**Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons**

**Of the District of Columbia**

**143rd Annual Convocation Friday March 13, 2015**

**Most Excellent Grand High Priest Philip Palmer, Sr. presiding.**

The Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was opened in ample form by Charbel T. Fahed, Grand King at 1:21 pm. The Rev. Grand Chaplain, Rev. Canon Daniel D. Darko, PGHP led Devotions after which the Grand King pronounced the Grand Chapter opened and at labor.

Upon an alarm at the door, the Grand King ordered the Grand Captain of the Host to ascertain the cause. The Royal Arch Captain reported that the Grand High Priest was ready to be received.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest was received at the door and escorted to the Altar by the Grand Captain of the Host where he was accorded Grand Honors. Assuming the East and the Gavel, M.E.C. Palmer warmly greeted the companions, thanked them for their attendance and promised a most enjoyable and significant meeting. He then invited MEC Charles Wagner to deliver the Toast to the Flag, after which he called on EC James Mitchell to lead the companions in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEC Palmer then called upon MEC Fuller to present the usual opening motions.

**M1.** The Grand Secretary then moved that companions not members of this Grand Chapter be permitted to attend the Convocation. It was seconded and passed without objection.

**M2.** The Grand Secretary moved to grant Honorary Membership in the Grand Chapter to the Visiting Grand High Priests: Charles Hart, Delaware; Henry Adams, Florida; Cyril Francis, New York; Thomas Jackson, North Carolina; and Donald McAndrews, Virginia. The motion was seconded and voted without objection.

MEC Palmer then suspended business and proceeded to welcome the distinguished visitors in the East as they were presented by the Grand Royal Arch Captain. Representing:

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons Of Delaware, the Grand High Priest MEC Charles Hart accompanied by PGHP MEC Lionel Hunter.

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Florida, MEC Henry Adams.

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Maryland REC Patrick Curtis Grand King.

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of New York MEC Cyril Francis, Grand High Priest accompanied by REC David Robling, PDDGHP.

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina MEC Thomas Jackson, Grand High Priest.

Grand Council Cryptic Masons of Pennsylvania, Most Puissant William W. Hellier, Grand Master.

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Virginia, MEC Donald McAndrews, GHP. accompanied by MEC Howard Colman, PGHP; MEC Jeffrey Burcham, PGHP; MEC Charles Wagner, PGHP.

Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star of the District of Columbia, Robert Star, Grand Worthy Patron.

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the District of Columbia, Most Illustrious Grand Master, James Galloday, Jr.

Next were introduced from the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, Int. MP Lawrence Weaver, Grand Master, accompanied by Right Puissant Charles Wagner, District Deputy Grand Master;

*Grand Honors* were accorded our Distinguished Visitors and Guests.

The Past Grand High Priests of the District of Columbia were presented Harold Grainger, 1987; Howard Coleman,VA 1989; W. Frederick Gore, 1996; Teko A. Foly, 2006; Kenneth D. Fuller, 2007; Alwyn B. Taylor, 2008; Robert H. Starr, 2009; James W. Mitchell, 2010; Daniel D. Darko, 2011; James Loudermilk, 2013. *Grand Honors* were accorded our Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests.

For the General Grand Chapter, James Hodge, RE General Grand King was warmly greeted as representing the General Grand High Priest. Gene Fricks, Deputy General GHP for the NE Region, MEC Marcus Trelaine, General Grand Ambassador for DC, and MEC Teko Foly, General Grand Ambassador Africa accompanied him.

Grand Honors were accorded our Distinguished Visitors and Guests.

Representing the Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, RW Kenneth D. Fuller, Deputy Grand Master was received in the East and accorded Grand Honors. He was given the gavel, which he promptly returned to the Grand High Priest, who invited him and the General Grand King to join him on the dais. MEC proceeded with business, passing the gavel to his King REC who then presided as the Grand High Priest delivered his allocution.

