

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 105th
CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTER'S OF MASONS IN NORTH
AMERICA, INC.



Sunday, February 18, 2018 – Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Most Worshipful Jeffrey M. Williamson - Chairman
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New York

Most worshipful Lorenzo (Lon) E. Tibbits - Vice Chairman
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Utah

Sunday 18 February 2018 Indianapolis, IN

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: I will call on Most Worshipful Deiter B. Hess, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the state of New Jersey for the opening prayer. Please rise.

(Prayer.)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful James Kistel, would you please attend at the alter and display the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

I will now open the 105th Annual Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America to order.

I am Jeffrey M. Williamson, Grand Master of Masons of the state of New York, and I am honored and delighted to have this opportunity to serve as your Conference Chairman for the 2018 session of this Grand Conference.

I now call the 105th Annual Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America to order. We welcome our various delegates and Masonic leaders who have gathered from our Sister Jurisdictions, from Canada, the United States and Mexico. In addition, we acknowledge and welcome the multiple Sister Jurisdictions from across the continents that have traveled to attend our Conference in unity and friendship.

They come to learn, and to make new contacts, and to renew old friendships. May your attendance here be instructive, productive and enjoyable. As Masonic leaders we assemble at this forum in the spirit of humility and stewardship. We all realize the enormous challenges that face our fraternity. We also recognize that changes are occurring in this fast paced world and we must find new ways to adapt, change, thrive and grow.

For 300 years, since its official founding, Regular Freemasonry has never strayed from its core principles, beliefs and LANDMARKS. The genius of our institution lies in its ability to renew itself and to make itself relevant for future generations. Keeping Freemasonry relevant in our society is a task that is difficult for many of us to grant and are hesitant to understand. We must continue to develop an outstanding membership base within our fraternity and equip them with the tools that they need to meet the ongoing challenges of the world. The Planning Committee's theme for this Conference is, '*Working Tools for Today's Masonry*'.

The topics addressed in the Breakout Sessions are a result of your feedback returned to the Planning Committee from last year. It has been my personal experience that enthusiastic and energetic Grand Wardens and Deputy Grand Masters who earnestly engage in these seminars will take hold of incredible and amazing concepts that can change the very landscape of your jurisdiction. My brothers, these Breakout Sessions are designed to give you the tools that you need

to sow the seeds of success. What you sow in the lives of others is the harvest you will reap tomorrow.

We challenge each of you to take advantage of the curriculum offered the next few days. It is my pleasure and honor to welcome each of you here in Indianapolis, Indiana.

I know that everyone enjoyed Indiana's welcome and tailgate party last evening and we all had a great time. Special thanks to our Host Grand Master, Most Worshipful Rodney A. Mann, and his committee, and the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Indiana for such a delightful welcome. Let us show our appreciation.

(Applause)

Grand Masters, there are four microphones on three sides of our tables over there, in the center and on this side over here. For the benefit of our reporter, Miss Jill Fry, I would ask that when you have something to say, please go to a microphone and identify yourself before beginning your comments. Those who have reports to present, please give Miss Fry copy. It is now my pleasure to introduce to you the Most Worshipful Rodney A. Mann for the introduction of the Color Guard and the Accompanist.

(Applause)

M.W. RODNEY A. MANN: We have a Color Guard from the Grand Commandery of Indiana under the direction of Sir Knight Carson Smith. Color Guard, please present the colors.

(Presentation of colors and pledge of allegiance. National Anthems.)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: I would like to thank the Color Guard Attachment from the Grand Commandery of the state of Indiana. Thank you for assisting us in our opening ceremonies. It's now my pleasure to, again, call upon Grand Master Rodney Mann, your Host Grand Master for his official welcome. Please, again, help me welcome our Host Grand master.

(Applause)

M.W. RODNEY MANN: On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Indiana's 54,000 members, the state of Indianan and its citizens, we are pleased to welcome each one of you to Indianapolis. We hope that your stay here will be great. This is a wonderful convention city. Everything is downtown. Over on Illinois Street we have restaurant row. Many of you, I hope, have found that. There are many things to do here, so please enjoy our fair city, and thank you, again, for coming.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Grand Master Mann for your words. At this time, before we get started any further, I would like to take the opportunity to provide some introductions for members of our Appendant and Associated bodies that are here. I would ask basically as I call off the officer, and if he has his associates with him, to come out here at the foot of the dais so that we can properly introduce them. I believe that it is important; especially for our Foreign Jurisdictions to know whom the contacts are if they want to form a DeMolay Chapter, or form a Royal Arch Chapter in their particular jurisdiction. They're sometimes hidden from our view in this assembly, but I would actually like to call them out to be introduced here.

So the first thing we have is:

Order of Amaranth, Judy Mosier, Supreme Royal Matron.

Association of Masonic Arts, Dimitar Marov, Executive Secretary.

Masonic Athelstan, Most Worshipful Brother Bryce Hildreth, Provincial Grand Master of Athelstan.

Order of DeMolay, Ron Minchell, Grand Master.

George Washington Masonic National Memorial, George D. Seghers, Executive Director.

High Twelve, Joseph Saintiseban.

Job's Daughters International, Shelly Cole, Supreme Guardian; Ralph Schmidt, Associate Supreme Guardian.

Grand Encampment, Duane Vaught, Grand Master.

Masonic Service Association, Simon LaPlace, Executive Secretary.

National Sojourners, Inc., Edward Nolte, National President Elect.

International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Susan Rennagel, Supreme Worthy Advisor.

General Grand Chapter, James Hodge, General Grand High Priest.

Shrine International, Gary Berganske, Imperial Potentate.

AASR Canada Jurisdiction, Robert Brethour, Grand Secretary General.

AASR Northern Jurisdiction, Ronald A. Seale, Sovereign Grand Commander.

Tall Cedars of Lebanon, James Morrison, Supreme Tall Cedar.

Let us recognize them and how do we greet them?

(Applause)

Thank you. (Applause) if you have any questions for these outfits and organizations, feel free to contact them. Thank you. You are dismissed, my brothers.

All right. I would like to thank Most Worshipful Mann again at this time and express appreciation to the entire 2018 Committee that planned this.

Brethren, you will be introduced by your committee chairman when they give their report, but I want to add my personal thanks for your work and making this Conference possible. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

I would now like to ask all of the Past Officers of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America to please stand and introduce yourself, and give the year that you served the Conference. The microphones are out in the audience. Please go to the microphone. If you served as an officer of this august body, we want to recognize you.

M.W. RICHARD MARTIN: Good morning. Rich Martin, Vice-Chairman in 2012, Past Grand Master of Oregon.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

M.W. LARRY PLASKET: Larry Plasket, Past Grand Master of New Jersey, Time and Place 2006.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much, brother.

M.W. GERALD CARVER: Gerald Carver, Past Grand Master of South Carolina, Conference Chairman 2009.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, brother.

M.W. JACK MARLER: Jack Marler, Past mGrand Master of South Carolina, CHAIRMAN of Time and Place, 2015.

M.W. BARRY RICKMAN: Barry Rickman, South Carolina, Planning Committee 2010.

M.W. JOHN HEISNER: John Heisner, Past Grand Master of California, Chairman of Planning Committee 2017.

M.W. ART BORLAND: Art Borland, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon, Planning Committee 2017.

M.W. STEPHEN PONZILLO: Stephen Ponzillo, Maryland, Planning Committee Chairman in 2011 and Conference Chair in 2012.

M.W. GALE KENNEY: Gale Kenney, Washington, Chairman Planning Committee 2010.

M.W. BILL BERMAN: Bill Berman, New Jersey, Time and Place Committee 2009.

M.W. GLENN E. MEANS: Glenn Means, Past Grand Master of Missouri. I was Executive Secretary-Treasurer from 2003 to last year.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Brethren.

(Applause)

I am going to ask the Executive Secretary, do we have a quorum of the members present? I will turn it over to you. Brethren, if you can be so considerate to put your cell phones on mute, we would greatly appreciate it.

M.W. DAVID W. HAYWOOD: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, we have 61 of the 64 member jurisdictions present, so we do have a quorum. Not represented at this Conference are Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Puerto Rico. Thank you.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Now, also just so everyone knows, the Grand Masters are the voting delegates of this convention, and typically on this first row here. If Grand Masters need to vacate the position, the Deputy Grand Master will assume the chair. If there is a vote taken during that time, that Deputy Grand Master casts the vote on behalf of your jurisdiction.

Before I call for the Planning Committee Report, I have a couple of announcements. The first announcement is my brothers from the foreign jurisdictions; there are two meetings of the Commission on Information for Recognition. Today they will meet at 10:45 in the Vision Room. The purpose of this first meeting is only to receive papers and reports from the various jurisdictions that wish to submit papers or work to the Committee. It is important to remember that is not their regular meeting. The second meeting of the Commission on Information for Recognition will take place at 9:30 tomorrow in the Vision Room, which is the same room for both days. Are there any questions on that?

(No response)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Okay. The second announcement; I would like to especially remind everyone that the Time and Place Committee will be called to Order by Most Worshipful Thomas E. Pulkkinen, Grand Master of Maine, on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Theory A Room.

Now, this committee will receive bids to host the Conference of 2022 and prepare a recommendation to report later in the CONFERENCE. Any jurisdiction wishing to present a bid to host the 2022 Conference is encouraged to do so at this committee meeting.

We are especially delighted to introduce a very special guest this morning. A brother whose duties consist of representing his Grand Lodge on formal visits to recognized Grand Lodges across the world, and at International Grand Lodges, and Grand Lodges of Regular Masonic Lodges in order to maintain the close fraternal relationships on a worldwide platform. Many of us were with them at his Grand Lodge to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of organized Freemasonry. Please help me welcome Right Worshipful Brother Derek Dinsmore, the Grand Chancellor of the United Grand Lodge of England. Would you come forward, please.

(Applause)

We should have told you, you have to walk through a half a football field to come here. Heck, you're in a different time zone out there.

GRAND CHANCELLOR DEREK DINSMORE: Yes, we are. Brethren and ladies, this is completely unexpected so I am totally unprepared. You probably would appreciate that. I would just like to say that it was a great pleasure for us in England to hold the 300th celebration of what is generally considered to be the birth of Regular Freemasonry. What we tried to put across there was the principles of Freemasonry today, the same as they were in 1717 before Original Lodges got together to form the Grand Lodge of England. We believe that those principles should be carried forward today and around the world. We also believe that the growth of Irregular Freemasonry is a danger to all of us. The problem being that to the outside world we are all regarded as Freemasons. They don't know the difference between Regular and Irregular Freemasons. It is a pleasure, Brother Chairman, for me to be here with you today, and it is always a pleasure to see old friends in order to meet new brethren. Brethren, thank you very much for your reception and I wish you very well for a successful Conference.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: It is now my pleasure to call on Most Worshipful Brother Timothy D. Sanders, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, who will bring up the Conference Planning Committee Report and present the rules of the CONFERENCE which we will adopt today. Grand Master Sanders; Please help me welcome him, brothers.

(Applause)

M.W. TIMOTHY SANDERS: Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brothers, good morning.

(Good morning)

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful and RIGHT Worshipful Grand Masters, my brothers all. Thank you for this opportunity to serve this Grand Master's Conference. It is a great pleasure and I bring to you this report on behalf of the members of the Panning Committee, which met in Indianapolis on Friday, April the 14th and Saturday April the 15th, 2017. The Planning Committee listened to your comments and suggestions as they were heard last February in Omaha. We have continued the elimination of long lists of introductions and we are allowing each of you to make our visitors from Appendant Bodies and sister Jurisdictions feel welcome. We have the youth leaders of the three youth groups to address the Grand Masters. They have put together a great program. I hope all of you will enjoy. At this time I would like to introduce the members of the Planning Committee, and if you will please stand when your name is called so that your hard work and dedication to the Fraternity can be recognized. Most Worshipful Brother John Marinucci, Grand Master of Delaware; Right Worshipful Brother Gene Heritt, Grand Master of Pennsylvania; Most Worshipful Brother Ernie Schoup, Grand Master of New Mexico; Most Worshipful Brother Yancey P. Smith, Grand Master of South Dakota. I would like also at this time to introduce our Conference Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Jeffrey Williamson, the Grand Master of New York; our Vice-Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Lorenzo Tibbits, Grand Master of Utah; the host for this session, Most Worshipful Brother Rodney Mann, the Grand Master of Indiana; and Most Worshipful Brother David Haywood, Grand Master of Missouri, the Grand Treasurer and Secretary of this Conference.

If you would, please give these Brothers a round of applause.

(Applause)

I would like to also thank Most Worshipful Brother Mann for all of the courtesies he and his officers have shown us during our planning meeting in April. At the planning session the Grand Lodge of Indiana outlined a very well thought out plan for our Saturday evening entertainment, the ladies lunch and tour and the preconference tours. You have already enjoyed the result of the planning and the Saturday tours, and the great welcoming tailgate party last night. Will you please

show your appreciation for that?

(Applause)

It is our sincere hope that each of you will enjoy, as well as learn from this Conference. The Breakout Sessions cover a wide range of programs that many of you requested and should have great benefits to your Grand Masters and other elected and appointed officers of your Grand Jurisdictions. These sessions will afford you an opportunity not only to learn, but also to interact with the other brothers from the other Grand Jurisdictions.

These Breakout Sessions are a direct result of requests and comments of last year. Is it the Planning Committee's hope that these sessions will motivate the leaders of tomorrow and we encourage all Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Wardens to take advantage of the Breakout Sessions as much as possible.

1. Our bylaws in Article IV set forth the rules of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America will be governed. To refresh your memory, they are:
2. Any item of business not placed on the agenda for the Annual Meeting by the Planning Committee may be added by approval of a three-fourth majority vote of the Grand Masters and other authorized representatives in attendance of the meeting.
3. Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws, any item of business brought to the floor for vote shall be decided by a two-third majority vote of the Grand Masters or other authorized representative having seating privileges.
4. Only Grand Masters or duly authorized representatives of member Grand Lodges having speaking privileges are authorized to speak at any session. Other persons desiring to speak must first obtain the permission of their respective Grand Master.

In addition, the Planning Committee recommends the following additional rules for this 2018 Conference to augment the Bylaws. They are:

1. When properly recognized by the Chair, the brother so recognized will approach a microphone; state his name, his office and the jurisdiction he represents before speaking on any subject.
2. Parliamentary procedure shall be based upon commonly accepted practices in Roberts Rules of Order, except where Masonic protocol prevails.

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman; I will now request that our Executive Secretary report on those brothers designated by their Grand Masters to represent them and sit in their place at this Conference.

M.W. DAVID HAYWOOD: Most Worshipful Brother Sanders, I was contacted by Most Worshipful Brother Theodore J. Nelson, Grand Master of

Connecticut, who designated that Worshipful Brother Melvin Johnson, Deputy Grand Master to fill his station. He will be here later in the conference, but for today Right Worshipful Melvin Johnson will fill his station.

Most Worshipful Clarence Grigsby, who has come down with the seven-day flue and is unable to attend, recently contacted me. He designated Right Worshipful Brother Mike Dixon, Deputy Grand Master of Oklahoma to fill his station. Thank you.

M.W. TIMOTHY SANDERS: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman; I move the adoption of this Planning Committee Report, along with the 2018 Conference Rules and that the representatives be approved and afforded all the courtesies that would be extended to the Grand Master. *Second.*

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: You have heard the motion, brothers. We have a second. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? *Motion carried.*

Thank you, Grand Master Sanders. I now call upon Most Worshipful Brother David Haywood, the Executive Secretary-Treasurer for his report. Please help welcome him as well.

(Applause)

M.W. DAVID HAYWOOD: Thank you. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful, Right Worshipful Grand Masters, distinguished brothers, ladies and guests, I am not sure about you, but I know that my wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the Indiana Gala. The street stompers were a great way to start off this 105th Conference, and the food was fantastic.

(Applause)

My congratulations to the Indiana Officers, to the Grand Lodge Officers of Indiana, and the Indiana Host Planning Committee and, of course, to the Indiana Masons who are everywhere in this Conference. With that kind of beginning, this is going to be an outstanding Conference. As of last Friday, there were 520 men registered and 172 women registered at this years conference. We more than filled our block of rooms and the Hyatt Regency actually gave us extra rooms, 10 extra rooms on every night just to fill in. Not only that, but we had to go next door to the Westin Indianapolis to get an additional 30 rooms for the Conference. In 2019 we will be at the Ramkota Best Western Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota. That particular hotel has 267 rooms. I have reserved another 110 rooms at the Ramada, and an additional 30 rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn, which will be designated as the

overflow hotel. All three hotels are close, so while the temperature might not want you to walk, but they are walk able.

I do apologize for any typos on the name badges, which hopefully have been corrected. If not, please see me and I will do so, and any corrections on the agenda. There is one addition today, on Sunday at 11:30 a.m., the National Masonic Foundation for Children will again meet in Studio 6.

I do have to apologize to Most Worshipful Brother Brad Phillips, Grand Master of Arkansas, for entering his Grand Secretary's name on the agenda. I do apologize.

At this point I do not have a complete financial statement for 2017 because we are not closed for the fiscal year. We do not close our books until March 31st, 2018. After that date I will have the books audited and file an IRS Form 990, which was done for the year 2017.

The 2017 year end financials show an operating loss of \$8,183, primarily due to audiovisual requirements. I can say this year's Officers and Planning Committee were very diligent, but even with that I expect a loss this year. The audiovisual requirements of this Conference and the cost of the photos are higher than in the past. Gentlemen, our Conference budget is over \$200,000. We try to keep a thin margin. The officers do a tremendous job. A copy of the financial statement for last year, I will file with this report. I especially want to thank my lady, Diane and Mary Jane Means, and June Smith, along with their husbands, Most Worshipful Glenn Means and Most Worshipful Richard Smith, who made the registration and check-in process work so wonderfully. Thank you all. I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with the officers of this Conference. The comradely, the help, and the guidance of you have made, and have given me have unquestionably been the best in the world. For that, I sincerely thank each and every one of you.

My job depends on the guidance that you, the Grand Masters, the brethren give me, and I look forward to the remainder of this Conference. I know that it is going to be a great one. This hotel is a great venue. If any of you have any problems, you know where to go. In Missouri, Most Worshipful Harry Truman said, "You know the buck stops here", and unfortunately that's me too.

Please contact me if you have any problems. Thank you.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you brother Executive Secretary. We need a motion to accept the report. Do I have a second? *Second.* Motion and second. All those in favor, signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? *Motion carried.* Thank you.

I would also like to thank Most Worshipful Brother Scott A. Thomas for presenting me with this absolutely wonderful gavel and sounding block that he gave as a gift today. I am very speechless. Thank you very much. It's a great keepsake for this Conference. Thank you, Brother, appreciate it.

(Applause)

I would now like to call on Most Worshipful Brother Lon Tibbits, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for his report. Please help me welcome our brother.

(Applause)

M.W. LON TIBBITS: Thank you, Most Worshipful Brother Chairman. The Nominating Committee, if they will stand as I call their name. Myself as Chairman; Most Worshipful Brother Scott Thomas, Grand Master of Arizona; Most Worshipful Brother Dieter Hees, Grand Master of New Jersey; Most Worshipful Brother Greg Clark, Grand Master of Illinois; Most Worshipful Brother Rodney Mann, Grand Master of Indiana; Most Worshipful Brother Arby Humphrey, Grand Master of Wisconsin; Most Worshipful Brother Tim Sanders, Grand Master of Kentucky; Most Worshipful Brother Phil Moss, Grand Master of Colorado; and Most Worshipful Brother Jeffrey Williamson, Grand Master of New York, the Conference Chairman. Thank you, Brethren.

