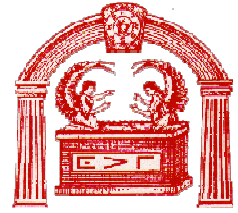




August, 2007
Volume 1
Number 1

HIRAM Words

The Official Newsletter of
The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois

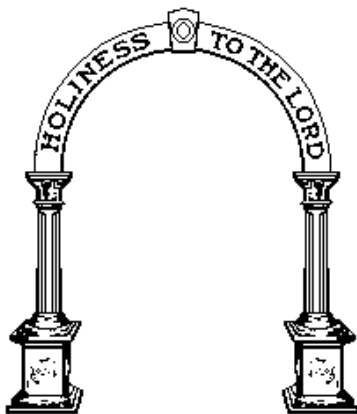


Welcome to the inaugural issue of *HIRAM Words*, the new newsletter of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois. Hiram stands for Helpful Information for Royal Arch Masons. There may be other symbology in the name which you may see. We hope you will enjoy this newsletter and want to contribute to its success. This newsletter is to let you, the members of Royal Arch Masonry, know what is happening in Illinois and enlighten you about our order. So sit back, relax and let our journey begin.

Have you Found the Key? Statewide Chapter Days Announced

Bruce Rhinehart, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, has announced that there will be six Chapter Days to initiate new members to the Capitular Degrees of Masonry. Members will report at 8:00 a.m. for registration, coffee and donuts, with the degrees beginning at 9:00 a.m.

These statewide Chapter Days are a part of the Grand Chapter Plan to Exalt 500 new Companions this Chapter year. It is hoped that all Companions will help in achieving this goal and show these men the true key to Freemasonry. A petition for membership is found in this newsletter and we hope you know of someone worthy, who is not currently a member of the Chapter and make sure you help him complete it.



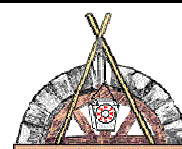
Through this Arch have passed the finest Freemasons in the world, including YOU!!!
Help others to **Find the Key**

Schedule

Date	Location	Coordinator
August 11	Mt. Vernon Masonic Temple 124 N 10th St, Mount Vernon	J. Larry Martin (618) 724-7660
September 15	Decatur Masonic Temple 224 W William St, Decatur	Leonard Brewer (217) 763-6898
September 15	Belleville Masonic Temple 225 E A St, Belleville	Richard Cummins (618) 233-1086
October 13	Bloomington Masonic Temple 302 E Jefferson St, Bloomington	Bill Burden 309-530-0099
October 13	Evanston Masonic Temple 1453 Maple Ave, Evanston	Frank Welter 773-206-0404
January (TBD)	Dixon Masonic Temple 1409 N Galena Ave. Dixon	Tom Lewis (815) 626-4014
January 9	Mt. Vernon Masonic Temple	J. Larry Martin

Itinerary

Degree	Time
Registration	8:00
Mark Master	9:00
Past Master	10:00
Most Excellent Master	10:30
Lunch	11:30
Royal Arch Degree	12:30



It Takes a Team to be Successful — Bruce Rhinehart, MEGHP



I would like to thank everybody for their support through the past years as I was progressing to this day to be elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter

of the State of Illinois.

As I reflect upon the accomplishments of my predecessors who served this Grand Chapter as Most Excellent Grand High Priest, I am humbled by the deep and lasting impression each one has made. Each has brought a dedication to serve the York Rites bodies of Illinois but more particularly the Grand Chapter.

Their success was not a singular effort. It was the result of many people working together. A successful baseball team cannot rely on only one individual. As we all know, it takes teamwork. The coach or manager can direct from the bench, but the team must execute on the field. The pitcher can pitch, but each team member must perform and execute his job.

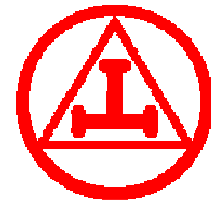
So it is with any Masonic organization. The presiding officer can lead, but it takes a team effort to make a Chapter successful. One person does not make a Chapter. The whole of the membership makes up the Chapter and leads to its success or failure. If this year goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, we did it; but, if all goes well, then you did it. I have listened to many as I waited to be elected to lead this Grand Chapter. I always tried to let my ears listen and keep my mouth closed. Hopefully this has allowed me to hear twice as much as one tongue could speak. We can no longer rest on our principles and teachings of this fraternal organization and expect to see our fraternity survive. There can be

no more cheerleaders sitting on the sidelines explaining that we've never done it that way before, that will not work, we tried that or any other of the excuses we have all heard and maybe even said ourselves. It is time for each companion in this state to step up to the challenge and take action.

I have set a very aggressive membership goal of 500 exaltations. The questions each of you may ask "how can we do that?" There has to be a presence in Symbolic Lodges. The last time I checked, that is where we find our membership. Each Royal Arch Mason must take action by being an active part of his Lodge or Lodges. Become a coach, mentor, or work with the candidate using the Intender Program. Remember, you have the knowledge the candidate desires, so help him. This will allow you to bond with this candidate throughout his first steps in Masonry. What better opportunities to learn what this new Master Mason desires and help him achieve it? At the same time, you will learn more about other Master Masons which will create opportunities to tell the York Rite story and obtain new membership.

The Grand Chapter has developed the tools and programs to use in the Symbolic Lodge to get the word out about what York Rite Masonry is. The programs developed are not new. Each us has to do a better job of presenting these programs to Symbolic Lodges and Chapters.

