

Grand Council of Knight Masons



Annual Report for 2019

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THE MOST EXCELLENT GREAT CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019



Greetings Sir Knights!

The electric clock seems to have been invented in the 1880s and we now keep time on smart watches, smart telephones and laptop computers! The entire pace of life seems faster and, of course, it is so. Technology today seems to demand our constant attention. The modern 'miracle' of the internet gives us the amazing capacity to access humanity's collective learning in the palm of our hand. But for many, such constant access can come at a cost! Our Masonic Chivalric Order is not immune from such forces that arise from time to time!

Modus vivendi: the dictionary tells us is *"a feasible arrangement or practical compromise especially one that bypasses difficulties"*! That is always the challenge that faces anyone who has the duty to make progress no matter whatever the obstacles that arise!

No doubt, actions are more important than words, and there are many of our members that carry out such positive deeds, but may not be adequately reported to the other many by those who know their good works and may assume the facts are adequately revealed.

An annual report is a summary of a year, which lays the foundation for the next. Moving into that future with hope, enthusiasm, and a renewed commitment is essential to our future success. An annual report that is simply a presentation of facts does not engage our audience; in fact, it might alienate some of them. No one feels inspired by a drab report of numbers. It is not a compelling experience, nor does it give a comprehensive sense of our Masonic Chivalric Order or the collective human force behind it. While it is called an annual "report," it should really be a communication of our story - and, really, the latest chapter in that story (since it is annual). Bullet points are not a story!

Our annual reports are a rare opportunity. Optimistically, the audience that views the reports already has an interest in our Masonic Order. That means it is our opportunity and responsibility to engage them.

No one wants to interact with a faceless organisation. By humanizing our work through story, our members can become more enthusiastically involved. Telling a strong story, backed by real-life results, helps our audience trust in us and in our work. The good news is that there is a lot more opportunity for storytelling in an annual report than we might realize.

When we talk about storytelling, we are talking about both the words we use and the presentation. Both work symbiotically to create a unique experience for our readers. Crafting our reports with these in mind is the best way to ensure success.

In order to bring to light the good works achieved by the many often almost "unsung" heroes within our Masonic Chivalric Order, it is my belief that those in "key" positions should be invited to offer their reporting relative to their specific areas of our Grand Council of Knight Masons. Therefore, I have requested that those who willingly devote themselves to the voluntary Grand Officer and Provincial Grand Officers responsibilities they have undertaken should be given the opportunity to provide a report of their respective management.

Like you the reader of this brief report for 2019, I look forward to reading the traditional and the new annual reports from my fellow Grand Officers, which I assume will be distributed early in 2020, and not later as in previous years.

The Grand Council of Knight Masons' Annual Reports for the calendar year 2019 are now expected from the following:

R.E. Deputy Great Chief; R.E. Assistant Great Chief.

R.E. Grand Scribe; R.E. Grand Treasurer.

R.E. Provincial Grand Superintendents

for

Greater Belfast; Ulster North; Mid-Ulster; Leinster & Overseas;

Ohio, U.S.A.; Australia; Greece; England & Wales;

V.E. Grand Scribe for Instruction.

I wish to pay my respects for the too many distinguished Grand Council of Knight Masons' Grand Officers who have been called to their "full life" during the year 2019. While we will always rejoice in all that they willingly and wisely contributed to our Masonic Chivalric Order, we remain bereaved along with their family loved ones. Our quarterly Grand Council of Knight Masons Stated Meetings Minutes have formally recorded our respects as the sorrowful news became known to us.

The highlights of the year 2019 for your Great Chief was to have the privilege of celebrating with many Councils and with Bermuda Council of Knight Masons, No.097, for their 10th Anniversary during the month of May. That opportunity arose because our loyal Knight Masons in Worton Council of Knight Masons, No.083, decided to expand Knight Masonry in Jamaica, by requesting another Warrant in honour of the late loved and respected R.E.S.K. G. Trevor Jones who was called to his reward on the 24th December, 2017. So it was, supported by generous Knight Masons from Jamaica and many other countries, the Constitution & Dedication of the G. Trevor Jones Council of Knight Masons, No.114, took place at Kingston, Jamaica on Monday, the 20th May 2019. All who attended in those days can attest to the commendable loyalty, enthusiasm and munificence of all our Knight Masons in Jamaica. I, on behalf of you who are the Grand Council of Knight Masons, wish to record our whole-hearted gratitude to our Sir Knights of so many Councils and in Bermuda and Jamaica for their fidelity to Masonry and, in particular, to our beloved Chivalric Order.

I am pleased to defer to my above mentioned fellow Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers to include within their respective annual reports many stories of joyful successes during the past year within their areas of voluntary responsibility.

Thank you for re-electing me to be your Great Chief and the leader for 2020. I hope to fulfil your expectations based upon my long-standing love for the Masonic message for the dignity of life and as inculcated within our Chivalric Grand Council of Knight Masons. Thank you for your loyal support over the past decades during which I have been privileged to serve you and our Masonic Order in various Offices.

Fraternally yours,

Bernard

Most Excellent Great Chief

THE RIGHT EXCELLENT DEPUTY GREAT CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019.

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

I have had the pleasure of representing Grand Council of Knight Masons in many locations on the Island of Ireland, from Coleraine in the north to Cavan in the south, Sligo in the west to Newry in the east and those in between.