(Applause)

Prior to our coming to Indianapolis we reviewed the biographical information submitted to the Executive Secretary by those who will be Grand Masters at the time of the 2019 Conference, and any letters of recommendation submitted along with those regarding those individuals. The Committee met on Conference call on January 24th and, again, at 2:00 p.m. yesterday. Your Nominating Committee submits the following recommendations to serve as officers and committee members in the 2019 Conference of Grand Masters. As your name is called, please stand and remain standing. As Conference Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Michael Smith, Grand Master of South Carolina. As Conference Vice-Chairman, Right Worshipful Brother Richard Naegele, Deputy Grand Master of Maryland. As Planning Committee Chairman, Right Worshipful Brother James Kendall, Deputy Grand Master of Washington state. As members of the Planning Committee, Right Worshipful Brother Dickie McKinney, Deputy Grand Master of Tennessee; Right Worshipful Brother James Morgan, Deputy Grand Master of Oregon; Right Worshipful Brother Roger Guintana, Deputy Grand Master of New Jersey; Right Worshipful Brother Dwight Sigmon, Deputy Grand Master of North Carolina. As Chairman of the Time and Place Committee, Right Worshipful Brother William Sardone, Deputy Grand Master of New York. As members of the Time and Place Committee, Right Worshipful Brother Terry Osborne, Deputy Grand Master of Iowa; Right Worshipful Brother Scott Pedley, Deputy Grand Master of Wisconsin; Right Worshipful Brother Paul E. Todd, Grand Master of Ontario; and Right Worshipful Brother Stuart Wright,

Deputy Grand Master of California. For Executive Secretary-Treasurer. You will find two nominations for Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the Conference of Grand Masters. First is Most Worshipful Brother David Haywood, Past Grand Master of Missouri, Executive Secretary of the Conference of Grand Masters, and second Most Worshipful Brother Michael A. DeWolf, Executive Secretary for the Conference of Grand Secretaries.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Please be seated. Thank you Most Worshipful Brother Tibbits. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed.

All of the nominated positions, with the exception of the Office of Executive Secretary are unopposed. We will, therefore, have an election by ballot for that office. However, before we do that, I would like to entertain a motion by Most Worshipful Brother Yancey Smith, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota to cast the unanimous ballot in favor of the unopposed nominations.

M.W. YANCEY SMITH: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Yancey Smith, Grand Master of Masons of South Dakota. As there are only one nominee for each of the positions, other than the the Executive Secretary, I move that those brothers be elected by unanimous ballot, and elected by acclamation. Second.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: All those signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? Most Worshipful Brother Michael Smith, do you Accept?

M.W. MICHAEL SMITH: It will be an honor and a privilege, with the help of God and the Craft.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Most Worshipful Brother Richard Naegele, do you accept?

R.W. RICHARD NAEGELE: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother James Kendall, do you accept?

R.W. JAMES KENDALL: With humility and gratitude, I accept.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother Dickie McKinney, do you accept?

R.W. DICKIE MCKINNEY: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful James Morgan, do you accept?

R.W. JAMES MORGAN: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother Roger Quintana, do you accept?

R. W. ROGER QUINTANA: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother Dwight M. Sigmon, do you accept?

R.W. DWIGHT SIGMON: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother William Sardone, do you accept?

R.W. WILLIAM SARDONE: I do, Grand Master.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother Terry Osborne, do you accept?

R.W. TERRY OSBORNE: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother Scott Pedley, do you accept?

R.W. SCOTT PEDLEY: I do, Grand Master.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Most Worshipful Brother Paul E. Todd, do you accept?

M.W. PAUL E. TODD: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful Brother Stuart Wright, do you accept?

M.W. STUART WRIGHT: I do.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Congratulations to every one of you.

(Applause)

I would with like to appoint two fellows for the election coming, and I would ask Most Worshipful Brother Peter Iacobucci, the Grand Master of Rhode Island, to approach the front of the dais here.

Most Worshipful Brother Paul Gleason, Grand Master of Massachusetts, would you please join us? Most Worshipful Victor Stone, Grand Master of Vermont, would you please join us and act as tellers for the election?

Brother Executive Secretary, could you please cause the ballots to be distributed to the tellers.

I would ask the tellers to go to the designated delegates and make sure that each Grand Master, or his authorized delegate with seating privileges, receive one be ballot. A simple majority of those voting members present will decide who is duly elected.

While that is getting organized, I will let you know that we will allow three minutes of speech/remarks from each candidate, or his designee speaking on his behalf. There will be no seconds, or splitting of the time allowed for each candidate.

There will only be one speech for each candidate. We will draw to establish who speaks first. Brother Michael DeWolf, would you please approach the dais?

M.W. MICHAEL A. DeWOLF: Most Worshipful Brother President & Most Worshipful Brothers: M.W. L. Arby Humphrey, Grand Master of Wisconsin has offered to speak on my behalf and make the presentation.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: All right. Brother Arby. Most Worshipful Arby, would you be present?

You're not speaking yet. We have to draw here. I have it here. Okay. So I have two pieces of paper here, the one has an X on it, it will be the person that speaks first.

So, okay. Brother Arby, on behalf of Most Worshipful Brother DeWolf.

M.W. ARBY HUMPHREY: Brethren all, Most Worshipful and Illustrious Michael DeWolf is a 33rd Degree, is a Past Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons in Wisconsin, and has served the Wisconsin Freemasons as Grand Secretary for nearly 15 years. In addition, he is the Executive Secretary for the Conference of Masonic Grand Masters or Secretaries of North America, and an active member of the Scottish Rite.

When looking for the best candidate for the job, it's always been my belief that past performance is the best measure before future potential. From his time in DeMolay, throughout his entire life, Most Worshipful Brother Mike has held a long, significant list of Masonic leadership positions and numerous organizations across the local states, national and international level.

In all of his endeavors he has constantly demonstrated that he is a highly motivated communicator, an exceptional administrator and suave businessman.

Some of you know Most Illustrious Past Grand Master, Brother Michael DeWolf as secretary and an active member, and some of you know him simply as "The Big Ragu." I, like many of you, just simply refer to him as "Mike."

The bottom line here is, I like Mike. I like Mike because no matter what you need, you can always count on him to deliver, and in short order, and it doesn't matter who you are.

I like Mike because he is an excellent communicator. He listens. He shares information with you and then he shares it again, and again.

I like Mike because he is experienced at putting together large events, even larger than this event and he does it seamlessly. He is detail oriented, but you might not know that because details are just handled when he is responsible.

I like Mike because he is an excellent businessman. A few years ago our state of Wisconsin hosted this Conference and everybody told us it was going to cost our Grand Lodge tens of thousands of dollars to host this Conference. Well, because of his leadership and guidance, it didn't cost us that. We broke even, and many of you were there, and all of those who attended will attest that we didn't cut corners.

I like Mike because he is innovative and adept at using today's technology to make things easier, like registration, payment, and communication. Making things

seamless. He makes it easier. When it comes to all of that techy stuff, he has the skills of a Millennial, and he makes it simple for people like me to use it.

I like Mike because well, as Grand Master, we have a limited time to positively impact our fraternity and very soon we'll all be yesterday's news.

But, this Conference is the largest Conference, largest gathering of Grand Masters in the world and we have a chance to make it better.

So looking around the room, I see a pack, a big pack of alpha males. The position of Executive Secretary and Treasurer is no doubt a big job but it is a lot for anyone to bite off. It's like eating an elephant. So let's give it to Mikie, because everybody knows he'll eat anything. Thank You.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: The Grand Master of Oregon, Right Worshipful Myles McMillan will be speaking on behalf of Brother Haywood.

M.W. MYLES McMILLAN: Conference Chairman, distinguished honorees, and brothers all. I am honored this morning to place into nomination Most Worshipful Brother David W. Haywood, Past Grand Master for the office of Executive Secretary of this esteemed body, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.

Brother David is a proven leader. His past and current experiences show him to be well qualified to continue. Continue, get that heavy word there, to fill this Executive position of the Grand Secretary of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.

Most Worshipful Brother David is a past Grand Master of Missouri. He has served with the Conference of Grand Masters of North America by volunteering and selection on numerous committees since 2012. And as we all know, it is probably prior to that, but that was the actual date that he was selected as a committee person. This experience of direct Conference involvement gives him a tremendous head start in operations of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. We all know that as Past Grand Master, that these jobs that we undertake are not a one person job, and neither is the Conference of Grand Masters Executive Secretary. Most Worshipful Dave has the full support of his wife and partner, Diane. I urge your support for your sitting Executive Conference Secretary, Most Worshipful Brother David Haywood.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Before I leave, on your tabletop there is a full outline of his Masonic and affiliated background. I urge you to take a look at that, rather than kill the mic. Thank you.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, my Brother. Appreciate it. So I would now ask the Brothers, the 61 Grand Masters, or the designated appointees authorized to vote on behalf of their Grand Lodge to please write Brother Haywood

or Brother DeWolf. Just write it in words on the card and then the three tellers will collect those ballots and count the results.

Brethren, I have the results of the election. Michael A. DeWolf 35, Dave Haywood 25, and one blank, which adds up to 61 votes, is what we have. Brother Michael DeWolf, do you accept the election results and accept the position?

M.W. MICHAEL A. DeWOLF: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, I certainly do accept the election and my Brothers, I thank each and every one of you for the confidence you have shown by your vote.

You will get my best in this endeavor. I am looking forward to having some good future conferences. Thank you.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

(Applause)

I hereby dismiss the tellers. Most Worshipful Brother David Haywood, I want to thank you for your service. You have done a good job for us. We appreciate all that you have done. Let's give him a hand as well.

(Applause)

I would expect the transition process will be smooth and cooperative in a very Masonic, civilized manner. I look forward to a good transition as we move from an Executive Secretary and a new Board of members for the ensuing term. I declare the elections closed.

The first duty for the 2019 officers, which are the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Host Grand Master, Chairman of the Planning Committee and the members of the Planning Committee, are meeting today at 4:10 p.m. in Studio 5.

The newly elected Conference Chairman and Planning Committee Chairman will be the leaders of the meeting. The Executive Committee Secretary will also be in attendance. I also strongly suggest that the representatives of the 2019 South Dakota Host Committee, or other members of the Host Jurisdiction, attend this meeting.

I thank you Most Worshipful Brother Tibbits and all of the members of the Nominating Committee. I know that the selection of nominees is a difficult task. We thank all of the brothers who sent in their biographies and resumes for consideration. We appreciate your volunteering for this wonderful service.

I would also, at this time, like to ask the representative of the National Sojourners—is he in the room here?

Can you come up and offer some remarks at this time? Please help me welcome Brother Edward Nolte, the President elect. Help me welcome him, brothers.

(Applause)

M.W. EDWARD NOLTE: Good morning. Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls, distinguished brethren all. I am Ed Nolte, the National President elect. It will be my

honor next year to serve as the President of National Sojourners during our Centennial Anniversary. We will celebrate our Centennial Anniversary beginning with our Annual National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia in June of this year.

During the year we will host various patriotic events throughout the nation. Our Centennial year will culminate at our National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska on June 4th through the 9th of 2019.

We invite each Grand Master or his designated representative to join us for our birthday bash, and help us honor our past, celebrate our present and embrace our future.

If you are not yet a National Sojourner, we will host a Nationwide Initiation Ceremony to invite you to join our order. Those attending will also receive a framed toast of the flag poster for display in your Grand Lodge. During the Centennial Year our various Chapters and your Grand Jurisdictions will be presenting these to their Lodges.

Our goals for the Centennial Year include initiating a thousand new National Sojourners, many of which will be new Master Masons. At each Grand Master's position is a preliminary invitation. Since most of you will not be the Grand Master in June of 2019, I encourage you to share this with your Grand Lodge Officer. You will receive a formal invitation with registration dates, hotel, meal information, and so forth closer to the event. In addition, each Grand Master will receive a copy of a Sojourner article that happened in a Nebraska Grand Lodge Ceremony where we presented a historical flag presentation at which five National Guardsmen who were not Masons stood up and said, "I want to become a Master Mason so I can help the Sojourners share Patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation. This is just one example of what Sojourners can do for membership in your Grand Jurisdiction.

Brethren, current and former military veterans represent a valuable source of new Masons for every Grand Lodge Jurisdiction. National Sojourners and serving the cause of Patriotism has unique connections with these potential brethren through our workspaces, our association, our purposes and our work with the Veterans. National Sojourners can help your lodges gain new members.

Please put us to work and let us help you with membership through our Colonial Ladies at the Table, Lodge of Military Tributes Ceremony, historic and Building the Flag Programs, and our Toast of the Flag, as we support all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, develop true Patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation, and honor our past, celebrate our present, and embrace our future.

In closing, National Sojourners respectfully request the honor of your presence at our Centennial Birthday Bash to be part of a panoramic picture of Masons and guests in attendance.

If you need more copies of the Nebraska Mason article, please stop by our booth. We would enjoy speaking with you personally. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Brother Ed Nolte, for your comments. I would like to now—are they available?

Please help me welcome the Sovereign Grand Commander of Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Dave Glattly.

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER DAVID GLATTLY: Thank you Most Worshipful Sirs, and Most Worshipful, Right Worshipful and all brothers. Good morning.

(Good morning)

Pleasure to be with you. I was sitting there relaxed until the Grand Master just called upon me. I would like to say it is a pleasure to be here with all of you. I was elected as Sovereign Grand Commander this past August. Jim McNaughton retired after 11 ½ years on the job. So we moved the family from New Jersey to Lexington Massachusetts and we're enjoying it except, you know, for the Red Sox. I'm a Yankee fan.

We do have a booth outside set up for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, and what we are doing is we are displaying some of the materials we are offering for marketing for Blue Lodge. We have a name on there called "Not just a man, a Mason", which is something we trademarked. Those materials are out there, they are available to you.

We had a survey done about two years ago to Non-Masons across the United States, and what we found was there is absolutely nothing wrong with the product of Freemasonry, nothing at all. It's that we don't have a good marketing program. So the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction took it upon ourselves to prepare some tools for you to use in Blue Lodge for marketing. You'll note it doesn't have our name on it. It doesn't say "Scottish Rite" and there's no double headed eagle. Just simply the square and compass and the wording on the bottom, "Not just a man, a Mason." We are willing to provide those materials to all the Grand Lodges that want them. So stop by the booth, we will be happy to share that information with you.

It's just a pleasure to be here and to see a lot of familiar faces. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Okay. I would like to now call upon a very good friend of our's from the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise, the Deputy Grand Master, Jean Pierre Rollet for a response from the visitors. Would you please help me welcome the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Chancellor of GLNF, my brothers.

(Applause)

I think when I was with them last I think I found out that the Grand Master serves for six years, so you have been Deputy Grand Master for six years?

D.G.M. GLNF JEAN PIERRE ROLLET: No. Three years.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Three years. The term is for six, right?

D.G.M. GLNF JEAN PIERRE ROLLET: Six.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Six years. How about that! You complain about one or two. Please help me welcome him.

(Applause)

D.G.M. GLNF JEAN PIERRE ROLLET: Most Worshipful Jeffrey, Chairman of the Conference, Most Worshipful Grand Masters, my dearest Brethren, good morning.

(Good morning)

The fearsome honor of addressing this assembly on behalf of all Grand Lodges in the world, in amity, which have been invited to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, has been vested on me. I do thank you, Brother Chairman, Dear Jeffrey, for the trust thus placed in me.

On behalf of the whole Sister Grand Lodges, let me express our gratitude and congratulations, first to those who organized the event, for their hearty welcome, and then to all of you regarding the warm hospitality thus shown in Indianapolis on the occasion of this Conference. It is always a great pleasure to meet each other again, year after year, for the Conference of Grand Masters in North America.

Not only do we share pleasant moments reacquainting with old friends, toasting to friendship—but with French wine, even better— thinking about those who, unfortunately, are no longer among us, but above all, during these few days we can learn to better know one another, meet other Masons, and share experiences and ideas during the work sessions.

If we can do so, it is precisely because we are all united by the same ideal of brotherhood, peace and harmony. We all come from different backgrounds. We are aware of our differences, But beyond that, we know what the values that bring us together are. What finer message today than the one conveyed by Freemasonry all around the world? There is no boundary for such a noble cause as Freemasonry and the values embodied in it.

I am firmly convinced that we do benefit unexpectedly from all these Masonic Conferences held here in the United States, as well as in Europe, in Asia, or Latin America. They revive our Masonic spirit; they strengthen our involvement and our commitment to Freemasonry. We always have much to learn from one another. Our community can only draw its strength from the ideas developed by its entire membership, which enrich our ideal. I wish every success to all the works of this Conference.

I thank you for your attention.

To conclude, may our hearts be full of joy, may God bless us all and keep us safe and sound in our respective houses. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much. Is the Robert Brethour here from the Canadian Scottish Rite?

(No response)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: He must be in a meeting as well. I would like to call on Duane Vaught, the Rite Eminent Grand Master of the General Grand Encampment, are you present?

(No response)

How about the General High priest Jim Hodge?

(No response)

We are really going to chew through this list really nice. Dave Brindall?

(No response)

They must all be at the hospitality room, I guess. All right. Tall Cedars of Lebanon?

(No response)

This is getting quicker. Okay. All right. So, brethren, just a few short weeks ago the country witnessed one of the most amazing Super Bowls in all of its history.

Needless to say, there was a lot of state and city pride flowing from Philadelphia, the home of the Philadelphia Eagles and the historic home of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and Boston the home of the New England Patriots, and the equally majestic home of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

It seemed like there was a little bit of bragging and boasting going on between these two Grand Masters and some friendly wagers were made. One was won, the other lost. The payoff is now. My brothers, please help me welcome the Grand Master, Paul Gleason, of Massachusetts, and Grand Master, Gene Herritt, of Pennsylvania for a little presentation and fun.

(Applause)

May I ask the Grand Master of the eminent Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join me at the microphone. I can't throw this to you.

M.W. EUGENE HERRITT: I want everybody to see this.

(Applause)

M.W. PAUL GLEASON: Grand Masters, brothers, I am here to warn you about complacency. We even were wondering what you would do with six rings, only got five fingers, and I heard on more than one occasion people refer to the "Patriot Bowl." So, in that spirit, one former member of our Grand Lodge suggested to me that we enter into a friendly wager with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The stakes were to be a gallon of Boston Clam Chowder against the famous Philadelphia Cheese Steak. Already thinking those cheese steaks were going to taste good, we all know how that turned out. Grand Master, I am pleased to present to you a Legal Seafoods gift card good for one gallon of Boston clam chowder to congratulate you on a well played game and tell you we'll see you next year.

(Applause)

M.W. EUGENE HERRITT: Thank you, Grand Master. You know when Most Worshipful Brother Gleason first contacted me about this wager, I was tickled since we were the underdogs. I was very tickled that he didn't ask that I send the cheese steaks up so he could enjoy them during the game. (Laughter)

It was quite an exciting game, so I thought in honor of that I wanted to present a certificate to Most Worshipful Grand Master Gleason and this reads. Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, home the World Champion Philadelphia Eagles, present a gift card for the purchase of Philadelphia Cheese Steaks to Most Worshipful Brother Paul F. Gleason, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in recognition of an Eagle Super Bowl victory over the New England Patriots, on Sunday, February 4th, 2018, witness our hands, signed Brother S. Eugene Herritt,

Right Worshipful Grand Master. This is to the Reading Terminal Market, about a block and a half away from our Grand Lodge Temple, in hopes that you will visit us during that time you go over and get yourself a couple of cheese steaks.

M.W. PAUL GLEASON: Thank you very much. (Applause) where am I going to hang this?

(Laughter)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: We would like to thank the Humanitarian Foundation and the Grottos of North America for, again, providing the name badge lanyards for this years Conference. Let's show our appreciation for their generosity.

(Applause)

Before we recess for lunch, there is a couple of things you need to know. The Grand Masters with their Ladies will be in Regency CD Room, and the Host will be myself, Lady Carla and Rodney Mann and his Lady, Malia, Grand Master of Indiana.

The Deputy Grand Masters with their Ladies will be in Regency EF, and the Host will be Carle E. Culmann, Deputy Grand Master of Indiana and DaNiel D. Wood, Deputy Grand Master of South Dakota.

The Grand Wardens with Ladies will be in Regency AB, and it's Right Worshipful Geary F. Laird and his Lady Terri, and Right Worshipful Brother Harold D. Ireland, Senior Grand Warden of South Dakota.

The idea was we decided to give you a little more time, which is an hour and a half. We're going to ask everyone to come back at 1:30 sharp to continue our Conference. Deputy Grand Masters will have a meeting at 1:30 in the Regency EF Room with the 2019 Conference Chairman and the Executive Secretary. It's on your foldout here, your itinerary.

The Grand Wardens have their meeting at 1:30 in the Regency AB Room under the direction of Right Worshipful Brother Stanton T. Brown, our Grand Senior Warden, I think of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. Is there any other things that need to be

brought before the Conference, or any announcements at this time before we take a break or recess for lunch?

Executive Secretary, have you got anything right now? Please leave your nametags, and your table tents in front of you.

I will now call on our Grand Master Reverend, Most Worshipful Peter Iacobucci, Grand Master of Rhode Island for a blessing of for our lunch.