**Allocution of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of**

**The District of Columbia at the 148th Grand Convocation**

**March 20, 2015**

**Philip J.A.G. Palmer Sr., Grand High Priest**

Right Worshipful Brother Kenneth D. Fuller, Deputy Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, Right Excellent James Hodge, Grand King, General Grand Chapter International, Most Puissant Lawrence O. Weaver, Grand Master, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, Most Illustrious James Golladay Jr., Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, District of Columbia, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests, Grand Chapter Officers, Distinguished guests and Companions all .

I Welcome you to the 148th Grand Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia and extend to you warmest and fraternal greetings. We trust that your visit and participation will be pleasant and enjoyable and that you will return safely to your several jurisdictions and homes with fond memories of your visit with us and with the satisfaction of having faithfully discharged your duty to the craft.

By the grace of God and the free suffrages of the Companions, I was elected and installed Grand High Priest On March 15, 2014. I must say I accepted this illustrious position with great trepidation conscious of the fact that my predecessor was Marcus Trelaine and convinced that I had put my tiny feet into some big shoes, I resolved that only hard work, perseverance and commitment will see me through, what appeared as a formidable adventure.

 It was a rewarding adventure I came to find out. One of learning, enjoyment and hard work. It made me renew acquaintances with colleagues in the craft and strengthened our relationships. It also brought me into close contact with the old, experienced and knowledgeable icons of our order and at the same time with the young, eager and restless companions, who are looking for recognition and responsibility to prepare them for carrying on the work when the older icons would have laid down their working tools either through death or because of infirmity. Such is our fate, Companions that we have a given time on this earth for our labors and when the King of Kings decides to call us from these labors even though the spirit may be willing to continue, the flesh will deny us the strength to refuse the call. In our jurisdiction, age and health are gradually limiting the ability of our most perfected companions to bring light and luster to our ceremonies and to share their wisdom in our assemblies.

We have a duty now to prepare our young companions adequately to fill our shoes as ritualists and degree performers if we are to maintain the high standard of performance set by our illustrious predecessors in our Chapters and in the Grand Chapter. This is why I kept emphasizing participation in the Grand Chapter School of Instruction and placed 2 Past Grand High Priests, MEC Harold Grainger and MEC Alwyn Taylor, in charge so that young companions will not only prepare for ritual performance but for leadership. The young companions, we all know, have the zeal and interest to gain preferment but they need guidance in comportment and behavior to earn the respect and confidence of the Companions while they pursue their interests.

**MINI FESTIVAL**

Under the direction of the Grand King, Right Excellent Charbel Fahed, a mini-festival of the degrees was held by the various Chapters in which individual Chapters separately conferred the Mark, Most Excellent and Past Master Degrees and a cast drawn up by MEC Harold Grainger conferred the Royal Arch. The mini festival was very useful in giving Chapter officers a practice on the ritual and the members, greater understanding and knowledge of our ceremonies and the history of our order, while the team which conferred the Royal Arch used it to prepare themselves for the Multi-Jurisdictional.

**MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL FESTIVAL**

As was agreed in 2013 in Maryland between the jurisdictions of Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and District of Columbia, a festival of the Capitular Degrees of the Royal Arch was hosted by the District of Columbia On September 20, 2014. By courtesy of the Grand High Priest of Virginia, the festival was held at the historic George Washington National Masonic Memorial Center in Alexandria, Virginia whose facilities and location best suited the grandeur and great importance of the event.

Candidates came from all the participating jurisdictions, properly processed and presented to be made Royal Arch Masons. The degrees were conferred in a timely manner with efficiency and correctness as follows:

Maryland Mark Master

Virginia Most Excellent Master

Delaware Past Master

District of Columbia Royal Arch

All attendees fully cooperated in making the event a triumph for the universality of Masonry and an advantage for Royal Arch Masonry. 50 candidates from the four jurisdictions were made Royal Arch Masons at the festival.