In all I attended over sixteen Council Installations, I enjoyed the Sir Knights' company and their hospitality, for that I am truly grateful.

As I write these inadequate words on Wednesday 25th March 2020, we are living in strange times. Coronavirus is rampant in our society.

The last Council Installation I attended was on 11th March 2020, the following day ALL Masonic meetings were cancelled with effect from 6pm that evening until 29th March, this was later extended until 31st August 2020.

Till then look after yourselves, your families and your friends.

Venerable Sir Knight Timothy J. Coulter.
Right Excellent Deputy Great Chief.

THE RIGHT EXCELLENT ASSISTANT GREAT CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

I submit my annual report for my first full year in Office as your Assistant Great Chief. The year has passed quickly and has been mainly taken up with my work in updating and restructuring the Laws and Constitutions of our Chivalric Order, a task given to me by the Most Excellent Great Chief shortly after my appointment as his Assistant.

The year started with my attendance at the Installation Meeting of my own Council, Grafton Council No.100, which meets at Mark Masons' Hall in London. This was the first Council of the expansion of the Order in England and Wales, building on the interest in the Order created in Sassena Council No.084 by a number of Sir Knights who had ties to Irish Freemasonry and who joined our Chivalric Order in Dublin.

The membership of Grafton Council reads like a who's who of the leaders of the various Masonic Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall and is a testament to their commitment to Knight Masonry that they continue to support our Chivalric Order, by regular attendance at our meetings despite their own busy diaries.

In March I attended the Stated Meeting of Grand Council held in the Lodge Hotel in Coleraine, County Londonderry. This was preceded the day before by a series of meetings including the Finance Committee, the Communications Committee and the Joseph Karmel Fund Trustees and Operations Committee. On the morning of the Grand Council meeting there was the customary General Purposes Committee meeting followed by a splendid luncheon and the meeting of Grand Council.

The meeting of the Communications Committee reviewed the latest draft of the Laws and Constitutions and my next task was to incorporate these suggestions into the next draft.

In June I travelled to Dublin for the Stated Meeting of Grand Council at Freemasons' Hall, again preceded by a number of other meetings the day before, when I also attended the meeting of Sassena Council No.084 and the meeting of Victory Lodge No.478, when I was proposed as a joining member. The draft Laws and Constitutions were again reviewed, and I was made aware of the impending changes to the Grand Lodge of Ireland Laws and Constitutions, which would have to be taken into account in the final document.

October saw the Stated Meeting of Grand Council being held in Newry, County Down at the Mourne Country Hotel, again preceded by meetings the day before and at which I was given a copy of the latest Laws and Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which gained formal approval on 5th October 2019. These new Craft Laws and Constitutions would certainly influence the structure and content of the proposed changes to Grand Council Laws and Constitutions; hence the next draft would incorporate some major changes.

In December the Stated Meeting of Grand Council was held at Freemasons' Hall in Dublin and the Office Bearers for 2020 were Installed and Proclaimed. This meeting was again preceded by a series of other meetings and the latest draft of the Grand Council Laws and Constitutions was reviewed, with yet more suggested changes. It is worth saying that

the process of rewriting any set of Laws and Constitutions is always an interactive process and although there have been eight or nine iterations this is quite normal. At the meeting of Victory Lodge No.478 held on the Friday evening, I was received as a joining member and I can now say I am proud to be both a Knight Mason and a member of the Irish Craft.

As I write this report I am most aware that the world is in a very difficult place at the moment, the growth of the Coronavirus Covid-19 virus is threatening our social and economic life and represents a challenge that we have never faced in such proportions before. I am sure we will come out of this a stronger and hopefully a more tolerant society and I look forward to the next meeting of Grand Council with anticipation. I wish all Knight Masons good health with a hope that we all stay safe in 2020.

Right Excellent Sir Knight Angus P D Hannagan, R.D., M.St. J
Assistant Great Chief

THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND SCRIBE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights.

The ongoing administration of Grand Council continued unabated. The challenges were no different to previous years. However, the introduction of a number of Committees added to the workload. The Great Chief's Cabinet and the Centenary Celebrations Committee met on several occasions throughout the year, mostly, but not entirely, in conjunction with the Stated Meetings of Grand Council. The preparation and support for these Committee Meetings is vitally important and I must commend all those involved in the necessary work undertaken on behalf of us all.

It would be remiss of me if I did not mention the support I continue to receive from the Provincial Grand Scribes and the Scribes of subordinate Councils. Without their assistance and commitment, the administration of Grand Council would be much more onerous. I also wish to thank V.E.S.K. Barry Fawcett for his continued support and patience.

During 2019 I had the opportunity to visit several Councils, both at home and abroad. In all cases the welcome and the fellowship I received was remarkable. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the Sir Knights who went out of their way to make me feel welcome.

The trip to Bermuda and Jamaica in May, with so many Sir Knights who had travelled from different parts of the world, was a truly memorable occasion, I have lasting memories of the Sir Knights we met during that time, their friendship, enthusiasm and dedication was infectious and I thank them for their continued fellowship.

