

General Conference of Grand Chapters, HRAM

57th Annual Session, Nashville, TN

Monday Morning Session, July 6, 2015

An Occasional Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened at 8:30 A.M. by RE Deputy Grand High Priest Graham, RE Deputy Grand High Priest of Tennessee and his core of officers.

The Deputy General Grand High Priests received the Most Excellent Grand High Priests of Tennessee Gregory Bernard and invited him to the East.

9:00 AM:

Reception of Deputy General Grand High Priests Leslie Dean who was escorted to the East and given Grand honors and received the gavel of authority.

The Deputy General Grand High Priest then received the elected and appointed officers of the General Conference:

9:02 AM

The Most Excellent General Grand High Priests, John White was received and escorted to the Grand East where he received the gavel of authority. The General Grand lecturer, Past General Grand High Priests Dwight Parker-DC led the rendering of Grand honors.

9:08 AM

General Grand High Priest John White then received the sitting Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the various jurisdictions. They were given Grand Honors. He then invited the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania to a seat in the east.

9:10 AM

The General Grand High Priests then received The Past General Grand High Priests and they were afforded Grand honors and escorted to the Grand East.

Samuel A Jackson- DC, James AL Myers-SC. Johnny McCray- FL, Anthony K. Wells, Sr.- DC, James W. Johnson- GA, Roosevelt Huggins,-TX.

Braxton Mitchell-VA, Robert Nix-SC, James R. Gaither,-DC, Joe B. Lewis-MO, James Hubbard-OK, George Jeffries- TX, Golden G. Vodhen Fucles, Jr.-CA, James Golden-MD, James Ware-CA, Dwight L. Parker, Sr.-DC., Norman Thomas-TX, James E. Alston- DC.

At this time the General Grand High Priests asked that everyone speak up because we did not have microphones. Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest James Andrews Indiana suggested that he put up one hundred dollars for Mike's and he will ask that anyone else would match to raise three hundred dollars.

9:25 AM

Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Benjamin Mays Kentucky and Deputy Imperial Potentate Carl Parker, CA were received and escorted to East by Deputy General Grand High Priests Leslie Dean.

9:27 AM

Reception of General Conference Royal and Select Masters the Capt. of Guard, William Cook who received Grand Honors and escorted to the Grand East.

9:27 AM

Most Worshipful Grand Master Marvin W Glass was received escorted to the Grand East given Grand Honors. He then received the following Grand Masters or their representative:

Most Worshipful Grand Master Maurice Lucas-MS, Most Worshipful Grand Master Lewis Nelson-SC, Most Worshipful Grand Master Leslie Dean-BA, Deputy Grand Master/Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald Ware-California Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Glenn-Alabama. They all were received and given Grand Honors. Most Worshipful Grand Master Glass recognizes his Deputy Master Andrew Jackson and proceeded to bring remarks.

9:45 AM

Roll call of Grand Officers where absentees were noted.

9:46 AM

Roll call of Jurisdictions where absentees were noted. AR, CT, KS, MS, NM, WI and Serbia were absent.

9:48 AM

The Anthem of the Bahamas was sung after which the National Anthem of the United States of America was sung.

9:53 AM

The General Grand Chaplain Rodney offered an opening prayer.

9:55 AM

General Grand High Priests declared the conference open and in order.

The Proclamation was read by GG Secretary James E. Alston-DC.

9:59 AM

The minutes of the Tuesday afternoon 2014 Conference was read and on a motion and second was approved with necessary corrections.

10:00 AM

Deputy General Grand High Priests Leslie Dean read the Rules of the Day. It was moved by Leslie Dean and seconded by Past General Grand High Priests Roosevelt Huggins-Texas. Doctor Ware suggested that we remove the word favorable and replaced with until resolved. Motion was carried.

10:05 AM

Past General Grand High Priests Roosevelt Huggins requested that he give his reports later this afternoon they being the Ways and Means and budget reports.

10:06 AM

Credential report was given which showed that twenty-three Jurisdictions were present but two needed to see the secretary they being in Delaware and California.

10:12 AM

Deputy General Grand High Priests Leslie Dean ordered the door was sealed in preparation of the General Grand High Priests allocution. After prayer lead by GGC Rodney McFarland-LA, he read his address. His allocution was received and on a motion by Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest Willie Robinson-Georgia and seconded by Carl Benson-Pennsylvania, Nathaniel Degraffinreadtt -N.C. that report be turned over to the proper committee on Grand offices address.

