The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened on 3/18/2017 at 9:00 AM with MEC George Nicol presiding at the Embassy Suites 4300 Military Rd NW, Washington, DC 20015

**Quorum:**
The Grand Secretary certified that there was a quorum present to transact business.

**Permit All Royal Arch Masons to be Present**A motion was made to permit all Royal Arch Masons and not just those who are members of the Grand Chapter to be present.

**Reception of Dignitaries:**The Grand High Priest received a number of different delegations of visiting jurisdictions. Honorary Past Grand High Priest certificates were presented.

**Minutes of the Previous session:**The Minutes of the previous session were not available for review at this time, but should be complete in a few more weeks.

**Grand Secretary’s Report:**The Grand Secretary provided a report on the membership returns of the Grand Chapter including the number of new companions and those who dropped or passed on. Several concerns were raised about the Grand Secretary’s office failing to provide dues cards, advanced notice, or distributing legislation that was sent to his office to the members. MEC Foly explained that he was overwhelmed with work, and that the dues cards would be out soon.

The Grand Secretary’s Report was accepted.

**Memorials for MEC Knight Warner and MEC Fred Gore**

 As Masons we hear about the sadness of the craft at the death of our Grand Master Hiram Abiff at the loss of a visionary leader who dreamed big dreams, was an loyal and hardworking friend and brother. It is hard for us to conceptualize such grief. The Grand Chapter this year has experienced that type of grief this year when we lost two of our luminaries of the fraternity, Most Excellent Companion William Frederick Gore, Past Grand High Priest, and Most Excellent Companion Marion Knight Warner, Past Grand High Priest. They gave for each of us a shining example of what it was to be mason, in their fraternal lives, their professional lives, and their personal lives. For us the challenge shall be how can we live a life that better emulates their virtue? It is also fitting that these two men, who in life were deep personal friends, are memorialized together. As the Temple of Solomon had two pillars standing outside it named Boaz and Jachin, Royal Arch Masonry had two giant pillars standing outside of it named Fred and Knight.
 The memorials that follow are an attempt to put into words the amazing attributes of these two amazing men. Yet, words cannot capture the soft and gentle chuckle of Knight Warner, or the friendly grip and knowing smile of Fred Gore. Words fail to properly capture the dedication to family that they had. Yet, words are what we have. These words shall rest upon preputial record of our Grand Chapter that two such amazing men lived, walked among us and made sure that Royal Arch Masonry thrived. Much of the memorial material comes from their Distinguished Service Medal award nominations.

**William Frederick Gore**
 July 19, 1927- December 5, 2016
 William Frederick Gore, or as he was known to everyone, Fred, was born on July 19, 1927 in Chevy Chase, Washington, D.C. Fred attended the DC Public School system including Brown Elementary School, Alice Deal Junior High School and Woodrow Wilson High School. When he turned 17 he enlisted in the U. S. Navy at the age of 17 in 1945 and served until August of 1946 when he received an honorable discharge.
 After returning home from the service Fred worked for a contractor doing layout work at a large housing project in Prince George’s County. He enrolled in the Engineering School at George Washington University and took courses in civil engineering before he started to work for the civil engineering and land surveying firm of Seybolt & George, of Silver Spring Maryland in 1950. He would later become a partner of the surveying firm and eventually serve as Chief Executive Officer from the mid seventies until his retirement in 1992.
 Fed was active in the community. He was a member of the Silver Spring Rotary Club and was President from 1970-1971. He was a member of the Maryland Society of Surveyors and served on its board for many years as a director and secretary/treasurer for 2 years.
 Fred was a lifelong member of the Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church serving as the chairman of building committee for their new church along with many other board chairs including treasurer and trustee.
 Fred’s family tells the story that he and his wife Jean meat through the Order of the Eastern Star. Fred would drive several of the members home after their meetings. He would often drop Jean off last and they had the opportunity to get to know each other. They fell in love and were the first couple to be married in the current church building. Fred had two daughters, Kathleen Marie and Pamela Jean. Kathleen married Bill Stephens, and Pam married Larry Hicks. Fred had nine grandchildren including Cory Hicks, Megan Hicks, Anna Grace Hics, Noah Hicks, Joshua Hicks, and Paris Hicks, Kristin Hicks McClure, Thomas Stpehens and John Stephens and a Grandson-in-law James McClure. One Great Grand Daughter, Maitland McClure. The family can tell many great stories of lessons they learned from Fred around home construction, time at the cottage, learning about oysters. As Jean’s health declined, Fred honored his marriage vows and took amazing care of her in sickness. He doted upon her and took very good care of her.
 Fred’s Masonic Career was extensive. It begin in 1948 when he petitioned William R. Singleton Lodge #30 at the age of 21. Singleton Lodge was the lodge his father was a member, and also his brother Hilton. Masonry was very much a family thing for the Gore family. He was raised to the sublime degree of Master mason In January of 1949. When Singleton Lodge merged with Hope lodge in 1986 (CHECK ME ON THIS) he served as the first master of the combined lodge. He went on to serve as treasurer of William R. Singleton-Hope-Lebanon Lodge #7 for almost twenty years. Fred did an amazing job with record keeping and ensuring that the lodge’s finances were always accurate. In 2011 he was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Grand Lodge.

