

GRAND CHAPTER OF MANITOBA, ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Grand Scribe Nehemiah - MEC Rick Porter
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Minutes of Executive Council Meeting of January 21, 2024

In Attendance: As per registration sheet

Regrets: M. E. Companions Rick Laronde, Cliff Hartmier, Allan Hadley, Jack Fryatt and R. E. Comps. Ted Yorke and Brian Rountree.

Opening: REC Jim Murray, Grand "H", welcomed the Companions to the meeting being held January 21st, 2024 at 2:00 pm at the Portage la Prairie Masonic Center.

Invocation: M. E. Comp. Cliff Hardy gave the invocation.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: The minutes of the last Executive Council meeting, held on Sunday, September 23, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. at the Portage la Prairie Masonic Center, and which were e-mailed to all members were approved as circulated.

Business Arising:

1. Update on Grand Convocations:

M. E. Comp. Jon Romu, Grand "Z", advised the council that everything is booked. He will meet with the hotel approximately 1 - 1.5 months before the events to finalize the menus for the various meals. M. E. C. Romu wants every Chapter to receive Grand Convocation information from the Executive Council members. He advised that the ladies' programs for the Leaf tour and high tea on Friday and a card making event on Saturday morning are arranged and he noted that the "Whiskey and Cigar Tasting" as well as the Cork Degree are looked after. It was noted that R.E.C. Brian Rountree and M.E.C. Rick Laronde would be in charge of the Cork Degree. A brief discussion followed regarding all the necessary regalia for the Cork Degree and it was agreed that request for missing regalia should be sent to all Chapter members.

M. E. C. Romu went over all the information on the Grand Chapter web site. It was mentioned that some members felt that some information was missing from the web site and this will be looked into.

Discussions ensued on plans for the Grand Convocation including question of hospitality suite for those not taking part in Whiskey and Cigar Tasting and the Cork Degree. It was also mentioned that there would be a request for each Chapter to provide something for a raffle draw to be held at the end of the Convocation.

2. Update and discussion on the position of Grand First Principal:

R. E. C. Jim Murray advised the Council that due to the health of his wife, Margaret, he would not be able to advance to the position of Grand "Z" for the 2024-25 term. M. E.C. Jon Romu said he had discussed the situation with his wife and she agreed that he should serve a second year as Grand "Z".

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Motion: M.E. Comp. Cliff Hardy and M.E. Comp. Rick Porter

“That M. E. Comp. Jon Romu stay on as Grand “Z” for another year.” **Carried**

3. Update and discussion on the current state of RAM in Manitoba. See committee reports.

Committee Reports

- A. Laws and Jurisprudence:** (Chairman TBD) nil report
- B. Nominations:** (MEC R. Laronde) nil report but two nomination forms were submitted.
- C. Custodian of the Work:** (MEC R. McMillan) No report - Regrets
- D. R. A. R. A.:** (MEC R. Church) nil report
- E. Constitution and Revision:** (MEC R. Porter)

There were four amendments presented:

1. That the following sentence be added to article 32:
“All expenses in excess of \$15.00 will require a receipt.”
Article 32 will then read”
“He shall receive such compensation when traveling on the business of this Grand Chapter and such further sum as Grand Chapter may from time to time determine.
All expenses in excess of \$15.00 will require a receipt.”
2. That the following sentence be added to article 40. (27):
“All expenses in excess of \$15.00 will require a receipt.”
Article 40. (27) will then read”
“He shall receive such compensation for his services as Grand Chapter may direct.
All expenses in excess of \$15.00 will require a receipt.”
3. That a new article 119. (3) be added as follows:
“That nominations for the office of Grand Zerubbabel are restricted to companions who have held the office of Grand Haggai (Grand “H”) and Grand Joshua (Grand “J”)”
4. That the following words be added to the end of Article 81. Following the word
“Allies”:
“, or the centennial or bi-centennial commemorative jewel(s).”

Article 81 will then read:

“No honorary or other jewel or emblem shall be worn which shall not appertain to, or be consistent with, these degrees which are recognized and acknowledged by the

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Grand Chapter, except those of Grand Representatives, of Military Orders, The Knights of the York Cross of Honor, Order of the High Priesthood, or Insignia given by the Sovereign or Her Allies, or the centennial or bi-centennial commemorative jewel(s).”

F. Philanthropic Project: (MEC J. Hooper)

M. E. Comp. Jack Hooper advised we have \$5,066.51 to give to a charity this coming year but so far only one nomination received. It was agreed that we would give all chapters until the March Executive Council meeting to submit other nominations.

G. Education: (Chairman TBD) nil report

H. Budget and Finance: (MEC V. Bryll)

M. E. Comp. Vic Bryll presented his financial report, a copy of which is attached, for information. He reported that we were in good shape but that we would need a successful Convocation to restore our finances to 2023 levels. He also noted that he had only received annual return cheques from two chapters, Keystone # 5 and Keystone # 2.

I. Grievances and Appeals: (Chairman TBD) nil report

J. Condition of Capitular Masonry: (REC C. Uson “GJ”)

R. E. Comp. Chibu Uson reported that Prince Rupert Chapter No. 1’s field day saw 16 Mark Master Masons degree candidates, 20 Moat Excellent Masons degree candidates and 23 Royal Arch degree candidates at the November field day. They ended the year with 112 members. Keystone Chapter No.2 ended the year with 19 members. Keystone Chapter No. 5 approved the applications of 6 new members on January 16, 2024. Prince of Wales Chapter No. 11 had one meeting this past year. Red River Valley Chapter No. 21 had 6 new companions this past year. R. E. Comp. Ken Cox spoke about the November 18, 2023 field day and noted it went very well with help from Dennis Henny and his crew of presenters. M. E. Comp. Jon Romu stated that he hoped to have a field day every year.

K. Regalia: (MEC R. Laronde) nil report

M. E. Comp. Jon Romu reported that he only had 27 100th anniversary medals left; suggesting that we had covered or cost of production.

L. Grand Superintendent Reports: nil report

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M. **Grand Chapter Convocation:** (REC C. Uson “GJ”) see item 1 under Business Arising.

General Business:

Motion: M. E. Comp. Rick Porter and R. E. Comp. Chibu Uson
“That we \$50.00 to Portage Masonic Hall for the use of their facility.” **Carried**

Closing Comments: MEC J. Romu stated that he had been nervous about the future of Royal Arch but now thinks we are in good shape.
R. E. Comp. Ken Cox stated that he felt the executive council must be able to communicate with the Chapter Scribe “E’s”

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 in the Portage la Prairie hall at 2:00 P.M.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned by R. E. Comp. Jim Murray at 3:51 P.M.