(Blessing)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you brother. Right Worshipful James Kistel, would you please attend at the alter and close the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

You are dismissed.

__Lunch Break__

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Brother, please rise. Right Worshipful James Kistel, would you please attend at the alter and display the Three Great Lights of Masonry?

Good afternoon, brethren.

(Good afternoon.)

I trust you had a good lunch. The one thing I wanted to show you on this itinerary is the Breakout Session on Tuesday between 10:30 and 11:30 is something new that the Planning Committee prepared. What it is, is what it is to be a Grand Line Lady? We would invite you to have your wife attend that and to participate in the discussion. I think you will find it very, not you, but the ladies will find it pretty interesting and worth while.

So now it's my pleasure to call on Most Worshipful Robert Conley, Past Grand Master of Michigan, and the Executive Secretary of the George Washington Memorial Association for their Annual Meeting and report. Come on in, Brothers. Welcome.

M.W. ROBERT CONLEY: Good afternoon.

Brethren, I am Bob Conley, Past Grand Master of Michigan, and currently Grand Secretary and I am President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. I declare that a quorum is present and call the 108th Annual Meeting of this Memorial Association to order.

All of you have in front of you a copy our Annual Report and I will now entertain a motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the 107th Annual Meeting as printed in the 2017 report.

So moved. Is there a second? *Second.*

Moved and seconded to accept those minutes as printed.

All of those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed same sign? *Motion carried.*
Thank you.

It is not only an honor to serve as President, but also to be here to address this august body, and to serve with an outstanding Board of Directors of our Association. On behalf of that Association I extend our thanks for your support of the Memorial during this past year. It has truly been a great year. We made significant progress this year as we continue our mission to inspire humanity through education, to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the man, the Mason and Father of our country.

This past year we continued the work of repairing and restoring the Memorial to its original intended state. The Memorial is an internationally recognized landmark, and it must remain as a shining beacon on the hill, commemorating and reverencing the great man, Illustrious Brother George Washington.

Without the efforts and examples of Washington, we would not have this great country that we are honored to live in.

We established this year several operational systems designed to enhance our governance structure. We have enhanced the Finance Committee, our Governance Committee, Outreach and Fund Development Committee.

The Board also fully endorsed the launching of the Landmark Century Campaign, a capital campaign to raise funds to continue and complete restoration of the Memorial. I thank you for your support of that project.

I want to congratulate and thank our

Memorial Staff for the exemplary work they do every day to make sure that the image the Memorial presents to the public, honors the memory of General Washington.

It is our responsibility to provide the staff with the monetary support that allows them to continue their work responsibly and efficiently.

I extend our thanks to all of you that supported the Memorial in the past, and those of you that will continue to support the Memorial in the years to come. Together we will continue to positively impact our communities and our world, reminding them to always remember George Washington, the man, the Mason, and Father of our country.

Brethren, will now hold the election of the members of the Board of Directors. Most Worshipful Brother Woodwyck, Grand Master of Michigan, will you please come forward and present the report of the Nominating Committee for the members of the Board of Directors?

M.W. JOSHUA A. WOODWYCK: Good afternoon, Brothers. The nominating Committee consist of myself, the Deputy Grand Master of Louisiana, and the Grand Master of Maine, and we present for your consideration for the member of Board of Directors of the George Washington National Memorial Association to serve a term of three years until February, 22, 2021. The names of Scott Thomas, Grand Master of

Arizona; Jeff Webb, Past Grand Master of Louisiana; John Ryan, Past Grand Master of New Jersey; Mike Rodman, Past Grand Master of South Dakota; John R. Cline, Past Grand Master of Alaska; Thomas Sturgeon, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania. All of these brothers have been contacted and are willing to serve if he is elected and I so move. Second. Thank you.

It's been moved and seconded for that nominated slate. Are there any other nominations? Hearing and seeing none, I declared the nominations closed. All those in favor of the motion please respond by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed same sign?

Motion is carried.

M.W. ROBERT CONLEY: Brethren, you also have in front of you a proposed change to our Bylaws. Basically it is Section 10 of our Bylaws which stipulates a mix of our investments, and we want to take that out of the Bylaws and replace it with an investment policy that is adopted by the Board.

I will now entertain a motion for that Bylaw change. So moved? *Second.* Discussion? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed same sign? *Motion carried.*

Brothers, our Board members serve for three years, then rotate off the Board of Directors. This is done to allow all of our 52 active member Grand Lodges the opportunity to serve on the Board. These Brethren have done an outstanding job for last three years, and we collectively thank them for their dedication, hard work, their input and for all that they have done for the Memorial. The retiring Board members are, if you wave, or step forward or something when I call your name. Orville Armstrong of Tennessee; Phil Buchholz, of Wyoming. I don't believe Phil is with us, but we are certainly thinking of him. John M. Chambliss, Jr., Virginia; Richard J. Elman, Indiana; Mansour Hatefi, of the District of Columbia; Douglas W. McDonald, Sr., of Georgia. These are the members of our Board who are retiring this year. Would you please thank them for their service?

(Applause)

As President of the George Washington Memorial Association for the year 2018, and in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association, I appoint the following members of the Executive Committee. Myself as President; Jeff Webb, Past Grand Master of Louisiana; Claire Tusch, Past Grand Master of Maine; Ken Nagel, Past Grand Master of California; Thomas K. Sturgeon, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania; Michael Bible, Past Master of Alexandria Lodge, and George Seghers, Secretary-Treasurer.

Now, if anybody would like to make a donation to the Memorial, please come over to the right side of the dais and we will gratefully accept your donation at that time. If there is nothing further to come before the Association, I will accept a motion to adjourn. So moved. Second. If there is nothing further, I will declare this 108th meeting of the Association closed. Thank you, Brethren. (Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Bother Conley and the Association. You do great work and we appreciate everything you brothers do. We thank you so much for preserving our landmark.

(Applause)

I will now call on Most Worshipful Thomas Velvin, for his report of the National Masonic Foundation for Children, their Annual Meeting and report.

(Applause)

M.W. THOMAS VELVIN: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Tom Velvin, and I'm the Executive Director of the Masonic Foundation for Children. It is my pleasure to introduce the members of our Board. Let me kind of turn my back to you so I can see who all is behind me. Our President, by the way, is recovering from hip replacement surgery and is not with us. That is Jeff Carlton from Arizona. Our Vice-President is Ted Praria, Past Grand Master of Michigan; our Treasurer is Richard Martin, Past Grand Master of Oregon; our Secretary, Yancey Smith, Most Worshipful Grand Master South Dakota; our Directors are Ron Aungst, Right Worshipful Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania, who is absent; Doug Policastro, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master of New Jersey; Kostas Vourvoulas, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland. I am the only one who knows how to say his name. He is a great friend of mine. David Doan, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master of California; Patton Hart, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master of Kentucky; Wayne Kingsley, Past Grand Master of Nevada, who is not with us; Stuart Corso from Vermont, he is a new member coming on the Board; Ron Winnett, Past Grand Master of Ohio, and David walker, and Most Worshipful Grand Master Tom Pulkkinen from Maine is filling that chair at the moment. Our newest member, Angelo DeSerio is from Illinois. That's the Board members.

(Applause)

I would be remiss if I did not introduce my Assistant, Abby Morgan who is over there with the camera. She does just about everything that there is to be done on the Board, I just say, "Yeah, that looks great", and she does it. So that's great.

At this time I would like to turn it over to our Vice-President who will Conduct the meeting.

M.W. TED PRARIA: Thank you Most Worshipful Sir. Again, I would like to thank the George Washington National Masonic Memorial for waking you all up after lunch.

So right now we are going to conduct a little business. We would like to bring forth, we have met for the past several days and I would like to bring forth the names of the Board Members that have been elected to serve as officers for of the ensuing year. Jeffrey Carlton, will continue as President; myself will continue as Vice-President, Richard Martin will continue as Treasurer and Yancey Smith will continue as secretary.

What we need now is for you to vote on the terms of members that their terms are expiring and are coming back on the Board and some new Board Members as were mentioned. So the Board recommends for the ensuing three years the following members to come back on the Board. Ron Aungst from Pennsylvania, myself from Michigan; Wayne Kingsley from Nevada; Ron Winnett from Ohio; and new Board

Members that we are bringing on are Stuart Corso from Vermont and Angelo DeSerio from Illinois. May I have a motion, please? *So moved.*

M.W. THOMAS VELVIN: Most Worshipful & Right Worship Brethren, I move that the august body adopt the recommendations of the Board. *Second.* All those in favor Aye? Aye. Opposed? *Motion carried.*

M.W. TED PRARIA: Thank you, Most Worshipful. And before I turn it back over to our Executive Director, I am going to make a little comment that is basically from the heart. My brothers, all of you, you know what has been going on the past few years, that we have seen on television in our schools. My brothers, here we have a program, an awfully amazing program that could have helped many times for these situations to identify some of these issues we have seen happen in our schools but, we cannot do it without your support. That's what we need. We need your support to be able to continue this program that has saved many lives. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. THOMAS M. VELVIN: Brethren, many times throughout the last year as I have travelled around to different jurisdictions representing the Foundation and I am asked what we do? Well, the short answer is, we administer the Masonic Model Students Assistance Training. That's what the answer has been for the last 21 years that this Foundation has been in existence. It was started by you folks, or the people sitting at this table 31 years ago, and in those days we received a lot of support from nearly every Grand Lodge represented at this table. The Foundation was financially well off. Those days have seemed to have gone by. Recently we have added considerably to our catalog of training that is available to school teachers, administrators, private school officials, and teachers, and most recently we provided training in one of our jurisdictions for the adult advisors and DeMolay members in that jurisdiction and it was overwhelmingly received.

What we provide is not only the Masonic Model Training that teaches teachers and administrators how to identify and deal with children who are at risk, or drug and alcohol that they use, bullying, sexual abuse and such things. We also train the parents and the student themselves in how to deal with each other. No matter what their skin color is. No matter what their ethnic background is. We also deal with the issues that are currently in our system today.

The training is pretty much paid for because we have a contractor that does it. This contractor has been doing this since 1984, or something of that nature, in Pennsylvania. But the training is paid for out of the, usually the charitable foundations of several jurisdictions. We take a small administrative fee to cover some of our operating costs. But, in the past, you folks in the various jurisdictions provided most of our financial backing.

Well, in recent years, less than ten years probably, that support has dwindled away to we have a mere 14 organizations that provide us some backing. It's not enough. It does not cover our operating costs. We are hoping, or asking for your support. For this financial support. The long and short of it is, if we don't achieve the goals

that we have set in our meetings so that we can balance our budget, we are going to have to increase our fees. That's the only alternative we have. Otherwise we would go out of business. The support that we give to our public schools is unique. There is no place in the world, there is no organization in the world that provides the kind of training that we provide. Since its inception, this Foundation has been responsible for training more than 50,000 teachers. Probably in the neighborhood of 60,000 by now.

We have intervened in the lives of more than half a million kids. What has happened in the schools where the intervention has occurred is the child has been turned around and gone from a life of destruction, and probably jail time and that sort of thing, to being a productive member of society and to be an asset within the school. The response in the school system has been an improvement in the overall welfare of the school and improvement in the child's life as well. It has basically paid for itself.

We get any number of calls on a weekly or monthly basis from teachers who have been through this training in the past who want more of it. So, we have instituted refresher training. In the not too distant future we will probably provide training that they can dial into using their facilities at their school system and be supported by an on-line instructor from a central location. It will cut down on the travel costs and costs of training. But, at the present time, we really do need your support. It's essential for the future of our program. It's your program. You folks started I in 1986. We have continued it every year since then. I am about the fourth Executive Director who has probably stood before this august body and talked about the program. So with that, thank you very much for your attention and we would also entertain anyone who would like to give us a gift at this time. We will assemble up there in front of you and be willing to accept checks, and shake your hand and say hello.

Thank you.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Just like the other group, if they come out here to the bottom of the dais here, give you a better photo opportunity. It is very, very worthwhile. Thank you for working on our behalf and all of humankind. Let's give him a hand.

(Applause)

So we are here at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and believe it or not there is more than one Conference in this world, and they are spread all around, you know, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America and Central America. So I thought that it would be very opportune if possibly we might be able to understand a better world view of Central and South America, and even North America. It is my pleasure to ask Most Worshipful Rudy Barbosa Levy, who is Past Grand Master of Bolivia. He is the Executive Secretary of the Confederation Masonica Interamericana, also know as the CMI. Please help me welcome him.

(Applause)

M.W. RUDY BARBOSA LEVY: Welcome, my brothers. Good afternoon.

(Good afternoon.)

I am very honored to be here, and I think the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, especially thank its Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Jeffrey Williamson, for this opportunity to address this prestigious body of Masonic leaders.

I am here to make a brief representation of CMI, the Interamerican Masonic Confederation, an organization that comprises 74 Regular Grand Lodges and Grand Orients in this Continent, including Grand Lodges of Spain, Portugal and the GLNF in Europe. But, if you allow me, I would like to use a few minutes of your time to raise some questions, addressed to you as leaders of an institution that has made significant contributions to society, and has an incredible record of achievements. A couple of things about me that may be salient, my brothers.

By my accent you realize that English is not my mother tongue, so I am going to ask you to be tolerant if I don't come out with the right word at the right time. As a profession, I am a civil engineer, and as such I deal with numbers, statistics and the solution of problems, not a creation of them. There are other professions for that. Finally, the problems we are facing as an institution are common to all of us. Therefore, the solutions much also be common to all of us. This is not something that will be resolved by a committee. The solution lies way beyond that. But, first of all, allow me to introduce CMI and what it represents numerically in the context of our Masonic world. (PowerPoint started at this time) This is an annual publication that we all know called "The List of Lodges." What you are looking at is an issue of the year 1920, almost 100 years ago, published by the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. This is the 2016 issue of the same "List of Lodges", published by the Pantagraph Editorial Company, of the state of Illinois. It gives a fairly good idea of how Freemasonry is distributed in our planet.

As you can see, the statistics show that in terms of Grand Lodges, number of Grand Lodges, and membership, the American Continent (in blue) is way over the other Continents. The U.S., Brasil and Canada occupy the first places.

In this image, we can see the space occupied by CMI (in red), in that same world scenario. In terms of Grand Lodges/Grand Orients, lodges and membership, it appears that things are fairly well distributed among Europe, North America and the CMI region.

Today we have some members of CMI Grand Lodges in this Conference. I would like all those Brothers to please stand up. I believe this is an example of the kind of relations that are developing in the north and south as far as Freemasonry is concerned.

(Applause)

CMI covers all countries in the American Continent, with the only exception of Canada. Like I mentioned before, it includes France, Spain and Portugal and Europe. CMI was founded in 1947 with 39 Grand Lodges/Grand Orients located in 13

countries. Now, we are 74 Grand Lodges/Grand Orients and 25 countries. This is the organizational structure of the CMI:

The General Assembly which convenes every three years.

The Executive Council, composed of eight members which makes decisions when the General Assembly is in recess.

The Secretary General, which takes care of the day-to-day business in the six geographical zones where all the Grand Lodges/Grand Orients are distributed. Also, there are the Commissions assigned with specific tasks according to the needs that arise during the period. These are the objectives of the CMI and are included in its Bylaws. I believe most of those objectives are common in our Masonic community where you are doing Freemasonry work. This pictures shows one of the first Masonic Assemblies held in South America. It happened in Buenos Aries, Argentina, in May 1918, 10 years before CMI was founded, and 100 years to the present. Here you can appreciate the first Assembly where CMI was founded in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1947. This is Madrid, in 2015, where we were elected to serve the CMI for a period of three years.

This is the last CMI Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay, held in April, '17, to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of our Confederation. My Brothers, these pictures try to show you that there is a very strong Masonic force in the southern region of this continent that is doing intensive and serious Masonic work, just as in any other part of the world. Besides the normal day-to-day activities that involve a Masonic organization, the topics we have been discussing at CMI meetings and conferences involve the four basic themes listed here. But, before going into any other details, I think it is necessary to tell you why we have been asking these three questions in our Masonic environment, as it is done in organizations that are facing similar problems, whether it is a corporation, a university, an institution or a government.

Countries like Japan, for instance, that are 20 or 30 years ago, had a very healthy rate of economic growth. Now, they appear to have reached an inflection point and no one knows how to overcome the situation. The type of innovations they pursue, called "efficiency innovations", won't let them recover the growth rates they achieved in the past.

Now, my Brothers, let me show you why I made this brief introduction. Up until the middle of the past century, we could easily make a list like this showing the name of famous and preeminent Freemasons. I am talking about Presidents, Nobel Prize winners, artists, philosophers, scientists, music composers. These were men that made us all feel very proud of our Order because they left their mark in society. Those were times in which Freemasonry was growing as an institution.

Here you see two familiar faces at the highest level of political power. Life Magazine is a well known magazine of the past. It shows in the cover of the issue of October 1956, the Grand Masters of North America at that time. The article speaks of the importance and preeminence of Freemasonry in those days. The other magazine is more recent, from this century, showing the face of very famous Freemasons, all of them from the past. I believe if we try to do a similar list of famous Freemasons, it is

possible that we find some names. How many? I don't know. But I think our list would be a lot shorter than the previous one.

Is this part of an institutional crisis that we don't want to face? If so, what is the origin of this crisis, and how can we help to resolve it? Let's look at some statistical figures to back up this point of view. Until the mid 20th Century, in the countries shown above, we were going up reaching a membership of about six million at a world level. Unfortunately, in those same countries, at the beginning of the 21st Century, the numbers show a considerable decline in membership. Let's go a bit further and reach the year 2016 to find out that the membership keeps going down. I refer to these countries as an example because Freemasonry was very active there long before it took root in the rest of the world. Let's analyze the same situation from another angle. The chart shows population growth in those same countries. From the 1960s to the year 2016, the increase is significant, 58 percent. However, in Freemasonry, more or less for the same period, the decline in membership is 74 percent. In terms of the ratio, Freemasonry over population, the values are even more critical, from 1.7 percent it goes down to 0.3 percent.

This data was provided by the United Grand Lodge of England. The graph shows that the number of annual certificates extended to Master Masons, went from more than 200,000 in the 1950s to less than 10,000 toward the end of the 90s. Over a 50 year period, the downhill trend is too solid and continuous to think about a possible change in direction. This article appeared in the press just 10 days ago, in one of the most prestigious papers in England, talking about our British Brothers who just finished celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of London and Westminster. At least this time, someone in there decided to say, "Enough is enough" and apparently, a campaign is being initiated for marketing a better image of the Order. The question is, how many times we have to do the same thing over and over, without attending the fundamental problem that is in front of our eyes?

In the southern part of our continent, Argentina, for example, the situation is not any better. In the last three years they performed 1,800 initiations, but in the same period, 1,400 brethren abandoned the Lodge. That is an impressive rate of desertion for such a short period of time.

Let's take another country, where Freemasonry is supposed to be very active in society, Brasil. A poll in 2009 showed that 60 percent of the people don't know what Freemasonry is, 20 percent are neutral, 13 percent have a negative opinion, and only 7 percent of society think we are doing a good job. All these well known Masonic authors, from France, England, Australia and Switzerland, in different times, have expressed great concern about the end of Freemasonry. However, the "End of Freemasonry" can be interpreted in different manners. Is it the disappearance of Freemasonry as we know it? Is it the transformation of our Order into a social club? Or is it that our Order will become irrelevant in the eyes of society?

These are well known figures in the Masonic world. The words of Brother McNaughton are as sharp as a knife as he recognizes similar problems facing the

corporate world and uses a very interesting analogy that we should take very seriously. Different publications from Brother Masons for many years have been expressing concern about the current state of affairs. What we are really talking about in the previous images has to do with “An inconvenient Masonic truth”. We all still remember the 2006 documentary “An inconvenient truth” presented by Vice-President, Al Gore, about global warming, which undoubtedly helped to awaken world consciousness about the dangers involved with climate change.

As far as Freemasonry is concerned, our “Inconvenient truth” translates into these aspects, to which we may add a long list of missing necessities that are an inherent part of a good organization. But really, our problem as an Order is lack of clear Objectives and tangible goals. And this is why, sometimes, we may compare Freemasonry in the 21st Century with this image: Don’t know where to begin our path and don’t know where it will take us.

In the meantime, the so-called “Irregular groups”, or what I call “Disruptive Freemasonry” keep growing and growing. Let me give you an example.