Fred joined William R Singleton Chapter No. 4 Royal Arch Masons in the early 1950s. He served as the Excellent High Priest in 1958 and as Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masonry of the District of Columbia in 1996. Fred was honored with the Bronze Medal for dedicated service from the Grand Chapter.

Fred was active in many other masonic organizations including other York Rite groups such as Washington Council #1 Cryptic Masons and served as Illustrious Master in 1991, he was a member of Washington Commandery #1 Knights Templar and served as Grand Commander in 1995.
He was active in the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia. He was honored with the 33rd degree in 2011.
Fred and Jean were active in Friendship Chapter #17, Order of the Eastern Star. He served as Past Patron in 1978, 1985, 1989 and 1994. He was a trustee for the chapter for many years. It is worth noting that Fred’s Mother and sisters were active members of this chapter for many years.
Fred was also a member of Masonic Veterans Association of District of Columbia serving as President in 1995, the former Pythagoras Lodge of Research, High twelve club #576 , Royal Order of Scotland, St. Simeon Stylites Conclave Red Cross of Constantine, Maryland York College#264 A.M.D., Southern Cross Council #264, Royal Arch Mariners Lodge 15 and the DeMolay Legion of Honor (Honorary).
His daughters belonged to Bethel #32 of Job’s Daughters International, of which he served as an Associate Guardian
Fred’s greatest Masonic legacy is the service he rendered the Singleton Masonic Temple Association as a director and a trustee. At one point the Temple Association was approaching insolvency and many members wished to sell the building and acquire a new smaller space. Fred solved the funding crisis through creative planning and securing more lucrative rental agreements. .
 A Masonic Funeral service was held at the Baptist Church on December 12th at 11AM.

**Marion Knight Warner**May 29, 1923 to December 17, 2016
 Most Excellent Companion Marion Knight Warner, or as he was known to everyone, Knight, was born on May 29, 1923 in Salamanca, NY. When he was twelve years old, the family moved to Johnsonburg, Pennsylvania. Although times were hard, his mother made sure all of the children received music lessons. Knight graduated from Johnsonburg High School in 1941 and became affectionately known as “Little Jeep.” He loved playing the drums and took advantage of every opportunity to do so. Knight moved to Washington DC in 1942 and was employed by the United Clay Products Company as the Warehouse Manager. After his tour of duty in the Navy during World War II he returned to his former position. Following his retirement in 1983, he became a partner in a company known as Brick Haulers, Incorporated, a position which he also later retired from.