Whilst the decision of R.E.S.K. Clifford F. Bell not to seek re-election, as Grand Treasurer, did not come as a surprise to me, it caused me some considerable sadness. During Clifford's term in Office we had developed a close working relationship, but more importantly a close personal relationship, which I hope will continue. I thank him for all that he did for me and the Grand Council of Knight Masons. I look forward to working with the newly installed Grand Treasurer, R.E.S.K. Seamus Shields.

I wish to thank the Most Excellent Great Chief, the Officers of Grand Council and all the Sir Knights of our Chivalric Order for their help and support throughout the year.

Finally, in these difficult times please stay safe and well.

Right Excellent Sir Knight Warren G. Keil.
Right Excellent Grand Scribe.

THE RIGHT EXCELLENT GRAND TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

When I was appointed Grand Treasurer in March 2017, I decided that the main thrust of my endeavours should initially be to transfer the debt due to Grand Council from Provincial Grand Councils and Subordinate Councils into cash in the bank account. I was working on the principle that debt was only as good as the cash that it generated. I considered this essential, if only to show that a cash fund could be supplied to help us, as a Grand Council, celebrate our Centenary. In some regards this must still be considered a work in progress, but I have to thank the many members of Knight Masonry who helped me in this work, by bearing with me as I tried to put my thoughts across and settling their outstanding accounts when approached. This exercise brought me into contact with Knight Masons who I would never otherwise have had the opportunity to converse with. I can only speak for myself when I say that I found the interaction worthwhile.

Twinned with this aim had to be the idea of controlling costs incurred by Grand Council. In this regard I was lucky enough to work with a Grand Scribe of the calibre of R.E.S.K Warren Keil. Together we discussed and implemented cost cutting exercises and kept a tight rein on expenditure. The beneficial result of this, I believe, has manifested itself in improved liquidity and cash flow within Grand Council.

Regretfully health problems together with the decision of Grand Council to use the bookkeeping services of Grand Lodge, dictated that my time as Grand Treasurer should come to an end. I would like to thank the M.E. Great Chief for allowing me the opportunity to be Grand Treasurer, I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure of office.

I must also thank our Grand Scribe R.E.S.K Warren for his forbearance and tact in dealing with my foibles, our auditors R.E.S.K. A. Wallace and V.E.S.K. P. Hughes for their courtesy and professionalism in carrying out the audits of Grand Council Accounts. Most of all I would like to thank the rank and file for the way in which they allowed me to carry out my duties. I will miss you all.

We live in uncertain times and I hope that you all keep well and that we will be able to resume our meetings in the not too distant future.

Right Excellent Sir Knight Clifford F. Bell
Right Excellent Grand Treasurer (2019)

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE OF GREATER BELFAST ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight S. Bryans
Right Excellent Sir Knight F. Williams
Very Excellent Sir Knight L. S. Fisher
Very Excellent Sir Knight G. L. Coulter

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

Since our last report R.E.S.K. Frank Williams and I have been attending all our Council Meetings and Installations during the year. We have been delighted by the wonderful welcome and the warmth of friendship that we have experienced from the Sir Knights of Greater Belfast and beyond.

In Greater Belfast we now have twenty Councils. Frank and I were able to attend all the Councils either once or twice and in some cases three times. Our Councils are still suffering from low attendances and we all need to pull together and encourage our Sir Knights to attend their Councils and try to get those Sir Knights who are not attending to come back again. We also need new members to join our Councils and we ask our Sir Knights to search out suitable Royal Arch Companions to come along and become Knight Masons, but first making sure that they meet the criteria as per Grand Council laws and Constitutions.

Council No.032 has now decamped to the Province of Ulster North and is enjoying newfound success in Carrickfergus. I had the pleasure of attending their 2019 Installation. It was a very good Installation ceremony followed by dinner and an excellent attendance from both members and visiting Sir Knights.

Carrickfergus Council No.056 had their annual culture trip out on Saturday 18th May, along with lots of other Sir Knights from a number of other surrounding Councils. I am sorry I missed it as I was on holiday at that same time, but I have been told that it was a great day out. In 2020 they would like to come to a venue in the Province of Greater Belfast and

we are looking forward to that and making plans for same. The date they have selected for the culture trip is Saturday 9th May 2020 and the venue chosen is Donaghadee, Co. Down. They would like to see a Degree carried out by a team from our Province and then have a lunch after the meeting. The lunch will, all being well, be held at Galwally House in Belfast. We have been promoting this event over the past 6 months and have asked for support from the Sir Knights of Greater Belfast and would ask them to get on board with this visiting initiative.

With regard to ceremony and ritual our new Class got off to a wonderful start then closed for the summer break. It started again in October and is still in full swing until April 2020. From January 2020 it will meet in Galwally House. The North and East Down Class continues to meet on the second Wednesday of each month delivering the Knight Mason ritual to their members in a constructive and informative manner. I would like to thank all those V.E.S.Ks. who are involved in delivering Knight Mason ritual to those Sir Knights who take the time and interest to attend the Classes of Instruction.

