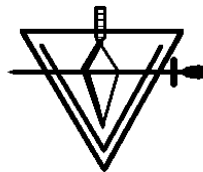


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**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**  
**AND**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**TO BE CONSIDERED**  
**AT OUR**  
**ANNUAL GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION**  
**AND**  
**ANNUAL GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**  
**TO BE HELD**  
**OCTOBER 20-21, 2008**

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**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT OUR  
ANNUAL GRAND CHAPTER CONVOCATION -- OCTOBER 20-21, 2008**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1  
Referred to Committee on Jurisprudence**

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas:

Whereas there is no specific Article in the Constitution and Laws of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas specifying assignment of Chapter to Districts, since the territorial jurisdiction requirements were repealed long ago. Nevertheless, the "Counties Composing Districts" pages in the Proceedings and Annual Returns of the Grand Council set forth the following:

**SEVENTH DISTRICT:**

Counties: Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Montgomery, San Jacinto,  
Walker, Waller, Washington  
Chapters: Jerusalem No. 3, Brenham No. 5, San Jacinto No. 7, Zerubbabel No. 30,  
W.T. Austin No. 87, Bellville No. 151  
Councils: Jerusalem No. 7, Brenham No. 22, Huntsville No. 7, Zerubbabel No. 26,  
W.T. Austin No. 52, Bellville No. 93

**EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

Counties: Chambers, Part of Harris, and Liberty  
Chapters: Goose Creek No. 408, Will N. Kidd No. 424, North Houston No. 472,  
Lloyd L. Gibson No. 481, Cleveland No. 490  
Councils: Goose Creek No. 339, San Jacinto No. 347, North Houston No. 387,  
Lloyd L. Gibson No. 394, Cleveland No. 405

And whereas, to align Cleveland R.A. Chapter No. 490, in order to enable it to better enhance, promote, and grow Capitular Masonry within areas where such rural R.A. Chapters and their respective communities connect with Cleveland R.A. Chapter No. 490, located in far western Liberty county, approximately 2.5 miles from both the Montgomery & San Jacinto County lines,

And whereas, the membership of Cleveland R.A. Chapter No. 490, has voted on April 25, 2008 in favor of the desire to move from District 8 to District 7, and it is believed that Jerusalem, Brenham, Huntsville, Zerubbabel, W.T. Austin, and Bellville Chapter's are in agreement with the re-alignment we submit:

The new alignment to be as follows:

**SEVENTH DISTRICT:**

Counties: Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Montgomery, San Jacinto,  
Walker, Waller, Washington, Liberty  
Chapters: Jerusalem No. 3, Brenham No. 5, San Jacinto No. 7, Zerubbabel No. 30,  
W.T. Austin No. 87, Bellville No. 151, Cleveland No. 490  
Councils: Jerusalem No. 7, Brenham No. 22, Huntsville No. 7, Zerubbabel No. 26,  
W.T. Austin No. 52, Bellville No. 93, Cleveland No. 405

**EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

Counties: Chambers, Part of Harris  
Chapters: Goose Creek No. 408, Will N. Kidd No. 424, North Houston No. 472,  
Lloyd L. Gibson No. 481  
Councils: Goose Creek No. 339, San Jacinto No. 347, North Houston No. 387,  
Lloyd L. Gibson No. 394

Fraternally submitted,  
The Members of Cleveland Chapter No. 490, R.A.M.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2**  
**Referred to the Committee on Work**

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas:

Whereas:

1. The Royal Arch lecture contains only a minimal explanation of the Key to the Mysterious Characters used in conferring the degree.
2. Candidates are entitled to a more detailed explanation of the key and characters, as it completes a significant lesson from the Master Mason's degree, and is a compelling reason that they petition for membership in the Royal Arch chapter.
3. Candidates who understand the degrees that they receive are more likely to increase their activity in their Royal Arch chapter.
4. The content for the "Keys to the Mysterious Characters" has been developed and presented at the 2007-2008 regional conferences of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas.
5. The best way to maintain integrity and protect the esoteric nature of the content of the presentation is to place it into the ritual of the Royal Arch Degree, under the auspices of the Committee on Work of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas.

Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ARTICLE 328 OF THE LAWS OF THE GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF TEXAS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 328B. ROYAL ARCH LECTURE. A chapter may, at its option, insert the "Keys to the Mysterious Characters" presentation, following its mention in the lecture, with accompanying text and slides, as authorized by the Committee on Work of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas.