Knight married Viola Jean Stewart in 1943 and this union were born two children, Daryl Knight and Bobbi Jean. His wife Jean died suddenly in 1960. In 1983 he married Evelyn Newman, with whom he enjoyed a happy life until her death in 1999. Knight was blessed with four grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Knight was raised a Master Mason in Singleton Lodge No. 30 F.A.A.M in 1952 and served as Worshipful Master in 1967. He joined Singleton Chapter #4 and served as High Priest. He would later go on to serve as Grand High Priest. He also served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter. He is a past Illustrious Master of Washington Council of Cryptic Masonry, and a Past Commander of Washington Commandery and a Past Grand Commander of the District of Columba. He was active in Scottish Rite and was coroneted a 33rd Degree Inspector General Honorary. Knight was a long time member of the refectory serving pie and ice cream after meetings.

He is a Past Patron of Friendship Chapter No. 17, Order of the Eastern Star of the District of Columbia. He also served the District of Columbia as Worthy Grand Patron in 1984. At the time of the 100th Anniversary of Friendship Chapter, Knight had served 11 times as Worthy Patron, meaning for over 10% of the history of the chapter he was helping the Worthy Matrons run the chapter. For his numerous works on behalf of Masonry he was honored with the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award in 2003.

After the passing of his second wife, Knight had a great friend in Frances E. Pate. For over 13 years they went to numerous Grand Lodge Banquets, Eastern Star Events, and traveled with one another. At the 2017 Session, the companions of Singleton Chapter #4 sponsored Frances Pate to be their guest at the dinner to share memories and fond times.

**Treasurer’s Report**March 18, 2017

MEC George Nicol, Grand High Priest

Royal Arch Masons of the District of Columbia

Most Excellent Sir:

I took over as Grand Treasurer of this Grand Chapter in March of 2006! In the past 11 years I have seen many changes in this Grand Chapter, some good, some not so good, but the bottom line remains that there is a corps of dedicated Grand Officers assisted by dedicated Chapter Officers that have seen and continue to see that this Grand Chapter will be a viable and active entity in our Masonic Family for many years to come.

I have received and deposited the current Annual Dues and Assessments checks for Columbia, Mt. Pleasant, Fiat Lux, Sojourner Kilwinning, and Mt. Vernon Chapters. This leaves Singleton, Washington-Potomac and Marvin Fowler Chapters in arrears. I have received an Annual Treasurer’s report from all Chapters except my own, Mt. Pleasant Chapter #13.

The Chapter Treasurer’s reports indicate that all of these Chapters are financially sound and the funds are under good stewardship. A Form 990-N has been filed by all of these Chapters in accordance with the IRS requirements. The Treasurers of these Chapters are to be commended for their dedicated work.

My financial report is based on the attached Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the past Fiscal Year, March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017:

Total Income deposited was from Dues and assessments in the amount of $12,253.00;

$7,217.00 from last year’s arrearages deposited in March and April, and $5,036.00 for the current year.

Total Expenses are $11,561.66;

They consist of prior year honorariums that are paid at Grand Chapter in the following year, awards and the new Grand High Priest’s apron; Printing, and Royal Arch Magazine; the Grand Chapter’s share of storage and audio recording costs and Grand Session expenses.

Net income for the 2016 Capitular year was $691.34. Had it not been for the late deposits of 2015 dues, there would have only been a Net Loss of $6,525.66.

The investments were transferred to Raymond James Financial Services to stay with the same broker who had been managing our account with Wells Fargo, which was probably a good move, since his management and the market have been very good for the Grand Chapter during the past year.

Last year, MEC Starr as a Grand Trustee, with some cooperation of MEC Freed over the phone, was able to access and close the $5,000 CD at CapitalOne (formerly Chevy Chase Bank) and the $5,397.42 balance was transferred to the checking account on March 2, 2016.

The beginning balance of the Checking and CD on March 1, 2016 was $21,683.69 and on February 28, 2017 the Checking balance is $26,175.03.

