

General Conference of Grand Chapters, HRAM

56th Annual Session, Columbia, South Carolina

Monday Morning Session, June 30, 2014

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 South Carolina and his core of officers.

8:48 AM Anti Room was cleared and preparation was made to receive the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

8:50 AM ME Samuel Davis, Most Excellent Grand High Priest South Carolina was received.

8:52 AM The General Conference Deputy Grand High Priest Leslie Dean, (BH), and after receiving Grand Honors he received the Officers of the General Grand Conference.

9:05 A.M. The ME General Grand High Priest, John White, (PA) was received with Grand Honors.

9:12AM Received Kenneth Bartley Thrice III. Grand Master and John Bloom RE Grand Commander of South Carolina.

9:14 AM Grand Marshal was directed to escort the Past General Conference Grand High Priest as follows:

Sam Jackson, DC 1981

James A.L. Myers, SC 2000-03

Jefferson Lofton, MI 2004,

Johnny McCray, FL, 2004-06

Anthony K. Wells, Sr., DC, 2007-8

James W. Johnson, GA 2010-11

Roosevelt Huggins, TX 2012-2013

James Rocky Dallas, WA, James W. Golden, MD, , Dwight L. Parker, DC, Braxton Mitchell, VA, George Spaulding, PA, James A. Alston, DC James Gaither, DC, Robert Nix, SC, George Jeffries, TX, Joe B. Lewis, MO, George Smith, OH, J. Raymond Murray, DC James Hubbard, OK, Russell Earl, FL, Donald Ware, CA, Vodhen Fucles, CA

All were welcomed by the GGHP and were given Grand Honors.

Reception of the Grand Bodies of the Prince Hall York Rite Family as follows:

Russell Earl, FL General Conference Thrice Ill. Grand Master,
Jefferson A. Lofton, Convent General KYCH,
Benjamin May, KY Grand Master of the Grand Encampment.

All were welcomed by the GGHP and were given Grand Honors.

9:35 AM Honorable MWGM Lewis H. Nelson was received. He in turn received MWPGM's Nathaniel Durant, SC, Alonzo Haynes, SC, Robert Jones, OH, Kenneth Lewis, OH, MWPGM J. Raymond Murray, DC, RW Grand Trustee, Salis Williams, SC and Gerald Thaxton .

Grand Master Nelson then received Deputy Grand Masters Leslie Dean, Bahamas, and Deputy Grand Master Donald Ware, CA

9:50 AM: Roll Call of General Grand Officers and Three absentee namely Gregg Walker, 1st Vail, Corey Hawkins, Asst. Marshal.

9:51 AM. Roll Call of Jurisdictions was made and it was noted that AR, CT, MS and NM had no representation.

9:52 Opening prayer was render by Rev. McFarland.

10:00 AM: Proclamation was read by GG Secretary James Alston. Motion carried!

10:01 AM The GGHP declared this Conference opened.

Reading of minutes of Tuesday afternoon session of 2013 was asked to be read. No corrections so they were declared accepted.

Rules of the Day were presented by Deputy General Grand High Priest Leslie Dean, BH. PMEGHP Archie Fowler, TN Moved and second

Credentials report was made by our GG Secretary James Alston. Motion by Huggins, TX seconded by many that the report be received. Motion carried.

Roosevelt Huggins began to present the project for raising funds, but on an un-readiness by PMEGGHP Myers that his report was out of order. He then proceeded to ask the body for donations.

10:10 AM The door was sealed in preparation of the Address of the GGHP White.

After the Address it was motioned by MEPGGHP Jefferson Lofton, (MI) and seconded by MEPGHP Walter Simms, (PA) and others that the address be received and turned over to the Committee on Grand Officers Address. Motion Carried!

On an un-readiness MEPGGHP James Myers, (SC) advised that the report be allocated to various committees to address different recommendation made in the address.

Grand Honors were given to MEGGHP

Deputy General Grand High Priest Leslie Dean, (BA) gave his report and on a motion by General Conference Grand Scribe Damon Anderson, (IL) and seconded by MEGHP Peterson, Bahamas that it be accepted and become a part of the proceedings of the Conference.

GG King James Blake, (SC) gave his report and on a motion by him and seconded by MEGHP Sam Davis, (SC) that it be accepted and become a part of the proceedings of the Conference. After question by MEGHP Smalls on location SA meeting motion was carried.

GG Scribe Damon Anderson, (MI) gave his report and on a motion by Damon Anderson and seconded by Ron Pillow, TN that it be accepted and become a part of the proceedings of the Conference. Motion was carried.

Anderson reported on Benevolence Fund and Wells then explained the fund in more detail.

