

A History of Royal Arch Masonry in Alberta
The Grand Chapter of Canada and the Grand Chapter of Alberta
1892- 2014

PART ONE

Excerpt from

A History of Royal Arch Masonry

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Alberta

The first Chapter instituted in the Province of Alberta was Alberta Chapter No. 106, Canada Register, July 22, 1892. The charter was issued July 23, 1893. The institution ceremonies took place in the lodge room, then located on the south of Stephen Avenue (now 8th Ave. East), about two hundred feet east of what is now 2nd Street East. At that time all the territory from the Ontario boundary to the Pacific Coast comprised one Masonic District known as Manitoba District No. 15, of which Thomas Robinson was Grand Superintendent. It was impossible for Companion Robinson to come to Calgary, a distance of 628 miles, neither was it convenient for a member of the proposed Chapter to go to Winnipeg. Eventually Companion (Dr.) Lindsay, the "Z", had business calling him to Ottawa, and he stopped over at Winnipeg, when the Grand Superintendent took advantage of the opportunity to install him at a regular Convocation of Signet Chapter, January 25, 1893, and delivered the dispensation, with instructions to install his officers, presenting him with another dispensation from the Grand First Principal for that purpose.

The first convocation was held March 17, 1893, when the following officers were installed by Dr. Melville J. Lindsay, assisted by J. Thompson Black, Past Principal of Prince Rupert's Chapter No. 52, Winnipeg:

Reginald H. Kirkpatrick, Second Principal; Nelson Brown, Third Principal; George Murdoch, Scribe E; James Brogdan, Scribe N; R. H. M. Rawlinson, Principal Sojourner; Thomas N. Christie, Treasurer; Dr. Robert G. Brett, Senior Sojourner; Arthur W. R. Markley, Junior Sojourner; Thomas Harris, Master 4th Veil; Amos Rowe, Master 3rd Veil; Walter R. Lindsay, Janitor.

The Warrant of Constitution, bearing the signatures of John E. Harding, Grand Z.; John Ross Robertson, Grand H; and Thomas Sargant, Grand J. was read, after which necessary business was transacted.

Other Chapters followed by dispensation from the Grand Chapter of Canada:

North Star No. 118, January 27, 1897, Edmonton; Assiniboia No. 126, January 23, 1901, Medicine Hat; Shekinah No. 158, January 22, 1908, Lethbridge; Golden West No. 159, January 22, 1908, High River; Mount Horeb No. 172, February 1910, Wetaskwin; Bekah No. 176, February 22, 1911, Macleod; Kether No.177, February 22, 1911, Pincher Creek; Otuskwan No. 179, February 28, 1911, Calgary; Bow Valley No. 188, February 25, 1914, Gleichen; Calgary No. 189, February 25, 1914, Calgary; Capitol City No. 197, February 24, 1915, Edmonton; Vermilion No. 199, February 24, 1915, Vermilion; Hillvue No. 200, February 1915, Hillcrest; Tau Cross No. 201, February 24, 1915, Claresholm; Mount Olivet No. 202, February 24, 1915, Killam; Norwood No. 204, February 23, 1916, Edmonton.

About the time the Grand Lodge was organized in 1909, the question of organizing a Grand Chapter was discussed, and the Grand Scribe E. of Canada notified. It was felt that time was not ripe for such an organization and the matter was dropped until April 2, 1913, when representatives from five Chapters (one U.D.) met in the Masonic Temple, Calgary. They decided upon the formation of a Grand Chapter, and it was voted that officers of Alberta Chapter No. 106, being the oldest Chapter, call a convention to meet in Calgary May 20, 1913, at 1330 o'clock, to consist of all past First Principals, together with the First, Second and Third Principals of all Alberta Chapters, for the purpose of forming a Grand Chapter for Alberta. M. M. Downey, chairman of the Convention, S. Y. Taylor, Secretary, and J. N. Rankin were appointed a committee to have a sufficient number of copies of the proceedings of the convention printed, and to supply all Chapters. On the date named, representatives from seven Chapters appeared, but it was found that the matter was not thoroughly understood. Therefore, a letter containing all information and data, together with an outline of how it would be financed, was prepared and sent to all Chapters, with a request that each act thereon and report to the secretary of the convention, not later than October 31, 1913. It was provided, if replies from seven or more Chapters favorable to such formation be received, a convention be called, at a date to be fixed by the chairman and secretary.

A convention was held in Calgary, May 29, 1914, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. Representatives, all First Principals, from eight Chapters were present:

John M. Empey, Albert Chapter No. 106; A. West, North Star Chapter No. 118; Alex A. Ballachey, Golden West Chapter No. 159; H. I. Millar, Mount Horeb Chapter No. 172; J. S. Lambert, Bekah Chapter No. 176; Morton V. R. Dawson, Otuskwan Chapter No. 179; A. H. Spurr, Bow Valley Chapter No. 188; J. E. Johnson, Calgary Chapter No. 189.

A resolution was presented:

"That in the opinion of this Convention it is in the best interests of Royal Arch Masonry in this Province, that a Grand Royal Arch Chapter should be now erected in, and for, the Province of Alberta."

An amendment was presented which would require the consent of the Grand Chapter of Canada before any action on the resolution was taken.

["...moved by Right Excellent Companion A.C Kemmis, Past First Principal Z. of Kether Royal Arch Chapter - and Grand District Superintendent for District 17A -, seconded by Excellent Companion John Jones, Second Principal H. of Shekinah Royal Arch Chapter, that this Convention do not at this time proceed to the formation of a Grand Chapter in Alberta, but that the Grand Chapter of Canada be requested to approve of the erection of a Grand Chapter in Alberta, and that, on the receipt of that approval, a Grand Chapter for Alberta be then formed."

The Grand Chapter of Canada appears to have depended, at least in the beginning, on RExComp Kemmis for all their information about what was happening in Alberta. *GBT*]

This was defeated, and vote taken on the resolution by a majority of the Chapters in Alberta; the resolution was adopted. Then followed another resolution:

"That the Chapters of Royal Arch Masons now represented in this Convention hereby declare themselves to be, and do hereby erect and establish The Supreme and Governing Body for Royal Arch Masonry in Alberta by the title of 'The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta.'"