Some may think Masonry is coming back on its own, but that attitude was tried in the past and perhaps a generation was lost. The present generation will not sit back and wait. Each of us must begin our journey back in the Symbolic Lodge, get involved, take action and be a part of the new Master Mason's life. Each Master Mason begins a journey in Masonry and each



Bruce Rhinehart
Most Excellent Grand
High Priest

Dick Yena
Right Excellent Deputy
Grand High Priest

Joe Santisteban
Right Excellent Grand
King

Ron Blue
Right Excellent Grand
Scribe

Jack Hall, MEPGHP
Right Excellent Grand
Treasurer

Ed Derry, MEPGHP
Right Excellent Grand
Secretary

Chuck Horwitz
Excellent Grand Captain
of the Host

Dale Cyrier
Excellent Grand Principal
Sojourner

Bob Wright
Excellent Grand Royal
Arch Captain

of us needs to help him continue his journey by inviting him to become a York Rite Mason. Each of us has taken the steps to become a York Mason. Isn't it time each of us help finish the steps so all Master Masons will be able to better understand how to receive wages, learn how to become a strong leader, finally know the temple has been completed and learn the true WORD?

**YORK RITE BODIES
PETITION FOR DEGREES AND ORDERS**



R.A.M. of _____ To the Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe and Companions of _____ Chapter, No. _____, Illinois.



C.M. of _____ To the Thrice Illustrious Master, Officers and Companions of _____ Council, No. _____, Illinois.



Commandery No. _____, K.T. of _____ Illinois. To the Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, and Sir Knights of _____

THE UNDERSIGNED REPRESENTS

That he received the degree of Master Mason in _____ Lodge No. _____ under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____

That he is at the present time a member of _____ Lodge No. _____ under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____

(If a current member of a Chapter, Council or Commandery)

That he is a member of _____ Chapter No. _____, jurisdiction of _____

That he is a member of _____ Council No. _____, jurisdiction of _____

That he is a member of _____ Commandery No. _____, jurisdiction of _____

(If ever rejected)

That he has never been rejected by any Chapter. If so, which? _____ Date _____

That he has never been rejected by any Council. If so, which? _____ Date _____

That he has never been rejected by any Commandery. If so, which? _____ Date _____

That he is a firm believer in the Christian Religion (*Commandery only*).

That he has resided within this jurisdiction for a period of one year.

That he is desirous of receiving the Orders and /or Degrees; and if found worthy, promises to conform to the ancient usages and customs.

He was born on the _____ day of _____ A.D. _____, at _____ in the state of _____

His address is _____ Residence Telephone _____

His occupation is _____ Business Telephone _____

His email is _____ if married, spouse's name _____

That he has read this petition and that he has personally signed his full name thereto.

We vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and recommend his admission. Dated _____

_____ (Sign your name in full)

Referred to

_____	Petition Received _____	Degrees & Orders Received:
_____	Report Due _____	Chapter _____
_____	Balloted On _____	Council _____
	Result _____	Commandery _____

Grand Examiners Pass Nine for 1st Level Certification

On May 29, the Board of Grand Examiners held a 1st Level Certification Exam in Bloomington Masonic Temple for nine candidates. This was the first exam in many years, and all nine passed. It was an exciting night for Capitular Freemasonry, as there are now nine more Companions who can spread the teaching across the state.



From left to right: 1st row — Perry Foltz — Chairman, Board of Grand Examiners, Bill Burden, Mike Fowler, Jerry Starks, Dick Yena. 2nd Row — Robert Wright, Ron Blue, Jim Grimm, Hugh McWhirter, Alan Hubble, Richard Carnell — Board of Grand Examiners

Calendar of Events

August 11	Chapter Days Mt. Vernon Masonic Temple
September 8	Reception of the MEGHP Bruce Rhinehart, Keller Conference Center, Effingham
September 9	Reception of MIGM Chester Owens, VFW, Alton
September 15	Chapter Days Decatur Masonic Temple Belleville Masonic Temple Reception of REGC H. Wayne Hoffman, Pere Marquette, Peoria
September 29	DDGHP Training — Effingham Masonic Temple
October 5-6	Grand Lodge, Springfield
October 13	Chapter Days Bloomington Masonic Temple
October 20	Evanston Masonic Temple
November 17	DDGHP Training — Springfield Masonic Temple
January (TBD)	Chapter Days Dixon Masonic Temple
January 9	Mt. Vernon Masonic Temple
January 12, 2008	DDGHP Training — Glenview Masonic Temple
February 9	Chapter Days Jacksonville Masonic Temple Southern Illinois York Rite Day, Mt Vernon Masonic Temple

Around the State

The reception of Bruce Rhinehart, Most Excellent Grand High Priest will be held at the Thelma Keller Conference Center in Effingham (just off I-57) on September 8, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m with a social hour and dinner at 6:00 p.m.

To make your reservation, send your check for \$25 per person, payable to *Henry Godeke Chapter Reception*, to Darrell "Skip" Hamilton, RR 3 Box 181C, Albion, IL 62806-9594 . You can also email him at skip115@verizon.net or call him at 618-445-2964 to make reservations. All reservations need to be in by September 1.

Visit our website:
www.ram-il.org

Be a part of the electronic age

This newsletter can be sent to you via email if you wish to receive it. This will save the Grand Chapter money on the mailing and you will receive it sooner and you will have the option to print it or read it on-line. Please go to www.ram-il.org and click on Newsletter. Then enter your name and email address and in the future you will receive everything via email. *(The Grand Chapter will not sell or give your email address to anyone)*

If you have dates or events to be advertised, please send them to the Grand Webmaster, David Miley, grandwebmaster@ram-il.org