

Summary of Presentation to Foreign Jurisdictions at Triennial

1. Foreign jurisdictions can be much closer today with Internet Communications. We all need to take advantage of this. We cannot include or respond to your needs without information and similarly, you cannot work with us if we do not communicate.

2. Communication points:

- a. We will introduce a Newsletter on line that will provide information from any jurisdiction that seeks to participate.
- b. Work with your Ambassador to send your news stories and pictures to: Bill Hyatt at bill.hyatt@ny-royal-arch.org. Newsletters will be issued as often as the format is filled.
- c. Subscribe to the Newsletter as follows: -
- d. Under 40's Group seeks members to assist the Ambassador in creating and submitting news stories and photos. Contact Justin C. Parnell to join – jarnell1982@charter.net.
- e. Ambassadors will offer RAM Magazine subscription at US\$11.00 per year.
- f. Use our website – www.yorkrite.org and click on the General Grand Chapter seal.

3. Information Reporting:

- a. Working with the General Grand Secretary is a two way street. He cannot provide information to you if you do not provide information to him.
- b. Advice of the Annual Convocation MUST be provided to the General Grand Secretary's office as soon as available. (It is the practice of most Grand Jurisdictions to make that decision before the close of the current Convocation).
 - We NEED this information in order to plan our schedule of visits by the Regional Deputy and the General Grand Chapter Officer. Each General Grand Chapter Officer has an average of 36 visits per year to schedule which is 3 air travel meetings per month and late advice of meetings causes much inconvenience.
 - We NEED the date of the Convocation for per capita payment information. On receipt of that date the General Grand Secretary will send a Report Form to the Grand Secretary to be included with the per capita payment –

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL AND RETURNED WITH THE PER CAPITA PAYMENT!!!

- This form includes information about your Grand Chapter that is essential to our mutual operation – such as the names and addresses of officers; a list of deceased Past Grand High Priests; details of the structure of your Grand Chapter with an explanation of membership numbers, demits, deaths, affiliates, exaltations, expulsions, number of perpetual Life Members, number of members who's dues were remitted. This is all basic administrative information that is required **each year**. If this is a burden for the Grand Secretary, then assign it as a responsibility to an assistant. **THIS IS A CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY – NOT AN OPTION**. There will be no awards or benefits provided unless this form is submitted complete and in a timely manner.

4. Awards: Every jurisdiction is entitled to select one member in the jurisdiction annually to receive the **General Grand Chapter Bronze Medal** for distinguished service. This member is chosen by the Grand High Priest. The recipient is usually not a Grand Line Officer but rather an untitled member who has distinguished himself by his devotion to the chapter or by some special service. This award is

presented at the Annual Convocation by the General Grand visiting Officer, Regional Deputy or the Ambassador. The selection must be submitted to the Regional Deputy for transmission to the General Grand Secretary at least 90 days before the annual convocation so that it can be engraved, prepared and packaged for transportation. Every Triennial, each jurisdiction is invited to submit to the Regional Deputy the name of an extraordinary individual Royal Arch Mason in his jurisdiction as a contestant for the **General Grand Chapter Silver Medal**. The winner is selected by the General Grand High Priest for presentation at the next Triennial. There is also a **GOLD MEDAL** which may be presented at each Triennial to a recipient chosen by the General Grand High Priest.

- **Sweetheart Award** is available for presentation to a lady who has distinguished herself by special service to the Grand Chapter. This is usually presented at the Annual Convocation by the General Grand Chapter visiting Officer, Deputy or Ambassador. This recommendation should come from the Grand High Priest and accompanied by details of the individual (as requested on the order form) and a payment of US \$100. (See the website for further details)

- **Ritual Award** is available to ritualists who have done exemplary work from memory. Please see the qualifications on the form provided or check the website for details. Send completed application to the Regional Deputy for approval. This, too, would normally be presented at the annual convocation by the General Grand Chapter representative.

- **Grand High Priest Recognition**. At the end of the term of the Grand High Priest, it is appropriate to recognize him for his activity. This is done with a plaque created in his honor to be presented with a lapel pin and Permanent Membership card in General Grand Chapter. In order to prepare this plaque, it is essential that the information be provided to the General Grand Secretary through the Regional Deputy at least 90 days before the annual convocation. This presentation will be made at the annual convocation by the General Grand Chapter officer attending.

5. Annual Convocation: Having received the date of the convocation well in advance, plans are made for a General Grand Chapter officer or the Deputy to try to attend. If not possible, the Ambassador will represent the General Grand High Priest. This officer will make such presentations are appointed, give the message of the General Grand High Priest and complete a **visitation report form**. This report form includes certain information that is also on the report of the Grand Secretary but is used for other purposes and requests information about the convocation that is important for us to learn. This report should be completed and returned to the General Grand Secretary as soon as possible after the convocation.

6. Regional Conferences: It has been recommended that regional conferences take place at least one time between Triennials. The jurisdictions within the region shall decide on which wishes to act as the host and then this decision, plus that of where to meet, must be discussed with the Grand Councils and the Regional Deputy for the General Grand Council so the decision is made with joint concurrence. The program should be determined in concert with the two Regional Deputies with them seeking input from the Grand Officers. General Grand Chapter will provide the Deputy with a CD-ROM that outlines the program for regional conferences in the USA as a guide only. Your conference should be a combination of information from the General Grand Bodies together with fulfilling the special needs of the Region. It is hoped that some of the session could be dedicated to ritual and symbolism. Time must be allocated for discussion. It is essential that the program not be dominated by a visiting General Grand Officer covering subjects not of interest to the region.

7. Expansion: It is in the best interests of every jurisdiction to be an ambassador to other jurisdictions who are not in the American Royal Arch system to promote our organization and offer assistance to any

who may wish to inquire about membership. Please keep the regional deputy informed of any ongoing opportunities.

8. The development in Africa is, for the time being, considered a part of the Europe/Africa region. To assist in the development of this very vast territory, we are grateful for the assistance of Most Excellent Teko Foly, PGHP of the District of Columbia and one well versed in the structure of politics and masonry in Africa. He holds the position of Special Deputy and reports to the Regional Deputy and to the General Grand High Priest.

9. We have also appointed Most Excellent Jaime Perez-Velez, PGHP of the Grand Chapter of Mexico, as Special Deputy for development in Latin America. His main responsibilities will be to develop a regional conference for Latin America and to explore other avenues of possible involvement for the region. He will work with the Ambassador to Mexico, Right Excellent Isaac Hadad and will report to the Regional Deputy and the General Grand High Priest.

10. We have further appointed Right Excellent Companion Christian Flores Maldonado, officer in the Grand Chapter of Brazil, to be our official representative to the International Masonic Confederation which membership includes the regular Grand Lodges of Latin America. This will give us the opportunity to be present at CMI meetings and to achieve exposure to those Grand jurisdictions that do not yet embrace our Royal craft. Companion Christian will report to the Regional Deputy and to the General Grand High Priest.

We are here to help you promote the growth and development of our Royal Arch system but you must help us by communicating and providing us with the information we need to help you. Your communications are always welcome so let us take advantage of this electronic age to shrink our world and become true Companions in the universality of international Royal Arch masonry.

Thank you.