To all Sir Knights I would urge you to check with your Scribe to see if you are due to receive a 25-year Jewel and Certificate, or a 40-year bar and Certificate. If so, your Scribe will source these for you and arrange for their presentation. There are new 40-year and 50-year awards, which are now coming as pin buttons that you pin onto your 25-year jewel as and when the time is appropriate to receive them. Recently at a joint meeting of Council No.009 and Council No.045 I had the pleasure of attending, along with R.E.S.K. Frank Williams, to present two 40-year Certificates. The recipients were V.E.S.K. Lawrence Fisher (045) and V.E.S.K. Clifford Millar (045 & 009). Clifford has been receiving hospital treatment for some months now and we wish him a speedy recovery back to good health

The new Galwally House is due to open in January 2020 and the Mount Masonic Centre will be closed down. Three Councils have applied to move to Galwally House, Council No.009, Council No.045 and Council No.051. Their Installations are coming up soon and we look forward to being in attendance to see the new Excellent Chiefs and Officers elect coming into their new Offices. We have had a busy and enjoyable year and we are looking forward too many more visits and good times with the Sir Knights of Greater Belfast and along with them, in attending our Grand Council Meetings.

Our Province has been operating and running very smoothly and I have to give thanks to our Scribe and Treasurer V.E.S.K. Lawrence Fisher and V.E.S.K. George Coulter.

Best Wishes to all Sir Knights for a great New Year.

Right Excellent Sir Knight Steve Bryans P.G.S.K.
Provincial Grand Superintendent for Greater Belfast.

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE OF ULSTER NORTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight R. Black
Right Excellent Sir Knight I. Scott
Right Excellent Sir Knight R.S. Burnside
Very Excellent Sir Knight W. Brown
Very Excellent Sir Knight C. Bones

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

2019 was busy as usual. R.E.S.K. Sam Burnside, appointed Deputy Grand Superintendent in December 2018, has commenced his post with enthusiasm. He and R.E.S.K. Ivan Scott have been a tremendous help in our visitation of our Councils and I want to thank them plus V.E.S.Ks. Billy Brown and Cyril Bones, who form the rest of my team, for the energy and input they all give as we oversee Ulster North.

The North West Class of Instruction is now meeting in Bishop Street, Derry and now covers the north west of the Province. Attendance is good.

Steeple Council No.005 exemplified the Knight of the Sword & Knight of the East Degrees in a very acceptable manner and was complimented on their delivery. Roe Valley Council No.043 hosted Persia Council of Research and it was gratifying to see the good turnout of Knight Masons. Perhaps we should consider more invitations to venues in Northern Ireland.

Congratulations to Excellent Sir Knights Robert Dane, Council No.015 and Trevor Blair, Council No.056, who have been elected to the Grand Council of Instruction. This further strengthens Ulster North in conferring Degrees and imparting knowledge through our Classes of Instruction.

The Northern Ireland Class held its Annual Dinner in April, which catered for members and guests and was well attended.

Carrickfergus Council No.056 organised a bus to the Grand Council Meeting at Newry, which was filled by Sir Knights from quite a good number of Councils. The now annual outing organised by Ex. Knight Steve Shimmom and his team, who did all the organising as usual, was to Letterkenny Council No.060 where a Degree was exemplified, and a Festive Board held. This trip is becoming so popular that the bus was completely full.

Thanks to all our Councils, who submitted their Annual Returns in good time, and also Finance and Capitation. This makes everything work smoothly.

Our now regular meeting with Greater Belfast Officers to discuss, share and assist each other, still takes place and is very helpful to both Provinces.

Finally, if in the Straid region on a Saturday morning and are feeling peckish, call at Straid Masonic Hall where Tom & Mary cook a Big Breakfast. I guarantee you won't need lunch that day!

Right Excellent Sir Knight Robert Black
Provincial Grand Superintendent Ulster North.

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE OF MID-ULSTER ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight R. Imrie.
Right Excellent Sir Knight A. Imrie.
Very Excellent Sir Knight W. F. Cooper.
Very Excellent Sir Knight I. Knox.

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

I am pleased to report that Knight Masonry in the Province of Mid-Ulster is continuing to thrive; the 18 Councils are all working well and maintaining a good standard of ritual. The Province had a slight decrease in applications last year with 15 new members being approved, down 2 on the previous year, but with more in the pipeline.

Over the past year the Province has again suffered the passing to the Great Council above of 10 Sir Knights and especially the loss of a member R.E.S.K. Bobby Robinson of Mid-Ulster Council No.031 in Portadown and his good friend R.E.S.K. Graham Brown of St Patrick's Council No.024 in Armagh, who was predeceased by his wife 2 days earlier. I wish to again extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of these departed Sir Knights. I also take this opportunity to wish all those Sir Knights, who are suffering illness or have illnesses within their family circle, a return to good health.

It gave me pleasure to be present at Grand Council in Mourne Country Hotel Newry, hosted by West Down Council No.033 in the Province of Mid-Ulster on the 26th October when, Sir Knight J. Karl Magee of St Patrick's Council No.024 Armagh and Mid-Ulster Past Chiefs Council No.092, was elected a Very Excellent Grand Steward in Grand Council for the year 2020.

I have been very well received at all the Councils that I have visited and at the Installations that I have attended. The Excellent Chiefs have installed their Officers in a dignified and efficient manner, most having attended a Class of Instruction and it showed. On some occasions, I have had the privilege of installing the Excellent Chief.

The two Classes of Instruction in the Province, Mid-Ulster Class in Tandragee and North & East Down Class in Saintfield, continue to operate well to maintain and improve the standard of ritual. They are only too happy to guide and assist any Sir Knight or Council. I would appeal to any Sir Knight travelling through the various Offices to attend the Classes, as they are very beneficial both in imparting knowledge, but also in gaining confidence to perform their duties within the Council.