Karl J. Krayter, PHP  
George Washington Chapter No. 422

**RESOLUTION NO. 3**  
**Referred to Committee on Jurisprudence**

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas:

WHEREAS Royal Arch Masons in Texas have advised the Committee on Work that the current numerous options in the ritual for use in conferring the Chapter Degrees are confusing and have made repeated requests to the Committee on Work for a standardized and more uniform ritual; and

WHEREAS The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, in its 158th Annual Convocation held in Waco, Texas on October 8, 2007, directed the Committee on Work to develop and present to Grand Chapter in its 159<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation in October, 2008, a determination as to which of the optional changes to the Ritual approved by this Grand Chapter during its 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convocation in December, 2001, have been useful to the Craft in conferring the Work, together with recommendations as to which of those changes should be retained: and;

WHEREAS the Grand Chapter's Committee on Work has made the required review and has made its determinations as to which of the recent changes have been useful and – in the opinion of the Committee - should be retained in a Standard Form of the Ritualistic Work, with appropriate "festival only" options;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Chapters continue to be allowed to use whatever language is expedient for calling between degrees, dispensing with labor, and resuming labor. In accomplishing these objectives, at a minimum the following actions are required:

Calling Down From Royal Arch to Another Degree or Dispensing with Labor in a Degree:

- Establish that there is nothing further to come before the Chapter or Lodge
- Use ritualistic language previously approved by Grand Chapter to check with the Secretary if preparing to do degree work in the Mark Master Degree or in any other degree for which the Secretary needs to verify that the appropriate fees have been paid.
- Call down to another degree or dispense with labor
- Inform the Guard

Calling Up From a Degree to a Higher Degree

- Establish that there is nothing further to come before the Lodge
- Purge the Lodge
- Call up to another Degree
- Inform the Guard

Resume Labor in Any Degree

- Purge the Lodge or Chapter
- Announce the resumption of labor
- Inform the Guard

2. Restore the requirements for giving the charges in the Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master degrees in the degree conferrals. These charges are not esoteric and may be read.

3. Return to the traditional full set of circumambulations in the Standard Form of conferral of the Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master degrees. Allow the “one round” circumambulation adopted in 2001 as a “festival only” option when necessitated by time constraints.

4. Return to the traditional form of the “reprimand” in the Mark Master Degree.

5. Reaffirm the 2001 elimination of redundant language in the Mark Master Lecture.

6. In the Past Master Degree - when there are multiple candidates (other than in a festival) - keep all of the candidates together until all have acquiesced to the Ancient Charges in the second section, and then take Candidates singly from this point until all have been seated in the Oriental Chair, grouping them again for the remainder of the degree beginning with the Bible Lecture.

7. Reaffirm the 2001 decision to designate the sentences immediately preceding and following the Ancient Charges in the Past Master Degree - together with the verbiage associated with presentation to the candidate of the Charter, Constitution, and Bylaws - as “esoteric” rather than “monitorial.”

8. Reaffirm the 2001 decision to classify the Bible Lecture in the Past Master Degree as a mandatory part of the Degree rather than being optional.

9. Reaffirm the 2001 decision to designate a portion of the floorwork in the Royal Arch Degree - beginning in the anteroom with "My brother, the noise and confusion which you have just heard is intended to represent the confusion which occurred at the destruction of King Solomon's Temple" and continuing through "We will go up. Remember the passwords, Brethren" - as esoteric except for the "Proclamation of Cyrus."

10. Reaffirm the 2001 decision - with regard to the Royal Arch Degree - that the hoodwinks and cabletow harness be removed from the candidates, and their shoes given back, in the anteroom before approaching the first veil so that they can see and react to the tactics at the first veil.

11. Reaffirm the 2001 decision to designate the last paragraph in the Principle Sojourner's Lecture (on approaching the first veil) as "esoteric."

12. In the Royal Arch Degree, return to the traditional form in which the Principle Sojourner reinforces the explanations of the signs given them by the Masters of the Veils by repeating them.

13. Return to making three trips through the Veils in the Standard Form of the Ritual for the Royal Arch Degree. Allow the "one trip through the Veils" procedure adopted in 2001 as a "festival only" option when necessitated by time constraints.