The Grand Chapter was then opened for the purpose of installing officers. The first officers were:

S. Y. Taylor, Grand Z; F. S. Watson, Grand H; T. C. Bruce, Grand J; A. R. Dickson, Grand Supt. First District; T. F. English, Grand Supt. Second District; Robert Patterson, Grand Supt. Third District; M. M-Downey, Grand Scribe E; A. R. Yates, Grand Scribe N; E. D. H. Wilkins, Grand Principal Sojourner; A. W. R. Markley, Grand Treasurer; A. West, Grand Registrar; Harvey Brook, Janitor.

A charter was granted to Keystone Chapter at Red Deer. The Chapters were then numbered:

Alberta Chapter No. 1; North Star Chapter No. 2; Mount Horeb Chapter No. 6; Bekah Chapter No. 7; Otuskwan Chapter No. 9; Bow Valley Chapter No. 10; Calgary Chapter No. 11; Keystone Chapter No. 12.

The Mother Grand Chapter opposed the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, just as the Grand Chapter of England opposed the formation of the Grand Chapter of Canada. The difference in the formation of Canada and Alberta was, Canada formed with a minority of Chapters, while Alberta formed with a majority. Canada went so far as to take legal proceedings against the Grand Chapter of Alberta, an action taken in the Supreme Court of Alberta, the trial taking place in the City of Calgary. This was a temporary objection, and all differences were ended the following year by a visit from the Grand First Principal of Canada, W. S. R. Murch. It appeared that the only objection was that the Grand Chapter of Canada was not formally requested to give its consent. An apology was offered for the oversight, and friendly relations were immediately established; as an expression of good will, a donation of \$1,000.00 was made by the Grand Chapter of Canada to assist the newly created Grand Chapter to establish itself on a firm financial basis. Following the recognition of the Grand Chapter, the following letter was sent to W. S. R. Murch:

Mr. W. S. R. Murch, Grand First Principal, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada. Dear Sir and M.E. Companion:

Upon your official visit to this Province you stated to representatives of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta, your authority and desire to bring about an adjustment of all difficulties standing in the way of the formal recognition of the Grand Chapter of Alberta by the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Your only objection was a lack of courtesy to the Parent Grand Chapter in not formally requesting that Grand Body's consent to the formation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta.

Our conception of the established Masonic jurisprudence has been that, 'Where a Grand Lodge exists a Grand Chapter may of right follow,' and in accordance with this principle the Grand Chapter of Alberta was formed and erected by a majority of the subordinate Chapters in this Province.

At the time of the formation it was generally thought that had request been formally made to the Grand Chapter of Canada it would have been refused by them, and as a consequence no such action was taken but you have now given us to understand that if the Grand Chapter of Alberta had asked such consent it would have been granted and all the difficulties which have since arisen would have been avoided.

Now, therefore, being equally desirous with you of having peace and harmony prevail in Capitular Masonry throughout the Province and having its Masonic blessing, we, the Grand Chapter of Alberta, wish to express our regret that the Grand Chapter of Canada should have had occasion in any respect or at any time to regard any act of omission to the part of the Grand Chapter of Alberta as displaying lack of courtesy,

Therefore, having tendered this expression of regret in fulfilment of the condition upon which you have expressed your willingness as the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada, to grant fraternal recognition to the Grand Chapter of Alberta, as an independent Grand Chapter Supreme within its own jurisdiction, we trust

that the future relationship between the two Grand Bodies will be the pleasantest, and may the spirit of tolerance ripen into such Brotherly Love as should exist not only in the Province, but between the Grand Bodies as well.

Faternally yours,

Grand Z

Seven Chapters participated in the organization; four did not. At the fourth annual convocation all the Chapters were members, and nine others had been chartered. There was a total of twenty Chapters, with 1,872 members.

In 1919, the Order of High Priesthood was instituted in connection with the Grand Chapter. Abram Shaw, of Kingston, a member of the Convention of Connecticut, Francis D. Jones, David Craig, and Melvin M. Downey, members of the Convention of Montana, were present, and organized the Convention of High Priests of the Province of Alberta. In 1920, two Chapters were consecrated and instituted, and three were granted dispensations.

The eighth annual convocation was presided over by Norman T. Macleod, in the absence of Dr. H. Darling, Grand High Priest, who was in Eastern Canada and had been installed as Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter at the annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada in Ontario.

A special convocation was held in Calgary, May 29, 1924, for celebrating the tenth anniversary. In ten years, the membership had grown from 775 to 2700. A large number of messages were received from throughout the Capitular world. Stephen Y. Taylor, the first Grand Z. was the principal speaker, and reviewed the history of the Grand Chapter and the Royal Arch degree. Several other speakers addressed the convocation.

At the twelfth annual convocation report was made that the original regalia worn by Companion Taylor at the organization of the Grand Chapter was presented to him at the district Convocation in Calgary. He expressed deep appreciation for so historical a gift.

In 1928, the ritual used by the Grand Chapter in Ontario was adopted, so as to have uniform work throughout the Dominion.

In 1929, the Grand Z. reported:

The passing of M.Ex.Comp. Stephen Y. Taylor, our first Grand Z. and one who contributed so much to the Royal Craft in the Province. Comp. Taylor was also a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Taylor Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine, which was subsequently formed, was named after M.W. Bro. S. Y. Taylor, of Calgary, and M.W. Bro. H. C. Taylor, of Edmonton.

Frederick S. Selwood, Grand Z., made the following recommendation:

One of the greatest difficulties facing the Masonic bodies at the present day is the problem of loss of membership through suspension for non-payment of dues. The losses from this source alone are altogether too heavy and very often entirely offset the gain in effective members of our Chapters. It must be indeed at times discouraging to many Excellent Principals and their officers to find at the end of a year's active and earnest work that from a standpoint of effective membership, the Chapter has made no gain in members owing to the heavy loss through suspension. Doubtless in some cases the finances are responsible for this loss, but I believe in the majority of cases it is not the amount of money involved for dues, but other factors, resulting in lack of interest which result in this deplorable waste of membership.