The Honorariums to be paid at Grand Sessions, and the Grand Secretary’s bills that will need to be paid for the Grand Chapter’s guests are considered expenses of the incoming Grand High Priest.

My recommendation to the incoming Grand Officers is to continue being financially prudent and responsible. With the extra funds transferred from the CD, there should be ample funds to cover expenses that do not exceed the past year’s, with slight increases.

After 11 years, I think the Grand Chapter should find someone with a little financial knowledge and bookkeeping skills to serve as Grand Treasurer, but REC Palmer, Jr. has requested that I continue for another year, and I have agreed to continue if a suitable replacement is not elected.

I do have a recommendation that can be considered for action, separate from the reception of this report. MEC Starr has shown the problems that can arise from having persons authorized to sign investment and checking accounts that inconveniently die or move away.

 I suggest that the Grand Chapter pass an Annual Resolution to authorize the Grand Treasurer and at least one Trustee to have signature authority over the checking account, and all 3 Trustees have signature authority over the investments. The Banking resolution must be acquired from bank of America on their form. This resolution should be updated Annually, even if none of the names change.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel R. Kahn

Joel R. Kahn, PHP

Grand Treasurer

There was discussion around the lack of communication between the Office of the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer around annual returns.

**Grand High Priest Report:**The Grand High Priest tendered the gavel to REC Phillip Palmer Jr to preside.

The Grand High Priest provided his allocution. He traveled throughout the jurisdiction and outside the jurisdiction. Hosted a very successful Spring Mini-Degree Festival, and had a number of memorable Grand Visits.
NOTE TO George: I did this from memory, if you have a written report that would be great.

The REC Grand King entertained a motion to adopt the Report of the Grand High Priest. It was moved by REC Peter Brusoe, and seconded by REC Sylvanus J. Newstead

**Jurisprudence Committee:**MEC Robert H. Starr presented the Jurisprudence Committee report:

Jurisprudence Committee Report

March 18, 2017

Most Excellent Sirs, Right Excellent Sirs, Excellent Sirs, Companions all.

It is my distinct pleasure to provide the Jurisprudence Committee Report on behalf of MECs James A. Loudermilk, Charbel Fahed, Scott Applebee and Teko Foly (ex officio) and ECs Solomon S. Jackson, Carroll J. Collins, and Christopher Taylor and myself.

We have had the opportunity to review the Dispensations that were issued by our Most Excellent Grand High Priest. George S. Nicol, Jr. They were of the usual variety, authorization for the Elected Grand Officers to close Chapters in ample form, when warranted, to shorten to permit Chapters to receive and ballot on candidates for the degrees at the same Convocation, to hold the Multi-Jurisdictional and Mini degree Festivals and to defer installation of some of the elected and appointed officers until after the Grand Convocation (due to their absence at their installation meeting). These dispensations were well within the powers and prerogatives of the Grand High Priests authority. There was a request from one Chapter for a dispensation to call off a Stated meeting, which was correctly denied, as the Grand High Priest cannot overrule the bylaws of the Chapter. The Grand High Priest also made a decision to rescind the ballot taken in one Chapter on two affiliations as they had been received and balloted on at the same convocation. Section 103 requires the Chapter to receive them, then investigate and it must lay over the lunar month, with members being notified, prior to the ballot taking place. The Grand High Priest directed a Chapter to take no action on a petition for affiliation based on a request from the General Grand High Priest. The Grand High Priest was correct in his decisions.

We have also reviewed the Grand High Priest’s Report and find that all actions reported on are also within the powers and prerogatives the Grand High Priest and therefore recommend approval of his report and the aforementioned dispensations.