This is a couple that was apprehended by the police in 2014, in Curitiba, Brazil. Why? They used Freemasonry to enlist people in their organization, offering all kinds of benefits, Region Metropolitana de Curitiba, Paran·. This is Veja, one of the best weekly magazines in South America, if not the best. It is the equivalent of Time Magazine in the U.S. or the Economist in the UK. This issue is from last year, October 18th. Inside you see this advertisement. If you look closely, you see the square and compass and a call to join that organization. They even give the site where you can get more information. By the way, an ad like this may cost over \$200,000 for one ad. If you go into the site, you will see all kinds of offerings: Freemasonry at Home, in the Temple, on TV, et cetera. Someone from the outside world doesn’t have any clues if these are the good guys or the bad guys, and when they finally find out, it is too late. Who gets hurt? Freemasonry. We might say, “They are not as good as us”, but that is the right answer to the wrong question. The right question should be, “Will they become good enough through technology for what people need as far as Freemasonry is concerned?” This is not only happening in Brasil, my Brothers. It is happening in other countries too. So how do we start to unravel the complexities of the problem we, as an institution, have at hand? This is the challenge we’ve been facing for the last two or more years, and I wanted to share it with you, because I know the tremendous responsibility that lies over your shoulders as leaders of Freemasonry.

In view of the current situation, we think that we should open our window and look at what other people are doing to overcome some of the same questions. They probably don’t have anything to do with Freemasonry, but the results of their work may have everything to do with an institution such as Freemasonry.

At the end, what really matters is an honest answer to a very profound question, “Are we in a position to fix the current situation?” Of course, we are. But, first, we must admit that we have a situation, a problem. We must also realize the value of our membership, above all else. Then, we must begin to look at our methods of

work, the ways and means to examine our problems. At present, we usually study our history, our traditions, rituals, landmarks, symbols, et cetera. In other words, instead of only studying Freemasonry to get conclusions about Freemasonry. In the 21st Century, it is necessary to cover other disciplines of human knowledge to get conclusions about Freemasonry. In their own way, this is what organizations that are facing similar problems are doing to improve their performance. There are thousands and thousands of books, articles and interviews related to the topics that we should be studying to get a better understanding, not of Freemasonry, but of the crisis that we are facing as an institution. Many of them are perfectly applicable to Freemasonry, but from a broader perspective.

“In order to assimilate that material, we need to open our minds and absorb some ideas and theories that are being applied with success in other areas.” This is an example of a profound and significant statement made by one of the most influential business thinkers in the world. A Harvard Business Professor that some of you may know. This is another, I believe, if we read carefully, some of these ideas can change dramatically the way we look at the situation we are facing within our own Masonic environment. One thing appears to be fundamentally important. We must start learning a new language in order to understand our current problems. This is the language that is being spoken everywhere else except in Freemasonry. And why do we need to learn a new language? Because that is the only way we can tackle the problem we have at hand using the proper tools.

The analysis of our institutional model. At present, our mind is oriented to just look at our past and see how great we were. And, as far as our institutional model, we may have the right idea to go forward, but we can't make it work with the instruments that we have at our disposal. Unfortunately, speaking about institutional models is not something we normally do in Masonic meetings. But think of the extreme importance to get acquainted with this concept, especially if we are to analyze and understand the structural problems Freemasonry is facing all over the world. Without going into details, an institutional model can be seen as the combination of these four blocks.

The question is: How do we deal with these blocks to get some positive results? Based on the current state of affairs, it seems logical to look at some theories and technological developments as tools we should use to modernize some of our processes as a means of overcoming some of the problems Freemasonry is confronting. But, this is something we all have to agree upon in order to go in the same direction. All organizations in this planet have some sort of model that govern their activities. You can call it a terrorist group, a university, a hospital, a corporation, or even a family. So we, as Freemasons, at the present time, are facing a dilemma. The hard part is to come up with the answer and act in accordance.

At CMI we have been experimenting with some ideas that are very promising as far as participation and collaboration is concerned. That is, dealing with the communication, participation and collaboration of our members. I'm referring to the First World Virtual Congress, which was aimed at our Masonic community. Why did we call it "World"? Because any Freemason from CMI could get access from

anywhere in this planet and participate. Why “Virtual”? Because the project was developed by a team of about 30 Freemasons, from six different countries, and all the preparatory and participative work was done on line. A platform was designed with four virtual rooms for discussion of different Masonic topics. Let me share with you some statistics of this event.

From a total of about 11,000 lodges at CMI, we were able to register almost 3,000 lodges, allowing the potential of participation of 104,000 members that belong to those lodges, which represents about 30 percent of the total CMI force.

A poll taken at the first WVC gave some interesting results. About 95 percent of the sample gave their approval for the building of collaboration networks in different fields of our activity. That is why we designed a second exercise aiming in that direction. For the second CMV, we have begun concentrating on developing the collaboration networks within our community. Once we are done with the exercise, we will start applying the tools of cooperation so that we all begin to work on a more solid basis, but from the base of the pyramid up. It will be easier to get consensus, not only on the things we want, but also on how to achieve those same things. In the future, whether we like it or not, it will not be necessary to gather crowds like this in order to communicate something. Meetings like this will still be necessary, but for other purposes.

Technology has made possible the use of faster and more efficient systems of communication. What we are now promoting at CMI are cloud meetings and cloud conferences as part of the new systems of communication and participation. So far, the results are very promising. These new methodologies help us save a lot of time and money, and we can reach a lot more territory. Besides, this is the type of tools the new generations are using. In this manner, we were able to develop the idea of the First Virtual Congress.

The Theory of the Six Degrees of Separation is a good way to demonstrate the power of the new systems of communication. Just take one Brother, look at the reach at only the fourth degree. Now, multiply that by 10, 100, 1,000. It is almost scary to think about the power that we could develop by using these systems. Now, imagine putting that power to a good cause. There is where Freemasonry could recover part of it, or all of its old preeminence. My brothers, during many, many years Freemasons have been analyzing the problem of declining membership in Freemasonry. At the end, someone recommends something based on a set of data. And then, someone else comes along and recommends something different based on another set of data. But the data is never consistent. And what is even worse, there is no data about the future. That is why the future must be analyzed using a different set of tools. What we want to achieve with this “Inconvenient” line of discussion, and with the petition to Look beyond our walls, is that we must start working together to find a common language, and a common way to frame the problem in such a form that we reach a consensus around the counterintuitive course of action.

For me, this is the great challenge of Freemasonry in the next few years. If we don't do something, I am afraid we will be unable to make relevant and effective decisions in the future. That may lead to ever more dramatic levels of decline, and what is even worse, we will dissipate our entire mission in absurdities. My brothers, in my humble opinion, this is the state and the potential of Freemasonry in the world. I believe we have a great challenge in front of us, but also, we have a great opportunity to make a real change. As leaders of this great organization, we have a moral duty to do something good for future generations.

Thank you for your kind and generous attention.

Now, my brothers, to close, let me just take a couple of minutes to show you a nice, short presentation designed by some of our young members of the Grand Lodge of Baja, California. In about three or four minutes they show in a much better elegant and powerful way most of what I just said for almost half an hour in poor English. I apologize to those in the back, but this is a nice work which was not intended, but intended to large audience. Or like our Chairman called it, "a football field".

(Video played.)

My brothers, thank you very much for myour generous attention.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you for that very inspirational address. I am sure there are a lot of takeaways there. I would also like to announce that the Confederation Masonica Interamerica will be hosting a cocktail party for all attendees from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Regency AD foyer. So we want to thank them for their generous contribution.

(Applause)

We are going to have some Breakout Sessions. Group one is Database Management. That is going to be in Studio 6. The Reality of Lodge Finances is going to be in Room 2, in Concept AB. Group three is Millennial Apprentices, the Next Revolution in Freemasonry, which is in Concept CD. So we are going to take a recess. You may attend the Breakout Sessions between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. And also, I remind the 2019 Conference Officers and Planning Committee that the new Host Grand Master and his South Dakota committee, that there is a meeting at 4:10 p.m. in Studio 5 Room. The newly elected Conference Chairman, the Planning Committee Chairman will be the leaders of the meeting. The Executive Secretary will be also be in attendance and, again, the second meeting of Commission on Information for Recognition will take place at 9:30 tomorrow in the Vision Room. Tomorrow we will reconvene in this room at 9:00 a.m. sharp. For those who need lunch tickets for tomorrow, please see our registration desk. We also have the Philaethes Society who provided excellent speakers, the very Worshipful Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary of California for lunch. Now, an importance announcement, Grand Masters, for you and the Grand Officers of the visiting sister jurisdictions, the photographs will be taken at 11:00 a.m., prior to lunch in the Cosmopolitan Ballroom, which is this room. Bring your aprons for the photograph. If you don't

have your apron, we'll just place you in a row behind so it won't really be any problem if you didn't bring it.

Brother Executive Secretary, do you have any announcements?

M.W. DAVID W. HAYWOOD: Most Worshipfuls, please leave your temp cards sitting on the table. I'll come around and pick them up so that they will be here tomorrow. Secondly, I need to see the Deputy Grand Master of France. So if he will come up and see me, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Brethren, please rise. Right Worshipful Brother James Kistel, would you please attend at the alter and close the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

__Close of Day 1__

Monday 19 February 2018 Indianapolis, IN

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful James Kistel, would you please attend at the altar and display the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

Please be seated. I would like to thank the CMI last night for hosting the hospitality session that we had. I think it was outstanding. Let's give them a hand. Thank you.

(Applause)

While still fresh in everyone's mind, I would like to give you an important announcement from Most Worshipful Brother Radu Balanescu and he is with the World Conference. I want to read you a memo he has sent to me, and I am pleased to read it to you. You should jot down the dates. Most Worshipful Brethren all, it is with great pleasure that I want to convey to you a few words from Most Worshipful Brother Radu Balanescu, the Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Romania, who is the Executive Secretary of the World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges. As you know, the World Conference is a rare opportunity for Masonic leaders from all parts of the globe to exchange ideas, build relationships with fraternal families, and unite the fraternity. This year we are organizing the World Conference in Panama on November 14 through 17, 2018. An extraordinary place with extraordinary people and brethren. The Most Worshipful Brother Roberto Cueto Cisneros, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Panama and his organizing committee, as well as the brethren from the Grand Lodge of Panama, have put forth a lot of effort into organizing this year's session in Panama. I, together with Right Worshipful Brother Thomas W. Jackson, the Honorary President of the World Conference, would like to invite you to Panama to continuously build on our Fraternity and to be a part of the project of this important platform of communication. It is by Most Worshipful Brother Radu Balanescu. All right. Thank you for that.

Now, I would like to call—first of all I would like to express my appreciation to Imperial Potentate Gary Berganske and the Shriners International for hosting the Frank S. Land breakfast tomorrow morning.

I now call on Imperial Potentate Gary for a few brief remarks. Please help me welcome him.

(Applause)

IMPERIAL POTENTATE GARY BERGANSKE: Good morning.

(Good morning)

Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls, Deputy Grand Masters, brethren and guests, my name is Gary Berganske. I am the Imperial Potentate of Shriners International. What an honor it is to be with each of you here today. First, we wish to thank the Conference of Grand Masters and the Grand Masters themselves assembled here for the consideration of our thoughts and actions. Shriners fully embrace the ancient Masonic tenet, brotherly love, relief and truth. Shriners emphasize the tenet of relief.

Specialized relief to the children who are born with difficulties and impaired by accidents that we treat. Worldwide public awareness is of great and selfless work the Shrine Masons do, and I would tell you that we are at an all time high right now the way people recognize us. A work in support of brotherly love is not often as well known as it should be. This past year in response to devastating hurricanes in the fall of 2017 the Grand Masters of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico determined that the Masonic Service Association was the best and most effective way for us to provide relief to our Masonic brothers who were affected in those areas. We were amazed and honored to add support of these Grand Lodges to encourage our Shrine Masons to contribute to the relief of these brothers through the MSA. By working cohesively with these Grand Lodges and the MSA, our partnership provided incredible and successful results when compared to the historical results of what had been done in the past. We want to thank and recognize MSA and its Executive Secretary, Most Worshipful Simon LaPlace, the Past Grand Master of the state of Connecticut, for their outstanding effort and tremendous results. At this time I would like to ask Past Grand Master Simon to please join me at the podium and let's give him applause for the great work that they did.

(Applause)

As the Imperial Potentate, the position, there are a few privileges of the office. One of those privileges is the honor to be able to give to certain individuals who have done outstanding service to help our brothers, and it is my proud moment to present an Imperial Potentate's Medallion to Past Grand Master Simon.

(Applause)

I will tell you that when these devastations happened, we as Shriners were very concerned for our brother Masons in those devastated areas. We reached out to the Grand Masters of those areas and expressed our concern and how we might Help. I will tell you that the most important piece that we have in our organization as Shriners is a list of 140,000 names of Master Masons. It was through the use of those 140,000 names that we were able to reach out and help raise money to support those areas. I would like to share with you that those names are available for use for anybody at any time that we have a tragedy, or have a need to do so.

We also would like to recognize the partnership between Shriners and DeMolay. An ongoing conversation with DeMolay Grand Master Ron Minshall, Shriners International is making a conscious and very liberal effort to strengthen the already close bonds between our two organizations to support the growth of DeMolay. Our Grand Lodges and Appendant Bodies including the Shrine, specifically we are partnering with DeMolay in the Centennial project at DeMolay headquarters in Kansas City. We are encouraging our Nobels, our clubs, our units, our temples to support this project by sponsoring a brick in support of their efforts. We are also encouraging the Grand Lodges to participate in this exciting project that supports our DeMolay and the youth that we all love. In addition, all of the money collected for the Frank Land Memorial Breakfast tomorrow will be distributed 100 percent in support of DeMolay and their missions.

(Applause)

We also encourage Shriners International to help with the Grand Lodges in encouraging interest, conversations, and untimely use of our time raising new Master Masons who share our Masonic ideals and tenets. Thank you so much for the opportunity to have a few minutes in front of you. God bless you.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Imperial Sir. I now call on Most Worshipful Brother Patton R. Hart, Past Grand Master of Kentucky to give us the Masonic Renewal Report.

M.W. PATTON R. HART: Brethren and guests, thank you for allowing the Committee, the Masonic Renewal Committee the opportunity to make its Annual Report to you. It has been a successful and productive year.

Let me first acknowledge our Committee. I serve as President, Patton R. Hart, Past Grand Master of Kentucky; Dean Alban, Past President, 33rd Degree of Scottish Rite, Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction; William Berman, Past Grand Master\Secretary Treasurer of New Jersey; Richard Lynn, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary of Florida; Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary of California; Roger S. Van Gordon, Past Grand Master of Indiana; David Haywood, Past Grand Master of Missouri; David Dibrell, Past Grand Master of Texas; Gail N. Kemp, Past Grand Master of Indiana; John V. Shelton, Past District Deputy Grand Master of Virginia, and Robert D. Brethour, Grand Secretary General of Scottish Rite of Canada.

I would appreciate if you have the opportunity for review my report in its entirety. I will highlight a few significant points and some of the initiatives that we are seeing with our Masonic Renewal Committee.

Our mission is "Pioneering Innovative Resources for Freemasonry." The website continues to serve as a resource tool for Masonic programs for Grand Lodges and all Masonic leaders. Go to our website www.MasonicRenewal.org and check it out, as it has been fully revamped. The website continues to be a work in progress. I have distributed the report to you, the delegates here assembled. We also have produced several Masonic Brochures and Handbooks, that on your review, the Masonic Renewal Committee members and services, marketing materials for Grand Lodges, highlighted by the booth next to Northern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite, and A Guide for Grand Lodge Officers to Grow and Develop Leaders. So those are available to you at our table. It's right next to the Northern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite.

We are in support of Masonic and Tonic Programs Interested Masons with alcohol and drug addiction issues. We developed a partnership with Academic Lodges in uniting our efforts in collaboration with their program to promote their interest in programs with Masonic Renewal Committee. Please see Jon Shelton or the website to Charter an Academic Lodge in your jurisdiction. We continue a speaker tour through our Committee. We have the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Roger VanGorden of Indiana who will make a presentation with a Breakout Session this morning at eleven o'clock. We encourage you to attend. Also, Allan Casalou, Grand

Secretary of California, will deliver his remarks during the luncheon today. So try to attend that as well. A proactive approach was taken to establish an essay event to all Master Masons in North America with the topic of Concept of Masonic Renewal. What does it mean to you now and in the future?

We named the contest in memory of David R. Bedwell Memorial Essay Contest. David was a Past Grand Master of Michigan, a former deputy member of the Northern Scottish Rite, and a devoted member of the Masonic Renewal Committee. I am pleased to announce the overall winner, first runner-up and second runner-up in the competition. The overall winner, who will receive \$1,500, is Brother Thomas Ubriaco, III of Essex Lodge #7, with the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. First runner-up, with a \$1,000 cash prize, is Brother Chase William Gordon, the International Master Councilor for DeMolay International in Glendale Lodge #23 of Arizona. Second runner-up, with a \$500 cash prize, is Brother John A. Staples of Morning Star Lodge #17 with the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, who resides in Leesburg, Florida.

We have received 46 entries from the United States and Canada. The MRC would like to express our deepest appreciation to the evaluation team in determining the essay winners; Roger VanGorden, John Shelton, Pauline Bedwell, the wife of David Bedwell, and David Bedwell, Jr., the son of David Bedwell.

We will post a new essay every month on our website highlighting every essay that was submitted in the competition. We are pleased to have Pauline Bedwell here, would a representative of the Grand Lodge, or a representative of the winning recipients please come forward to the steps for recognition and award at this time from Sister Pauline Bedwell. New Hampshire, New Jersey and DeMolay International Arizona.

(Applause)

Thank you all. We Plan to offer another essay contest and would like to encourage all Grand Lodges of North America to support this endeavor by promoting the competition to all Master Masons within their jurisdiction the opportunity to win some monetary award. The theme will be determined and it's "What is the Purpose of the Masonic Fraternity now and in the Future?" And it will be announced on our website and through other social media outlets.

Our Committee instituted a sub-Committee named the MRC Representatives' Special Committee. Its purpose is to enhance the channel of communications of MRC to every Grand Jurisdiction with a designated Brother of all jurisdictions. Some of our Grand Masters have responded to our request. We would like every Grand Master, if you haven't done so, to send a name of your designee for the MRC Representatives' Special Committee to our Secretary-Treasurer Bill Berman, Past Grand Master of New Jersey. I believe that his letter with the MRC and his contact information is in your Conference packet. The Committee lost, unfortunately to death, Imperial Sir Jack Jones, Past Imperial Potentate, Shriners International, Past Imperial Recorder, for many dedicated years and an Honorary Past Grand Master of DeMolay International of Tampa Florida, Imperial Sir Jack was a founding member and advisor to the Masonic Renewal Committee when the Committee was established in

1988. The MRC decided that we would honor the memory of Jack H. Jones with the Humanitarian Award for his dedicated and remarkable service to the family of Freemasonry and mankind. He was a dedicated Shrine Mason for his loyalty in exhibiting the fraternalism of unity with all Masonic families. Nomination forms and information is available in my report.

In closing, during our Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida, a Path Forward Membership Program was introduced to our Committee. The MRC has graciously endorsed this program in assisting the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of Scottish Rite and Grand Lodges of today. The membership survey and presentation serve as an outstanding tool, and resource for Grand Lodges and Lodges to implement, pinpoint and concentrate successful efforts to expand their membership and retention efforts. We felt the essence and importance of having some of my report be devoted at this time to this awesome program that Linda Patch, Director of Communications and Public Relations with the Northern Scottish Rite will share with you this morning. Thank you.

(Applause)

LINDA PATCH: Good morning everyone.

(Good morning)

Thank you, Grand Masters, and other guests, and certainly heartfelt thank you to the Masonic Renewal Committee for giving some of their time to allow me to address you today about the initiative that we at the NMJ Scottish Rite called A Path Forward. I just want to create some context for you as to why I'm here addressing you today. I am a multi-decade marketing strategy, digital strategy and implementation professional, and through my work, if you want to know more about it, I am not going to take time here, but I have had a 27 year relationship with the Scottish Rite NMJ. So I have a great familiarity and great love for Freemasonry, my husband is a member.