Let me say thank you to the Grand High Priest of Maryland for the many waivers given to make it possible for DC Masons, resident in Maryland to receive the degrees, and to the Grand High Priest of Virginia for allowing us to use this beautiful and historical building for the festival. I also say thank you to the Virginia companions for their generosity in allowing us the use of their facilities and paraphernalia. A special thank you goes to MEC Howard Coleman for his guidance and hard work in the planning and running of the event. He made things easy for me to understand and follow. Thanks also go to the cast which put up a sterling performance, the Grand Scribe REC George Nicol for handling the meal part exceptionally well, to EC Walter Benesch and Comp. Pablo Rocha for their professional handling of the furniture and paraphernalia, to the MEZ of Sojourner Kilwinning Chapter for agreeing to let his Chapter be the host Chapter, to the Grand Secretary MEC Rev. Kenneth Fuller and EC Sylvanus Newstead for sending out all the necessary notices and dispensations and preparing the minutes. I also thank all officers and who cooperated with the Grand Chapter and helped make this a memorable event.

I have now to thank the Grand High Priests of Maryland, Virginia and Delaware for agreeing to continue this unique form of fellowship and friendship and urge them to continue to show to the world how good it is for Brethren to dwell in unity and peace. This fellowship must continue and be passed on from generation to generation.

**VISITATIONS TO CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS**

I made an effort to attend the meetings of chapters in our jurisdiction which were within the length of my cable tow and I participated in their programs. The warmth of their friendship was sincere and I deeply appreciate the loyalty and respect shown me on my visits. These visits gave me an opportunity to learn first-hand, what companions do in their meetings and I was impressed by the effort being placed on proficiency and advancement, and in organizing programs which brought masons and non-masons together in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding thus creating a favorable opportunity for recruitment into our Order.

**GRAND VISITATION TO CONSTITUENT CHAPTERS**

I decided to make the Grand Visitations in the fall to avoid disruption by inclement weather as happened the year before and from our experience this winter I think the decision was good and timely. I also decided to visit Chapters in groups and the result was that attendance was good and the companions were able to meet each other in an atmosphere of cordiality and brotherly love and to learn what was going on in other chapters. Below is the visitation schedule:

October 11 Sojourner Kilwinning Chapter No. 17

November 6 Washington Potomac Chapter No. 8, Mount

 Pleasant Chapter No.13, Marvin Fowler Chapter No. 18.

November 10 Columbia Chapter No. 1, Mount Vernon Chapter

No. 3, William R. Singleton Chapter 4.

January 17 Fiat Lux Chapter No. 19.

VISITATION TO LODGES

I accompanied the Most Worshipful Grand Master on 4 of his Grand Visitations as follows:

Colonial Lodge No. 1821 February 7th, 2015

Mehr Lode No. 90 February 12th, 2015

Compass Lodge No. 1811 February 19, 2015

Anacostia Lodge No. 21 March 2nd, 2015

I am pleased to report that in all these visits the Grand Master had me presented at the altar and I was given Grand honors and given the floor to address the Companions. Once again, I thank the Grand Master for this Royal recognition and wish him well in his undertaking.

DISPENSATIONS

The following were issued:

No. 2014-01 - March 26, 2014, authorizing and empowering all constituent chapters to set aside Section 103 of the code of the Grand Chapter to accept, receive and ballot on petition to elect candidates for the Spring 2014 Mini Festival just prior to the beginning of the festival on April 23, 2014.

No. 2014-02 – March 26, 2014, authorizing and empowering REC Charbel Fahed, Grand King, REC George Nicol, Grand Scribe, MEC Scott Applebee, Grand Visitor and Lecturer, MEC Alwyn Taylor and MEC Harold Grainger Assistant Grand visitors and Lecturers to close a constituent Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in ample form when the situation is deemed appropriate.

No. 2014-03 – July 8, 2014, authorizing and empowering all constituent Chapters to participate in the fall Multi-Jurisdictional Festival and that a degree team led by the RE Grand King, Charbel Fahed be empowered to confer the Royal Arch Degree at the Festival.

No. 2014-04 – July 8, 2014, authorizing and empowering the constituent chapters to set aside section 103 of the Grand Chapter code to accept, receive and ballot on petitions to elect candidates for the fall 2014 Multi-Jurisdictional Festival prior to the festival.