I am happy to report that all the Councils are showing healthy financial accounts for the year ending December 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the permanent Officers of all the Councils in Mid-Ulster for the work that they do and for the time and effort they put in to keeping their Councils running smoothly.

This concludes my 2019 Report for Mid-Ulster.

R.E.S.K. Robert Imrie P.G.S.K.
Provincial Grand Superintendent for Mid-Ulster.

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE OF LEINSTER & OVERSEAS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019.

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight G. G. Ashton
Right Excellent Sir Knight J.S. Haynes
Very Excellent Sir Knight M. Griffiths.
Very Excellent Sir Knight L. Fifield.

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

2019 was once again a busy year in the Province, both here in Leinster and “Overseas”.

I had the pleasure of visiting nearly all the Councils within “Leinster” during the year, with the exception of Eden Council No.073 in Limerick and Cork Council No.010. However, I was delighted that our Grand Superintendent, R.E.S.K. Geoff Ashton, did “officiate” as Grand Officer at both of these Council’s Installation meetings & dinners.

R.E.S.K. Geoff continues to be in good spirits despite his health problems, however, until such time as he is able to return fully functioning, the Great Chief has asked me to take up additional responsibilities within the Province.

We have welcomed the appointment of V.E.S.K. Brian Williams as the new Provincial Grand Treasurer, taking the place of V.E.S.K. Lionel Fifield, who has now retired from the position. Once again, I take this opportunity to thank V.E.S.K. Lionel for his contribution to our Province over his years in office.

Our hard-working Provincial Grand Scribe, V.E.S.K. Mike Griffiths, continues to provide a very valuable contribution to the day to day work within the Province and I thank him sincerely for his time and commitment to this work.

Our Annual General Meeting took place at Freemasons’ Hall Dublin, on 2nd February 2019 and we were delighted to welcome representatives from Great Chief’s Council and Councils No.001, No.006, No.012, No.013, No.029 and No.073. Apologies having been received from Councils No.054 and No.072. One of the main topics of discussion was the formation of some form of “Class of Instruction”. I am happy to say that since then, under the guidance of V.E.S.K. Jerry O’Connor, we have held several “practice” sessions on ritual and these culminated in the Province doing a demonstration for the Grand Council of Instruction in November, which was most successful thanks to the commitment and hard work of many Sir Knights from within the Province of Leinster. It was so successful that we have been asked to do another similar demonstration or exemplification, later this current year for the Grand Council of Instruction.

I had the pleasure of being invited to attend the 10th Anniversary celebrations of Bermuda Council No.097 during the month of May – see my report in the October edition of the Trowel. This was a most enjoyable first ever visit for me to the beautiful island of Bermuda. From there we carried on to Jamaica, where we were joined by very many more Sir Knights from various parts of the world, for the Constitution and Dedication of the G. Trevor Jones Council No.114, which was held on 20th May. Again, see the October Trowel for a full report.

The kindness and hospitality that has been extended to me throughout the year from each Council that I have had the pleasure of visiting, has been quite overwhelming. To each and every one of you I simply say a very big Thank You.

I am very happy to report, that in Leinster we have yet again increased our membership at virtually all the Councils. It is very encouraging to see the enthusiasm, particularly amongst our younger members, in joining our Chivalric Order and see their eagerness to learn the new Degrees and partake in them. I sincerely hope that, with encouragement from more senior members, these younger Sir Knights keep attending our meetings and progress quickly “up the ladder” to take over positions of responsibility within the Councils, leaving us more “long in the tooth” members retire gracefully to the back-benches.

As preparations for our next A.G.M. at the end of February continue, I want to pay a particular tribute to our Provincial Grand Scribe, V.E.S.K. Mike Griffiths, for his patience and assistance with all of the Scribes in the Province in ensuring that they completed the “on line” Annual Returns. This has not been an easy task, but he persevered and ensured that all were completed on time. Thank you, Mike.

I look forward to visiting as many of our Councils as is possible during 2020. I shall be hoping to hear from ALL Councils of any plans that they may be formulating to make the celebration during 2023 of the Centenary of Knight Masonry, a BIG event within their own Council during that year, as well as participating in the planned Centenary celebrations which will take place in Freemasons' Hall during June 2023.

Sincere & fraternal greetings to all,

Right Excellent Sir Knight John S. Haynes
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent for Leinster & Overseas.

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE OF OHIO, U.S.A. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight J. C. Eckard.
Right Excellent Sir Knight K.D. Crouse.
Right Excellent Sir Knight J.B. Parker IV.
Very Excellent Sir Knight C.F. Froehlich.
Very Excellent Sir Knight W.R. Malone.

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights:

Another year has passed, and we are continuing to try to build on our successes.

Kilwinning No.062, our oldest Council, is continuing to improve. Having lost a very important ritualist due to death and another to resignation, they are rebuilding their Conductor group and have moved to another location in Muskingum County.

Ohio River No.063 is struggling. We are not sure of all the reasons, but we are looking forward to some new members in 2020.

Fowler No.064, which was in trouble in 2018, grew by 5 new members in 2019 and we will install a new Excellent Chief in February. The Scribe retired and they have a new Scribe who is "learning the ropes".