I believe it would be to the decided advantage of each Chapter to have a standing committee on membership whose duty it should be, first, to bring to the attention of eligible Master Masons the desirability of obtaining the advantages of Royal Arch Masonry; second, to assist the Scribe E. in the collection of dues which have in any sense become delinquent, or in arrears; third, to take up by personal contact and interview companions cited for suspension for non-payment of dues with the view of reducing these cases to the smallest possible numbers; and, fourth, to give particular attention to the matter of securing petitions for affiliation from companions resident in the jurisdiction of the Chapter, but not members therein. Aggressive, patient and assiduous attention to these factors in an intelligent and sympathetic way would, in my opinion, go a long way

towards solving this problem. It means, of course, effort and diligence, but no organization can be effectively maintained without effort and work.

The following year, the Grand Z. James R. Flan, called attention to the delinquency. He said:

The number of suspensions for N.P.D. is altogether too many, and whilst I do not venture to suggest a remedy I would direct the serious attention of the Principals and Scribes E. to the heavy loss sustained through this cause. I am of the opinion that the officers of the Chapter, being in closer touch with the delinquent members should be in a position to devise some means to stop this leakage. It is, unfortunately, a matter common to our own and other similar institutions, but so far as I am aware no satisfactory remedy has yet been devised to prevent this regrettable loss.

That year the official name of the "Janitor" was changed to "Tyler.

The year closed with thirty Chapters and a membership of 2,837. The efforts of the Grand Z's were ineffective to stop loss. From this point, there was a steady decline until in 1944, when the membership was 1,593.

In 1936, Past Grand High Priest Edwin G. Ironside said:

I think it would be fitting that this Grand Chapter express its loyalty to our new Sovereign Edward VIII, by an appropriate telegram to His Excellency the Governor-General.

On motion of Companion Ironside, seconded by C. H. Minchin, it was

Resolved, That Scribe E. forward a telegram to the Governor-General expressing to His Majesty, King Edward VIII, the sympathy and loyalty of the Grand Chapter of Alberta.

Following is the telegram, and the reply:

Lord Tweedsmuir, Ontario. Please convey to His Gracious Majesty King Edward the Eighth the sincere and hearty expression of the devotion and loyalty of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta as expressed in annual convocation today at Edmonton.
C. A. MacPherson, Grand Scribe E., Calgary

Dear Sir: His Excellency, the Governor-General, has been commanded by His Majesty the King to convey to the Royal Arch Masons of Alberta His Majesty's deep appreciation of their message of loyalty and devotion contained in your telegram of March 18th.
Yours truly,

A. S. Redfern, Secretary to the Governor-General

C A. MacPherson, Esq.
Grand Scribe E, Royal Arch Masons of Alberta,
Calgary, Alberta

In 1937, Henry Sandilands, Grand Z., prepared a ceremony to celebrate the coming Coronation of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

In 1939, it was voted to discontinue the publishing of reviews of other jurisdictions. That year a picture of Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth was ordered printed in the proceedings.

In 1940, two Chapters surrendered their charters, and North Star Chapter No. 2 amalgamated with Strathcona Chapter No. 25.

At the twenty-seventh annual Convocation, Grand Z. W. Hudson Scott reported:

May 3rd, 1941, will go down in the history of Capitular Masonry in Alberta as the occasion of the largest and most enthusiastic gathering of our order in this jurisdiction in the twenty-seven years of our history. The four Calgary Chapters had the honor of a visit from the High Priest, Lon Crumley, of Tyrean Chapter No. 23, of Cut Bank, Montana, and the officers and companions of this Chapter accompanied by M.E. Companion

Armour, of the Grand Chapter of Montana, many other Grand Chapter officers and numerous companions from other Chapters in Montana and their wives, numbering in all ninety-six. Some of these companions drove a distance of fourteen hundred miles to attend this meeting. Practically all Chapters in the south half of Alberta were represented, as well as Vermilion Chapter in the Far North.

Two features of this wonderful gathering must be mentioned. One was the presentation of a cheque for \$100.00 from Tyrean Chapter to the Canadian Red Cross Fund. The other was a presentation of a flag of our country to Tyrean Chapter to be hung in their Chapter room.

In 1942, the amalgamation of Crescent Chapter No. 24 and Joseph Stauffer Chapter No. 22 took place under the name of Crescent Chapter No. 24, and Keystone Chapter No. 12 surrendered its Charter.

In 1943, a resolution of sorrow was adopted in memory of the Duke of Kent, who was killed in active service for the Empire.

The 1944 year-end showed an increase of 95 Companions, after a decrease for eighteen successive years.

In 1945, the most important business was the adoption of the report of the special committee on affiliation with the General Grand Chapter

To the Most Excellent the Grand First Principal, Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta.

Most Excellent Sir and Companions: The committee appointed to consider the advisability of the Grand Chapter of Alberta affiliating with the General Grand Chapter of the United States made a progress report to Grand Chapter in 1944.

The history of the subject matter was, first, a communication from the General Grand Chapter requesting we take up the question of affiliation. Following receipt of this letter the Grand First Principal at that time appointed the committee to study and survey the situation. The committee corresponded with all the Grand Chapters in Canada and the response from the majority did not warrant in 1944, a report recommending affiliation.

At the time, Manitoba was the only Grand Chapter in Canada in affiliation. Saskatchewan Grand Chapter was considering the question and, in 1944, affiliated with the General Grand Chapter. Since that time various members of our Grand Chapter visited both Manitoba and Saskatchewan and found companions of those two jurisdictions happy in their new status.

Your committee therefore recommends that this Grand Chapter now become affiliated with the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

Fraternally submitted,

M. M. DOWNEY, Chairman

The resolution was adopted, Alberta became the third Canadian Province to affiliate with General Grand Chapter.

PART TWO

In 1946, as in previous years, the Grand Chapter of Alberta was pleased to welcome several distinguished guests to its Grand Convocation, including the Grand High Priest of the State of Montana and other leading officers of several concordant bodies.

