



Grand York Rite of Idaho Newsletter



Volume 2 Issue 12

December 2024

To better serve the Idaho York Rite Bodies, this newsletter will be used for local activities and newsworthy items to share. If you have items to share, please send them to the Grand Recorder, grndyrii@gmail.com.



December Happenings

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
11 Dec 6:30 pm KT 2, 5	Christmas Observance	Coeur d'Alene
12 Dec 7:30 pm CM 1	Royal/Select Master Degree	Boise
15 Dec 4 pm KT 10	Christmas Observance	Jerome
15 Dec 4 pm KT 1	Christmas Observance	Boise

NORTHWEST DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE.- 2024

This year the Northwest Department Conference was held on 19 October at the Ruby River Hotel in Spokane, Washington. The Northwest Department consists of the Grand Commanderies of Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. One of the high points for Idaho was the completion and awarding of the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program to our own Sir Knight John E. Warner.

Sir Knight E. Jeffrey Craig replaced Jeremy C. Vaughn as the new Northwest Department Commander. Congratulations to both.

Next years conference will be 17-18 October 2025 at the same Hotel, the Ruby River Hotel in Spokane so **put it on your calendar now**. It is well worth the time invested.

A MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF IDAHO YORK RITE

The following is an excerpt from the Grand Chapter Proceedings of 1932 held at Boise,
Idaho:

ADDRESS OF THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST

M.E. Companion Charles W. Craney gave the following address, which was referred to the Committee on Doings of Grand Officers.

To the R.A.M. of the Grand Jurisdiction of Idaho,

Companions:

Twenty-four years ago in May the Grand Chapter of Idaho was formed in Pocatello. Today we are convening for the purpose of reviewing our past activities and devising plans for the future. It affords me much pleasure to greet such a large gathering and welcome you to this, our twenty-fourth convocation. The fact that it is being held in our beautiful capital city of Boise is an added source of gratification.

Since its inception the destiny of this Grand Body has been watched over and guided by some of the most outstanding men of the state. It is largely due to their wise counsel and earnest endeavors that our history has been one of progress and increasing usefulness. Some of these have performed their allotted tasks on earth and passed on to the rewards which are assured all those who live their lives in a just and upright manner, giving every consideration to their fellow men and having a due reverence for the Almighty before whose power, beauty and goodness all men should bow in humility.

During the present chapter year the Supreme High Priest of heaven and earth has seen fit in his infinite wisdom to remove from our official family two of its very dear and valued members. One who was pursuing his journey of life through the twilight of evening the other enjoying the full light of day with only two-score years and nine of his pilgrimage completed. Companion Francis Jenkins, our Grand Chaplain, was known to almost all of you. No man in Idaho was held in greater respect than he, none had the sincere affections of so many of his fellow men. He was a true and loyal man and Mason. Capitular Masonry, particularly in Idaho, has benefitted materially by his wise counsel and untiring efforts. Lives such as his are the examples which make this world good to live in. I have had the very great satisfaction of considering Francis one of my closest and dearest

friends. It was he who appointed me to the Grand Chapter line.

Companion Frank Fuller, the youngest member of the Grand Chapter, was appointed by myself just a year ago in Sandpoint. We lived in the same town and for years have been close personal friends. He was one of the finest and most considerate gentlemen it has been my lot to meet, a loyal Mason, always willing to do more than his share, he had the faculty of endearing himself to all with whom he came in contact.

They have fared forth into the beyond entering upon the great adventure with full faith and a serene resignation to the will of the Omnipotent. While we mourn the loss of our dear companions we are comforted by the thought that for them all the problems and complexities of life are solved and they are safe in the protection of Him who does all things well and reigns supreme in that celestial body where all is peace and understanding. In all thirty-seven companions have been taken during the present year.

Companion Grand Secretary please call the roll of Companions who have passed on.

As our grand body has been visited by the grim messenger of death, so also have members of other Grand Jurisdiction answered the final summons. We sympathize with these grand bodies in their loss and appropriate mention will be made in the records of our proceedings.

Companions, we will rise and bow our heads while the Grand Chaplain offers a prayer to the memory of those who have passed through the mysterious veils to that bourn from whence no traveler returns. (Prayer)

High Priest, so also may Almighty God in his abundant mercy and wisdom strengthen each one of us who remains to faithfully perform the duties which may be allotted to us. Amen

The Committee on Necrology will provide a suitable memorial Program which will be given tomorrow at 8 o'clock p. m.

Companions, when I was exalted last year to this station of honor and responsibility it was my intention to visit at least all of the Chapters in the northern part of the state, traveling by motor car. In the early fall I was detained by reason of business and since the first of November our roads have been blocked by snow or mud almost continuously, making it impractical to travel in that manner. St. Maries, Coeur d'Alene and Moscow were the only Chapters visited. However, I did considerable letter writing and endeavored by correspondence to accomplish some of the things which might have been done by personal visits. I requested each Grand Officer to make what visitations he could and have no doubt some good will result. The Grand Lecturer has been

able to contact more Chapters, which I am sure will be fully covered in his report.