I am here today to tell you a bit about a view from 30,000 feet, a great body of work that was undertaken by the Scottish Rite in 2015. We began with a study that included research, values mapping, trend data, generational study, demographic and a complete composite of survey work. Those surveys included a profile of the Blue Lodge Mason. A look internally at the state of the Scottish Rite NMJ and its membership. We also took a look at our demits and our MPDs to see what we could find and learn there that was actionable. We also, what I am going to talk about mostly today is an overview of a study that we did across the country.

Together the result of these efforts were so relevant and so actionable that through the leadership of the Grand Commander and his vision, we have put together a team that is assembled and growing at the Scottish Rite, and we are creating an integrated and comprehensive, strategic marketing internal and external strategy. Also, taking a look at our policies and procedures internally in terms of what we can do to improve the functional excellence for retention, recruitment, and service to our current membership. We call that effort The Path Forward.

Why are we doing this? Why is the Scottish Rite, how did we find ourselves here? Well, it began briefly with a conversation with a former Grand Commander McNaughton who wanted, at the end of his tenure, to create a book about the challenges facing the Craft, and perhaps the opportunities that also were available. We had many, many hours of conversation about how to structure such a treatise and it became clear that we wanted to take that topic and move it from the realm of opinion, to having a database study. The result is the book that I worked on with Commander McNaughton, *Reclaiming the Soul of Freemasonry*. A lot of deep data in here.

What we also agreed on, that is important to note, is Commander McNaughton and I actually shook on it. When we embarked on this process we agreed that the data would take us where the data would take us. By that, I mean we were very committed to creating a body of work that was clean, that was strong, that was actionable. In fact, every survey that we have conducted has been sent out to a company that reads such matters for bias, and anything that was flagged was recast or rewritten. What we were really very committed to doing was creating a tool at the end of this process, and not an echo chamber, and I think we accomplished that.

So I don't have much time, and I just want to give you a view from 30,000 feet of the work that we did in surveying a thousand non-Masons across the country. We did a coast to coast, ages 21 to 65. A thousand completed surveys is a very large sample size. If you look at often what Gallup do on the news is take a much smaller size where they can project it out for the country male and female. We are talking about a thousand men, a thousand completed surveys, and we know that that data is solidly representative of the population and it has a very low margin of error. So what did we want to know? We wanted to know the mindset of men today. Are they searching?

What are they searching for? What is important to them? We wanted to find out if the values and tenets of Freemasonry are resonant in the population at large, with the modern man. Is it relevant? What are the options moving forward for the Fraternity, for Scottish Rite if, in fact, there is a path forward. I discovered general awareness, and what we found, and this was remarkable. In society at large those thousand men told us there is a wide awareness of Freemasonry out there. That might not sound like much, but when you're a marketer and you go out to a random sample size and you have a brand or corporate product and you're asking the general population if they have any awareness of you, or any knowledge of your products, if you crack double digits in percentages of awareness, you're turning cartwheels knowing that you have an absolute gold mine of opportunity in terms of marketing and sales. What we found is 18 percent of the men that were surveyed said they had an awareness of Freemasonry. Maybe it was their lodge. Maybe it was a family member. Perhaps it was the Dan Brown books. But, they are very aware of the Craft and that is a very important thing to know that you can build off of. However, there are two caveats to that. Only 30 percent could articulate any of the values of Freemasonry. They didn't know what it stood for. And even fewer, only 25 percent understood that Freemasonry is a brotherhood, that it's a Fraternity.

Then we asked them what is important to them? What are they looking for? What is on their minds? And this went very deep. I am going to give you the two top ones. Integrity and becoming a better person. Ninety percent of those thousand men indicated that integrity is important in their lives, for themselves, or who they want to surround themselves with, organizations and places of work, society at large. Eighty percent said they wanted to become a better person. When we queried the kind of organizations that they would like to be involved with, where they would like to spend their time, and who they would like to associate with, 79 percent said that they are interested in an organization that would help them become that better person. Seventy-three percent said that they are interested in an organization that would help them form deep and lasting friendships. And an important caveat to that as well, is regardless of race, creed, geography. They wanted an organization that included their family and helped them become the best family person that they could be. And more than half said that they feel positively and have a positive association with organizations that have a reverence for God or higher powers.

Now, I just want to make a comment about those results. We had no idea what we would find. This is completely shocking and very, very surprising. We could have found that men were looking for hedonistic activities, for money, for material goods, or fame, or fortune. But that is not, in fact, what we got back. We could be having a very different kind of conversation about Freemasonry right now. We went a little deeper and we tested and wanted to assess the relevance of the values of Freemasonry in the lives of men in society today. We tested a series of ways in. That's what we call it in the marketing world. When you do that authentically, and with the true spirit of what you're polling, you hope to elicit a response. We tested the values of honor and integrity, Fraternity, selfless giving, and moral standards. Now, I'm paraphrasing here, but essentially we asked the questions like this.

What if we told you that honor and integrity are at the core of Freemasonry, does that change your opinion? Good. Bad. Indifferent.

What if we told you that Freemasonry is a brotherhood that supports men to become the best person that they can be? How does that affect your opinion of the organization. Freemasons give of themselves without expecting anything in return. Service is essential to the Craft. Does that change your opinion of Freemasonry?

What we found is when we coupled the values, the sincere spiritual core of the organization with the name Freemasonry, in each particular question there was a positive improvement between 46 and 49 percent.

So we know that men in society today are attracted to the messages of honor, integrity, and Fraternity, but until now they did not associate those values with Freemasonry overtly, but when this connection is made their perception is greatly improved.

So we asked the big question, now that you know what you know, and we have laid this out to you, would you consider joining? 57 percent of the men queried of those thousand said, "Yes, I would consider joining Freemasonry." Not an organization like Freemasonry. We didn't phrase it that way. Freemasonry.

As I said earlier, that is projectionable. That is solid data and we can project that out to 56 million men across the country. Now, if only, right? If 57 million men were knocking at the door. Problem solved. But that's really not the point. That's not realistic, but what it does tell us is that there is a pool. There is a population of men out there who are ready to respond to what Freemasonry has to offer. They will join. They will come into the Craft. There is one thing, however, that they did also mention, that the promise needs to be real. When you get into the Blue Lodge they need to find those men of integrity. They need to find friendship. They need to find the ability to lift themselves up and become better people. It is very clear that the promise needs to be delivered or it is something that won't be.

So we have three takeaways. As I said, the view from 30,000 feet, from the 1,000 non-Mason survey that we did. And three takeaways that we suggest are:

One, take control of the narrative. As the Grand Lodge of England so eloquently did in their full page newspaper ad a couple of weeks ago. Enough is enough. Be out there with who you are. There is such—I am so proud of my husband for taking this journey. There are so many good things to say overtly about the Craft. Be out there with who you are.

Number two, when we do the messaging, and we will go through the campaign, recalibrate to go along with the data. What resonates most with men? What we have found is the organization is a true spiritual center. You don't have to make it up. You didn't have to look for ways to interpret, or find things that might entice. It's right there at the core.

And third, provide Freemasonry with the infrastructure to meet the needs of today's modern man. Whether we like it or not, it is a digital world and if there are barriers to entry, and archaic practices, a lot of paperwork goes on, it's really detrimental to the ease of getting men into the Craft. So we have nine print ads and a video to show you. This is our first volley in creating creative work to go along with our findings. I will say, we are sharing this campaign with every Grand Lodge across the country free of charge digitally. We are offering the service of customization. We will add the state seal, and a url to the campaign to customize it for your location. You can find us at the kiosk around the corner. You will see our ads all over the place there. Also, we have a Path Forward team, and part of that team include Past Grand Master Gail Kemp, from Indiana, and Dan Wilson, Past Grand Master of New Jersey. They are visiting Grand Lodges within the jurisdiction. We can create a roundtable to go deeper into the data, to create discussion groups. So please be in touch with Gail or Dan if you would like to have them visit your location.

So through the data, we know that men respond to issues of integrity and Fraternity, and that is what we built the campaign around. But, I also want to take one moment to say it is also very clear to do one other thing. Try to create a campaign that also reached men who are also currently in the Craft. We had more than 12,000 open responses that we read in our survey, and putting this on paper. Part of that was very difficult to read. It was sad. A number of the men felt that in Freemasonry, better days are over. That the time for the Craft has come and gone.

We want to use this to reignite that pride. Reignite how incredible it is to have chosen a life of value. And that's our tag line. "Not just a man, a Mason." It's fresh. It's modern. It's friendly. You can use it to recruit and use it to reach men already in the Craft. It is trademarked. We wanted to preserve the integrity of the campaign, so we did take that step as well.

"Being a Mason doesn't make you better than everyone else, it just makes you a better you." We believe mankind should be exactly that. "We're much more about lending a helping hand than a secret handshake." We do everything we can to be present and still be part of history. "It takes a big man to believe in something bigger than himself." "Blood is thicker than water, but nothing is thicker than brotherhood." "Becoming a Mason doesn't make you a better person. Oh wait. Yes it does." "Whatever life throws at you, you have millions of brothers to help you catch it."

Now, I want to show you a video that we went out and actually did in Los Angeles, just in September. In the marketing world this is what we call an anthem video. It is meant to raise up your spirit. It's meant to lift you up. It's, again, drawn from the data and it's called, the title is, "Even better."

(Video played)

LINDA PATCH: Thank you for your time today. Please find us at the kiosk. We are more than happy to answer any questions, and as deep as you would like to, and provide this information to all of you here today. So thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Linda. That was a very enlightening presentation.

I will next call on Most Worshipful Brother Casey L. Hood, Grand Master of Tennessee and President of the Masonic CHIP International to present their report. Let's welcome our Grand Master.

(Applause)

CASEY L. HOOD: I kind of want to sit down now. How do you follow that up? The only thing I can think of at this point is as I am almost Past Grand Master, she talked about 57 million. I wish each jurisdiction the best of luck. I wouldn't want that many more headaches right now. Take about ten of them and share the rest.

Thank you for letting me speak here today. This is the 2018 Board of Masonic CHIP Committee, a standing Committee for the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. Most Worshipful Sirs, Right Worshipful Sirs, and brethren all. As President of the Masonic CHIP International, Incorporated and Chairman of the Masonic CHIP Committee, I would like to begin with this report by reiterating some of the information provided by my predecessor, Most Worshipful Bill Rorer at the 2017 Conference. As of the 2017 Conference there were only seven child identification programs that were sponsored on a Grand Lodge level. Smaller programs throughout the Masonic affiliations were sponsored and/or executed in

26 other Grand Jurisdictions. In 20 other Grand Jurisdictions Child Identification Programs were engaged exclusively by law enforcement or by private pay enterprises. Sadly, I must report that these statistics have not changed in the last year. As a sitting Grand Master I have jurisdictional duties. It consumed my entire year. I had little time to devote to the execution of any programs that would have moved Masonic CHIP in a positive direction. However, it is with optimistic confidence that I report the following changes in philosophy and operation of Masonic CHIP International that should be a positive result moving forward. First, change in that Masonic CHIP International will no longer consider itself as a parent organization to those Grand jurisdictions with Child ID programs, but will consider itself a sibling organization.

It will be our directive moving forward to gather and share operational information among our sibling organizations in an effort to better utilize the knowledge and practices of each. By collecting and sharing information with sister jurisdictions, it will allow each independent program to function more efficiently and allow Masonic CHIP International to create a more efficient plan to help other Grand Jurisdictions who wish to implement their own ID program.

Second, moving forward it will be affirmed that the purpose of the Child ID Program to a Grand Jurisdiction is two fold. The dual purpose of the program will be promoting to our Grand Jurisdictions that first and foremost this program is about the protection of our children. And also, that this program can be vital to the rejuvenation and interest of members to become active in charitable activities outside the lodge itself. A small change in practice, we are going to ask that each jurisdiction, which comprises this Conference, will be asked to donate \$50 annually over a five year period that will allow us to have an operational budget commensurate to the path of expanding Child ID Programs at every Grand Jurisdiction in North America.

A change in communication. We will be actively communicating with the 33 Grand Jurisdictions of this Conference that have no Child ID Program, offering our services to help educate the membership on the importance of our goals and to help facilitate the implementation of our own programs. Moving forward these subtle changes will allow Masonic CHIP International to regain its original momentum and purpose in our individual communities.

Before I ask for the adoption of this report, I would consider it a personal privilege and speak mostly to the Grand Jurisdictions that do not have this program.

Gentleman, it costs you absolutely nothing to start this. In 2012 Most Worshipful Eddie Wilson of Tennessee come home and he said, "I want to start I Child ID Program." He is with us here today. Tennessee is in our fifth year. We are still in our infancy, but I want to give you some small statistics to tell you what this can do.

We worry too much about our membership moving forward in a positive direction. I want you to think about the number one. Number one, what we have done in Tennessee is we had to start small with no budget. Our Grand Lodge and our membership does not put one penny into our program. It is all by donations from

membership. We have found a way to engage two parts of our membership, the young men who are looking for something in the community and the older guys who are looking to do something. A Fish Fry. Anything that they have always done. They are working together, the older guys, who are not technologically savvy, are holding small fundraisers to fund this program. The younger guys are getting active to actually do these programs. We have tapped into one vital resource. Our two largest contributors to date in our program in five years, one was a school system, a school district. How many of you would like to get into your school district to be able to operate on some level? We have done that in Tennessee. Through doing that one school district we got an invitation through a guidance counselor. What we realized is each of our independent lodges are 501©(3). Most children going to college have to log in so many community service hours just to make their resume look a little better to get accepted.

Your constituent lodges can offer that. So we have gone in smaller places, to our guidance counselors and said, "Give us your kids. Give us the kids that want to work. That have character. We have something for them to do." We let them work in the program and make our little events more pleasing to the eye to young parents when you have 17 and 18 year old boys and girls running the computers, doing the talking, bringing the people in. Young parents are more comfortable seeing these people than they are seeing a 70 year old man sitting at a computer, thinking what is this square and compass I am afraid of. So by getting these kids, they are getting some community service hours. They are also getting to spend time with good, moral men such as yourselves that are learning about the Craft one at a time. Boys and girls, one at a time, and these young men are starting to come into the Fraternity. The Master of my little lodge this year come through the system by working in the program. So instead of looking at a macro problem, let's look at it just one person at a time. You can get into your schools. These young men, one at a time, will come to you. The second thing I wanted to tell you about is a man went to a large event. He stood up to advertise for his campaign for state senate and he had a little, his story went like this. He watched hundreds and hundreds of people come through and nobody came by his tent. But, he noticed young people kept going into the tent next to him. He saw the square and compass, and he saw the Child ID Program, and he wondered what that was all about. Well, him and his wife walked over, wanted to know what was going on. He fell in love with our program so much the Tennessee State Senate is our second largest donor to date. He got our state senate, not being a member, to donate to our program. He is now somewhere—he just received his Fellow Craft Degree, I believe, but we brought him in through this program.

Gentleman, yes, first and foremost we are protecting our children. You are going to hear some statistics about that very shortly. But secondly, it is about getting your lodges active in your communities. We all know if your lodge is not active in your community, your community is not going to be active in your lodge. So we have to do this two fold. Any jurisdiction that would like to have us come, please get with me before we leave here today. It would be my honor to come to your jurisdiction and talk to your membership at your grand session, or any way you would like to.

Let us help you set up. That is what we do as Masonic CHIP International, is we facilitate your jurisdiction in setting up a program that works for you. Once we get you started, it's yours to run with.

My sincerity to this program runs very deep. My Grand Master's coin which I gave you yesterday, if you go back and look at it, when you turn it around on the back, you will see that the logo I chose was our Child Identification Program. It is working for us. Now, we have several programs that we have implemented in Tennessee. I cannot contribute the members I told you about solely to the Child Identification Program, but they are a big part. If you look at the last five years, empirical data shows there is no way to get away from it. Number one, our MPD rate is going down. Our restorations are going up. The activity for lodges where we have this program working is expanding. These lodges are growing.

This will not cure your membership problems, but I will guarantee you, if properly run, it will help. I want you to consider that, gentlemen, and I hope if you do not have a program, you allow us to come in and get your membership started. If you have an informal program, let us come in and consolidate that for you and help these guys run it a little better.

On that note, before I leave, there will be a slight presentation, but I would like to introduce the Board as we sit. Most Worshipful Casey Hood, as President right now. We have Chip Stamm, Past Grand Master of Connecticut, he is our treasurer back here. We have Denny Robinson, Past Grand Master of South Dakota, who is not with us this morning. Larry Plasket from New Jersey, Rich Hagler from the Midwest Conference, he is the Junior Grand Warden of South Dakota, and John Westerman, Senior Grand Warden of Florida. I am currently still looking for three Board of Directors. If you are interested, gentlemen, please see me after this meeting and let's get you and your jurisdiction started. At this time I would like to ask the consideration of this Conference to approve the following Resolution: Accepting this report as delivered today;

To endorse the actions and activities engaged by our Committee members on behalf of this Conference; To include in the printing of all proceedings of this 2018 Conference. Most Worshipful Sir, I move adoption of this report.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: I hear the motion. Do we have a second? *Second.* All those in favor for the adoption of the report signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? *Motion carried.*

M.W. CASEY HOOD: At this time I would like to introduce Brother Hart to come up.
(Video played)

BROTHER HART: One of those pictures represents a child lost and missing. Each one of those represents the parents' last memory of their child. There is one each from the 50 states of the United States of America, from each state, and one child represented from the 13 Provinces and Territories in Canada. I want to thank you for inviting me here to speak to you. It was 2004 that this Conference adopted the Comprehensive Child Identification Program. Tooth Prints is now celebrating its

20th year. Fourteen years this Conference has adopted the program. Two point nine Million children have been comprehensively ID's across North America, and we have saved hundreds and hundreds of children. What some of you may not know, this may not be part of your program, maybe some day it will. Tooth prints is absolute positive ID. Even identical twins can be easily identified. The other thing we learned, that all we need is like half of one tooth on a biting surface. On Ground Zero 2,749 lives were lost. As of today, 1,135 have not yet been identified. We lost Masonic Brethren there. We lost Masonic Family members there. Had this been available, hundreds and hundreds more could have been identified. Unbeknownst to you, the second largest dental practice in the entire city of New York was on the second floor of that tower that imploded. All of the dental records were lost. Also, unbeknownst to you, DNA was not a factor whatsoever. The temperature rose to 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit and all of the DNA was denatured. 85 percent of those identified were by dental ID, the rest were fingerprints out on the outskirts.

We had a second disaster here in America, Hurricane Katrina. 830 lives were lost. As of today 30 still remain unidentified. Just as important on this tooth print with positive ID is DNA. The DNA can last up to 15 to 20 years. More importantly the scent, that person's scent is on this tooth print, and that can last 15 to 20 years. If we had a tooth print of each individual in this room, we could have our trained dogs, the scent discriminating dogs go to your seat, smell your tooth print. If you walked out of here and go to your room, that dog can figure out which floor you got off of on the elevator, and track every single step you took, even if that tooth print was five or ten years old. We have demonstrated this multiple times and got much acclaim. It is the most comprehensive. We thank you for all your dedication. 2.9 million children is a lot of children. I will add that we have never, ever used this for forensic ID to date, which amazes me because I'm a forensic dentist. We have recovered many, many kids by the scent. The dogs are trained that if an abductor took a child and took an exit off of a highway, the dog can tell you which exit that car exited because the scent comes out the air vent system of a car. So these dogs are incredibly talented, very forceful. The National Center, I will tell you, is very, very proud of you and honor you with a special recognition award which is very rarely given at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. So we truly appreciate all of the work that you have done in your jurisdictions in keeping kids safe. Before I wrap up, I would like to guard you, and your children and your grandchildren. The most important thing to arm your child against an abduction or seduction. Most kids are taken by seduction nowadays. You hear so much about it. Online, athletic coaches, healthcare professionals, physicians, daycare centers. It's very important to arm your child, and I will share with you one word "Self esteem." When you wake up every morning you should tell your child or grandchild that you love them. You care for them. You respect them. They make you happy. Because if you don't, someone else will, and they may not have your child's best interest in mind. So I want to thank you for the opportunity of serving you over these past four years. It has been an incredible honor to meet so many people, so many parents of lost and missing kids, and returning kids to their homes. You have every reason to be proud. The Fraternity really came up to bat and is needed now more than ever. Some people

get lax and think well, it doesn't really matter anymore. I can tell you, when I started this project, we had 40,000 unidentified remains in the United States. We now have 75,000. Back then we have three live people we had no idea who they were. To date we have 12. Some of you may wonder how can that happen? Well, a runaway runs away. Wraps itself around a telephone pole, is in a coma. It can happen.