14. Reaffirm the 2001 decision to eliminate repetitive dialogue in the Royal Arch Lecture, substituting a brief description of the corresponding ceremonies.

Fraternally submitted,

Tim Towson, Chairman

Dale D. Secor, Eldon L. Brooks, Allan W. Dees, David G. Rogers

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 4**

#### **Referred to Committee on Recognition, Honors and Awards\* & Finance**

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas:

WHEREAS, a large number of the Constituent Chapters of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas has been in a continuing decline in membership numbers, participation, morale, support by members, and losses outnumbering exaltations, and

WHEREAS, there are Awards such as the Golden Keystone and Cornerstone Awards in recognition of personal achievement to distinguished Companions for dedicated service to the Grand Chapter and the individual Chapters, and

WHEREAS, there is no Award to recognize Chapters that excel in leadership, ritual proficiency (Except certification by Committee on Work), attendance, recruitment of Master Masons, outstanding management by the elected Officers, participation at Grand Chapter Sessions, support of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, support of recently exalted Companions, pride in dress, and the small things that impress the Community and other Masonic bodies to want to be involved with them, and

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas succeeds annually with the "Vanguard Award" to deserving Lodges that have exhibited many of the aforementioned qualities, and

WHEREAS, The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas has succeeded annually with the “Cross and Crown Award” to Commanderies meeting distinct requirements, and

WHEREAS, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Grand King, and Right Excellent Grand Scribe have no means by which to comprehensively understand the plight of Chapters which may be struggling to stay “alive” or no longer care about their condition and are on the verge of having to be merged or surrender their Charter,

Be It Therefore Resolved,

That an award, to be entitled the “Zerubbabel Award”, be established for the purpose of recognizing the Chapters in Texas that exhibit an enthusiasm to improve themselves and the state of Capitular Masonry in Texas.

Be It Further Resolved,

That the Zerubbabel Award shall be awarded to the Chapter with the greatest accumulation of points tabulated by the District Deputy Grand High Priests on their Official Visits to the constituent Chapters. That the Zerubbabel Award (to be designed later) will be awarded to the Chapter with the highest accumulation of points after the two visits. Second and Third place tabulations will receive plaques reflecting such. That there will be a special recognition to the three Chapters with the greatest improvement between the first and second visits. That a monetary award of \$150.00, \$100.00, and \$50.00 be awarded to the winning Chapters.

Be It Further Resolved,

That no Chapter, regardless of size, shall be exempt from participation. That, in fact, part of the purpose of the award is to establish a sense of competition and “Esprit de Corps” in the Officer ranks.

Fraternally submitted,  
Douglas Collins, PHP  
George Washington Chapter No. 422

**GRAND HIGH PRIEST RECOMMENDATION NO. 1**  
**Referred to Committees on Jurisprudence and Purposes and Policies\***

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas:

Whereas, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Texas has a special committee on History and Preservation for years 2004 through 2008.

Whereas, this special committee has shown positive results and has greatly contributed to this Grand Chapter, as demonstrated in the past by locating the photographs and burial sites of the Past Grand High Priests of the Republic of Texas of this Grand Chapter and other historical information; and

Whereas, this special committee can benefit The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas in the future, now

Therefore be it resolved, that the special committee on History and Preservation be made a regular standing committee of this Grand Chapter.

\* Committee to report on Recommendation.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT OUR  
ANNUAL GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY -- OCTOBER 8-9, 2007**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1  
Referred to Committee on Jurisprudence**

To the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas:

Whereas there is no specific Article in the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Texas specifying assignment of Councils to Districts, since the territorial jurisdiction requirements were repealed long ago. Nevertheless, the "Counties Composing Districts" pages in the Proceedings and Annual Returns of the Grand Council set forth the following:

SEVENTH DISTRICT:  
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Councils: Jerusalem No. 7, Brenham No. 22, Huntsville No. 7, Zerubbabel No. 26, W.T. Austin No. 52, Bellville No. 93

EIGHTH DISTRICT:  
Counties: Chambers, Part of Harris, and Liberty  
Chapters: Goose Creek No. 408, Will N. Kidd No. 424, North Houston No. 472, Lloyd L. Gibson No. 481, Cleveland No. 490  
Councils: Goose Creek No. 339, San Jacinto No. 347, North Houston No. 387, Lloyd L. Gibson No. 394, Cleveland No. 405

And whereas, to align Cleveland Council No. 405 R.&S.M, in order to enable it to better enhance, promote, and grow Cryptic Masonry within areas where such rural Councils and their respective communities connect with Cleveland Council No. 405 R.&S.M located in far western Liberty county, approximately 2.5 miles from both the Montgomery & San Jacinto County lines.