No. 2014-05 – August 10, 2014, granting to the Grand Royal Arch Chapters of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia dispensation to present their balloted candidates for the Capitular Degrees at the Multi-Jurisdictional Festival to be held on September 20, 2014 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

No. 2014-06 – August 21, 2014, authorizing and empowering constituent Chapters to open (a) special convocation(s) to accept petition, receive petitions and ballot on petitions to elect candidates for the fall 2014 Multi-Jurisdictional Festival on the 20th day of September, 2014 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

No. 2014-07, - August 25, 2014, authorizing and empowering the Most Excellent, Right Excellent and other Companions gathered by my order at the William R. Singleton Masonic Temple on the evening of September 26, to form and open a chapter for the purpose of conferring the Royal Arch Degree on candidates duly qualified.

**VISITATION TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

I am pleased to report that I attended the Grand Convocations of five jurisdictions as follows:

Rhode Island March 28, 2014

Maryland October 25, 2014

Virginia November 14, 2014

Pennsylvania December 4, 2014

Delaware March 14, 2015

In all these jurisdictions I was greeted and treated as befits my office and I enjoyed lavish fraternal hospitality. I wish therefore to offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my hosts for their fraternal attention and kindness towards me and my lady during our visits.

**OTHER MASONIC ACTIVITIES**

I attended the following also:

The North Eastern York Rite Department & Regional Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire, September 5, 2014.

The 69th Triennial Session of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International in Buffalo, New York, September 25-30, 2014

I found both convocations very useful and helpful. They were well organized and informative and they gave me the opportunity of meeting with General Grand Chapter Officers and renewing acquaintances with the Grand High Priests of other jurisdictions.

I also attended the Annual District of Columbia night in Virginia on June 11, 2014 in which Arlington Royal Arch Chapter No. 35 hosted a celebration of DC Royal Arch Masons. Earlier in the year, Columbia Royal Arch Chapter No. 1 of the District of Columbia observed Virginia Night in DC, which I also attended. This annual event which has been maintained over the years, has led to the strengthening of brotherly love between the two jurisdictions as it offers a common ground for companions to meet in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere to break bread and enjoy each other’s company. Long may it continue.

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

**BRONZE MEDAL**

It is the privilege of the Grand High Priest to recommend to General Grand Chapter International, some companion who has performed over and above the normal in his Masonic duties and is not a Grand Officer to receive this award. One such person has been selected and he will receive the honor at the Grand Banquet tonight.

**Meritorious Companion Certificates** were also presented to the following:

Right Excellent George Samuel Nicol: In recognition of his assistance in the establishment and elevation of Scottish Rite Masonry in his Chapter Sojourner Kilwinning Chapter No. 17 and for the accomplishment of several tasks in the Sojourner Kilwinning trilogy and the Grand Chapter and Grand Cryptic Council.

Excellent Companion Bernard J. “Bud” Michaels: In recognition of his contribution to the development of a strong profitable relationship and understanding between the community and Companions of his Chapter, Mount Pleasant Chapter No. 13 which has proved useful in attracting young men to Masonry.

Excellent Companion Philip J. A. Palmer Jr.: In recognition of his commitment and assistance in the elevation of English Rite Capitular Masonry in his Chapter Fiat Lux No. 17 and for the accomplishment of several tasks in the Fiat Lux trilogy which included successfully putting the finances of the trilogy in order.

NECROLOGY

Companions, it is my sad duty to report that since my installation as Grand High Priest, the following Companions laid down their working tools here on earth and joined the throng of worthy Masons in the stupendous Lodge above where all true Masons summoned by the Almighty Architect live in eternal bliss.