Emerald No.070 completed their 20th anniversary and V.E.S.K. Dale G. Ray, Jr., has notified them that he will retire after 2020. They have 4 new members.

Shannon No.028 has been doing very well. If you look at the Annual Report, you would think it not the case, but the new Scribe, E.S.K. Raymond Bishop, went through the rolls and found that they were paying capitation fees for a number of individuals who were deceased or had not paid dues for years. He contacted all and was forced to strike many from the roll.

Killarney No.076 had only one new member this year and was forced to move back to Salem, Ohio, (Where they were originally Constituted) because of rent costs.

Charles Asa Brown No.081 is in good hands and growing. They now have a music and slide show for their entrance, which is wonderful to witness. They are looking forward to the Great Chief's visit.

Crawford No.082 is a different story. R.E.S.K. Robert D. Blankenhorn, Jr., who was their long time Scribe and Past Grand High Priest of Ohio, died of cancer. He will be sadly missed by all and a hard act to follow

Claddagh No.086 is barely holding its own for the time being and we are very concerned as to its future. They have enough members, but there seems to be a lack of commitment at this time. We are working on it.

Archer B. Purvis Ohio Past's Chief's No.089 is doing well. Our membership is growing and we have purchased green and blue sashes for our Councils to use for Degree work, as most cannot afford to make such a purchase. We have developed a reference manual which contains all the lectures and movements, the forms to be used and other items of interest to be distributed to the Scribes, Excellent Chiefs, Senior and Junior Knights for reference.

We have also developed a Power Point program to be used in the various Royal Arch Chapters for recruitment. We have R.E.S.K. Peter Ossai, P.G.DoC., P.D.G.S., for the bulk of that work.

R.E.S.K. James Parker, P.D.G.S., has travelled with me almost everywhere this year and is a welcome partner. We have attended all the meetings in the Province as well as a meeting of Knight Masons, U.S.A., held at our Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. They had a Class of about 15-20, but we found at least two of their members interested in our

Councils along, with several members of Prince Hall R.A.M. Officers showing interest as they are currently not eligible for Knight Masons, U.S.A. We shall see what happens there.

We did speak with the M.E.G.C. of Knight Masons, U.S.A., at that meeting and the new Great Chief is the immediate Past Grand Commander of Ohio Knights Templar.

We would like to thank the M.E. Great Chief for all the work he does to promote Knight Masonry both here, in Ireland and overseas.

The Province of Ohio, U.S.A., would like to wish all Knight Masons of all the Provinces within Grand Council, good health to enjoy your Knight Masonry and a most enjoyable and rewarding 2020.

Right Excellent Sir Knight James C. Eckard
Provincial Grand Superintendent State of Ohio, USA

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight R. C. Barnes.
Right Excellent Sir Knight A.H. Coleman.
Right Excellent Sir Knight R.J. Brown.
Very Excellent Sir Knight W.R. Harding.
Very Excellent Sir Knight G.J. Duff.

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

During 2019, the Province of Australia has established workable and consistent administrative procedures with the principal Grand Council administrators – the R.E. Grand Scribe and the R.E. Grand Treasurer. This has enabled several matters to be clarified and resolved. For this, I must thank “our” Provincial Grand Scribe, R.E.S.K. W.R. (Bill) Harding for his tireless efforts in working with both the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Scribe in resolving long standing matters for the good of the Order generally.

I also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Grand Treasurer for all his work in providing “clarity” regarding some of those long-standing matters.

Both R.E.S.K. Alan Coleman P.G.S.K. P.D.G.S. and R.E.S.K. Ian Blair P.D.G.S., continue to promote the interests of Knight Masonry throughout the Province. Both of them travel widely throughout our very large Province and both continue to represent the Order at Grand Installations and Proclamations around Australia. Their efforts in promoting the interests of Knight Masonry at the highest levels in Freemasonry in general are applauded.

R.E.S.K. W.R. (Bill) Harding, Provincial Grand Scribe, continues to work very hard to ensure that the Province functions efficiently and well.

Our V.E. Provincial Grand Treasurer, V.E.S.K. Graham Duff, also continues to work hard in ensuring the financial viability of the Province and I thank him for his efforts.

Achmeta Council No.055 continues to experience steady growth and has a steady stream of candidates in progress. The future of Achmeta Council No.055 and Knight Masonry in Queensland is bright.

Samuel R. A. Hogg Council No.039, meeting at Zetland Masonic Temple in, Kyneton, Victoria has stabilised following the loss of its mainstay, the late R.E.S.K. Robert (Bob) Brown and has admitted a new Knight Mason and restructured its activities. With the new team and firm direction, I expect that Samuel R.A. Hogg Council No.039 will grow in 2020.

Nebuchadnezzar Council No.085, meeting in Launceston, Tasmania, is stable, but is beginning to grow due to the alignment of Meetings with St Patrick’s Royal Arch Chapter No.085. The meeting of these two closely connected Orders has greatly enhanced membership interest, particularly in Victoria, as it makes the necessary interstate air travel much more worthwhile. Continuing steady growth is expected in 2020.