10:20 AM

Deputy General Grand High Priests Leslie Dean gave his record. On a motion by Most Excellent Grand High Priests Peterson of the Bahamas and second by Fred Pillow-Kentucky that report we received and turned over to proper committee.

10:30 AM

General Grand King James Blake gave his report and a motion by Nathaniel-N.C. and second by Davis Minnesota that report be received and turned over to the proper committee.

10:30 AM

received a report from general Grand scribe Damon Anderson-Illinois and on a motion by James Andrew-Indiana and second by Luther Buchanan-New Jersey that report be received and turned over to the proper committee.

10:35 AM

Most Excellent Grand High Priests Jamail Mixon-Missouri accident there were reports that he could obtain which were not passed out.

10:37 AM

Deputy Imperial potentate Carl Parker-California brought remarks.

10:40 AM

Most Eminent Grand Master Benjamin Mays-Kentucky remarks.

10:42 AM

Report of the General Grand Secretary, James Alston-DC was read. On a motion by MEPGHP Ronald Robinson- NY and seconded by Harold Forester-NJ that the report be received for discussion. Motion carried!

MEPGHP Byron Hams questioned KS Jurisdiction. It should be MO. Campbell questioned a payment line.

On a motion by Past Most Excellent Grand High Priests Carl London-Pennsylvania and seconded by Most Excellent Grand High Priests Thomas Brooks-DC that report be received and turned over to the Audit Committee.

MEPGHP Ronald Robinson, NY made a plea to get reports in advance,

10:43 AM

The report of the General Grand Treasurer Johnny Mac Ray-Fla. was given and on a motion Nathaniel Degraffinreadtt -N.C and seconded by Tucker Maryland that report be received.

Question by Ronald Robinson-New York and Ronald Forrester-New Jersey.

11:10 AM

General Grand King James Blake-S.C. gave the Audit Report. On a motion by Ron Pillow and seconded by Sam Davis-S.C. that report be received. There were many questions especially from Cleon Hargrove-New Jersey and Michael Hodges of VA. Motion carried!

11:30 AM

General Grand High Priests white accompanied by a delegation left to visit the Heroines OF Jericho leaving the General Grand King to preside in his absence. Sam Rivers VA need to know where he can get reports and why they not available during the session?

11:45 AM

Called off for lunch!

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

1:10 PM

Called back on with prayer by General Grand Chaplain Rodney McFarland.

1:15 PM

Reading of the minutes of the morning session.

Minutes were read and approved with necessary corrections! There being no corrections the minutes were approved.

1:25 PM

Report on Grand Officer's address was received from the Committee consisting of Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest Carl London-Pennsylvania, Past Most Excellent High Priests James Mac New Jersey and most excellent Grand High Priests James Hubbard-Oklahoma. When a motion by Hubbard and second by Matt that the report be received and recommendations be turned over to the proper committee. Motion carried!

1:38 PM

Past Most Excellent Grand High Priests Robinson-New York gave the Easton alliance report for Walter Sims who is sick and shut in. On a motion by Forster New Jersey and seconded by Benson Pennsylvania that report be received and placed in the archives.

1:45 PM

Southern Alliance report was given by Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest Willie Robinson-Georgia consisting of a letter from A.T. Tino offered his resignation as President of the Southern Alliance and a letter from Brown LA report for the Southern alliance.

1:50 PM

Midwestern Alliance report was given by Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest James Andrews and Freddie Pete. The report was a verbal report. And it was moved and properly second that the verbal report be received motion carried.

1:55 PM

Southwest Alliance report was given by Most Excellent Grand High Priests Robert Cassidy. He asked that the Alliance be identified as to which jurisdiction was member of which Alliance after the reorganization. The Northwest Alliance consist of California, Utah, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada.

2:00 PM

Most Excellent Past General Grand High Priests Roosevelt Huggins gave the report of the work of the Ways and Means committee. They have raise \$1340. 00. Move by Fucles California and seconded by Nathaniel Degraffinreadtt -N.C. that report be received.