Merriman Cisco Parkinson May 2, 2014

Lonnie Jolma September 24, 2014

Hugh Shawen November 18, 2014

Stewart Miner December 17, 2014

William B. Craig December 21, 2014

We will not see them anymore as we knew them before but we learn from Masonry that it is through the gate of death that we find an entrance to the place of wages, refreshment and rest where we too are advancing to join these worthy companions in celebrating the eternal Sabbath with the Supreme High Priest who lives and reigns forever. I now call on Most Excellent Rev. Canon Daniel Dodo Darko the Grand Chaplain to offer a memorial prayer for our departed Companions. [\*\*\*] May their souls rest in perfect peace.

AKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish here to thank Almighty God for surrounding me with his divine protection through my year in office and for empowering me with his wisdom to make judgments which I did in the interest of the Grand Chapter. Some of them may not seem wise to some people but I made them with a clear conscience and always with the interest of the Grand Chapter in mind.

I also wish to thank the officers of the Grand Chapter both elected and appointed and the Chairmen and members of the various Committees for their support and loyalty during my term of office especially those who attended and participated in the Multi-Jurisdictional Festival and who accompanied me on the Grand Visitations.

 Special thanks go to the Grand Secretary, Most Excellent & Rev. Kenneth Fuller whom I bothered and leaned on heavily to find answers to problems when they occurred. I congratulate him on his advancement in the Grand Lodge and have no doubt that he will be a successful Grand Master.

I also wish to express my gratitude and thanks to my illustrious predecessors, the Past Grand High Priests who shepherded me with skill, patience and experience through the intricate windings of my complex responsibilities to an end l am comfortable with. Harold Grainger, Bob Starr, Canon Darko, Howard Coleman, James Loudermilk, James Mitchel, Alwyn Taylor, all showered me with counsels and brotherly love, and supported me in all my undertakings, while the venerable Marcus Trelaine did not fall short of arming me with his wisdom and experience when I turned to him for help. I thank them all.

**THE STATE OF THE GRAND CHAPTER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

The Grand Chapter, my Companions, is doing well. Like other jurisdictions, some members are leaving or slowing down for one reason or the other but new and young members are coming in with vigor and commitment to excel and advance. And the performance of the new members in ritual work in the various Chapters is laudable and encouraging and with the help of the Supreme High priest our Grand Chapter will move to higher heights.

In closing let me state, that it has been an honor to serve as Grand High Priest of the District of Columbia this past year and I pledge my unqualified support and loyalty to my successor and for the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry in the District of Columbia. May the Supreme High Priest continue to order our steps and to cement and strengthen our brotherhood.

 Fraternally and Sincerely,

 Philip J.A.G. Palmer Sr.

Grand High Priest

**M3**. Grand King REC Charbel T. Fahed called on Jurisprudence Committee to comment on the GHP’s address and actions. REC Robert Star Reported for the Jurisprudence Committee positively on the address and dispensations of our Grand High Priest and moved the acceptance of his Allocution and that it be spread upon the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. REC Fahed returned the Gavel to the King.

A Eulogy for our MEC Past Grand High Priest Lawrence Jolma was presented by MEC James Loudermilk, PGHP.

M4. Mt. Ex. Kenneth Fuller moved that the reading of the minutes of the last Annual Convocation be dispensed with. It was seconded and positively voted. The Minutes of the Special Convocation have been disseminated.

**Report of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter RAM DC**

Our Membership Summary for the year is as follows:

# Name Begin Adds Exal. Rein Affil Losses Death npd with Total

1 Columbia 103 **1** 1 **32** 11 21 72

3 Mt. Vernon 129 **3** 1 2 **63** 9 50 4 69

4 Singleton 119  **3** 2 1 **1** 1 121

8 Wash Pot. 107 **4** 2 2 **3** 3 108

13 Mt Pleas. 180 **17** 15 1 1 **6** 5 1 191

17 Soj-Kil 71 **4** 2 1 1 **5**  2 3 70

18 M.E. Fowler 17 **2** 2 15

19 Fiat Lux 39 **2** 1 1 37

Totals **765** **32** 23 6 3 **114** 34 61 9 **683**

We have been working with the Secretaries to try to bring the level of our work up. We have had much turnover and a new set of Secretaries is hard at work.