GG Secretary James Alston, (DC) gave his report and on a motion by Most Excellent Grand High Priest Stephen Davis, (MN) and seconded by Very Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest Adrian Robinson, DC, GG Scribe Damon Anderson Damon Anderson, IL and MD that the report be received and turned over to Audit Committee. Motion carried!

GG Treasurer, Johnny McCray gave his report and on a motion by PGGHP Vodhen Fucle and seconded by MEPGHP Marcus Moore, MO that the report be received and turned over to Audit Committee. After questions by Robinson on the dates and Smalls on the rituals and Johnson and Lofton motion carried!

GG Auditor gave his report and on a motion by MEGHP Ron Pillow and seconded by MEGHP Sam Davis that the report be received. Motion carried! Stephen Davis questioned as to what monies spent more. Ron Robinson asked have the recollection be done? What balance is used going forward? James AL Myers stated that it is the responsibility to establish a beginning balance. Motion carried!

Remarks were received from Grand Master General Jefferson Lofton, Convent General.

Remarks were received from Thrice Ill. Grand Master Russell Earl, General Conference Grand Councils.

Remarks were received from Grand Master Benjamin Mays, Grand Encampment, KT.

Remarks were received from MEGHP Sam Davis, PH Grand Chapter South Carolina.

Remarks were received from MW Grand Master Nelson who called on the visiting MWPGM's, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Officers. He then brought remarks from the South Carolina.

MEPGGHP James A.L. Myers announced that lunch is being provided. Also raffle tickets are not legal in South Carolina.

11:45 AM Rev. McFarland gave a call off prayer and blessing of food.

Monday Afternoon Session

Called back on at 2:01 P.M. with prayer by Damon Anderson

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

The Student Aide Committee gave their report and recommendation. They recommend that four students receive \$2000.00 each. Discussions followed and it was determined that the Student account did not have the sufficient funds to support that motion. PGGHP Vodhen Fucles, CA then motioned that 4 student \$1000.00 each. After many questions the motion was carried.

PGGHP Roosevelt Huggins updated us on the Ways and Means Committee project.

GG King Blake gave the king contest report and on a motion by James Blake and seconded by many the report be received. Motion carried.

PGGHP James R. Gaither gave the ritual report. Motioned by Wayne Parnell and seconded by many that the report be received. Many questions followed especially by MEGHP Smalls as to why there were no rituals even though they sent their monies in. MEPGGHP Johnny tried to explain the short fall. It was also suggested that a committee be formed to establish a policy that would satisfy all parties involved.

MEPGGHP Wells offered a substitute motion that the recommendations be handled separately.

1. Voucher be paid on date requested. motion carried
2. Only certain things be spent out of ritual account. Moved by Robert Jones 2nd W. Simms that this recommendation be rejected. Motion carried
3. Recommendation number 3 be rejected.

MEGHP Ron Robinson wanted to know when corrections to the ritual will be made. There have not been any corrections submitted as of today. We encourage anyone who knows of any errors in the ritual to submit them to the Ritual Committee.

Report of benevolence Fund: The new committee reported that two deceased companion's beneficiary will receive \$150.00 each. Individuals should submit a form, to be developed, when joining and paying their \$12.00 annually. I list of the current members of the fund will be maintained by the Benevolence Chairman. If a jurisdiction send in fees to cover their top six officers, they must list the names separately. Membership in the fund is for individuals. Willie Robinson asked about form then made a motion to accept. Motion carried

Alliance Deputies reports were called:

Eastern Alliance report was made by President MEPGHP Walter Simms, James Andrews reported on Mid-Western Alliance, Rev. Brown made report for Southern Alliance and invited all to attend their meeting this fall, Marcus Moore made report of Western Alliance who asked what the General Conference do for the Grand chapters and vice versa. They were directed to the Preamble of the Constitution and was asked to turn it around to ask what the jurisdictions wanted from us.

Committee on oratorical contest consisting of MEPGHP Medrick Campbell and Nathaniel Degraffinreadtt gave report of their proposal. After careful consideration it was moved that the concept of the orator contest with the adjustment be accepted to include a \$50.00 donation from each jurisdiction. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded motion carried,

Committee Appointments

Alliance Deputy:

Marcus Moore	West North Western
Robert Cassidy	North Western
Barney Row	West Southwestern
James Andrews	Mid- Western
Phillip Brown	Southern
James Mack	Eastern

3:55. Nominations of officers conducted by James Myers. He read the rules For elections.