2:05 PM

The Budget Report was given and after much discussion it was moved by Smalls-Georgia second by Robinson New York that report be received. The one un-readiness was why there were no red and white ball.

Past General Grand High Priests R. Huggins then gave the seating arrangement for the banquet tonight.

2:25 PM

Ron Robison Fucles- CA , Marcus Moore gave the benevolence report. After discussion the report was received with necessary corrections.

2:30 PM

Most Excellent Past General Grand High Priests Samuel Jackson-DC gave the Memorial Service report. On a motion by Mays Kentucky and seconded by Parker DC that report be received.

2:45 PM

George Jeffries gave the Student Aid Report recommending that each recipient receive fifteen hundred dollars. Pillow Tennessee moved and Delaware second a motion to receive the report motion ^

Nomination of officers conducted by Most Excellent Past General Conference Grand High Priests James Myers-S.C.

3:55 PM

Nominations of officers conducted by James Myers. He read the rules for elections.

General Grand High Priest	Leslie Dean by Tyrone Peterson
Deputy General Grand High Priest	James Blake by Sam Davis
General Grand King	Damon Anderson by James Andrews
General Grand Scribe	Medford Campbell by James Golden James Andrews by Mark Markwell Willie Robinson by James W Johnson
General Grand Treasurer	Johnny McCray by James Alston Gregory Bernard by Jeffrey's
General Grand Secretary	James Alston, by Johnny McCray
General Grand Asst. Secretary	Norman Thomas by James Alston
General Grand Recording Secretary	Anthony K. Wells, Sr. by James Alston
General Grand Trustee 3yr	James Golden by Mark Taylor
General Grand Coordinators	Willie Tate, Ron Pillow

3:15 PM

Called off with prayer by Bishop Rodney McFarland -TX.

Tuesday Morning Session

9:00 AM

Call back on with prayer by Bishop Rodney McFarland-TX.

9:05 AM

Reading of minutes of the Monday Afternoon Session. On a motion by Robert Nix-S.C. and seconded by Medford Campbell-Md. that the minutes be accepted with the necessary corrections. Motion carried!

9:15 AM

Past General Grand High Priests James AL Myers-S.C. reported on the affairs of the Foundation. He highlighted the page he had placed in the Souvenir Journal. It is a Donation Letter where Companions can fill out and make their donations and have record for their tax purposes. Also this letter can be used to solicit donations from the public.

9:25 AM

The Medical Team consisting of Heroine Gloria Smith-MD and Joyce Williams-N.C. reported on the cases they handle this year so far. As usual, they had a high number of hypertension cases. They believe that the delegates are not taking their medicine properly or leaving them home or not eating properly. All this leads to hypertension. They encourage all to always be properly

medicated and to eat complete meals. A light of the delegates rely on snacks and hospitality's for their meals.

9:35 AM

Past General Grand High Priests James Gaither-DC reported on the sale of rituals during the course of the year. (See report attached) Past General Grand High Priests Robert Nix-S.C and seconded by Medford Campbell-Md. that report be received and turned over to the audit committee. It was suggested that Gaither starts to handle the sale of our rosters. Motion carried!

9:40 AM

General Grand Coordinator Willie Tate-TX gave his report. (See attached report) it was moved in properly second that report be received for information. Motion carried!

He also gave the Time and Place report as follows:

The 2016 Convention will be held in Los Angeles California July 1 through July 6, 2016 at the Marriott LAX hotel, 585 West Central Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. Telephone number is 310-641-5700 or 1-800-228-9290. Rates are \$109 dollars per night +15% taxes. Cut off day for reservations June 2016. Parking is charged and you can make reservations beginning August 15, 2015. (See report) the year 2017 is open however the Royal Arch next year is 2017 and 2018.

It was moved in properly second that report be received motion carried.

10:00 AM

The Executive Committee on Honors reported that the committee approved the Honors for Freddie Pete-Ky., Gregory Harrison-TX, and Rudy A. Baker, VA. The committee also approved Harrison Gregory-TX but because he had to leave and what is not present to receive the presentation and explanation of the Jewel he would have to receive it makes year if he is present. The committee also recommended that the fee for Honors be raised to five hundred dollars and that no one will receive the Honors unless they are present. The report was received positively.