The Grand Secretary spent time this year on special projects working for the Grand High Priest. Included are; working on the Multijurisdictional Festival we hosted in Alexandria at the GWNMM, and serving as a one man committee to find the best new set of regalia for the Grand Chapter at the best price. Which I believe we did by working with Sid Leluan of Pinworld. Sid also provides us with our Grand High Priest Apron and our Interim Grand High Priest Jewel.

I made all the Grand Visitations and it was a pleasure working with and for MEC Philip J. Palmer, our Grand High Priest!

I thank all who made these three years so enjoyable, especially Joel R. Kahn our Right Excellent Grand Treasurer and all the Grand Chapter line. Blessing especially on our Chapter Secretaries and upon all the members who practice Capitular Masonry so well.

Kenneth D. Fuller

Grand Secretary

**M4**. The Grand Secretary moved that his report be received and spread upon the minutes. It was properly seconded and voted without objection

**M5**.The Grand High Priest called upon the Grand Chapter to convey the title of Grand Secretary Emeritus upon MEC Kenneth. D. Fuller. It was voted to give him that title by acclamation.

The Grand Secretary read the roll of the Grand Representatives and the following were present

**GRAND REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT 2015 NAME**

Arkansas Howard F. Coleman

Australia- New South Wales James W. Mitchell

Australia-Victoria Charles A. Phillips

Austria Carrol J. Collins

Canada- British Columbia Rev. Kenneth D. Fuller

Canada-Nova Scotia Bruce F. Gilbert

Canada-Quebec Harold Grainger

Connecticut Robert H. Starr

Delaware Teko A. Foly

Florida Sheldon Arpad (excused)

France Francis S. Nicol

Georgia James A. Loudermilk, II

Hawaii Marcus A. Trelaine

Israel Robert H. Starr

Maine W. Frederick Gore

Maryland Joel R. Kahn

Mexico Emmanuel Findley

New York Harold Grainger

New Zealand Rev. Canon D. Darko

North Carolina Philip Palmer, Sr.

South Carolina Alwyn B. Taylor

South Dakota Carl Stahlman

Switzerland Teko A. Foly

Venezuela Charbel T. Fahed

Virginia Howard F. Coleman

Mt. Ex. GHP ask all Representatives present to stand and thanked them for their

service.

**M6**. Grand Treasurer Ex. Joel Khan presented his report on Accounts and the Budget and moved it be accepted as printed and spread upon the minutes. The motion was seconded and voted without objection. See Appendices 1 and 2.

Trustees Report- Mt. Ex. Robert Star reported on the funds presently being held. See appendix.

**M7.**The Grand Visitor and Lecturer, Mt. Ex. Scott M. Applebee reported on the state of the ritual in the Grand Chapter. He moved that his report be accepted. It was seconded and so voted.

**M8**. It was moved by the Grand Secretary that all other reports not requiring action be spread upon the minutes. It was seconded and voted without objection.

**M9**. Grand Secretary presented the report on credentials. Columbia #1 was not represented. Mt.Vernon #3 was represented by 5 voters, Singleton #4 by 3 voters, Potomac #8 by 3 voters, Mt Pleasant by 8 voters, Sojourner Kilwinning #17 by 4 voters, Marvin Fowler #18 was represented by the dais officers all of whom had votes in other Chapters, and #19 Fiat Lux by 3 voters. Twelve Past Grand High Priests signed in as such for a total of 38 voters. Six of the eight chapters being represented by 38 voters there is a quorum. The Grand Secretary moved that this report be received and spread upon the minutes. Being seconded, the motion was approved without objection.

The Grand High Priest called for the ELECTIONS of officers for the ensuing Capitular year. He then appointed three visiting dignitaries to act as Tellers should they be needed.

The Grand High Priest then called for nominations for **Grand High Priest**. The Secretary nominated the Grand King, Charbel Fahed to be elected as Grand High Priest for 2015 to 16. There being no further nominations, the Grand High Priest to declared nominations closed and called for a vote by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed **REC Charbel Fahed as Grand High Priest**-elect. REC Fahed accepted his election with great joy and humility.