General Grand High Priest	John White by Walter Simms, PA
Deputy General Grand High Priest	Leslie Dean by George Jeffries, TX
General Grand King	James Blake by Willie Robinson, GA
General Grand Scribe	Damon Anderson IL Ron Pillow, TN
General Grand Treasurer	Johnny McCray Nathaniel Degraffinreadtt
General Grand Secretary	James Alston, George Jeffries, TX
General Grand Asst. Secretary	Norman Thomas Carl Lee PA
General Grand Recording Secretary	Anthony K. Wells, Sr. Ron Pillow
General Grand Trustee 3yr	Victor Pettis, Walter Simms, PA
General Grand Coordinators	Willie Tate, Ron Pillow

GGHP read the list of table seating. Huggins gave the procedure.

Ronald Robinson spoke about a non-Prince Hall person.

Words from MWGM Nelson.

Called off at 4:15pm

Tuesday Morning Session

8:35 am. The Tuesday session was opened with prayer by Rev. McFarland.

Reading of the minutes of Monday afternoon. On a motion that the minutes be accepted with necessary corrections. Motion carried.

The Committee on GCGHP Address made their report. The committee consist of James Mack, NJ James Hubbard, OK and Carlee London. On a motion by James Hubbard and seconded by James Mack, NJ.

Convention report by Willie Tate as follows:

Motion by Brathway and 2nd by Smalls. Braxton question

Time and place reported that next year's convention will be in Nashville TN.

2016 convention will be hosted by California Jurisdiction.

Bahamas and North Carolina Jurisdictions have letters requesting to host a conference.

We need to decide on 2019-20 today.

Honorary report: Ben Mays, Nelson, N. Thomas and W. Simms

Moved by Willie Tate and seconded that the report be received and the degree be conferred.

Report of Sam Jackson

Moved by Fucle, 2nd B Mays

Pettis thanked the committee

Foundation report by Myers

Wells gave a verbal report on website.

Link Georgia to website

Medical report by Dr. Donald Ware and his committee of Nurses. They were Serena Hamlin, Joyce Williams, NC and Gloria Smith.

Moved by Fucle and 2nd by Sam Davis that the report be received.

Budget report was given by Huggins.

Moved by Myers and seconded by Simms that the report be accepted and implemented. Motion carried

Ways and means committee raised \$1,349.00. On a motion by Patrick Brathwaite and 2nd by Mark Maxwell KY and Martin, WI.

Advisor reported on the lease agreement in TX. Carlee moved Patrick Brathwaite and Waters NJ seconded that the report be received.

Johnson gave the Constitution committee report. He will re organize the committee. The committee need to add the two visitations. The Constitute recommend the approval of item 5 of the GGHP address (include the visitation). Moved and seconded for approval. Motion approved Item six be disapproved. Motion carried.

After comments about Myers and his good works gave him accolades.

Hubbard asked about the Past Master's degree manual. Johnson said that there is a manual. Moved that the Past Master Ritual be published and a start date be established. Question by Smalls was how will we pay for it. Nix was the committee at a point where it is ready. Motion carried!

MEGGHP presented to SC for the highest number of attending the conference. He presented Ben Mays as the first to register for the conference. Also to Quinton McFarland as the youngest to attend. To the oldest in Rocky Dallas.

Cassidy gave the Deputies report for the Western Alliance.

Appropriation gave report by Simms

Resolution no report.

GGHP thanked everyone for the manner in which business was conducted.

Sam Griffin of was concerned with the availability of reports.

Black reported that the 990 has been filed with IRS.

PGCGHP James AL Myers presided over the election and installation of officers as follows:

General Grand High Priest	John White
Deputy General Grand High Priest	Leslie Dean
General Grand King	James Blake
General Grand Scribe	Damon Anderson
General Grand Treasurer	Johnny McCray
General Grand Secretary	James Alston
General Grand Asst. Secretary	Norman
General Grand Recording Secretary	Anthony K. Wells, Sr.
General Grand Trustee 3yr	Pettus
General Grand Coordinators	Willie Tate

We heard remarks from the principle officers. GGHP want all elected officers at 4:00 PM.

PGGHP James R. Gaithers (DC) commented that \$6,250.00 has been collected this weekend.

Preparation was made for the reception of the GG Court. The General Grand Joshua Charles Young introduced General Grand Most Ancient Grand Matron Madelene Wilborne for remarks.

Most Ancient Grand Matron of SC welcomed all the male delegates to South Carolina.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest Samuel Davis also extended a welcomed us.

MWGM Nelson welcomed us.

11:50 AM Rev. Rodney McFarland gave the blessing of the food and dismissed us.

1:33 PM Opened with prayer

Tuesday Afternoon Session

Tuesday afternoon session was called on with prayer by Damon Anderson, IL.

Minutes of the morning session was read on a motion by Robert Nix and seconded by Sam Davis MO that the minutes be received. Motion carried.