In the report Bishop Rodney McFarland was found not eligible to receive the Honors of Past General Grand High Priests. Our bylaws require that a person must have served as Most Excellent Grand High Priests or have received the Honors of Past Grand High Priests. Because Companion McFarland has not received those Honors in his home jurisdiction he was therefore not eligible for Honors in the General Conference. General Grand High Priests John White informed us that companion McFarland who is from the Louisiana jurisdiction have received Honors from to other jurisdictions. Therefore he should be eligible to receive the Honors here in the conference. He then moved that because of the situation Bishop McFarland received the Honors. After much discussion and verification from Most Excellent Grand High Priests Jett-LA that they have not bestowed upon Bishop McFarland such Honors and that Honors received

and other jurisdictions does not carry any weight. Then after further discussion the members present decided to give Bishop McFarland the Honors of Past General Grand High Priests.

10:20 AM

The Conference was called off to receive the Heroines of Jericho delegation.

10:32 AM

While waiting Past General Grand High Priests James W Johnson-GA announced the printing of the past Master degree book. He explained the reason why the Royal Arch was published in the book and his reasons for making changes such as removing the red cover and replacing with a purple cover to reflect that it was a symbolic Lodge ritual for Past Masters degree. He said that the book had been presented to the Conference of Grand Masters and many were interested in purchasing the book.

10:57 AM

The Memorial Team led by General Conference Grand Lecture Past General Grand High Priests Dwight L Parker-DC and consisting of Uril Johnson-BA, it Eddie Tucker-NJ, Frederick Joyner-DC, Stephen McKenzie-DC, Willie Robinson-GA, Thomas Brooks-DC, exemplified and heartfelt and interesting Memorial tribute to our decease Companions. General Grand Secretary James E Alston read the rollcall of decease Companions during the ceremony.

11:05 AM

The discussion on the Past Masters ritual continued and after much discussion it was moved by Most Excellent Grand High Priests James Hubbard-OK and seconded by many that the book be printed assigned the value and made available for sale to the Grand Masters.

11:35 AM

The delegation of Heroines of Jericho were finally received and after exchange of pleasantries the general Grand High Priests called off for lunch to resume at 1:10 PM.

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

1:10 PM

Call back on!

1:11 PM

Reading of the minutes of the Tuesday morning session and on a motion by Most Excellent Grand High Priests Ben Johnson-IN has second best Sam Rivers VA that the minutes be accepted with the necessary corrections. Motion carried!

1:20 PM

Bishop Rodney McFarland-LA dedicated the new regalia of the conference and of the various Companions in a beautiful dedication ceremony at the altar.

1:35 PM

Past General Conference Grand High Priests James AL Myers-S.C. presented the jewels to the new honorees they being Freddie Pete Kentucky Rudy Baker VA Rodney McFarland LA and John White PA. The ceremony consist of a thorough explanation of the Past General Grand High Priests emblem.

2:50 PM

Tillers were appointed namely Adrian Robinson-DC Uiril Johnson-BA and Terrence Cartwright-BA. Because MEGHP Gregory Benard declining the nomination for Treasurer that position was un-opposed. Results of the ballot for GG Scribe were as follow: Medford Campbell 93, James Andrews 44 and Willie Robinson 43.

The results of the election are as follows:

ME General Grand High Priest	Leslie Dean
Deputy General Grand High Priest	James Blake
General Grand King	Damon Anderson
General Grand Scribe	Medford J. Campbell
General Grand Treasurer	Johnny McCray
General Grand Secretary	James Alston
General Grand Asst. Secretary	Norman Thomas
General Grand Recording Secretary	Anthony K. Wells, Sr.
General Grand Trustee 3yr	James Golden
General Grand Coordinators	Willie Tate

New officers were installed by MEPGCGHP James AL Meyers.

Remarks from General Conference Grand High Priests Leslie Dean outlined in the directions of the conference. We also heard remarks from the elected officers. The recommendations from John White were voted on. It was moved by James AL Myers and second by Ron Pillow to increase the registration fee to one fifty dollars. Motion carried! It was also voted to give the Sentinel one hundred dollars each year.

After the presentation of the apron to John White the conference was closed until next year in Los Angeles California.

Respect is submitted

MEPGCGHP Anthony K Wells Sr.
General Conference Grand Recording Secretary