So I thank you for your dedication. I thank you for your time. You're truly on the side of the angels. Thank you. God bless.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, doctor. We appreciate your good work. We will have some instructions here, but before we have the instructions, I would like to introduce our Most Grand Master, Rodney Mann, for a very special announcement.

M.W. RODNEY MANN: We have had the good fortune that Fredericksburg Lodge Number 4 in Virginia has loaned us the George Washington Bible. This Bible was published in 1688. George laid his hand on this Bible and took his obligations, and we are very indebted to them for allowing us to have this for the Conference of Grand Masters. So we would like to bring it up here and display it. We would like to give the Grand Masters an opportunity to have their picture taken with it. We will also have it here for the big picture at eleven o'clock. Past Grand Master Michael Brumback, he is in charge of our museum and Michael can tell you much, much more about this than I can because he has talked to Fredericksburg guys at length, and he has researched this himself. But, we just wanted to give you guys that opportunity to see this piece because it is very priceless. So once we are done, come up, get your picture taken with it, and it would be great.

Thank you.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much. Brethren, it is important to remember that we have two sets of Breakout Sessions, one at 10:00 and one at 11:00. So pay attention and decide where you wish to go. We have some outstanding speakers. We are just a touch over, so I am going to defer on a few things right now, and we'll pick them up later on. So we will be breaking for recess so that you may attend the sessions.

So, I again, remind you that the Grand Masters of the Visiting Sister Jurisdiction Grand Lodge Officers that the photographs will be taken today at 11:00 a.m., just prior to the lunch, right here in the Cosmopolitan Ballroom.

Lunch will be in the Regency Ballroom AD, with a presentation by the Philalethes Society. After lunch, we will reconvene this Conference at 1:30 p.m.

Brother Secretary, do you have any announcements at this time before we go to recess?

M.W. DAVID W. HAYWOOD: Grand Masters, please remember to bring your aprons for the photograph. We will try and make it as fast as possible. So please, be on time. Thank you.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: There is a Deputy Grand Master's jewel that was lost, which has been recovered by the security. So why don't you check, make sure that you have got your—if you're missing it, security has it.

Right Worshipful James Kistel, would you please attend at the alter and close the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

__Lunch Break__

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Brother James Kistel, please attend to the alter and display the Three Great Lights of Masonry. I call this convention back in session.

You may be seated. Good afternoon, brothers.

(Good afternoon)

I hope everyone had a great lunch. Our thanks to the Philalethes Society for an outstanding program. We appreciate their hospitality. One of the Grand Masters has asked me if he could take a moment of our time for a special presentation. Grand Master Marsh, the Grand Master of Nevada, would you please approach the dais with your delegation.

M.W. MARK A. MARSH: Brethren, while they're coming up, I have the pleasure of having, Most Worshipful Andrey Bogdanov is the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Russia.

(Applause)

I would like to give you a very brief story. Last Wednesday they were in Los Angeles, and they drove to Reno. So about 500 miles to the Most Worshipful Grand Master could introduce personally, to me, his representative to Nevada, and whether or not we accept his representative. So, we met from about two o'clock till 5:30. Then they drove to Las Vegas. So for those of you that aren't aware of western distances that is about a thousand miles in a day. We held the meeting, and I have a little bit of pull in the Grand Lodge of Nevada so I was able to work with the Grand Secretary and get the charter and recognition for Brother Haik Tsaturyan. Most Worshipful if I can have you in the middle. Or actually our brother, you and I present to him his patent as a Grand Representative from Russia to Nevada.

M.W. ANDREY BOGDANOV: Thank you.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: It is now my pleasure to present Most Worshipful Thomas H. Galyen, Past Grand Master of Ohio, who is Chairman of the Executive Commission of Masonic Service Association of North America and his delegation. Please welcome them as well.

(Applause)

M.W. THOMAS H. GALYEN: Grand Masters, my brethren, welcome to the 99th Annual Meeting of your Masonic Service Association of North America. Each Grand

Lodge, which is a member of MSA, is entitled to one vote at this annual meeting. I understand a quorum exists. I officially call this Annual Meeting to order.

At this time I would like to introduce the Commissioners. Again, as you heard, I am Thomas Galyen, Past Grand Master of Ohio, Chairman. We have over here on my immediate right, Most Worshipful Brother Clayton J. Chip Borne, III Past Grand Master of Louisiana; Most Worshipful Brother Fred L. Sorsabal, Past Grand Master of California; we have on my immediate left, Most Worshipful Brother Lanny R. Sander, Past Grand Master of Oklahoma, Vice-Chairman. We have next, Most Worshipful Brother Raymond J. Vander Berghe, Past Grand Masters of New Jersey, our recording secretary. Next we have Most Worshipful Brother Barry D. Weer, Past Grand Master of Illinois. Then we have our Executive Secretary, Most Worshipful Brother Simon LaPlace, Past Grand Master of Connecticut. (Applause)

It does sadden me to report that two of our Commissioners over the past six months have lost their wives. Most Worshipful Brothers Lanny Sander lost his wife Betty, and Most Worshipful Brother Ray Vander Berghe lost his wife Pat.

At this time I would like to, in front of you, Grand Masters, is a packet of information. It was mailed out earlier to you but, again, we made copies of those items that we will be voting on. The first item is, I would like to entertain a motion that the Minutes of our previous Annual Meeting be approved. So moved. Do I hear a second? Second. Good. It's been regularly moved and seconded that the Minutes of our previous meeting. Any further discussion? (No response) all those in favor, the usual sign of Grand Master Aye? Aye. Opposed? *So carried.*

Now, the items that we will be voting on real quick like. A copy of the amendment of our Bylaws and Constitution were forwarded to you in a timely manner. There is also a copy front for your review in your place. First, we would be entertaining a motion that the Amendment to the Bylaws this year deletes the purpose of a Chairman of this meeting. Do I hear a second? Second. Good. There is a second. Now, discussion? What this generally is, real quick like. We have had in there, in our agenda, that we have always had to ask a Past Grand Master to come up here and open up this meeting and, you know, we have had a Consent Agreement over the past couple years that deleted that. We found out that's a good idea, so we made a change to our Bylaws to do that. So that is what that is. Any further discussion on that? (No response) hearing none, all of those in favor same sign? Aye. Opposed? *So carried.*

Very good. Now, the next Amendment to our Constitution is putting term limits on our Commissioners. And that is your 1(a) and 2(a). I so entertain that motion. Do I hear a second? *Second.* Good. Discussion? (No response) Now, the Commissioners felt that it was time to put term limits. You know we are elected for a three year term. As you can see there, it is a maximum of three terms, or we will serve for, if so be it by you, nine years, instead of some of us serving 20 years. What it does is allows you in our districts to spread it amongst other Grand Lodges. Which makes sense. And it helps us to bring some younger people on with good ideas to help MSA in the future, within the changes that are taking place within our Fraternity. So we

think it is a good idea, and would like to know, again, what you think by voting for this change to our Bylaws. Any further discussion? (No response) good. Hearing none then, Grand Masters, let's vote on it. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? *So carried.* Thank you very much for that change to our Bylaws. Now, next, we need the approval of the reports that are in front of you. That is the reports, real quick like, that this past year that our Executive Secretary has done. So I so entertain a motion to approve the reports that are placed before you. Do I hear a second? Second. Very good. Any discussion on those reports? (No response) hearing none, all those in favor? Aye. Opposed? *So carried.* Good.

Moving right along now, it is time for the election. We have two Commissioners that are up for election. First, our North Atlantic Division, and we have somebody that is retiring off of that. Before I call on our Grand Master of that division, New Jersey. Most worshipful Brother Vander Berghe is retiring so I would like to call upon Most Worshipful Brother Dieter B. Hees, Grand Master of New Jersey to make a nomination from the North Atlantic Division.

M.W. DIETER B. HEES: Good afternoon. It is my privilege to place in nomination the name Most Worshipful Brother Stuart Aronson, Past Grand Master of New Hampshire to represent the North Atlantic Division for a three year term.

M.W. THOMAS H. GALYEN: Good. Do I hear any other nominations from the floor? Do I hear any other nominations from the floor? Do I hear any other nominations from the floor? Hearing none, then nominations are closed. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? *So carried.* Worshipful Brother Stu, do you accept?

M.W. STUART ARONSON: I do, Mr. Chairman.

M.W. THOMAS H. GALYEN: Thank you. Congratulations.

(Applause)

Moving this right along, we have a brother, Most Worshipful Brother from the Great Lakes Division that is up for re-election. I would like to call on Most Worshipful Brother Gregory Clark the Grand Master of Illinois.

M.W. GREGORY CLARK: Thank you. It is my privilege to place in nomination the name of Brother Barry D. Weer, Most Worshipful Brother, Past Grand Master of Illinois for re-election to represent the Great Lakes Division for a three year term. Thank you.

M.W. THOMAS H. GALYEN: Are there any other nominations from the floor? Are there any other nominations from the floor? Are there any other nominations from the floor? Hearing none, all those Grand Masters in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? *So carried.* Most Worshipful Brother Weer, do you accept?

M.W. BARRY D. WEER: Yes, I accept.

M.W. THOMAS H. GALYEN: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Most Worshipful Brother Vander Berghe, can I have you step up here for one quick second. I am going to make this short and sweet. My Brethren, this Brother here was elected at the Conference in February of 1997 to this Commissioner's Board. He has served with due diligence. He has been our Secretary for many, many years. Our Minutes have been supreme, and if you could please join with me in showing your appreciation for his long service to the Masonic Service Association.

(Applause) (Standing ovation)

Thank you, Grand Masters. Next, I would at this time like to call on Most Worshipful Brother Simon LaPlace for our Executive Secretary's report.

M.W. SIMON LaPLACE: Thank you, Most Worshipful. For the Masonic Service Association the year of 2017 was one that showed the importance of the organization to Freemasonry. The three major disasters caused by hurricanes brought out the best of your Brothers who cared for those in need. MSA proved to be the central repository of funds collected for the distressed Brothers of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. In 2017, MSA's Hospital Visitation Program entered its 71st year of volunteers helping our Military Veterans. Regular communication between MSA, the VA, and our representatives in the field have continued the promise made to President and Brother Harry S. Truman, to give a friendly handshake and warm smile to every Military Veteran hospitalized in a Veterans' Affair Medical Facility. MSA is one of just 54 organizations certified by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide services to VA Hospitals and Medical Centers around the nation. It is the only Masonic organization with this certification. The annual "Green Envelope" appeal raises funds and, again, was very successful, with MSA's Hospital Visitation Program benefiting from the generosity of hundreds of Masons, and Lodges and Grand Lodges. Brother James T. McWain, U.S. Army Colonel Retired, and Past Grand Master of Connecticut was our spokesperson this year. His experiences with the VA proved to be most informative, and we thank him for his contribution. What all this means is, that not only has Freemasonry long been associated with leadership and service to Veterans, but also the U.S. Masonic Fraternity, through its Masonic Service Association, is today a nationally known leader in serving our Military Veterans. During 2017, the Masonic Service Association has continued and expanded its production of educational material for Masons and Lodges. The Perfect Mentoring Tool, was created from 24 Short Talk Bulletins, specifically targeted for the Entered Apprentice. MSA's stockpile of past Short Talk Bulletins continues to be a source of Masonic information.

An anthology by John Belton of Joseph Fort Newton's diaries of his time in England during World War I is expected to be available this spring. The Commissioners of MSA have decided a limited reprinting of Volume I of the Short Talk Bulletins is in order and that should be completed this spring. Volume VI, completing the collection of Short Talk Bulletins will be available in the fall. In 2017, MSA partnered with Copiri's free Amity Mobile app which helps Masons find Lodges around the world who are recognized by their own Grand Lodge. MSA's part is to provide monthly Short Talk Bulletins on a no charge basis, and a year's supply for a small fee. This is MSA's first experiment in distributing the Short Talk Bulletin digitally.

Every day we receive inquiries about where to find information. Topics include how to join a lodge, disposing of Masonic materials, genealogy, and general information about Freemasonry. MSA is a resource for men looking to join a lodge from all over the world. Most often MSA's website is the first choice of search engines on the Internet. We are also pleased to work closely with your Grand Secretaries.

In 2017 there were no new Grand Lodge memberships to MSA. There is a provision in our Bylaws for a Commissioner to represent the member Grand Lodges of Canada, and we will endeavor to find a candidate for nomination next year. We welcome the opportunity to explain MSA's purpose and to discuss the benefits of membership with the MSA. It is doubtful that the Masonic Service Association has ever been called upon to act as a collection point for so many natural disasters within such a short time frame as it was in 2017. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria devastated parts of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico within weeks of each other.

Our efforts resulted in the highest donations for Disaster Relief in our history. For the first time in its history, Shriners International appealed to their members to support not only the Shriners Hospitals but our Disaster Appeal as well. Brotherhood didn't stop at the Blue Lodge. It showed that Freemasonry is alive and well across the continent. American and Canadian Grand Lodges, whether members of MSA or not, contributed as much as they could, and when another disaster struck, everyone gave a little more. The policy of MSA is simple. We absorb all of the cost of acknowledgement letters, bank and PayPal fees, and administrative expenses. That's the way we have always done it and that is the way we will continue to serve the Fraternity. MSA's procedures are simple. MSA must be asked to issue an appeal by a Grand Lodge, and all funds collected are returned to that Grand Lodge for final distribution. In the 24-year history of the Masonic Information Center, a variety of pamphlets have been published and they are available in individual or bulk quantities. Throughout the years, the Grand Lodges of North America have regularly contributed to assist in the work of the Masonic Information Center and we sincerely appreciate the financial and volunteer work they provide.

In 1919, at the organization of the Masonic Service Association, Grand Lodge dues were six cents a member. They still are. In 1924, if all the jurisdictions in the United States paid six cents per member, revenue would have been nearly \$185,000 or \$2,615,000 at today's values. With the decrease in membership, today that six cents bring in just \$65,000, where it should be valued at \$984,000. We thank those jurisdictions who give us a little more, and we ask all jurisdictions to consider expanding their support of MSA, voluntarily, just a little more. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. THOMAS H. GALYEN: Thank you, Simon. At this time I would call for the motion to accept our Executive Secretary's report. Is there a second? *Second.* All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? *So carried.*

Thank you. At this time just a few comments before we close. Normally we have wine and cheese for our Deputy Grand Masters and those invited. Unfortunately, when the hotel presented what it would cost us, Simon says with our dues structure and everything, this generally cost us close to \$4,000 a year. They presented a \$8,000 cost. Doing due diligence as your Commissioners, we couldn't see spending \$8,000. So unfortunately, there is no wine and cheese for this year. I think you would agree you wouldn't want us to spend that much money on something like that. So, again, we are doing our due diligence.

Again, I personally wanted to thank the Commissioners for their service this past year on the Board. They bring a wealth of information to us in these times of change. Again, I thank you very much for your service.

At this time I would like to call for a motion to accept this Association endeavors, the acts of the Executive Commission and the Executive Secretary for the period of January 1, 2017 through the December 31, 2017. Do I hear a second? *Second.* Good. All those in favor signify by saying *Aye*? *Aye.* Opposed? *So carried.* I thank you.

As we generally have done in the past, those Grand Lodges that have brought a check for presentation, after I close we will be down here on the left-hand side so we don't interfere with the rest of your business to accept those donations most humbly. Again, I thank you very much. I now call this 99th Annual Meeting of the Masonic Service Association of North America closed in peace and harmony. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Brethren, I will now call on three of our International Masonic Youth Groups that have accepted our invitation to speak to you this afternoon in our formal Conference session. It's my pleasure to introduce to you Brother Mason Sellers, International Congress Secretary of DeMolay International. Please help me welcome him.

(Applause)

MASON SELLERS: Good morning everyone.

(Good afternoon)

Yeah. Sorry, us younger people, we kind of sleep in a little bit. It is my absolute pleasure to be speaking before you here today. I am proud to say that I am DeMolay. Before I continue to speak about DeMolay, I would like to start off by thanking you. DeMolay and Freemasonry have a similar goal in making people better. In DeMolay, we take young men, we provide them the opportunities to become better men and greater citizens for today's society. In Freemasonry you take these men, and you provide them with the path to become better through faith, hope and charity. It was through these teachings that Frank S. Land began the Order of DeMolay, which would prove to better men forever, and change lives forever, and he did this nearly a Century ago.

For this, and all of your continued support to us, we thank you. Because simply, without Freemasonry; there would be no DeMolay! Without DeMolay, we would have less young men ready to reap the years of manhood and they would not be ready to incite change that would better our organization and our world. That very change I speak of is what brings me here today, speaking before all of you. A change that we have seen even more of within the year 2017 and 2018 of DeMolay International. Now, Brother International Master Counselor Chase and myself are very welcoming when it comes to challenges, especially when these challenges benefit our organization that has given us and thousands of young men so much. At the beginning of this term we had many goals and have accomplished nearly all of them with our ever supporting Masonic Family behind us, and the hard work that our Brothers put in every day. DeMolay International has begun new programs, started new social media efforts and partnered up with our Masonic Family like never before. The results are showing success. From improved communication through monthly publications, to our Grand Master and Executive Director working alongside Shriners International to make a fantastic Centennial core year. This year has been a year for the books and it's bonded with success. Alongside all of these fantastic new things, one goal that Chase and I agreed on at the beginning of this term, was to increase membership. This is a goal that we all strive, work and hope for each year. Thankfully due to many successful programs, and intensives, new approaches and the hard work that our young men put in every year, we can say as an organization that we have reached positive growth internationally. This is something that not many groups or organizations can say they have achieved, but we can, and it's thanks to your support and the work of our members.

With all of this in mind, I wanted to leave you with a few thoughts. But, first, could every Senior DeMolay in the room please rise? Looking around this room it is evidence that DeMolay is the future. It is evident that DeMolay is the future of Masonry. The future is we are the leaders of tomorrow. It is absolutely wonderful and astounding to see so many Senior DeMolay who have moved on to become leaders in their jurisdictions, leaders in our Masonic Family. Now, DeMolay's mission has been made not to make future Masons. We are here to make better young men, and through this mission, better young men prove to move on and work hard to want to continue to better themselves, better their organization, and change society. This leads them to Freemasonry. Proof of this, this past January myself and six other young men, and one advisor, all related to DeMolay turned in our Petitions at Colorado's Grand Lodge. An absolutely fantastic sight to see so many Petitions straight from DeMolay.

(Applause)

DeMolay's National Counselor is actually a Scottish Rite Freemason at the age of 19. I may have just begun my journey into Freemasonry, but it is because the path of DeMolay has led me there, and because of your ever continued support that has brought all of us to where we are today. This is a strength that we are seeing across the world, in foreign countries, in jurisdictions across America, and all over. The youth of today are the future, not only in our organizations, or our Masonic Family,

but in our society. We can all agree that this is the time for change that we need more than ever. Before I finish speaking, let me say this. DeMolay is growing. As long as DeMolay is growing, our members and our vision will stay alive. They will continue to be the leaders of tomorrow. Freemasonry will grow. We will continue to not only seek success in our organizations, but positive change in our society.

Thank you all for your support throughout this year, and we look forward to working with you even more in the future. (Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: It is now my pleasure to introduce to you Ms. Sierra Kirkley, Grand Worthy Advisor of Indiana International Order of Rainbow for Girls. Please help me welcome her.

(Applause)

SIERRA KIRKLEY: Grand Masters, distinguished guests and friends all, good afternoon.