In the Proceedings of 1946 we read the admonition of a visiting Grand High Priest which even now echoes and re-echoes throughout our fraternity: "The future of our institution depends more on quality than quantity, so we must be careful of our applicants and examine

closely those who are petitioning for membership. Any society that does not improve, deteriorates. To be successful we must be progressive, developing new and loftier ideals, reaching for greater things and keeping abreast of advancing age". In his concluding remarks he stated: "Royal Arch Masonry is a wonderful and irresistible movement for better citizenship.... If it is to continue to be a creative force and the future generations are to be the beneficiaries of its bounty, we, its members, must individually and collectively recur to the principles of understanding and fellowship".

In 1947 the Grand First Principal of Alberta attended the First Conference of Canadian Grand Chapters in Ottawa, Ontario. Of this conference he spoke most highly. In that year also, the Grand Convocation of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta accepted the recommendation that the selection of Grand District Superintendents should be made on the basis of quality rather than on the basis of rotation among the Chapters within a District.

1949 was a banner year in the growth of the Grand Chapter of Alberta, with one new Chapter being consecrated and three new Chapters being instituted. Nine Chapters qualified for the General Grand Chapter 10% Increase Award, the highest increase being 29.16%, and indeed the Grand Chapter of Alberta itself qualified for the award having had an overall increase that year of 10.5%, since the membership in Alberta rose from 2111 to 2334, an increase of 223.

Many events were featured in the Grand First Principal's address of that year, and he commended the Chapters for their game suppers, joint installations, ladies' nights, and inter-Chapter visitations; all of which promoted fraternal friendships, hospitality and closer Companionship within the jurisdiction. In the summation of his Grand First Principal's address, MExComp A.L. Williams stated: "The world has made great progress in discovery, invention, and science; but education and the moral and spiritual development of man has not kept pace... There is work ... [in these areas]... for all, and each of us must play his full part".

In 1951, the Grand First Principal, MExComp H. Bentley, in his address to the Grand Convocation said: "Our successes should not be marked by accomplishment but rather by contrasting accomplishment with possibility, striving for a much larger percentage of Master Masons to be exalted in our Chapters". He concluded his remarks with the following statement, which seems to be even more appropriate at the end of this century, "The false idols of force, subtlety and atheism are being openly paraded before us as criteria of achievement, and every means of blotting out the goodness in mankind is being resorted to, under many guises, to attain success for these evils. The very basis of our Christian and Masonic way of life is being ridiculed and trampled upon... and that great backbone of any nation worthwhile, the home, family life and worship are being subjected to regimentation, self indulgence and lack of responsibility".

During the 1950s it was the custom of the Alberta Grand Chapter Representatives to other sister jurisdictions to present a written summary of the year's activities of the Grand Chapter they represented. In keeping with this, in 1952, 41 Companions presented excellent reports which were then published in the Alberta R.A.M. Proceedings.

This practice, unfortunately, was discontinued in the early 1960s and brief notes or oral reports were substituted, which were subsequently summarized into one condensed report by the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence.

In 1952, five Chapters increased their membership by over 10% and thereby earned the General Grand Chapter Award. Alberta's R.A.M. membership rose to 2860. Our Capitular

library had a few inquiries and Chapters reported that papers of history and instruction were presented and enjoyed by some, but the lateness of these presentations was not conducive to holding the attention of the Companions. At this Grand Convocation it was recommended that a new District, No. 6, be established to include the Chapters in the south-east portion of the province. With the consecration of Bethel Chapter No. 36, Royal Arch Masonry in this province increased to 30 Chapters.

In his address to the Companions, the Grand Z, MExComp Frank Mayer admonished the Chapters to offer new members an opportunity to participate in degree work, to include them on committees and to allow them to present articles of interest at the monthly convocations.

The Royal Arch Advancement Committee suggested there was a need for Companions to be better informed and proposed that subscribing to the Royal Arch Mason magazine would enhance this education.

As 1953 was the year of Her Majesty's Coronation, MExComp Melvin M. Downey was appointed to prepare a suitable message of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

MExComp Robert F. Hanes, General Grand High Priest, and General Grand Secretary MExComp R.R. Walcott were present at the Alberta Grand Convocation. The General Grand High Priest reported that the Grand Chapter of Alaska was formed, and that with the consecration of the Grand Chapter of the Republic of the Philippines there were 52 Grand Chapters which were members of the General Grand Chapter.

The Committee on Fraternal Relations recommended that these two Grand Chapters be recognized and that Grand Representatives be duly exchanged.

At the Grand Convocation in 1955, the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry raised concerns about Chapter attendance, which they said varied from 10% to 60% of the membership. This Committee recommended inclusion of educational sessions to make meetings interesting and attractive.

Hanna Chapter No. 28 and Keystone Chapter No. 12, with their Masonic brethren, built new Masonic buildings in their communities. Harmony Chapter No. 26 unfortunately lost their premises, property and paraphernalia in a disastrous fire. This circumstance presented an opportunity to remind all Chapters to carry adequate insurance, and to arrange for photostatic or written copies of their Charters and their historical registers.

In 1956 the Grand First Principal, in his retiring speech, ended his remarks with a poem from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time.*

(From A Psalm of Life, 1830)

Perhaps, he concluded, the proper time to contemplate this poem is before any activity is undertaken, thus exhorting us to do our best.

This year the General Grand Chapter proposed that Grand Chapters institute an annual Royal Arch Re-affirmation Day, and Alberta Chapters followed up with several such Sundays throughout the province. The admonition offered in keeping with this special day was:

"Remember Companions, we have only a lifetime to spend with our fellowman, while we have an eternity to spend with our God".

In 1957, Otuskwan Chapter continued their tradition of sponsoring a June picnic for the children of Woods Christian Home, a home for homeless children, as they had done for the

previous 25 years. The Chapter supplied food, ice cream, and gifts for all the children of the home.

This year North Star Chapter No. 2 celebrated their 60th anniversary by conferring the three degrees of Royal Arch Masonry. MExComp Frank Van Demark and his team from Montana assisted in the field day by conferring the M.E.M. and the Past Master's degrees. The class consisted of 27 Masons; after which 400 Companions and their ladies sat down to dinner at the Central Masonic Hall.

Crescent Chapter continued their Annual Installation and Ladies' Night; the latter included a turkey dinner which was followed by a dance. This Chapter has an active Crescent Ladies group which raises money for many worthwhile benevolent causes during the year.