I am submitting herewith a file of correspondence which will assist the Committee on the Doings of Grand Officers in determining the scope and value of our activities.

Taken all in all the present chapter year is one of the most eventful which has come under my observation. There were no questions of law or procedure and apparently no grievances, at least none came to my notice. It is apparent, however, that there is a general slackening up, some Chapters are finding it difficult to secure satisfactory attendance and select officers who will devote the time necessary to enable them to exemplify the different degrees as they should be. Most of the Chapters seem to be just marking time; very little work has been done as compared to bygone years, and I believe the report of the Committee on Chartered Chapters, which I am sure will be full and complete, will show a net loss of forty-six.

For several years we have been inclined to view with apprehension our steadily decreasing membership, when we stop to consider, however, the rapidly changing social and economic conditions of our lives it is not at all surprising. So many wonderful inventions have been presented that take of our time, thought and money it is only natural Capitular Masonry should yield somewhat to the demands of these newer and for time being, more attractive and entertaining activities. Not alone has Masonry suffered, but all lines of fraternal behavior have been subjected to the slowing-up process. Even religion which has its foundation upon the existence of a Supreme Power, is receiving less and less consideration.

It occurs to me that the steadily increasing disregard for sacred things is the cause of much of the restlessness which pervades the world today. Are we not becoming a nation of self-centered individuals continually endeavoring to further our own ends regardless of the other fellow, catering to our own desires and inclinations, heedless of the needs of others, striving and searching for something new, moving at a furious pace. Masonry came into existence when our ancient brethren felt the urge and need for something which would not only enable them to help themselves, but also to aid and assist their brother workers. It contemplated a division of their time – a portion for labor, a portion for refreshment and repose, and a portion for the service of God, and no life which does not adequately provide the service of the Almighty is worth living.

Perhaps the period of depression and hardship through which we are now passing may be a blessing in disguise and we may emerge therefrom purged of our vices, our pride humbled and a willingness to seek out and follow the paths of honorable conscientious endeavor which our forefathers traveled and found

good.

During the year I have approved amendments to by-laws for the following Chapters:

St. Maries, relating to fees.

Mountain Home, relating to fees.

Bonner's Ferry, changing meeting night.

Dispensations were granted as follows:

Blackfoot to install Treasurer at regular meeting in February.

Boise to install RAC at regular meeting in January.

November 6th, I granted a dispensation to Idaho Falls to confer the first two degrees at St. Anthony on three petitioners from that place.

Following is the correspondence in connection therewith:

“September 14, 1932

M. E. Edward R. Chrisman, GHP
Moscow, Idaho

We are expecting a number of petitions from St. Anthony in the near future, and this Chapter feels that more can be gotten if we go up there with part of the work.

Therefore, I have been directed to ask you for a dispensation to give the first two degrees at St. Anthony when we get these petitions in and acted on. The date is, of course, still undetermined, but should probably be fixed some time between now and the first of December.

Fraternally,
(signed) GEO. P. BRYAN, Sec
I.F. Chapter No. 10,
Idaho Falls, Idaho

This letter was forwarded to me by Companion Chrisman, Past Grand High Priest. Following is my reply:

“November 6, 1931

George P. Bryan, Sec'y
I.F. Chapter No. 10,

Idaho Falls, Idaho
My Dear Companion:

Your request for dispensation to confer Chapter degrees at St. Anthony has been forwarded by Past Grand High priest Edward R. Chrisman to me. It affords me much satisfaction to grant this as our Chapters in Idaho are so widely scattered that many companions are deprived of the advantages of seeing the different degrees exemplified, and I feel such a move as you desire to make will create interest and promote the welfare of Capitular Masonry.

I wish to commend your Chapter and express my appreciation to your energy and interest in behalf of the order.

This permission is granted with the understanding that the work is put on in a suitable place and that integrity of Chapter Masons is duly safe-guarded.

Please advise me by letter just what is done.

Wishing you every success, I am

Fraternally,
(Signed) CHARLES W. CRANEY,
Grand High Priest

January 21st I issued a certificate as Grand Representative of Idaho to R.E. Companion Thomas Livingston, "Myora" Jeays St. Brisbane, Queensland, at the request of the Grand Jurisdiction of Queensland.