(Good afternoon)

My name is Sierra Kirkley and I am the Grand Worthy Advisor in Indiana for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. I have here with me, Mrs. Susan Rennagel, Supreme Worthy Advisor; Ms. Mary Adeline Bradford, Past Supreme Worthy Advisor and Supreme Recorder; Ms. Lynn Shoulders, Supreme Treasurer; and Allison Deckard, Grand Worthy Associate Advisor in Indiana.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is a service-based Masonic youth group for girls between the ages of 11 and 20. Our Order teaches young women many important lessons surrounding the virtues of love and service. Our line offices represent Faith, Hope and Charity, key points for a successful life. Our rainbow of colors teaches the seven cardinal virtues in our lives. We are taught to love everyone around us and are reminded that we are loved. We are also taught to be religious. The lesson of nature reminds us to appreciate the great creation that God has made. Through the lesson of immortality, we learn that, with faith, there is a promise for our future. We are reminded to be loyal to our Rainbow sisters, and our obligations through the lesson on fidelity. We learn to respect our country and the people that defend it through the lesson of Patriotism. The final lesson in our bow is that of service. Through this lesson, we work hands-on to make the world a better place. Rainbow Assemblies all over the world participate in service projects to help those in need. We collect items for children's hospitals and our Masonic Homes. For example, in Indiana, we have collected items for the Riley Hospital for Children, Shriners' Hospital, and the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital. We collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House so that families can be near their children while they are receiving treatments. Indiana Rainbow has collected over 30,000 pop tabs to date. We collect Bingo prizes for the residents of the Masonic Home. Each year the Grand Officers of Indiana Rainbow prepare two church services and deliver the sermon for the residents. During the Christmas season we write a Christmas Program and sing songs as entertainment, as well as pass out cookies, crafts, and Christmas cards to the residents. Then, we carol through the Masonic Home to spread the joy of Christmas. There are jurisdictions around the world that support

organizations such as the Relay for Life and March of Dimes. Our members raise awareness of domestic violence and homelessness. We try to meet the needs of our communities by cleaning up highways and preparing, serving and cleaning up meals for the less fortunate. We help out at local animal shelters and collect food for food pantries. There are many other service projects that our members complete in their local Assemblies and across their jurisdictions. Our members put in countless hours to make a difference in this world. Rainbow provides a support system for all of its members. If a girl needs help, she knows she can reach out to one of her Rainbow Sisters. A Rainbow Girl can find friends anywhere she goes. This organization teaches girls important life lessons. Rainbow Girls learn how to carry themselves with confidence and poise. Rainbow teaches leadership skills. Every single member is a leader in her own home, community, and jurisdiction. Speaking in front of an audience is nothing new for Rainbow Girls. I would have never been able to stand up here and speak to all of you if it had not been for this Order. The experience with public speaking helps girls throughout the rest of their lives. We become teachers, doctors, astronauts and military personnel. This organization develops productive members of society. We learn the lessons of responsibility early in our Rainbow careers, so we are prepared to work hard in our future endeavors. The Rainbow Girls of today are the next generation of Eastern Star and Amaranth members. There have been many times that the fathers of Rainbow Girls, who were not already affiliated with the Masons, have decided to join the Order after being involved with their daughters in Rainbow.

Many majority members of Rainbow have told their husbands about the Masonic Family, and their husbands have decided to become Masons. We are the members who will keep these organizations alive for many years to come. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls could not succeed without the help of its sponsoring bodies. On behalf of all the Rainbow Girls throughout the several jurisdictions, I would like to thank each of you. Your constant support allows our organization to grow. Your sponsorship allows us to have our meetings. Knowing that there are adults who are interested in supporting our youth is an inspiration for every Assembly. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is an organization that has made a huge impact on my life, and I know that thousands of girls around the world could say the same. We have given each of you a brochure with information on our Century Campaign. Our Supreme Temple is 66 years old, and our heating and cooling system needs to be replaced. We would gratefully accept any donations. We wish you a successful Conference. Thank you and good afternoon. (Applause.)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: It's now my pleasure to introduce the representative of Job's Daughters International, Miss Hannah Gerow, Miss International Job's Daughter. Please help me welcome her.

(Applause)

HANNAH GEROW: Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Grand Officers, Masonic Family and friends. Hello and good afternoon.

(Good afternoon)

I am Hannah Gerow, the Miss International Job's Daughters 2017-2018, and with me today I have Aimee Bright, Supreme Bethel Honor Queen 2017-2018. It is an honor to bring greetings to you on behalf of the 11,000 girls from around the world that make up Job's Daughters International. My organization, like many others represented here throughout this week, can trace their beginnings back to the Masonic Fraternity. That Order which we are taught from a young age stands for the brotherhood of humanity. We are connected in this way, through our complex and intertwining histories, but I believe today there exist a humbler bond that threads us together. It is simply that, "We are groups of people working to better ourselves and the world around us."

Looking back through our histories, to the start of Freemasonry hundreds of years ago in England, it is impossible to dismiss the impact Masonry has had on the world, and the way its existence is still impacting it today. For example, because of that first group of Masons over 300 years ago, the Shriners exist, and because of that, today 22 hospitals care for children all over this country free of charge. Because of those men, the Knights Templar still exist to this day, and so does their Eye Foundations which is responsible for millions of dollars going into research and patient care for those with sight problems. Because of them, the Scottish Rite exists, and so does their Childhood Language Program, which provides children all over this country with treatment for speech disabilities.

I could go on forever, telling the story of how the many members of the Masonic Family better the world around them. I could talk about the large donations the Order of the Amaranth has given to research the cure for Diabetes, or try to name the countless amounts of charity work done by the Order of the Eastern Star.

I could try to cover in this small speech the immense work individual Lodges, Chapters, Shrines, Assemblies, and Bethels, et cetera have done in their communities across the world.

But that would take much longer than the five minutes they have allowed me to speak. Even if I spend the whole day accounting for every act of service that the Masonic Fraternity is in some way responsible for, I would not do true justice to your legacy. Because, as I said before, "We are groups of people working to better ourselves and the world around us, and working to better ourselves." To not mention the ways the invention of Masonry and the Masonic Family has affected those involved in it would be wrong.

Personally, I know the impact it has had on my family, and it has changed our lives forever. I know the impact it has on my life, and I can say it has definitely changed it for the better. Because over 300 years ago, men came together to create Freemasonry. The Masonic Youth Groups have formed, changing so many young people's lives in the process. I have met girls who have entered Jobs's Daughters so lost and alone. I have watched them grow up in the Order and then leave with a new purpose in life. But, more importantly, they leave with a new family. The same can be said for many of those who have entered DeMolay and Rainbow for Girls.

These organizations and the adult organizations which branch from the Masonic Fraternity have touched countless lives. All of which is the result of a group of like minded men hundreds of years ago, who wanted to better themselves and the world around them. Because of them, we are all here today in this room.

Everything I have said so far may seem like shameless flattery, and maybe it is. However, I would not say it if it wasn't true. I respect the Masonic Fraternity and value its existence so much. But, I do have a purpose, besides flattery, to name the countless ways Freemasonry has made a difference in our world. I have had the unique honor of traveling all over the world in the past six months and I cannot tell you how amazing it has been. I have learned so much. We live in such a large and beautiful place, but it is also filled with troubles. We are only two months into the new year and there is a world of problems at our feet. We have started working individually to face them already, but imagine what we could do if we worked together. All the charity work, public service, and fellowship created, that I have spoken about was done by individual organizations. Think of the things we could do if we came closer together. The change and the differences we could make in people's lives would be amazing.

My theme and motto this year as Miss International is "Let's Create a better tomorrow, today!" I want to inspire the young ladies of my organization to work together, to build a brighter future in all aspects of their lives. I believe that we can, as the Masonic Family, come together through leadership and the bond of the Masonic Fraternity to make an even greater difference in our world. Therefore, I want to encourage you to reach out to the Job's Daughters within your state or the Bethels that meet in your lodges. If you don't have a Job's Daughters in your jurisdiction, I want to encourage you to reach out to your DeMolay Chapters, Rainbow for Girls, or any other Masonic body to work toward common goals. I want to challenge all of you as groups that stand for what's right in the world, to stand together to see the power and impact you can and do have on society.

And lastly, but most importantly, I want to challenge you to come together and be exactly what you are "Groups of people working to better themselves and the world around them." Thank you.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: We are doing well, Brothers. To the youth groups, on behalf of the Conference, we would like to thank you for an outstanding presentation. You really make us proud. Let's give them all a round of applause.

(Applause)

I would also like to introduce another Grand Master, a Grand Master of DeMolay International for some brevities. Ron Mitchell, would you please approach the dais and help me welcome our Grand Master.

(Applause)

RON MITCHELL: Grand Masters, Wardens, Brethren all, thank you very much and thank you, Grand Master for the invitation to speak. Our youth did a great job and

those young people that we represent are great representatives of the leadership and the character-building organizations that the Masonic Family supports and sponsors. We had a seminar this morning at eleven o'clock, and those of you that were there, thank you very much for attending. Those of you that weren't able to be there, but need more information, whether it is about Job's Daughters, Rainbow or DeMolay, we each have booths and we each have the heads of our organization. Myself, the Supreme Worthy Advisor and the Guardian are all three in attendance and we would love to visit with you and talk about our organizations within your jurisdictions. Ways that we can make those organizations proper at the Chapter, Assembly and Bethel level, at the local level. So thank you all very much for that. Please take a moment to visit with our kids, our youth, because you will find that they are bright, they are responsive, they have great ideas, and if you do not go to your younger people that are coming up through your ranks, enjoying DeMolay, or Eastern Star, or Amaranth, or whatever that may be, and go to them for help in how to get new members, and how to make our lodges more fun to be in, and things like that. You all are missing the boat. These are the kids that are going through these programs and are also coming up and becoming the leaders of our organizations and our civic organizations, their schools. These guys and gals are not only just leading our DeMolay organization, for example, but fraternities, and organizations within the public sector. Whether it's space in public sector, or whether it's private businesses and enterprises, you will find those as being leaders. So we all need to work harder to help these youth ought. It is not always the money that we are looking for, it's bodies, and people, and men like yourselves, and men underneath you that follow in your wake that can recognize the leadership skills and the fraternal relationship, brotherhood and sisterhood we build for these kids. I thank you, again, for the couple of minutes that Jeff asked me to speak real quick. Please take a moment. If you need some help, we all three organizations have experts that we are happy to send to your jurisdiction to help you grow our youth orders and our youth orders are working very strongly together to help each other. Please take advantage of us because we will love to visit with you all. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Grand Master, for addressing our group here. Brethren, I am going to, as Chairman of the Conference, I think we are going to put on the agenda right now so we have some time. I want to open this up for business, for new business. We have some housekeeping things that we have to do as an outcome of yesterday's election. We have to do some administrative motions, and directions, and things like that. At this point I will call on Most Worshipful Grand Master Lon Tibbits to read some proposals and Resolutions.

M.W. LON TIBBITS: Thank you, Most Worshipful. There are three Resolutions that come out of the activities from yesterday's election.

First, resolved for the Bylaws of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America Incorporated, amended 2/19/2013, Article 7, Funds.

That the Board of Directors direct the Executive Secretary-Treasurer to open a checking accounts at the Associated Bank of Wisconsin and that the funds of corporation be deposited there for the use of the corporation.

Second, also Resolved that Article 10 of the Bylaws of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, Incorporated, again, as amended 2/19/2013, registered office to be amended to change the location of the registered office of the corporation from Missouri to Wisconsin and;

Further Resolved that the current corporation be dissolved, and the Conference be incorporated in the state of Wisconsin, and that the registered agent shall be the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference who shall reside in Wisconsin.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Grand Master. Brothers, you have heard the reading of the proposals. I will entertain a motion that we adopt that. It will be effective April 1, at the end of this Conference. The cycle that we have will be April 1st. *So moved.* We have a motion, it has been regularly made and seconded. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? *Motion carried.* Thank you for that piece of business,

Brothers. We actually are running pretty good, ahead of schedule. Is the Scottish Rite General Secretary in the audience here? (No response) I guess not.

How about Grand Commander Seale, is he in the audience? (No response)

All right. Well, that's moving right along. All right. So I would like to talk to you about the next set of sessions here. Brethren, we are going to be recessing momentarily so that we can adjourn to the Breakout Sessions. The sessions start at three o'clock.

Group 1 will be the Deputy Grand Master Peer Group, which is in Studio 6, and Grand Master Michael D. Smith of South Carolina is your facilitator.

Then we also have the Senior Grand Warden peer group, which will be in Concept AB, and Grand Master Casey Hood of Tennessee is your facilitator.

The third group is the Junior Grand Warden peer group, which will be in Concept CD and will be led by Grand Master Gregory L. Clark, Grand Master of Illinois, and he is the facilitator.

This evening the banquet and social will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Regency AB foyer. In the front of Regency AD. The social hour will be sponsored by the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory and we thank them for their hospitality. That is a nice donation buy them.

(Applause)

The banquet will be at 7:00 p.m. in that room as well. If any one needs tickets for the banquet, please check in with the registration desk.

In the morning we will start early with the Shrine/DeMolay, Frank S. Land Breakfast in Regency A room and that will begin at 7:00 a.m. sharp.

Then I will call the Conference to Order at 9:30 in the morning. Grand Masters, please take your things with you, but leave your place cards.

Now, at this time, before I call the Conference at recess for the remainder of the day, are there any other announcements? (No response) there is none. All right. Right Worshipful James Kistel, will you please attend at the alter and close the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: I now declare this Conference in recess.

__Close of Day 2__

Tuesday 20 February 2018 Indianapolis, IN

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful James Kistel, would you please attend at the alter and display the Three Great Lights of Masonry. I now call on Most Worshipful Dieter Hees, Grand Master of Masons of New Jersey for this morning's invocation.

(Prayer)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: This Conference is now reconvened. Good morning, brothers. This is the last day of our 2018 Conference and we thank you for your sincere and earnest participation. The Planning Committee has worked hard to provide you with the working tools for today's Masonry. It is our heartfelt desire that you take these ideas back to your respective jurisdictions and make them your own. Let your imagination run wild, that you can leave your mark on the Craft. Remember, Thomas A. Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." All of us assembled here this morning have been given an amazing opportunity to make a difference for our Lodges and Grand Lodges. Let us all make the most of it.

I would like to take this personal opportunity to introduce the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Grand Master Duane Vaught, for a few remarks. Please help me welcome him.

(Applause)

M.W. DUANE VAUGHT: Good morning, brethren.

(Good morning)

M.W. DUANE VAUGHT: Grand Master Jeffrey here asked me to make a brief remark, and I said what the heck, I get some airtime, I'll take that. I do want to say how pleased I am to be here with all of you. I'm sure you hear a little hoarseness in my voice. I come to a lot of these, as not only for the Grand Encampment, but as I was coming up through the Grand Lodge while here Indiana. I will be brief, but I thought what to say here and I can't use my usual material because some of you have heard it. But two quick thoughts. Why is it that we in the Appendant Bodies often see people, usually from other Appendant Bodies, who get the mistaken idea that we are competing against each other for membership. I would just like to leave the thought that I don't think we are in competition. I want every Masonic organization to do well. I love my Lodge. It is a little Lodge about 60 miles from here. I don't get there as much as I would like, but once I go out of office. We love our Lodges, and I think if we get somebody, if he wants to join 10 Masonic organizations, if mine is not the number one thing that he likes doing, so be it. As long as he is in your Fraternity, he is going to stay with me too. He is going to stay with his Lodge, and he's going to stay with his Scottish Rite, and his Shrine, and his York Rite and his Easter Star even. It's all good. Another thought I would like to leave you with quickly is we are hearing a lot about, especially at Conferences like this, we hear a lot about getting back to the good old days, the way things were. We

even use words like “renewal”. Getting back to that. And I have just come to think we actually don’t want to do that. We don’t need or want to get back to anything that we have been before. All of that’s good. What we need to get back to is the brilliant future that we are going to have in this Fraternity. It’s going to be brilliant because it gets to be whatever we want it to be. We can cherry pick the past. We can say we love this building. We love that regalia, or that Degree, or this program. We can cherry pick all of that. But, the future of this Fraternity is in the hands of us. Most especially, Grand Masters, yourselves and your teams of officers. That is a brilliant opportunity. We are all in this together. Let’s make our future what we want it to be. Thank you so much for the moment to speak.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Grand Master, for your inspiring words.

Our next order of business is to make preparations for the 2019 Conference and beyond. I call on Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Pulkkinen, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine, and Chairman of the Time and Place Committee for the Committee’s report.

Most Worshipful Brother Pulkkinen.

M.W. THOMAS PULKKINEN: Good morning, brethren.

(Good morning)

M.W. THOMAS PULKKINEN: Most Worshipful brother Chairman, the Time and Place Committee thanks you, and we thank the Conference for the opportunity to serve our Craft, which we all love so much. I would like to at this time ask the members of the Committee to stand as I introduce you to the brothers, so they know who has been working on their behalf on this important committee. First, Most Worshipful Brother Keith Herve, Grand Master of Alaska; Most Worshipful Brother Paul Todd, Grand Master of Ontario; Most Worshipful Brother Speed Hallman, Grand Master of North Carolina; Most Worshipful Brother Phillip Moss, Grand Master of Colorado; and I’m Most Worshipful Brother Tom Pulkkinen, Grand Master of Maine.

Yesterday we heard about the changing nature of Freemasonry. Our Craft has grown then lost membership. We need to asses the purpose and relevance of our Craft. That is, how do we add value to Freemasonry and mankind? How do we respond to the changing environment in which we operate, including the escalating cost of maintaining a superstructure with declining resources, both in terms of membership and I terms of financial resources?

The cost of the Conferences is exploding and it is relative to Conference fees and declining participation by many jurisdictions. The potential financial exposure to jurisdictions hosting the Conference can be daunting. Combined with the human resources needed to put this Conference on, means that an increasing number of jurisdictions cannot assume responsibility for hosting the Conference. This year we reached out to all participating Grand Lodges for proposals to host the 2022 Conference. No expressions of interest were received. A second letter went out, this

time we received three expressions of interest. We thank those Grand Lodges who considered making proposals to host the Conference in 2022. But, I must report at this time, after considerable discussions with all three jurisdictions, all decided not to host the Conference. We need, as members in every jurisdiction across North America, to begin internal discussions as to whether you have an interest and ability to submit a proposal for both the 2022 Conference and then the 2023 Conference. But, Brethren, as a Conference we need ask ourselves several important questions. As each of us is exploring ways to streamline our own operations, so do we as a Conference need to reflect upon the rationale, purpose and design of our Conference as we hold it today and determine whether change is needed. Some thoughts. We meet at this time of the year because we met every other year in Washington D.C. to honor George Washington. The Conference doesn't go to Washington anymore, but we still meet in February. This eliminates the ability of many of Our Canadian Provinces because of a lot snow, to host the Conference. It also means that some Conferences can't be hosted because of the escalating cost of holding the Conference on a holiday week, President's weekend. Premium rates go into effect. Should we consider perhaps different timing of the Conference? Do we really need a series of meetings that take up to seven days and result in high costs for all of Us. Might the schedule be condensed and some of the sessions be held by videoconferences or simulcasting. That would save considerable time and traveling costs. Might we somehow enhance our personal networking opportunities, which is what we feel is the most important part of coming here as a Craft. The opportunity to share ideas, share concerns and plot together ways that we want to make a difference in a positive way in our Fraternity, especially in our own jurisdictions. Through really goods planning, and hard work, the last two Conferences have broken even financially for the Host Jurisdictions, but the exposure to material loss is concerning. However, the Conference has lost money the last two years, and probably because of the high cost of audiovisual equipment.

What might be done to minimize or eliminate the financial risk to Host Jurisdictions and the Conference? Should changes in the Conference financial paradigm be considered? Many jurisdictions no longer have the manpower or resources to host a Conference. We have lost a lot of members and a lot of our members are older. We don't have energy necessary to accumulate 30 to 50 people to host the Conference, even when we consider that a lot of jurisdictions are fortunate to have their Lodge participate in the process. Is it time to consider a I different way to hold the Conference? Maybe on a rotating basis along with our Regional Conferences. Several Masonic bodies have moved fro considerations. Is it time to examine a similar alternate course for this Conference? That would be difficult because we have so many Grand Masters who serve one year. Every Grand Master wants to be able to come to this Conference as Grand Master to represent his Grand Jurisdiction. But the idea is, we need to think, where are we going as a Conference to make the most beneficial impact on what we do in Freemasonry, and that is to improve men and make a difference in society. Because the Grand Masters of many jurisdiction serve for only one year, a complete turnover of the Time and Place Committee and other committees occurs essentially every year. Should

Deputy Grand Masters serve on committees for better continuity and planning the experience going forward. These are but a few of the myriad of issues and questions, not predetermined positions that should be addressed by the next Time and Place Committee, the new Executive Secretary and the Conference.