This year also, Golden West Chapter No. 5 welcomed the Grand First Principal, MExComp Frank Colwell on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their annual game supper. It was a popular event with over 300 Companions and their ladies in attendance.

The following year, on November 24, 1958, the Grand First Principal of Alberta visited Lloydminster Chapter U.D. of Saskatchewan on the occasion of their field day at which 45 candidates received their Capitular degrees. In his address he indicated that there was trend towards a steady decline in rural memberships but that city memberships continue to rise. He again reminded the Chapters that while past principals and senior members do admirable work in presenting degrees, junior members are seldom included, lose interest, and eventually quit attending the meetings.

MExComp H.B. Wilks, in 1961, stressed that Chapter notices should be made interesting and informative. He also reproved Chapter officers who used their ritual books in the performance of their duties. He cited other Chapters who were too lax in commencing their meetings on time, thus ending meetings well after midnight, at which time some Companions still had a 40 or 50 mile drive home.

He encouraged officers to become charged with enthusiasm and to make their meeting more interesting. He laid the responsibility on the candidate's sponsors to invite him to meetings and to attend assemblies themselves. He again emphasized that younger members should be encouraged to accept some portion of our ritualistic work, and finally he admonished the Companions to be good symbolic Masons and to attend their Lodges regularly.

The Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry concurred with the Grand Z. and stated that attendance at Chapter meetings depended largely upon the attitudes of members towards the efficiency of the officers, the earnestness and reverence with which work is presented, reinforced by prompt and punctual discharge of business and the warm Companionship of the membership of the Chapter.

1963 marked the first time in 20 years that the Grand Chapter of Alberta showed a loss in membership. It was reported that not only did seven Chapters not exalt a single Companion but demits and suspensions were important attributes of this situation. The Grand Z, MExComp William N. Martin, recommended that more time be spent to educate our candidates, to get them versed in Chapter work, and to require an examination in the Royal Arch Degree before presenting them permanently with their aprons and sashes. He emphasized again the need to present our Masonic work in a dignified manner to impress candidates and to inspire our other members to come out to our assemblies. This same appeal was echoed by MExComp Wm. B. Ruff in 1966. He advised Chapters to give close scrutiny to any requests for demits. He inferred that perhaps Chapters did not provide the stimulus that the Companions were looking for and

he concluded that "A lack of dignity and solemnity in our work may be the very reason why many of our members stay away from our meetings — and although sloppy work makes the new members eligible for further degrees, we can be assured that we cannot make any of them worthy Companions in our craft". The District Superintendents concurred that several Chapters showed a lack of enthusiasm, not enough preparation for their meetings and a dearth of good leadership at the top. The continuing loss of membership in 1967 prompted the Grand Z. of that year to admonish Chapters to "...plan assemblies that are interesting, enjoyable, and informative to those who attend. The meetings should be enhanced by an aura of friendliness and good fellowship. To continue to enjoy the respect and confidence of society, Capitular Masonry must attract to itself men of the type and caliber who will appreciate and understand its teachings and who will carry on its work".

In 1967, Cold Lake Chapter No. 39 was instituted. That year, at the Grand Convocation in Alberta, MExComp William. E. Norman, the Grand High Priest of Virginia, presented the new 50 Star American Flag to the Grand Chapter of Alberta.

In 1968, our perennial visitor, MExComp W.W. Thaanam (Montana) represented the General Grand Chapter and brought greetings from the Grand High Priest, MExComp S.H. Carter. He discussed the dissatisfaction that Chapters feel with respect to losses in membership. He felt that "We are overly zealous in procuring members, but we neglect to make the proper impression on our candidates who thus fail to grasp the meaning of Capitular Masonry and for this reason fail to maintain their membership in the fraternity". He stressed that we must lay a solid foundation based on the tenets of our Craft, then have the new Companions participate in the ritualistic portions of our Order for "...he that lectures learns far more than he that listens while he is a candidate for the Order".

MExComp A.C. Gunning, in 1969, proclaimed the third Sunday in October as Royal Arch Sunday and asked the Companions to attend the church of their choice on that date. He also invited the Companions to extend their researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science, which he admitted was prompted to a large extent as he watched the American space capsule circling the moon at the previous Christmas holiday season and as he listened to the astronauts reading the First Chapter of Genesis, a Chapter well known to all Freemasons. The following year the church parades were held at several centers in Alberta, and these were well attended. Companions wore their Royal Arch regalia, entered the church and were seated as a group. Some Chapters considered this event as one of the highlights of their year. MExComp Bert James, Grand Z, also encouraged the Craft to: "keep our meetings interesting, educational, with good ritualistic work, and above all, have these meetings conducted in harmony".

In 1971, one of the year's highlights was the re-birth of semiannual visitations between the members of the Grand Chapter of Alberta and those of the Grand Chapter of Montana. Eighteen Companions and fifteen of their ladies from Montana visited the Alberta Chapters in Calgary and these Companions conferred the Past Master's degree on 57 Companions. In February, 30 Alberta Companions and their ladies attended the George Washington Convocation at Cutbank, Montana, at which event all four degrees were conferred in a very impressive manner. These reciprocal visitations continued into the 1990s.

1973 was the year of Incorporation of the Grand Chapter of Alberta under a Statute of the Province of Alberta and was so proclaimed in the Annual Proceedings. That year, for financial reasons, a standard Alberta Penny was adopted, although any Chapter which wished to continue ordering their own Penny was permitted to do so.

The Grand Z granted a joint dispensation to allow members of the four Calgary Chapters, Alberta No. 1, Otuskwan No. 9, Calgary No. 11, and Crescent No. 24 to take part in the Work under the Montana ritual, and to exemplify the Alberta R.A.M. degrees.

It was also proposed at the Grand Convocation that an Alberta Royal Arch DeMolay Capital Endowment Fund be established into which Companions could send donations which would be used to assist our youth.

The Grand First Principal, MExComp F.R.E. Mulder, also stated that since three Chapters had surrendered their charters within the last year, he proposed that District No. 6 be eliminated and the Chapters therein be re-distributed into the remaining Districts.

In 1974, in an effort to standardize the Work, a three-year program was initiated to exemplify the degrees of Capitular Masonry at the District meetings.