We wish to congratulate Most Excellent Companion George S. Nicol, Jr, on his stewardship of our Grand Chapter this past Capitular Year. His genuine smile and quiet and diplomatic manner makes working with him a sincere pleasure. He always has a positive outlook on things, which encourages those around him to zealousness. His emphasis on Capitular ritual and his own ritualistic prowess can only bode well for our Grand Chapter.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, thank you for appointing us to this Committee this year. It has been a pleasure to work in support of our Grand Chapter.

I move that my report be approved and spread upon the minutes and that the Grand Chapter approve the Grand High Priests actions that are contained within this report.

Fraternally and zealously,

Robert H. Starr, Past Grand High Priest

Chairman, Jurisprudence Committee

It was moved and accepted.

**REPORT OF THE GRAND TRUSTEES**

March 18, 2017

Most Excellent Sir,

It is our duty to report on the activities of the Grand Trustees during the 2016 Capitular year.

Last year, we discovered the broker for our Investment Account was Derek Majkowski with Wells Fargo. The account had been deemed dormant. He re-activated the account. We transferred the account from the former signatories, which included MWB & EC Theodore M. Kahn, MECs Kenneth Foran and Robert B. Bussler to the Grand Treasurer and myself.

The broker changed companies to Raymond James and we transferred the account to them. We tried to add MECs James Mitchell and Alywn Taylor, our other two Grand Trustees, to the account, however a signature of the Grand Secretary is required and he has not yet completed the forms necessary to make this happen.

The balance of the investment account as of Dec. 31, 2015 was: $66,757.40. The balance of the investment account as of Dec. 31, 2016 was: $74,710.41 or an increase of $7,953.01 or almost 12% increase in our investment for the year. The value of the portfolio at the end of February 2017 was in excess of $80,000.

We thank the Companions for the confidence you have placed in us to be the Trustees for the Grand Chapter.

Fraternally and zealously,

Robert H. Starr, PGHP, Chairman

James W. Mitchell, PGHP

Alwyn B. Taylor, PGHP

It was moved and accepted.

**The Committee On Accounts:**REC Phillip Palmer Jr. presented his proposed budget

 Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Mason 2017 Budget

Income

Source: Units Income per unit Amount

Per Capita 700 12 8400

Degree Fees 15 5 75

Total Income: 8475

Expenses:

Genearal Grand Chapter Dues 700 $1 $700

Officers Honorium $1,600

GHP Apron $550

Maintainance on GHP Jewel $500

Replacing missing officer aprons 3 200 $0

Link Collars for Council 3 200 $0

Grand Chaapter Representation 1 800 $800

Communications |Printing 1 $500

Postage & Supplies for Grand Secretary $500

Grand Chapter Session

Housing General Grand Chapter 2 $200 $400

Meals General Grand Chapter 4 60 $240

Guests lodging Visiting GHPs 0 $0

Banquet Visiting GHPs 10 65 $650

Lunch Visiting GHPs 0 $0

DC Grand High Priest Housing 1 200 $200

DC Grand High Priest Banquet 2 65 $130

DC Grand High Priest Luncheon 2 40 $80

Miscellaneous 1 300 $300

York Rite Convention 1 750 $750

Community Engagement 1 500 $500

Total expenses $8,400

The budget was moved and approved.  **Awards:**
The Grand High Priest announced that MEC Teko Foly was awarded the bronze medal. A standing ovation occurred.

The Ephraim Kirby Award was presented to EC Jerry Peeters

**Publications Committee:**The publications committee was waiting for the minutes from MEC Kenneth D. Fuller and MEC Teko Foly. The previous set of proceedings from MEC Howard Coleman were previously distributed.

**Report of Grand Visitor and Lecturer:**The Grand Visitor and Lecturer reported that the work of the chapters is improving. He stressed the importance of having companions learn the lectures for the various degrees.

