

Greetings Companions;

Well, we made it to 2012! There were times last year that it did not look promising, but here we are. Now that 2012 has arrived, no doubt, you have already made your new year resolutions...and probably broke a couple already. I can relate my experience in the grocery business. The next working day of the New Year, my supervisor would ask, "What have you done for me lately?" I'd attempt to come up with a long list of accomplishments and then he would say, "But that was last year!"

Anyway, here we are ready to meet the challenges of life. We start a new program this year in the Grand Council: ritual competition. The two major reasons for our fraternal existence are for fellowship and to make Cryptic Masons. In order to stimulate ritual, the following program has been instituted.

Ritual completion is by a Council and consists of opening, receiving the District Inspector, and closing. This is much like the Grand Lodge completion. The first year is voluntary and I trust that many Councils will consider competing. In any case, it should put more emphasis on our work.

The rules are as follows: The completion dates are from January 1 to March 15, 2011. A council will request to be judged by informing the District Inspector. The District Inspector, then, is responsible for the judges and material. (Be sure and contact him early – March 10 will not do).

It is expected that the elected and appointed officers will fill their usual stations. Additional instructions are found in the informational package given to each council at last year's Annual Assembly. (I would be happy to email a Word copy to anyone who requests the same. [dale8661@aol.com]).

The several scores will be sent by the District Inspector to Tom Yingling, our Chairman of Ritual. The top three scoring councils will be re-judged by the board from April 1 to May 21, 2012 with the top score proclaimed the state champion for the term.

As we look ahead in the coming months, there are many Councils with candidates waiting to be greeted. As in blue lodge, if not conferred promptly, they lose interest. I am encouraging each Council to do their own work. If you need assistance, contact your District Inspector or any elected Grand Council officer. The more that the work can be done locally, the greater probability is of the local companions attending.

Several have inquired about the life membership fund. Our Grand Council officers are aware of your concerns and will address this issue in the coming few weeks. Keep in mind that our Grand Council passed legislation to divest funds from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter and maintain in the Grand Council.

The weather has been great in our area for travel. I have scheduled at least six visits this month and hope the weather holds for these. I will be in attendance on February 11 at Mt. Vernon for the York Rite day. I'm sure I will see many of you in the coming months ahead.

Fraternally,

Dale Lynn Corrice  
Most Illustrious Grand Master