The Youth Endowment Fund was established as a legal charity trust, but as only \$700.00 was collected no disbursements were to be made that year.

In 1976, because of high rent, insurance, maintenance and utility costs various Masonic Lodges who owned their own buildings radically increased their rent. In Chapters with a low enrollment this caused a serious problem; to the extent that several Chapters reduced their meetings significantly - some to only four meetings a year.

District meetings continued to exemplify the R.A.M. degrees but because of the variety that had cropped up in the Work, the Committee on the Work recommended that a sub-committee be empowered to revise the publication called, "The Manual of Instruction". A year later this new manual was completed and accepted by the Alberta Grand Chapter as the basis for the ritual. In this same year it was brought to the attention of the Companions that the Grand Chapter of Canada in Ontario had made very significant changes to their own ritual, with the result that Alberta Companions who voted to stay with the original Ontario version of the Work decided to use the British Columbia ritual until our own ritual could be formulated.

At the Grand Convocation in 1977 a motion was made to design and issue a special jewel to all Alberta Representatives of this Grand Chapter near their own jurisdictions. This convocation also initiated the inclusion of our ladies at the Friday evening Ceremonial opening, at which event the representatives from other Masonic bodies and those of the city and province are received and acknowledged.

The Grand First Principal again admonished the Principals of each Chapter to plan their year in advance and that this plan should include degree work, instruction, and Masonic education.

At his Grand Convocation, MExComp J.C. Hildebrandt reported that Re-affirmation Sundays continue to have good attendance throughout the province. He regretted the increasing practice of having Grand Officers performing degree work for Chapters as this prevented the Chapter members from having to learn the ritual work and thereby to take pride in the activities of their Chapter.

The special Grand Chapter Representative's jewels were forwarded to all our Grand Representatives and a large number of replies were received, similar to the ones from MExComp Russell Richmond, Past Grand High Priest of Nebraska who wrote, "I have been the Alberta Representative since 1956. I will be pleased to wear the jewel on all official occasions"; and from RExComp. G.W. Evans of Oklahoma who wrote, "This is a beautiful jewel. I will wear it with feeling and pride". The Grand Chapter of Alberta owes MExComp J.C. Hildebrandt a great deal of gratitude for his work in arranging to have such a jewel designed, produced and delivered to all our Representatives.

By the year 1981 the Youth Endowment Fund had increased to the extent that \$200 was presented to each of the DeMolay boys and to Job's Daughters.

The Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry recommended that with the continuing rise of the costs of rent, supplies, regalia and mail, Chapters would do well to review their dues structure, since many had not done so for some time. RExComp Wm. H. Pollard continued to spend a great deal of time and effort to collect several complete sets of the Proceedings of the Alberta Grand Chapter from its inception to the present date. He then had these sets bound in distinctive hard red covers. Sets have, this year, been presented to the Grand Scribe Ezra (Grand Secretary), and to the Chairman of the Library Committee. Several other Grand Chapter officers took advantage of this opportunity to have their own sets bound for the stated fee. RExComp Pollard also began a crusade to locate and collect records from defunct Chapters and to have these stored with the Grand Historian until such time as these records could be transferred to, and microfiched by, the Calgary Glenbow Museum.

In 1983 the idea of a Paid-up Life Membership fee was referred to the Jurisprudence Committee for study.

The Friday evening reception of distinguished visitors had for some time included the ladies of the Companions. The Grand Council agreed that it seemed appropriate to include the Annual Memorial Service at the Friday evening session. RExComp M. Gushaty, as Grand J, conducted this service with RExComp H. Miller as acting Grand Chaplain. This format was heartily applauded by all those present, and it was suggested that this format be continued at future Annual Convocations.

In 1984, under the guiding influence of MExComp A.C. Gunning, Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee, a Paid-up Life Membership schedule was presented and approved. It provided for lifetime membership in a Chapter by the payment of 10 to 15 times the Chapter's annual dues based on the age of the Companion.

At this Convocation the General Grand High Priest, MExComp W.H. Winchester, was in attendance. He said that he was impressed that all our constituent Chapters were represented. He brought official greetings from more than 40,000 Royal Arch Masons who had joined the confederation under the banner of the General Grand Chapter.

In 1985, at the request of the Grand Z, MExComp J.C. Hildebrandt undertook to advise Banff Chapter No. 20 not to return their Charter to Grand Chapter but to join Crescent Chapter No. 24; and on June 17, 1985 MExComp M. Gushaty conducted the Amalgamation Ceremony.

At the Grand Convocation in May 1986, the Permanent Committee on the Constitution, under the Chairmanship of MExComp E.L. Boyd presented 14 articles of amendments to the Constitution. The comprehensive presentation of all articles led to them being unanimously adopted.

The Chairman of the Scrutineers reported that every living Past Grand First Principal was present at this Convocation.

In 1986, a clarification of the two annually presented Awards was necessitated. The Committee on Awards submitted the following:

1. The General Grand Chapter Award shall be presented to any Royal Arch Mason who has not reached the rank of Excellent Companion.
2. The Alberta Grand Chapter Award shall be presented to any Royal Arch Mason who may have attained any rank up to and including Right Excellent Companion, but who has not

yet accepted an office within the Grand Council, i.e., Grand J, Grand H, or Grand Z, or any Past Grand Z

A new structure of Grand Chapter sub-committees was proposed. It stated, in part, that the Grand H, when planning his committees for his year as Grand Z, make a deliberate effort to retire at least one member of each committee and to replace these with new and younger Ex. Companions who have not yet had an opportunity to serve on these committees.

The Royal Arch Youth Endowment Fund now having a sound foundation, had, in addition to the regular support to DeMolay and Job's Daughters, made an additional donation to the Edmonton Youth Emergency Center to assist in the feeding of wayward youth.

In 1987, the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry recommended that each Grand District Superintendent present an interim written report of his year's activities to the Grand Executive Meeting in February, with a copy of his report going to the chairman of the above committee. This committee also recommended that Re-affirmation Sundays be annual occurrences in each District and that each District Superintendent initiate and assume responsibility for these Sundays in his District.