The Conference Grand King was seated.

Foundation report was made by James Myers. The report was received as information.

Dedication of regalia was made lead by Rev. McFarland.

Necrology Committee gave their report and ceremony lead by the GG

Myers bestowed the honors of PGCGHP on Norman Thomas, Walter Simms, Ben Mays and Lewis H. Nelson by presenting them the jewel of the office and receiving Grand Honors.

Final remarks from MWGM Lewis Davis. Sam Davis announced that Grand King Larry Johnson lost his brother today.

Parrott gave us an update and informed us that the top hotel staff was there with his daughter.

2:45 PM the Conference was closed with prayer by Rev. McFarland.

Report of the Committee on the General Grand Conference Most Excellent Grand High Address

We your Committee on the General Grand Conference Most Excellent Grand High Address submit the following report:

GCGHP John White started his annual address by giving honor to God. He next acknowledged the dignitaries that were present starting with Most Worshipful Grand Master Lewis H. Nelson (South Carolina), Corey Hawkins (Alabama) along with his staff of General Conference Officers to include DGGHP Leslie M. Dean, Grand King Dr. James V. Blake, Grand Scribe Damon P. Anderson, all PGCGHP's, MEGHP's, DGHP's, Grand Kings, Grand Scribes; and Companions.

He followed with prayer.

He continued his address by reflecting back on his election on last year and thanked the Companions for the honor and opportunity to serve the General Grand Conference as its head.

He went on to talk about what could have or should have been but expressed his belief that we must look forward and not backward as there was greater benefit in the positive than in the negative. He further stated that the positive is what will keep the Conference moving forward.

He thanked those Jurisdictions that continue to participate in the King's Contest and for the love and commitment they continue to show the children. He also thanked the General Conference for their assistance with the contribution of funds for our scholarship recipients.

He went on by singling out some of his staff members for their outstanding efforts in supporting this General Grand Conference. To PGCGHP James R. Gaither for providing the jurisdictions with rituals. To the Web-master, PGCGHP Anthony K. Wells for getting the Web-site up to date. To PGCGHP Dr. Johnny McCray for the time and effort spent in keeping our books in order and paying the bills in a timely manner. To PGCGHP James E. Alston for maintaining his schedule and insuring that all correspondence was sent out in a timely manner. Lastly to the Assistant Grand Recorder Norman Thomas for his efforts in maintaining an accurate record of proceedings that occurred during our meetings.

GGHP White in his report on necrology reflected on the Companions who had made the transition from this earthly life to their eternal rest. He recited words of comfort from the scripture that spoke of their reception into "that house not made by hands eternal in the heavens"

He summed up his observations on the "state of the nation" by indicating that both political parties are continuing to make things difficult for our president. He spoke of the president's continuing efforts to extend unemployment benefits, raise the minimum wage and to improve the National Healthcare Program as just a few issues that he attempted prompt action on. He told of how some of these actions were forcing some of us to decide between the Masonic Order and our families realizing all that time that our families come first. He encouraged us to hold our heads high and do what we could to make the needed changes.

In his summary of the state of the General Grand Conference, he spoke of how we are continuing to move forward with the officers that you have elected and with the support provided by our member jurisdictions. He stated that

we must look forward to keep this Conference at its best. He further stated that we must be ever ready to face whatever awaits us.

He addressed the fact that during PCGGHP Roosevelt Huggin's administration, the Conference voted to acquire a Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas to house our Conference property at a cost of \$100.00 per month or \$1200.00 per year. This was agreed to verbally. He said that he would like to see our legal advisor, Attorney Harrison Gregg Jr, pursue entering into a written agreement to protect our interest.

He went on to thank the Alliance Presidents for hanging in there when he knew that there were times when they wanted to throw up their hands and walk away. He also thanked the Alliance Deputies for the job they did during the year and how their commitment to work with the deputies was greatly appreciated. He stated his intention to appoint deputies in the areas with vacant slots.

His final thanks went to PGGHP Willie Tate for the job that he has done and continues to do as our Conference Coordinator and how he had traveled back and forth between Colombia and Nashville to conduct the business of this Grand Conference. He further that Companion was always available to address any problems that we may encounter.

He moved on to a list of 6 (six) recommendations that he wanted the Conference to address. We reviewed these recommends and suggest that they be referred to the proper committee for action.

In his closing thought, he said "there is good, better and best, may we each strive to make our good better and our better best".

He attached a list of his visitations to the end of his report.

Fraternally submitted 3 x 3,

James E. Hubbard Jr.,GCPGHP _____ Chairman

James Mack, MEGHP (New Jersey) _____ Member

Carlee London, PMEGHP (Pennsylvania) _____ Member