And whereas, the membership of Cleveland Council No. 405 R. & S.M. has voted on April 25, 2008 in favor of the desire to move from District 8 to District 7, and it is believed that Jerusalem, Brenham, Huntsville, Zerubbabel, W.T. Austin, and Bellville Councils are in agreement with the re-alignment we submit:

The new alignment to be as follows:

SEVENTH DISTRICT:  
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Councils: Jerusalem No. 7, Brenham No. 22, Huntsville No. 7, Zerubbabel No. 26, W.T. Austin No. 52, Bellville No. 93, Cleveland No. 405

EIGHTH DISTRICT:  
Counties: Chambers, Part of Harris  
Chapters: Goose Creek No. 408, Will N. Kidd No. 424, North Houston No. 472, Lloyd L. Gibson No. 481  
Councils: Goose Creek No. 339, San Jacinto No. 347, North Houston No. 387, Lloyd L. Gibson No. 394

Fraternally submitted,  
The Members of Cleveland Council No. 405 R.&S.M.

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY  
FOR E: GRAND SCRIBE



G. CLAY SMITH

George Washington Chapter No. 422, RAM  
Exalted 1994  
Endowed Member 1996  
High Priest 1999-2000  
Treasurer 2006 to Present

Love Field Chapter No. 478, RAM  
Plural Affiliation 1997  
Endowed Member 1997

Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas  
Credentials Committee 1998, 1999  
Order of High Priesthood 1999  
Grand Representative to Connecticut 2007 to present  
E: Grand Guard 2008



STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR  
I: GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK



GARY D. DIXON

Mineola Council No. 258, R&SM  
Greeted November 7, 1987

George M. Patrick Council No. 13, R&SM  
Affiliated 1999  
Endowed Member since March 26, 1999  
Thrice Illustrious Master 2001

Kilgore Council No. 366, R&SM  
Plural Affiliation July 16, 2002  
Thrice Illustrious Master 2003  
Council Instructor 2006-2007, 2007-2008  
Cryptic Triangle Award 2008

Grand Council R.&S.M. of Texas  
Order of the Silver Trowel 2001  
District Deputy Grand Master, Cryptic Dist. 4 – 2003  
Grand Council Tellers Committee 2003  
Assistant Grand Sentinel 2005  
New Councils Committee, Chairman, 2007

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR  
I: GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK



JAMES D. MANLEY

Tarrant Council No. 349, R&SM

Greeted March 16, 1989

Thrice Illustrious Master 1993

Endowed Member since June 16, 1994

Treasurer 1999-2002

Ridglea Council No. 400, R&SM

Affiliated February 19, 2003

Endowed Member since April 16, 2003

Recorder 2003-2008

Grand Council R.&S.M. of Texas

Order of the Silver Trowel 1994

Super Excellent Masters Degree

Committee on Work 2000-2002

Grand Conductor of the Council 2007

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR  
I: GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF THE WORK



JACK T. PEEBLES

Park Place Council No. 373, R&SM  
Greeted November 19, 1994  
Thrice Illustrious Master 2000  
Endowed Member since July 25, 2003

Grand Council R.&S.M. of Texas  
Order of the Silver Trowel 2000  
Super Excellent Masters Degree 2000

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY  
FOR TEXAS MASONIC RETIREMENT CENTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ORVILLE L. O'NEILL

Dallas Chapter No. 47, RAM  
Exalted 1980  
Endowed Member 1986  
High Priest 1987

Love Field Chapter No. 478, RAM  
Plural Affiliation 1988  
Endowed Member 1998

Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas  
Order of High Priesthood 1987  
E: Grand Captain of the Host 1991  
R:E: Grand Scribe 1995  
R:E: Grand King 1996  
R:E: Deputy Grand High Priest 1997  
M:E: Grand High Priest 1998  
Grand Representative to Arkansas 1998 to present  
T.M.R.C. Board 1998-2003  
R:E: Grand Secretary 2001-2008  
T.M.R.C. Board (Appointed) 2005-2008