MEC Palmer then passed the gavel to REC Fahed to complete the process of elections.

REC Fahed called for nominations for **Grand King**, REC George C. Nichol was nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed and asked that REC George C. Nichol being elected by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed **REC Nicol as Grand King**. REC Nicol agreed to serve with great enthusiasm.

REC Fahed called for nominations for **Grand Scribe**, EC Philip J. Palmer, Jr. was nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed and asked that EC P. J. Palmer,Jr. be elected by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed **EC Palmer as Grand Scribe**. EC J.P.Palmer, Jr. agreed to serve with great humility and grace.

REC Fahed called for the nominations for Grand Treasurer, EC Joel R. Kahn was nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed and asked that EC Kahn be elected by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed **EC Kahn as Grand Treasurer**. REC Kahn agreed to serve with great enthusiasm.

REC Fahed called for the nominations for **Grand Secretary**, MEC Teko A. Foly was nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed and asked that MEC Foly be elected by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed **MEC T. A. Foly as Grand Secretary**. MEC Foly agreed to serve with piety.

REC Fahed called for nominations for **Grand Visitor and Lecturer**, REC Scott Appleby was nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed and asked that REC Appleby be elected by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed **REC Appleby as Grand Visitor and Lecturer.** REC Appleby agreed to serve with great enthusiasm.

REC Fahed called for nominations for Grand Treasurer, EC Joel R. Kahn was nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed and asked that EC Kahn be elected by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed EC Kahn as Grand Treasurer. REC Kahn agreed to serve with great enthusiasm.

REC Fahed called for nominations for Grand Chaplain, MEC Daniel Darko was nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed and asked that MEC Darko be elected by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed MEC Darko as Grand Chaplain. REC Darko agreed to serve with great humility and piety.

REC Fahed called for nominations for **Grand Captain of the Host**, ECs Sylvanus Newstead, Charles Philips, Peter Brusoe and Patrick Nnaji were nominated. There being no other nominees, he declared that nominations were closed. The ballot for the office of Grand Captain of the Host was then taken. The tellers gathered the ballots. The result of the first ballot was 13 for EC Newstead, 4 for EC Philips, 17 for EC Brusoe, and 4 for EC Nnaji. The second ballot was taken with both EC Philips and EC Nnaji withdrawing. The result of the second ballot was EC Peter Brusoe won with a simple majority of ballots cast. On a motion by EC Newstead, the Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed **EC Brusoe as Grand Captain of the Host**. EC Brusoe agreed to serve with great enthusiasm and grace.

REC Fahed called for nominations for Trustee for a three year term. MEC Robert B Bussler was duly nominated. There being no other nominations, REC Fahed closed nominations and asked that the Grand Lodge elect MEC Bussler by acclamation. The Grand Chapter enthusiastically acclaimed MEC Bussler as Trustee. MEC James Mitchell (2016), MEC Robert Star (2017), MEC Robert Bussler (2018) are the Trustees of the Grand Chapter.

**M10.** The Grand Secretary moved that the ballots be destroyed. It was seconded and voted without objection that the Grand Secretary destroy the ballots.

The Grand High Priest-elect announced his appointed officers:

Principal Sojourner- Win Keller

Royal Arch Captain-Roger Cundiff

First Veil-Austin Esfandiary

Second Veil-Annas Kamara

Third Veil-Victor Petrossian

Sentinel-Pablo Rocha

Aide-Douglas Cohen

Editor of Publications-Driesenstock

The Grand High Priest–elect returned the gavel to MEC Palmer to continue the work of the day.

The Grand High Priest recognized the following officers present at the Convocation.

Grand Officers Line for 2014

 Grand King Charbel T. Fahed

 Grand Scribe George S. Nicol Jr.

