This award is named after one of our Councils in NY and General Grand is accepting nominations. He reintroduced the concept of the "Third Meeting" problem and how important it is for a new Brother to have a quality experience in Masonry. They need to feel that they are getting a value out of their membership. If they don't we need to do better! In closing he stated that Cryptic masonry runs strong in NY, and Thanked M.·.I.·. Elliott for the courtesies extended to him.

M.·.P.·. David Grindle, PMPGM, and acting General Grand PCW, extended the greetings from the Grand Council of Idaho and General Grand Cryptic Council. He extended more details around the Columbian Award and reiterated the comments from R.·.P.·. Smith. We must do things to energize the Councils and attract younger men into Masonry. He reported on the Tri-ennial coming up next year in Washington DC. He thanked M.·.I.·. Elliott for the courtesies extended to him.

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER:

M.·.I.·. Gallant, Grand Recorder, verbally presented his report, he apologized for the oversight of not including it in the printed proceedings. He referenced the membership report that was included. We do have some gains but continue to have losses in the Demitted and NPD columns. However, the positive news is that our Greetings count is far greater than our Death count. The MMS system is helping our Councils maintain consistent membership lists. At this point in the year we have processed all the members from our Councils into the Database. Our specific Grand Council member numbers have been added to the Select Master Degree comment field. The proposed budget was presented and highlights noted. Unfortunately, this year with the deadline and extended deadline for Annual Returns & Per-capita, we have two Councils who are not entitled to representation at Grand Council. He thanked M.·.I.·. Roberts, M.·.I.·. Raymond, M.·.I.·. Elliott and the Grand Line for making this year an easy one. 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.·. Daniel D. Elliott turned the gavel of authority over to the Deputy Grand Master R.·.I.·. Kerimoglu, and he gave his Most Illustrious Grand Master's Allocution. A solid round of applause was given to M.·.I.·. Elliott for his dedication to our craft this year. Deputy Grand R.·.I.·. Master Kerimoglu made the motion that the Allocution be 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.·. Elliott.

GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY CORPORATION:

Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott 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 in 2024 be accepted, it was seconded and approved.

M.·.I.·. Roberts reported on the Charity Fund Corporation financial numbers for the year. He reminded everyone that donations still being accepted to keep us a Public Charity vs a Private Charity, where a Public Charity is the best category for us to be in. For the year there have been positive results in increases in donations and in the Solomon Arch supporters. Unfortunately, only 17 or our 27 Councils have donated and in several of the 17, only one or two members contributed. The Directors are still looking for causes for this low participation as it is critical to have a path to growth for our Charity programs. We are asking all our Councils to donate any amount to the Charity Corp. We are grateful to all who have donated so far.

The Solomon Arch historical records are still a bit sparse and the Directors have decided to reach out to all our Councils asking them if they have any records of Companions who joined the Solomon Arch. If missing Companions are reported we will accept them at the donation level they list and go forward from their information.

He made the motion that the Charity Fund Corporation report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved. The Chairman of the Charity Corporation Audit committee, R.·.I.·. Steven W.

Howard, presented its report and made the motion that the Audit report be spread across the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

ADDRESS OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER:

Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott called upon R.·.W.·. Robert L Hogan, Jr., Deputy Grand Master for his brief remarks. R.·.W.·. Hogan offered the Congratulations and Regrets of Most Worshipful Steven Adam Rubin as his schedule did not permit him to attend the Assembly. R.·.W.·. Hogan added that "nothing" was going to stop him from coming to the Assembly as M.·.I.·. Elliott and R.·.I.·. Kerimoglu are good friends of his. He spoke on how the timeless principals of Freemasonry are something you live, not read or play, but exists in your hearts. The personal touch of Brotherhood is vital for all our members. It is not memorizing lines in a ritual, but living them. It is how we treat one another, how we act when no one is watching and how we use our tools every singe day to shape ourselves. We as Mason's lead with virtue and live by the light. He left us with this closing quote: "God never said life would be easy, He just promised it would be worth it."
He was given a warm round of applause by the Companions.

LUNCHEON:

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

RECONVENE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

The Annual Assembly was reconvened by Grand Master M.·.I.·. Elliott at 1:25pm in the Grand Assembly room.

ISH-SODI AND AWARDS:

R.·.I.·. Ernest W. Parker 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 {9 new companions}, Bloss-DeWitt Clinton No. 14 {5 new companions}, King Solomon No. 31 {6 new companions}, Adoniram No. 36 {7 new companions}, Suffolk No. 76 {7 new companions}, North Shore No. 88 {5 new companions}; 10% or Greater Increase in Membership: Rotica No. 12 {3 new companions for 11.1% increase}, Bloss-DeWitt Clinton No. 14 {5 new companions for 14.7% increase}, King Solomon No. 31 {6 new companions for 22.2% increase}, Adoniram No. 36 {7 new companions for 36.8% increase}, Suffolk No. 76 {7 new companions for 13.7% increase}, North Shore No. 88 {2 new companions for 13.2% increase}; Best Attendance at Grand Council Annual Assembly: Goshen Council No. 93 had eleven companions present.