Esdras Council No.090 is considering a move to the newly developed Masonic Centre in Melbourne, however, given the likely popularity and limited availability of meeting days at the new Centre, it may take until mid-to- late 2020 to resolve. Esdras Council No.090 now has Candidates and will grow steadily, regardless of the proposed change in meeting location.

Ecbatana Council No.095 is growing at the Ringwood Masonic Centre, to the East of Melbourne, thanks to the efforts of the Council administrative team.

Duke of Leinster Council No.093 continues to grow in Adelaide, South Australia, with a regular stream of Candidates joining the Order from the Duke of Leinster Royal Arch Chapter.

The "K.M. Trowel" is especially important in the Province of Australia - keeping all Knight Masons in the Province in touch with the greater Order and is actively sought by members of other Masonic Orders. Thus, the "K.M. Trowel" is an excellent advertising and recruiting tool.

I have noted that the standard of work in each of the Degrees continues to improve throughout the Province, with more Past Chiefs showing a preparedness to take on the ceremonial aspects. Furthermore, the general work of the Officers in the Councils also continues to improve with the broadening of the experience base in each Council.

Yours fraternally and sincerely,

Right Excellent Sir Knight Robert C. Barnes P.G.S.K.
Provincial Grand Superintendent Australia.

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE OF GREECE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight D. Kontesis
Right Excellent D. Mamas
Very Excellent Sir Knight D. Wilson
Very Excellent Sir Knight A. Lempesis

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

2019 was marked by the change of the Provincial Grand Scribe, V.E.S.K. Andreas Blamoutsis, our good friend and Provincial Grand Scribe, from the beginning of the Province, decided to step down. I thank him for his generous support to the Province the first five years and his loyalty to the Order. I wish him health and I am sure that he will continue to advise us for many years in the future. He was succeeded by V.E.S.K. Denis Wilson and I welcome him to the team. I trust he will add his valuable experience to our organisation.

The Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent attended the June G.C.K.M. Meeting held in Dublin and I attended the December G.C.K.M. Meeting held in Dublin and the meeting of the Committee of General Purposes preceding it. Both of us had a wonderful time as always with generous hospitality.

Our Annual Meeting was held for the first time outside of Athens, on 22nd February 2019, in the island of Zakynthos after a nice dinner in the Masonic Hall of Zakynthos in a harmonious atmosphere and in the presence of a number of local Sir Knights, giving to us the opportunity to share with them the way of the administration of our Chivalric Order. The Annual Meeting was planned to be held on Saturday morning 23rd February, but due to the weather conditions and the strong possibility of those who travelled by car from Athens, to be blocked on the island, was decided, wisely in the end of the day, to be held the evening before, after the Installation Ceremony of the new Excellent Chief of Amici Fedeli Council No.106.

The Committee of Inspection of the Province worked regularly this year, sometimes through Skype, always with success and I would like to thank the Scribe E.S.K. Dimitris Athanasekos, for his first year and I am sure that he will assist the Committee efficiently and effectively for many years.

The Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent travelled from our Province, to Bermuda and Jamaica. He attended the 10th anniversary of Bermuda Council No.097 in Bermuda. He then acted as Grand Director of Ceremonies at the Constitution and Dedication of G. Trevor Jones Council No.114 in Kingston, Jamaica. He was then invited by the M.E. Great Chief to install the first Excellent Chief of the new Council. In attendance was also the Past Depute First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, M.E.C. William McEwan, accompanied by M.E.C. Hugh Edmond, Past Grand Scribe, M.E.C. R. Craig, Provincial Grand Superintendent for Stirling and Clackmannan and M.E.C. T. Strang.

The Provincial Grand Officers attended the Installation meetings of the Councils.

The Installation of Temple of Jerusalem Council No.109 was honoured by the presence of The M.E. Great Chief, M.E. Sir Knight Bernard V.A. Woods G.K.M., P.G.S.K.

The number of the members in the Province was increased by nineteen new Sir Knights and one re-joining, but unfortunately, we missed for many reasons ten members, a total net gain of ten members for 2019.

The website of the Province, www.knight-masons.gr, runs successfully by the Deputy Provincial Grand Superintendent.

The Directory & Calendar of the Province for 2020 will be published and will be distributed to all the members and I thank Alethia Council No.096, sponsor of the edition for one more year.

I thank the M.E. Great Chief, M.E. Sir Knight Bernard V.A. Woods for the trust and his generous support to the Province.

I thank my colleagues Provincial Grand Superintendents for their wise advices sharing generously with me their rich experience.

Thanks to the Grand Scribe R.E.S.K. Warren Keil and the staff in Molesworth Street for the assistance.

I finally thank my Deputy and the Provincial Grand Treasurer for their efforts for the operation of the Province and the support to the Councils and I wish continued in success in the next year.

I wish health and prosperity to all of you and your families.

Right Excellent Sir Knight Dimitrios A. Kontesis
Provincial Grand Superintendent for Greece

G.C.K.M. PROVINCE ENGLAND AND WALES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Provincial Grand Superintendent
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent (North)
Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent (South)
Provincial Grand Scribe
Provincial Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent Sir Knight A. J. Darlison.
Right Excellent Sir Knight C. Macdonald.
Right Excellent Sir Knight R.G. Fretten.
Very Excellent Sir Knight S.A. Mighall.
Very Excellent Sir Knight Dr. P. Mycock.