As an ongoing project, the Library, Research, and Education Committee under the Chairmanship of RExComp R. Phillips continued to seek out and preserve old Chapter records with the Alberta Heritage Committee of the Glenbow Museum of Calgary.

In 1988, at the Grand Convocation the Companions decided, by open vote, to continue to use the 1978 edition of the ritual of the Grand Chapter of Canada in Ontario, notwithstanding that the Grand Committee on the Work recommended the newer Ontario ritual of 1983 which they felt incorporated many valuable improvements. It was therefore, proposed that the Grand Council find a printer who would undertake to reprint this edition of the Work so as to have these rituals available to the local Chapters.

The Grand First Principal was somewhat concerned about the format of some of the Chapter notices which he said had deteriorated significantly; to the point that they contained little or nothing other than calling the meeting. He suspected these were easily put aside and forgotten by the members.

In 1989, as Chairman of the Committee on Fraternal Correspondence, RExComp V. Ramsbottom reported that Grand Representatives were actively corresponding with their counterparts in other jurisdictions and that he anticipated an even more active participation in future years.

In 1990, MExComp A.A. Aspeslet observed from his travels within the jurisdiction that a few dedicated individuals keep Capitular Masonry functioning. He added that Royal Arch Masonry suffers from apathy and in many cases Chapters have "lackluster leadership". He suggested that Chapters should be looking for leaders who have the qualities of imagination, vision and a sense of excitement. He also recommended that each First Principal develop a "Workplan" for his year in office. Finally, he reported that he found several Re-affirmation services only meagerly attended.

The Grand First Principal also stressed the need to have the Manual of Instruction for Grand District Superintendents revised and rewritten, and he appointed a committee to do so.

In 1991, The Youth Endowment Trust Fund presented \$3,500.00 in donations to various needy youth groups. Among these were four Alberta elementary schools receiving money to assist the funding of free meals to children who come to school without having had a morning meal. In 1992, in addition to the previous annual financial gifts, this Fund donated \$400.00 to

another Edmonton school whose principal, Dr. S. Ramsanker, a Mason himself, began serving hungry children with breakfasts. He eventually persuaded his School Board to provide shower rooms, a washer-dryer for children to clean their dirty clothes, and a sleep area for listless children whose home environments did not allow for rest.

In 1993, Alberta Chapter No. 11 celebrated their 100th anniversary. Unfortunately, this same year three Chapters surrendered their Charters and the Grand First Principal, MExComp W.A. Brown appointed a committee to review the re-alignment of the Alberta Royal Arch Districts, since District No. 2 had been reduced to three Chapters, two of which met only four times a year. After polling every Chapter in Alberta for recommendations the Committee proposed that Alberta be reduced to four R.A.M. Districts. This recommendation was approved at the Grand Convocation in 1994. The Grand Z again reminded the Companions that the Royal Arch membership was only about 20% of the Masonic membership in the province, leaving an adequate supply from which to solicit new Companions.

The revised Manual of Instructions for Grand District Superintendents was presented, ratified by the Grand Convocation and distributed to the present Superintendents.

In 1994, while the decline in membership slowed considerably over the last year, unfortunately one Chapter surrendered its Charter. The Special Committee of District Re-Alignment recommended that

- District No. 1 remain as at present
- District No. 2 be deleted
- District No. 3 have Eheyeh Chapter No. 27 added
- District No. 4 have Keystone Chapter No. 12 added
- District No. 5 have Lebanon Chapter No. 38 added.

This matter was referred to the Permanent Committee on the Constitution.

RExComp Bud Wheat and MExComp Bill Brown presented a banner depicting the Seal of Grand Chapter. MExComp Brown exhorted all Companions to have more pride in supporting their District Superintendents, especially at their District Meetings. Youth Endowment Grants were made to groups and individuals totaling \$2,400.00, while donations of \$3,542.00 were received.

In 1995 MExComp Fairbridge encouraged Chapters to "go it alone" in Installation Ceremonies, even if it meant having to seek aid from Companions of other Chapters. He also described the need for a master plan of the Masonic Journey, which we must be ready to revise to face the reality that to survive we must accept change as being inevitable. As membership had again declined, he requested that MExComp Aspeslet chair a Membership Committee. RExComp Ken White gave a report on the St. John's Ambulance "We Can Help" program.

A motion to rescind the motion deleting District No. 2 and to transfer Norwood Chapter from District No. 1 to District No. 2 was carried.

1996 saw the Youth Endowment Fund making grants totaling \$3,000.00 and receiving donations of \$4,473.38 plus \$48,000.00 from the estate of MExComp Bert James. A motion that as the amount of \$53,000.00 was donated to the Youth Endowment Fund from the Bert James Estate, the Fund be named the Bert James Memorial Youth Endowment Fund and this motion was carried, although not implemented.

MExComp McKercher applauded the efforts of MExComp Aspeslet and his membership Committee in the area of increasing and retaining members.

1997 saw Kether Chapter No. 8 surrender its Charter in June. Following the death of RExComp Gil Utas on September 1, 1996 at his residence, MExComp Edstrom appointed

RExComp Gerzanich as Superintendent of District No. 1 for the remainder of the 1996-1997 year.

During his term of office, MExComp Edstrom presented 50-year jewels to VExComp Tom Brown of Crescent Chapter No. 24, and to Comp Earl Fairbairn, age 101, of Calgary Chapter No. 11.

In 1998 MExComp Bruce stated in his report that leadership is vital, communication at all levels is necessary, morality is of the utmost significance in our Royal Craft and quoted Albert Einstein, who said "Example is not the main thing in influencing the lives of others, it is the only thing." He also stated that District Meetings are vital, for at those meetings discussion and planning take place. He applauded the work of the Membership Committee, and noted that membership loss was one of the lowest in several years.

MExComp Patton reported in 1999 that he had asked all Chapters to hold a Master Masons' Night, and commented on some fears expressed that membership will be reduced by Shrine Clubs now accepting Master Masons directly into their membership. He noted with sadness the passing of RExComp John Rigby, Grand Superintendent of District No. 4, while in office, and thanked RExComp Peter Lewko for completing this term. Once again there was a loss of 86 members for the year.