The recipients were congratulated with a warn round of applause. The following Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet: General Grand Council 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 Awards.

GRAND LECTURER'S CONVENTION AWARDS:

R.·.I.·. 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 No.

76, Dist 2: King Solomon Council No. 31, Dist 4: St. George's Council No. 74 and Dist 8: Doric Council No. 19. The Rex Long Award for best attendance: Dist 1: Suffolk Council No. 76, Dist 2: King Solomon Council No. 31, Dist 4: St. George's Council No. 74, Dist 6: Central City Council No. 13, Dist 8: Doric Council No. 19 and Dist 9: Buffalo Keystone Council No. 17. 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.·. Elliott on his travels. The Committee thanks the Grand Master for his dedication to Cryptic Masonry, for his travel through-out out the State and his work with the Masonic Youth Groups. His recommendations and dispensations are acknowledged. His establishment of the Nursing Scholarship in memory of his Mother is an act of love and will be a lasting legacy. The Committee expresses their gratitude to our Grand Master for his dedication and are sure he will continue his remarkable service to this Jurisdiction. M.·.I.·. Karwowski moved that the report be spread upon the minutes, it was seconded and approved.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

R.·.I.·. Bruce B. McQuade presented the report of the Credentials Committee. There were 10 - Illustrious Masters, (0 proxy); 2 - Deputy Masters, (0 proxy); 2 - Principal Conductors of the Work, (0 proxy); 48 Past Illustrious Masters for a total of 64 registered Companions; 21 Official Visitors and 19 Ladies were present for this Annual Assembly. There were 21 of our 27 Councils represented. R.·.I.·. McQuade made the motion to spread this report upon the minutes, it was seconded and passed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following Companions were appointed tellers for the elections: V.·. I.·. Mike Miller, Illustrious Anthony Tabone and Illustrious Jeremy Ryder. 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 2025-2026 Cryptic Year.

R.·.I.·. Paul Huck nominated R.·.I.·. Richard Kerimoglu for the Office of Most Illustrious Grand Master. The motion was seconded by M.·.I.·. Karwowski. No further nominations were made. Nominations were declared closed. The Tellers found one unanimous ballot for R.·.I.·. Richard Kerimoglu as Most Illustrious Grand Master. The assembly extended him a round of applause. He thanked all and agreed to serve.

M.·.I.·. Daniel D. Elliott 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 offices of Grand Steward and Grand Standard Bearer were in order. The two declared candidates were Illustrious Bruce B. McQuade and Illustrious William S. Morley. It was decided to run a single ballot and the two officers would be elected based on the vote count. The position of Grand Standard Bearer to the Companion with the highest count and Grand Steward to the Companion with the second highest count. The votes were cast, the Grand Recorder reported that Illustrious Bruce B. McQuade

was elected to the position of Grand Standard Bearer and Illustrious William S. Morley was elected to the position of Grand Steward.

A motion was made by M.·.I.·. Donald Kunego 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.·. Richard Kerimoglu. took place, with M.·.I.·. Richard Fowler conducting the private installation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master-Elect. The Obligation by the Grand Master, was conferred in a special event using the George Washington Bible under the care of Companions representing St. John’s Lodge #1. 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 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 203rd Annual Assembly was given by M.·.I.·. Gallant. The 203rd Annual Assembly of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of NY will be held on August 14-15, 2026 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.

CLOSING OF THE GRAND ASSEMBLY:

Most Illustrious Grand Master called upon R.·.I.·. Christopher Allen for the Benediction. The 202nd Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of NY was closed at 2:35pm.

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 14 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.·. Elliott 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 Elliott and Most Puissant David Grindle, PMPGM, of the General Grand Council International. The following awards were given: General Grand Cryptic Mason of the Year to V.·.I.·. Victor K. Han; General Grand Cryptic Youth Leadership Award: Ms. Kelly Padivan, Ladies of the Council: Miss Kayla Mclean and Mrs. Deanna Cassella, the E. William Whittaker Grand Master's Award: V.·.I.·. Robert Yee, Giles Fonda Yates Award: R.·.I.·. Aram M. Adishian, Grand Master's Certificate of Achievement: Adoniram Council #36.
Words of wisdom were delivered by our all distinguished Guests. PMIGM Elliott gave closing remarks of thanks and introduced the Right Worshipful Robert L. Hogan, Jr., Deputy 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