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, the 2018 Conference Planning Committee recommends that our Executive Secretary, Most Worshipful Brother Michael DeWolf, who agrees that the Conference membership, and all others who meet at this Conference, should be surveyed immediately following this Conference on these and other issues to get your input on what we might do going forward to respond to the challenges and the opportunities that are before us. To make the Conference as financially sound, and program as beneficial as possible, not only for the Conference, but for everybody who attends. The Committee fully supports the efforts of Brother DeWolf to creative an RFP, and bring specification and guidance to the Jurisdictions interested in hosting, or possibly hosting the Conference in the future. We further recommend that Most Worshipful Brother Michael DeWolf, Executive Secretary of this Conference, beginning in April, be authorized to formulate recommendations and supporting rationale to address all of the issues contained in this report, and to initiate, and negotiate and finalize a contract with a facility to host the 2022 meeting in the best interest of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and our great Fraternity. I move acceptance of this report and the recommendations contained therein.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Brethren, you heard a mouthful right there. Essentially what we are talking about is empowering the Executive Grand Secretary to act as our agent for acceptance of a potential site because we won't be convened, for 2022.

You have heard the other, the empowerment of the Grand Secretary to send out a survey of interest of the Attendees that are here. Not only the Grand Masters, but all of the attendees, in order to find out the efficacy of what we are doing, and to have discussions to improve this. Also, to send out RFP's for/in conjunction with 2022. To send out an RFP for the convention and instructions for Grand Lodges who are wishing to host a future Convention. So you have heard the Motion. Do we have a second? *Second.* Do we have any questions? (No response)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: All right. Having been regularly moved and seconded to adopt the report of the Time and Place Committee, all of those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? (No response) *motion carried.* Thank you, Most Worshipful Grand Master for your report.

My next order of business would be to call on Most Worshipful Brother Donald C. Ross, Past Grand Master of Quebec, Chairman of the Committee on Recognition for his report. Is he in the room? Very good. Please help me welcome the Committee, Brothers.

(Applause)

M.W. DONALD C. ROSS: Good morning. This is the report of the Commission on Information for Recognition to the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North

America. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful, Right Worshipful Brethren, it is my honor as Chairman of the Commission to present the 66th Annual Report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. At this time I am pleased to present the other members of this Commission in order of length of service. Most Worshipful Brother William J. Bray, III, Past Grand Master of California; Most Worshipful Brother Raymond D. Lemmons, Past Grand Master of Michigan, who can't be with us this morning. Most Worshipful Brother Joe R. Manning, Jr., Past Grand Master of Oklahoma; Most Worshipful Brother Glen A. Cook, Past Grand Master of Utah, who is unable to be with us this morning. Most Worshipful Brother Jorge L. Aladro, Past Grand Master of Florida; and Most Worshipful Brother Richard Stuart, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts, who is not able to be with us. And Most Worshipful Brother Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Tennessee and Secretary-Treasurer of our Committee. I am Donald C. Ross, Past Grand Master of Quebec, and I am the Chairman of the Commission. Since the delegates to this Conference change each year, I would like to repeat the Standards for Recognition adopted for our guidance when the Commission was formed in 1952. These are the guidelines used to evaluate Regularity of a Grand Lodge, and thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration for Recognition by our Member Grand Lodges.

This Commission provides this data for use by our Grand Lodges, and does not attempt to influence or recommend what action should be taken. The Commission serves in an investigative and advisory capacity only. The standards of Recognition are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of Origin.
2. Exclusive Territorial Jurisdictions, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks, specifically, a Belief in God, the Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.

Applying these standards to the requests of several Grand Lodges during our deliberation, we now share the following information:

Grand Lodge Principality of Liechtenstein. Representative of the Grand Lodge of Liechtenstein appeared before the Commission in 2017 to request a finding of Regularity from the Commission. At that time they were informed that the Commission would study the matter and provide an update at the 2018 Conference. After further study, and hearing comment from numerous delegations that are at our 2018 meeting, the Commission finds that the Grand Lodge of the Principality of Liechtenstein **does not** meet the Standards for Recognition.

Grand Lodge Valle De Mexico. A request for finding of Regularity was received from the Grand Lodge Valle De Mexico. In the absence of sufficient evidence, upon which to base a ruling, action on this request is **postponed** until such time that a more informed decision can be made.

The Grand Lodge of Baja, California In 2013 the Commission reported that there continue to be two groups that claim to be the legitimate Grand Lodge of Baja California. A further review we would like to see both sides reconcile, however, the Grand Lodge of Baja, California under Grand Master Carlos Manuel Lura Herrera, currently meets the Standards for Recognition. No additional information has been provided to alter that position.

Grand Lodge of Paraguay In 2005 the Grand Master of Paraguay was suspended by an Appendant Body. Pursuant to treaty this led to his suspension from the Symbolic or Craft Masonry. In 2006 there was a schism in Paraguay in Masonry. For a number of years attempts were made to reconcile the two Grand Lodges. In 2014 when such efforts repeatedly failed, this Commission found the newer Grand Lodge met the Standards for Recognition. This was, in part, because the prior Grand Lodge did not demonstrate sovereignty as an Appendant Body functionally controlled the Craft. The Commission has now been presented evidence that in 2017 a new treaty was entered into with the Appendant Body, preserving the Sovereignty of the Craft. Both Grand Lodges appear to be practicing Regular Freemasonry. Before the Commission makes further recommendations, we encourage both parties to discuss a treaty to share the Jurisdiction, regardless of whether they formally recognize one another Masonically.

Other Information

Africa. The Commission has been informed that the Sovereign Jurisdictions of Grand Lodges of the Congo, Cameroon and Ivory Coast have been invaded by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Additional information will be provided on this matter as it becomes available.

As a reminder, the deadline for reports filed with the Commission is December 1st. We will not accept any new material for consideration after this date.

I now call on Most Worshipful Brother Joe C. Harrison for the financial report.

M.W. JOE C. HARRISON: Thank you, Brother Chairman. This report is the accounting of the funds of the Commission on Information for the period just past, ending January 31, 2018. Since January 1, 2017, 32 Grand Lodges have contributed a total of \$1,780 in support of this Commission. Our balance and starting balance for the period was \$5,039.59. We had expenses for the last Conference of \$1,527.42, printing \$369.73, postage and stamps, \$221.59. We paid nothing for secretarial services, and our website continues to be donated by one of our Webmasters back in Tennessee. We had \$223.19 in office supplies and photocopies. Our total expenses were \$2,341.93. Our balance on hand January 31 is \$4,477.66. Respectfully submitted Joe C. Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer.

M.W. DONALD C. ROSS: Thank you, Brother Harrison for your report. As information the Conference Nominating Committee submitted the name of Most Worshipful Brother Richard A. H. Brown, Past Grand Master of Saskatchewan as the new member of the Commission. He was duly elected by the Conference.

The normal term of service for a Commission Member is seven years.

The organization of the Commission for the year 2019 will be Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother William J. Bray, Past Grand Master of California; Vice-Chairman will be Most Worshipful Brother Raymond C. Lemmons, Past Grand Master of Michigan, and the Secretary-Treasurer will be Most Worshipful Brother Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Tennessee. Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, it is my sincere thanks for your attention and for the opportunity to serve this Conference. This concludes the 66th Annual Report of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted, Donald C. Ross, Past Grand Master, Chairman; William Bray, III, Past Grand Master, Raymond Lemmons, Past Grand Master; Joe R. Manning, Jr., Past Grand Master; Glen Cook, Past Grand Master; Jorge A. Aladro, Past Grand Master; Richard Stuart, Past Grand Master and Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master, Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Chairman, I move the acceptance of this report.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Brother Delegates, you have heard the report from the Commission for Recognition. I will entertain a second on that motion. *So moved.* All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? (No response) *motion carried.* Thank you, brothers, for your excellent workmanship. We appreciate it.

I now invite Most Worshipful Brother Yancey Smith, Grand Master of South Dakota to share with us what to expect in Rapid City next year. Most Worshipful Brother Yancey, you and your Committee please step forward. Let's give them a hearty round of applause.

(Applause)

M.W. YANCEY SMITH: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, thank you for the opportunity. Brethren, Most Worshipful Brothers, Right Worshipful Brothers, thank you for the opportunity to be here. I will not say very much this morning. Those of you who know me will greatly appreciate that. Please feel free to applaud, guys from South Dakota. Why should I get up here and talk a lot when we have got the hired guns that you have seen working our booth to do the presentation for us.

Those of you that were in Madison, Wisconsin two years ago when we made the pitch to host this Conference, remember the dancing heads that we brought. Unfortunately, we do not have the dancing heads here today. However, we have someone who is almost as entertaining, especially after a couple of those Fireballs. Our Deputy Grand Master, Grand Master Elect, Right Worshipful Brother DaNiel Wood, who will be your Host Grand Master when you come to Rapid City next year for this Conference. So without any further ado, I offer the microphone to our Right Worshipful DaNiel.

(Applause)

R.W. DANIEL Wood: Good morning.

Good morning)

As our Grand Master said, my name is DaNiel Wood. I am the Deputy Grand Master of South Dakota. I am also Grand Master Elect, so in June, in just a couple of months, I will be installed as Grand Master barring any unfortunate incidents.

When we came to Madison and presented to host the Conference, all of the different folks and organizations came well prepared. They all spoke before I did, and I closed out that presentation promoting our teamwork. In South Dakota we truly do have a team all the way through our entire Grand Lodge Line, and with our partners that visit Rapid City, and including our Sovereign Grand Inspector General who was there presenting with us. I am happy to report that that entire team is still in place. We have grown and there is a Planning Committee that meets weekly getting this prepared for you. I will not take anymore time. I will introduce the professionals, and it is my pleasure to introduce Julie Jensen, President of Visit Rapid City.

(Applause)

JULIE JENSEN: Thank you. Good morning to all of you.

(Good morning)

It has been really fun to be back with you. I was with these two great guys in Madison with our four great guys, “The Presidents.” How many of you got your picture taken with the Presidents? I mean it was kind of busy for about a half an hour after they came to the general meeting. We were so pleased to have them there, and we were also very pleased that we were selected as the site for the 2019 Conference. When we met with the Time and Place Committee they asked some tough questions, and I have to tell you, I am so proud of our South Dakota Masons, who truly want you to come to South Dakota, who truly believe in the beauty of the Black Hills of South Dakota. I think the fact that Mount Rushmore has such a great legacy with the Masons, it is just such an appropriate place for you all to meet for your Conference, so we could not be more pleased. You actually believed what we told you which is really hilarious. But seriously, Shelby— many of you met Shelby at the booth the last few days. She has been helping share some information about our wonderful city. One of the things she mentioned was you know, when I took this job I didn’t realize I had to be a meteorologist as well as a marketing professional. Because pretty much the first question everybody asked was, so what is the weather like in Rapid City in February? Well, we can tell you this, we don’t know, and neither does any city in America know exactly what their weather will be like in February. We can only hope and pray we have the great weather that you had in Omaha last year, and really great weather here in Indianapolis this year. This has bee a great Conference, and I have enjoyed being here. For those of you that didn’t stop by our booth, i just want you to understand that when you come next year, you are going to be overwhelmed by the natural beauty of the Black Hills of South Dakota. We absolutely are so proud of the fact we are surrounded by six national parks, and we are surrounded by five state parks.

So when you come in and you are there for what, 15 minutes from your headquarters hotel, and you are going to unpack your bags, and you’re not going to

be hanging out in your room much because there is going to be so much to see and do. We are thrilled to share that with you.

I guess what I also want to say is, the fact that these gentlemen are meeting weekly to make sure you have a good time, that's pretty special. Especially after I heard the gentleman report a couple of minutes ago that it's hard to find hosts. It made me realize how special they are to take this on. Any city that you are invited to, it is a huge commitment locally. So thank you to all of you who have hosted in the past. I am especially proud of our South Dakota and Rapid City Brothers.

So we brought a very special guest. We didn't bring the four Presidents, because you will see them next year. They were busy yesterday. It was President's Day, so you can imagine how busy they were. You are going to have a special message from our wonderful Governor Dauggard. We hope you enjoy. Thank you.

(Video played)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: We have a series of Breakout Sessions that are going to run from 10:30 until 11:30 as follows: Temple Associations. You can't look at my books, we're a Temple Association. What about the roles, legal issues and best practices. Please join Most Worshipful Scott Thomas, Grand Master of Arizona, as he explores this subject in Studio 6. Redistricting and Consolidation is in Concept AB. Does your jurisdiction have an obsolete infrastructure designed years ago that is simply not sustainable today. Learn how to make changes in your jurisdiction. Please join Right Worshipful Hagler, Wood and Ireland in Concept AB. Social Media, Concept CD. It's a repeat of yesterday's program, Right Worshipful William Sardone, Deputy Grand Master of New York. Please join him in Concept CD. Something for the ladies, a group for Grand Line Ladies Panel Discussion in Studio 1. Ladies have an opportunity to share common challenges and to learn the ins and outs of being a Grand Line Lady, hosted by Ms. Janice Yankey and Mrs. Debbie Dreier in Studio 1.

Brethren, after the Breakout Sessions, lunch is scheduled at 12 o'clock in the Regency Ballroom AD for those who have tickets. If you do not have a ticket and want to purchase one, please see Most Worshipful David Haywood. Do you have any instructions or any last minute information? How about the photographs for the Grand Masters?

M.W. DAVID W. HAYWOOD: All photographs have been passed out except a few foreign Jurisdictions and if they would come up I have them here.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: All right. Thank you very much. Right Worshipful James Kistel, please attend at the alter and close the Three Great Lights of Masonry. The afternoon portion, my Brothers, will contain a business session. If you have any business you may want to talk about prior, come over here and see me. Then we will have the Grand Secretaries, will give their talk and wrap up, and the we will be closing. Moving this in fine style. So we have had a great Conference. Everybody is ahead of schedule. Greatly appreciated. All right. I hereby declare us duly at recess.

__Lunch Break__

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Right Worshipful James Kistel, please attend at the alter and display the Three Great Lights in Masonry. I now declare the Conference reconvened. Brethren, what we will do now is we will open up the Business Session. We have a piece of business that we are going to be taking care of. I will ask the Grand Master of Delaware to please proceed.

M.W. JOHN W. MARINUCCI: I am the Grand Master of the great state of Delaware. Conference Members, esteemed colleagues, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brothers. Whereas the cost of operating the Conference of Grand Masters has increased over the past several years; Whereas the registration fee for this Conference has remained the same for many years; Whereas the Conference lost money last year and is projected to lose money this year, the Planning Committee has discussed this issue, and on behalf of the Planning Committee, I move that the Conference of Grand Masters of North America registration fee be adjusted from \$300 to \$400 per Jurisdiction. I present that as a motion. Second.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: All right we have a motion and it has been regularly seconded. Is there any question on the proposal? On the motion?

M.W. SCOTT THOMAS: Scott Thomas, Grand Master of Masons in Arizona. Has the Planning Committee projected next year's cost, and as such, is the \$100 adjustment going to cover for the increased costs, or what are projected to be the costs of the Conference?

M.W. JOHN W. MARINUCCI: Thank you. The data that he looked at is very high level. We lost money last year. It was reported that we lost money last year. We are expecting to lose money this year. We expect next year's Conference to be a little less expensive. But, the increase for next year and the years out will help the organization recover from the previous, from last year's loss and the potential loss this year. Next year's potential decreased cost of the venues and whatnot. The increased fee will help to recover from that and we will set the organization in good stead for future Conferences.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: My Brothers, if I may just interject for a moment. We lost \$4,000 last Conference, and we lost about \$4,000 this Conference. So if it's 64 Jurisdictions, times a hundred bucks, is \$6,400. That's going to take us north of the number. I think that sounds like, without putting too much pressure on anybody, that's an easy fix to try to right size the escalating cost we have here. Is there any other questions on the Motion? (No response)

Okay. It has been regularly moved and *seconded* that we raise the Conference fee from \$300 to \$400. All those in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Opposed? (No response) *motion is carried.*

Is there any other Motions or business that needs to be attended to at this time? I yield the floor to Tom Pulkkinen.

M.W. THOMAS PULKKINEN: Brethren, I appreciated your attendance and listening to the comments made this morning by the Time and Place Committee, and I would like to announce that one jurisdiction has stepped forward and expects to be able to

support the one Conference in 2022. I thank all of you for your willingness to look at the survey, and provide feedback, and help us all. We look forward to the upcoming weeks, we will be able to announce who that jurisdiction is. Thank you all. (Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: It is now my pleasure to introduce a representative of the Grand Secretaries for some introductions. Please help me welcome our Grand Secretaries.

(Applause)

R.W. MARK HAINES: Good afternoon, Brethren.

(Good afternoon)

My name is Mark Haines and somehow I was just railroaded into becoming President of the Grand Secretaries Conference for 2019. Brother President, and to you, and through you to the Officers, and members, and guests of the Grand Masters Conference, it is my privilege to introduce those who have also been rail—I mean elected into office in 2019. Brother Alan Casalou, First Vice-President; Brother Tracy Bloom, Kansas, is our Second Vice-President; Brother Rick Elman from the great state of Indiana is Secretary and Treasurer; and our Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, and Host of our Planning Committee for next year, is Maui Marty Alexander from Hawaii. Also not able to be here is Jerry Wasson who was been elected as our Chaplain. Thank you for allowing us to come over here.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Brother Secretaries. You know what they say, behind every successful Grand Master... Is there any business to be brought before this Conference before we start to wrap it up?

(No response)

Well, Brethren, I would like to say on a personal note that it has been an absolute joy and a delight for me to have the opportunity to Chair this Conference. The faith that you imposed upon me and our Vice-President, Lon Tibbits, and the Planning Committees, and the Time and Place Committee, and our Grand Secretary, we certainly want to thank you for allowing us to serve you in this way. We particularly hope that you have found the Breakout Sessions enjoyable and informative. I know a lot of care went into them. I saw a lot of breakout groups that were standing room only, which I thought was very, very great. I saw the Millennials was standing room only, and Deputy Grand Master Sardone in the back room there for his media, his social media and things like that. I think that the Breakout Sessions were, indeed, informative. You know, we challenge our Wardens, and we challenge our Deputy Grand Masters that perhaps as you are there, and you are going to hear something that is just going to be an epiphany for you. You are going to take that back to you respective Jurisdiction, and you're going to make it your own. You are going to be able to sow those seeds in your Jurisdiction, so when you become Grand Master,

they can enjoy the information that was imparted to you. I would like to, again, thank all of the Officers.

This evening we are going to have our parting banquet. Social hour starts at 5:30 in the Regency Foyer and dinner at 6:30 in the Regency AD.

Now, the Grand Masters' Chapter of the National Sojourners will have their meeting in this room immediately after the program. All Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters are encouraged to join. They will be more than happy to accommodate you to become an honorary member whether you have military service or not.

Are there any other announcements? Brother Executive Secretary?

M.W. DAVID W. HAYWOOD: Most Worshipful Grand Masters, it has been a distinct honor and pleasure to serve you this year. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Enough can't be said about the Grand Lodge of Indiana, they as Host Grand Lodge, they truly extended themselves and have done a remarkable job. I would like to now call on Brother, Most Worshipful Brother Rodney Mann for Host comments. Please help me welcome him again and thank him.

(Applause)

M.W. RODNEY A. MANN: I didn't know I was going to have to talk again. I just want to thank all of you for coming. It has been a wonderful Conference. Myself and the core group that has been working on this for about three years. I hope everything went well. I think it did. We had a wonderful Committee. These guys put great Breakout Sessions together. Jeff has done a great job running the Conference. So I just thank all of you and I hope to see you down the road somewhere.

(Applause)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Grand Master. Before I close, I would like to invite Most Excellent Edmond D. Harrison, Past General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International to approach the microphone near you and please give us the charge to the Brethren.

MOST EXCELLENT EDMOND D. HARRISON: This Charge was first delivered by the Right Worshipful Thaddeus Nathan Harris, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in the closing of the Communication in 1795. It seems to have as equally a strong meaning today as it did then. Right Worship Harris said, "Brethren, we are about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue to mix again with the world. Amidst concerns and employment, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated, and forcibly recommended in our lodges. Be diligent, tempered, present, discrete and remember that around our alter you have promised to assist every brother who shall have need of your aid. Remember, you have also promised to remind him in a friendly manner of his errors and aid in his reformation. These generous principles are to extend further: Every human being has a claim upon your good offices. Do good unto all. Recommend it more especially

to the household of the faithful. Finally, Brethren, be ye all of one mind, live in peace, and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you. Thank you, Brethren.

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: I call now on Most Worshipful Deiter Hees, Grand Master of Masons for the state of New Jersey for the closing benediction.

(Benediction)

M.W. JEFFREY M. WILLIAMSON: Most Worshipful James Kistel, for the last time in this session, close the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

I now declare the 105th Annual Conference of the Grand Masters of North America duly closed.