During the present year and particularly during the month of May, the entire nation is paying homage to the memory of George Washington. It is thoroughly in keeping with the principles and goals of the Royal Arch Masons that we proclaim our admiration for one who occupies such an exalted place in the history of our country. Washington, as I visualize him, was a kindly courteous gentleman endowed with wonderful qualities of leadership, a broad vision and sound judgment. George Washington, the Mason, is a fond memory of which this order is justly proud. Appropriate tribute will be paid him later in the session. In this connection I wish to say that I received an invitation from the National Committee of the George Washington Memorial Association inviting me to be present at the dedication ceremonies held May 12. I replied explaining that the date of our Grand Convocation made it almost impossible for any of the Grand Officers to attend but assured him I would make every effort to arrange for a representation. When Companion Cone was here I asked him to take the matter up on his return to the south and ascertain what could be done.

At the request of the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Idaho, I

responded to the toast offered by the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment on the occasion of their Christmas observance as follows:

Response of the Grand High Priest, R.A.M.

Sir Knights and Companions:

The urge which brought into existence the vast number of Crusaders of old should be as strong within us today as it was in them eight hundred years ago. Their ideal was to preserve to the world to the fullest extent that great Light which came into it with the birth of Christ and His sojourn here on earth.

We of the present, observing the signs of restlessness throughout the world and a tendency to deviate from the teachings of God, should take stock of our Masonic obligations and redouble our efforts to promote the principles of the great Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace whose perfect rule would bring peace and prosperity to all mankind.

As the Yuletide comes to you this year, please join in a sincere effort that we may divest our hearts and minds of all the vices and superfluities of life, and, ere the chimes of even-tide ring out on Christmas day, may we all feel secure in the knowledge that we have strengthened within us the determination to be just, considerate and faithful to the high ideals of our Order, baring in mind that charity and hospitality are the grand characteristics of the valiant and magnanimous Order of Christian Knighthood.

Fraternally,

CHARLES W. CRANEY,
Grand High Priest

Companions, I fear my report in places has taken on rather a pessimistic tone. It is not meant that way, however, a loss in membership, even a lessening in interest, in no way detracts from the fundamentals of masonry. It is so embracing it provides for our every need. It is only necessary for us as individuals to make proper application of its teachings, then will its influence be felt and its benefits spread throughout the world. Royal Arch Masons should array themselves in the forefront of all good citizens and exert every effort to stamp out the wave of organized crime which is engulfing the country today. We should have tolerance for human faults and differences of opinion, but there should be no compromise with ruffianism.

Some of the reports received from Chapters show them to be in excellent condition while others indicate that little or no progress is being made, and a rather serious situation exists. These Chapters are in need of bolstering up, not

only in morale, but also financially and some method should be provided for a measure of temporary relief. Rigid economy should be practiced for the time being in all departments of our organization.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Companions, inasmuch as the Grand Lodge of Masons has a charity fund in which we are all interested and also that they are organized to administer such a fund more advantageously than the Chapter, therefore, I suggest that Art. 3, Sec. 4, second R, be amended to read – “Reserve Fund” instead of “Masonic Charity Fund “. It should be our constant aim to increase this fund rather than deplete it. It could, however, be drawn upon for Grand Lodge charity work should their needs require it or could be utilized in any case of actual necessity. I suggest to the Finance Committee that they carefully scrutinize our financial structure and recommend economies which will hold our expenditures in proper relation to our income – bearing in mind that the constituent chapters need every consideration and advantage it is possible to give them.

For the benefit of constituent chapters, I recommend that the officers perfect themselves in the work, convene the meetings as nearly as possible at the appointed time and avoid any lagging in the proceedings. Nothing will so quickly renew interest in our Chapters as a proficient, wide-awake, workable organization.

To the Grand Representatives I recommend that they make it a point to advise the various jurisdictions they represent as to the activities and progress of the Idaho Grand Chapter.

I recommend that Chapters take into consideration the present disorganized financial conditions of our country and show leniency to companions who are, through necessity, becoming delinquent in their dues. To be made a Mason a man must be deemed worthy, it is not for his worldly wealth or position. If we heed our teachings we will be considerate of all men, particularly our companions of the craft.

Serving as the High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Idaho is one of the crowning achievements of my life and I am justly proud. I sincerely appreciate the loyal support and consideration I have received from all the Grand Officers. I am grateful for the friendship which has been given me by the various members of the craft.

It is my intention to devote more time and effort to the Royal Arch Masonry in the future than I have been able to during the past year and shall be most happy to assist my successor in any manner possible. Tomorrow he will assume his

official duties. I bespeak for him your continued whole-hearted and loyal support.

Fraternally,
CHARLES W. CRANEY

2025 Constituent Officers

As the new officer line takes the reigns of the various organizations, make 2025 a year to move your groups forward in a positive manner. The presiding officers should have a plan for their year and get buy-in from their officers.

Making a plan, putting dates to the various items and following through is critical in being a leader. When your year is finished, what is your final report going to look like? Did you accomplish your goals or did you just keep the seat warm until the next year?

BE PROACTIVE!!