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

The Province has completed its third full year. The Provincial Officers have again displayed a considerable commitment to the task of consolidating the Councils in the Province. Thanks must be given to the Deputy Provincial Superintendents R.E.S.K.s Chris Macdonald in the North and Ray Fretten in the South: to the Provincial Grand Scribe V.E.S.K. Simon Mighall and the Provincial Grand Treasurer V.E.S.K. Dr. Paul Mycock, these latter two, despite ongoing health problems, have again discharged their duties in a commendable manner.

The Provincial Meeting held on 25th April at Kings Heath Birmingham, was only attended by 26 Sir Knights in the Province. The low attendance is due to the logistics of the Province; from Gateshead in the North to Bodmin in the south is c430 miles. The closest Council in Westhoughton is 105 miles from Birmingham and the furthest is from Bodmin c225 miles. Another factor in the low attendance is the use of the web, as much of the Provincial business is conducted by email.

With the considerable assistance from E.S.K. D. Monk (Scribe of Media Britannia Council No.102 a booklet of a suggested breakdown of the Conductor's ritual was presented and sent to all the Councils in the Province and has proved to be very successful The opening paragraph of the booklet states:-

- "The following ritual parts start at the point where the Great and Mighty King or the Excellent Chief tells the Candidate that further instruction will be given. They show a possible break where another Conductor can take over, thereby enabling more Sir Knights to be involved in the Degree ceremonies. The remainder of the rubric and ritual relating to the Conductor and the Candidate(s) is as per the ritual book". (A copy of the booklet is held by the Grand Scribe as an A5 and A4 in word format.)

The Province's 11 Councils had a net gain of 28 Candidates after a number of resignations from the Councils that had assisted in receiving potential founders of other councils. The prospects for a significant number of new members to the Order, next year, are very good. There are 19 in the pipeline some of whom will be members by the time this report is read.

The Province is still in a period of consolidation to improve its administrative structure. A Provincial Yearbook is in the process of being produced, as well as a Provincial web site. The trifold leaflet on Knight Masonry in England produced by E.S.K. Richard Goodwin (Cyrus-Sasana Council No.103), is still being well received by members and potential members.

Right Excellent Sir Knight Anthony J. Darlison.
Provincial Grand Superintendent for England and Wales.

GRAND COUNCIL OF INSTRUCTION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Very Excellent Grand Scribe for Instruction
Very Excellent Assistant Grand Scribe for Instruction

Very Excellent Sir Knight R. W. Lamont.
Very Excellent Sir Knight D. McCormick

Most Excellent Great Chief and Sir Knights,

Sadly, one of our Elected Members R.E.S.K. John Wallace Emerson P.G.S.K., passed away on 17th May 2018. R.E.S.K. Emerson was a member of the Grand Council of Instruction for many years, though his health prevented him playing an active part in recent years.

The Closed Meeting of The Grand Council of Instruction was held on Saturday 25th May 2019. The annual election of the Grand Scribe for Instruction and the Assistant Grand Scribe for Instruction took place, with V.E.S.K. Roy W. Lamont re-elected Grand Scribe for Instruction and V.E.S.K. Desmond McCormick elected Assistant Grand Scribe for Instruction. V.E.S.K. McCormick was congratulated on his election and the outgoing Assistant Grand Scribe for Instruction R.E.S.K. Sam Clyde was thanked for his service in that post. At the same meeting E.S.K. Trevor Blair of Carrickfergus Council No.056 and E.S.K. George Robert Dane of Erne Council No.015, were elected to membership of the Grand Council of Instruction subject to ratification by Grand Council.

The Report by the Grand Scribe for Instruction on the decisions taken at the Closed Meeting of the Grand Council of Instruction, was presented at the June Meeting of Grand Council and approved.

The first Open Meeting of The Grand Council of Instruction in 2019 was held on Saturday 6th April 2019 in the Masonic Hall Antrim. The exemplification of the Degree of Knight of the East and West was carried out by a team comprising of Sir Knights from Steeple Council No005, Carrickfergus Council No.056 and Thiepval Council No.078. It was an extremely good meeting with an excellent performance by the team. There were 35 Sir Knights in attendance.

The second Open Meeting was held in Dublin on Saturday 9th November 2019. A composite team drawn from seven councils in the Province of Leinster exemplified the Degree of Knight of the Sword. The Sir Knights were drawn from Great Chief's Council, Sharavogue Council No.001, Cork Council No.010, St. Georges Council No.012, Media Council No.013, Cyrus Council No.029 and Eden Council No.073. This also proved to be a very successful Meeting, despite the E.S.K. who was due to take the Office of Great & Mighty King, having to be replaced at very short notice due to the sudden illness of a member of his family. There were 50 Sir Knights present.

The Classes of Instruction continue to carry out an outstanding service in trying to raise the standards of ritual. Sadly, they are still hampered by the poor attendances at the Classes. The Sir Knights attending the Classes are all grateful to the Class Leaders and Officers for the work they carry out. I would like to thank them for their efforts and wish them every continued success.

Finally, I would like to thank the past Assistant Grand Scribe for Instruction, R.E.S.K. Sam Clyde and the new Assistant Grand Scribe for Instruction, V.E.S.K. Desmond McCormick for all their assistance and support.

Very Excellent Sir Knight Roy W. Lamont
Grand Scribe for Instruction



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