 Grand Secretary Kenneth D. Fuller

Grand Treasurer Joel R. Kahn

Grand Chaplain Rev. Canon Daniel D. Darko

Grand Visitor & Lecturer Scott M. Applebee

Assistant Grand Visitor & Lecturer Harold Grainger

Assistant Grand Visitor & Lecturer Alwyn B. Taylor

Grand Captain of the Host Philip Palmer Jr.

Grand Principal Sojourner Annas Kamara

Grand Royal Arch Captain Carroll J. Collins

Grand Master 3rd Veil Roger Cundiff

Grand Master 1st veil Sylvanus J. Newstead

Grand Sentinel Pablo Rocha

Douglas Cohen Aide to the Grand Master

The Grand High Priest asked that all meritorious companions be gathered west of the altar where he greeted them personally, their Certificates having been presented to this years recipients at the Grand Visitations.

The High Priests of 2014 were invited to stand and were introduced.

General Grand Chapter Bronze medal holders were gathered at the Altar and warmly greeted by the Grand High Priest.

The Grand High Priest declared the 2006 Committees dismissed and his appointed officers relieved of their duties.

MEC Philip Palmer called on Cyril Francis to deliver any remarks he might care to make on behalf of the visiting GHPs. MEC Francis thanked the Grand High Priest of DC and the Grand Chapter for its hospitality and wished the new Grand High Priest-elect every success.

MEC Palmer then turned the gavel to MEC James Hodge, RE General Grand King Representing of General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter

Royal Arch Masons International for his remarks.

MEC Hodge noted that the cherry blossoms had been set back by the weather, but that makes no difference since he loves coming her. He thanked the Grand Chapter for its hospitality as he gave greetings and thanks from MEC Louis Bertrand, the General Grand High Priest.

He thanked the DC Grand Chapter and its editors for assuring content for the RAM Magazine both for the state supplement and the magazine itself.

He noted the theme of this Triennial, Training and Education. He announced the Regional Conference for September 10-12 in Mt. Laurel, NJ. He highlighted the Emerging Leaders Training Program and that its goal is how to administer, mentoring and the latest ideas that are working. We need Blue Lodges, he said, and we must work closely with them. He thanked the Grand Chapter of DC for all it does.

His remarks were received with hearty applause.

Finally, the Grand High Priest handed the Gavel to the last speaker of the convocation.

The Grand Master of Masons - Most Worshipful Jeffrey D. Russell was represented by RW Brother (and MEC) Kenneth D. Fuller, the Deputy Grand Master of DC. He was welcomed with the standing applause as the representative of the Grand Master.

RW Brother Fuller spoke of the importance of the Chapter and all of the York Rite to the District of Columbia and its Lodges and Members. He recognized the good works of the various charities. He commended the GHP, MEC Palmer for his excellent leadership in his year in the Capitular Grand East. He returned the Gavel to the Grand High Priest to conclude the business.

MEC Palmer called upon the Installing Officer to prepare to install the newly elected GHP and his officers following a brief recess.

OPEN INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR CAPITULAR YEAR, 2008-2009

The Installing Officer dispensed with further business to hold an open installation

and congratulated the new Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and the

Grand Officers. The following officers were installed:

Charbel T. Fahed-Grand High Priest

George S. Nicol-Grand King

Philip Palmer, Jr.-Grand Scribe

Peter Brusoe-Grand Captain of the Host

Teko A. Foly-Grand Secretary

The other officers will be installed at a separate ceremony within the month.

The Grand High Priest was presented with Grand High Priest’s Apron and Case.

The Proclamation being made, the Installing Grand High Priest handed the Gavel to MEC Charbel T. Fahed

The Grand High Priest thanked all who helped him along the way with their counsel, advice and support. He hopes the York Rite can be even more visible in DC in the next Masonic Year. Grand Visitations will take place next January and February.

He warmly welcomed the members of the other York Rite bodies in attendance and promised to keep close ties in the future.

He called upon MEC Daniel Darko, Grand Chaplain, for a closing prayer.

The Grand High Priest then closed the Grand Chapter in Ample and open form at 4:53 pm.

Appendices: See Files Attached in Folder Grand Convocation 2014