**Multi-Jurisdictional Committee:**MEC, RECs, ECs, Companions all,

The multi-jurisdictional degree festival for 2016-2017 Captiular year took place on the 17th of September, 2016, in Newport, Delaware, at 112 East Market Street The District of Columbia performed the Past Master Degree. Unfortunately, it conflicted with the District of Columbia Grand Lodge Ritual Tournament, greatly affecting attendance. Mark Master Degree was conferred by the Grand Chapter of Virginia; Past Master Degree was conferred by the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia; Most Excellent Master Degree was conferred by the Grand Chapter of Maryland; Royal Arch Degree was conferred by the Grand Chapter of Delaware; The Grand Chapter of Delaware was the Host for this year. The 2017-2018 multi-jurisdictional festival is scheduled for Saturday, 07 October, 2017, and is to be held at the Grand Chapter of Maryland at the Grand Lodge of Maryland, 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, Maryland, 21030. (This is the same day of the Maryland Harvest Festival at the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and the Harvest festival will begin at 0700, ending at 1000, with the multi-jurisdictional degree festival to follow just after 1000.

Zealously submitted by the 2016-2017

Committee Multi-Jurisdiction Degree Festival (ad hoc),
REC D. N. Cohen, Chairman
MEC Charbel Fahed, PGHP
REC Peter Brusoe, REGS
EC Sylvanus Newstead, Grand Captain of the Host
EC Walter Benesch
EC Charles Philips **Masonic Youth Committee:**The Masonic Youth Committee reported that they were waiting for the DeMolay Executive Officer to have active chapters

**Bylaws:**There were no bylaw changes transmitted to the committee.

**Grievances:**There were no grievances

**Committee on Recognition/Correspondence**There were no action items.

**Committee on Royal Arch Advancement:**There were no action items.

**Legislation:**There was no legislation.

**Elections:** The Following officers were elected unanimously
Grand High Priest: Phillip Palmer, Jr
Grand King: Peter W. Brusoe
Grand Scribe: Sylvanus J. Newstead
Grand Captain of the Host Annas Kamara
Grand Treasurer: Joel R. Kahn

The Office of Grand Secretary was contested between MEC Teko Foly and EC Nicky Sampogna, MEC Teko Foly won by 10 votes.

**Address by General Grand Scribe:**The Grand Chapter was addressed by the General Grand Scribe, MEC Teko Foly. MEC Foly gave a moving address talking about the need to work to strengthen the Grand Chapter.

**Installation:**
The Grand Chapter officers were installed by James A. Loudermilk as Installing Grand High Priest and MEC Phillip Palmer Sr as Installing Grand Captain of the Host.

The following were installed:

**Grand Officers Line for 2017-2018**

1. Grand High Priest EC. Philip Palmer Jr.
2. Grand King EC. Peter Brusoe
3. Grand Scribe EC. Sylvanus Newstead
4. Grand Secretary ME. Teko Foly
5. Grand Treasurer ME. Joel Kahn
6. Grand Trustee ME. Robert Starr
7. Grand Chaplain ME. Rev. Can. Daniel D. Darko
8. Grand Visitor & Lecturer EC. Doug Cohen
9. Assistant Grand Visitor & Lecturer EC. Walter Benesch
10. Director of Work & Lecturer Comm. ME. Alwyn Taylor
11. Grand Captain of the Host EC. Annas Kamara
12. Grand Principal Sojourner EC. Leslie Rogers Wright
13. Grand Royal Arch Captain EC. Roger Cundiff
14. Grand Master 3rd Veil EC. Victor Petrosian
15. Grand Master 2nd Veil EC. Nick Sampogna
16. Grand Master 1st Veil EC. Jose Rubio
17. Grand Sentinel EC. Pablo Rocha
18. Grand Organist EC. Pierrindo Palmer
19. Aide to the Grand High priest EC. Prosper Houssou

**Address of the 2017 Grand High Priest**MEC Palmer addressed the companions and thanked them for electing him Grand High Priest. He laid out an ambitious agenda and shared with the companions the schedule for the upcoming year.

**Adjournment:** The Grand Chapter adjourned at 12:15PM.