In 2000 it was reported that the first field day organized by Eheyeh and Strathmore Chapters to confer the MMM and MEM degrees at the outdoor Passion Play site in Drumheller took place in September of the previous year.

The first issue of the one-page bulletin *Vox Regius* (changed in its second issue to *Vox Regia*), edited by RExComp Sandy Robinson, came out in February 2000. It was published a few times a year for four years, but was not widely distributed. In 2005 ExComp Stephen Dafoe took over as publisher, with an expanded format.

The effectiveness of the Fraternal Relations Program continued to be a problem, with only 40 reports received from 82 representatives, due in some part to difficulties in contacting their counterparts or receiving any useful information. By 2003 it was down to 16 out of 85.

The Long Range Planning and Membership Committee was finally analyzing the results of the 1997-98 membership survey. It also recommended adoption of a program similar to Grand Lodge's COMELY.

By the turn of the century the Youth Endowment Fund's capital balance had grown to \$122,000. In the past year it had donated \$5300.

In 2001 a motion to give voting privileges at Grand Chapter to all elected or appointed Chapter officers was defeated, as were motions to drop the preferential balloting system and to combine the Manual of Instruction with the Ritual book

Hangingsone Chapter No. 40 was presented with its Charter. The last Ceremony of Constituting and Consecrating a Chapter took place in 1967; no trace of the ritual could be found and a new one had to be developed.

A motion to include delivery of notices by "printed or written electronic means" was defeated, as was a motion that was intended to permit Past GDSs to wear their predecessor's "hand-me-down" collars, but was seen as directing Grand Chapter buy new collars.

In 2002 motions to delete the office of Grand Master of the Veils and the Veilsmen and the Grand Steward were carried.

In 2003 a motion to permit Chapters to open with seven Royal Arch Masons, five of whom must be members of the Chapter was carried.

The title of Scribe E emeritus was conferred on MExComp Lyle Dowdell

A motion was passed to add Camrose to the list of possible sites for the 2004 Convocation (and it has been held there ever since).

The Royal Arch website was officially launched.

In 2004 a Centennial Planning Committee was appointed, but no substantive work was reported until 2008, when a project development plan was completed. The Committee recommended that each Chapter have their own centennial committee, to act as a resource and liaison, to no avail.

In 2005 the committee on Fraternal Relations received 55 reports after writing to each of the Representatives, and the Office of Grand Webmaster was established.

In 2006 two motions were received that were intended to bestow extra voting rights on members at District and Grand Chapter meetings. However, the Committee on Jurisprudence and the Constitution pointed out problems with the wording of the proposals, and they were withdrawn.

A motion to withdraw from the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International was tabled until the next Convocation, when it was defeated.

A dispensation was granted to form what would become Stoney Chapter.

The Chairman of the Library, Research and Education Committee (the Grand Historian) had been requesting that GDSs appoint Education Representatives for each District and that each Chapter have an Education Representative. He laid out for the new GDSs a process for gathering, communicating and sharing every possible piece of information on any and all education happenings in the Chapters. He repeated this “call to duty” the following year

In 2007 Stoney Chapter UD was granted their Charter.

The Committee on the Work received a concern regarding the ritual for opening and closing a District Meeting and realized the ritual would require some modifications. The following year they reported that copies of this work had been made that were not accurate copies of the original and produced new ones, although the original concerns were not addressed.

In 2008 MExComp Weigelt, in his report, recommended that the incoming Grand First Principal launch a reorganization/consolidation of the existing contents of our Constitution, modeling it on the Constitution and Regulations of Grand Lodge. He also recommended that it be published on the Grand Chapter website.

In 2009 the Chairman of the Committee on Jurisprudence and the Constitution announced that the draft of a revised Constitution was ready for presentation to Grand Chapter, although it had not been circulated for comments. Notice to replace the Constitution with a new version was received at the 2010 Grand Executive meeting and tabled to the 2011 Grand Convocation, when it was finally adopted.

A motion to permit electronic delivery of notices and summonses was carried

The new Grand Historian, as chair of the Library, Research and Education Committee, described new terms of reference for the Committee and a re-organization, with the goal of embedding Royal Arch education by encouraging, supporting, facilitating and disseminating education resources, processes and outcomes at all levels of the Jurisdiction. The Executive Librarian for Grand Lodge had agreed to add the Royal Arch library to the Grand Lodge’s Royal Arch collection and on-line catalogue, giving both easier access and better control.

As Grand Historian, he reported, for the first time in many years, on the state of Chapter histories and historical records (both poor) and recommended establishing the office of Chapter Historian as part of the review of the Constitution.

The Long Range Planning and Membership Committee had been revitalized and was preparing material on membership development and guidelines for members of Grand Council and for Chapter Officers

The Centennial Planning Committee reported good progress, especially on sources for funding. An outline for a history book had been approved.

In 2011, since in the previous year there were only 23 reports received from the 83 Grand Representatives, only a list of all the Representatives was now published in the Proceedings.

Mountainview Chapter UD was granted its Charter as Number 42 on the Grand Register.

The Grand Historian reported that the office of Chapter Historian, which could be jointly held with another office, was in place, but not yet in the Installation Ritual. The Centennial Committee was having little luck in procuring historical material from the Chapters

The Chairman of the Long Range Planning and Membership Committee presented a report on their efforts and some thoughts on the direction and next steps which may be taken, and in particular how to address the problems which have been articulated. He repeated his advice in the following year, strongly recommending rereading the 2011 report.

In 2012 the Grand Historian pointed out that while Chapter Historian was now one of the required Officers, few had actually been appointed. In the absence of a revision to the Installation Ritual, he read out the wording approved by the Committee on the Work at the last Executive Committee meeting

Companion ___ you have been appointed Historian of this Chapter. It is your duty to collect and preserve all material of historical significance and to keep a record of all the significant events and activities of the Chapter. This Office plays an important role in maintaining the heritage of Royal Arch Masonry in general and of this Chapter in particular; the zeal and thoroughness with which you approach this responsibility will earn you the respect of future generations of Companions.

The Centennial Planning Committee reported slow but continuous progress and a boost in fund raising.

In 2013 the Committee on Jurisprudence and the Constitution reported that a separate Committee would soon start reviewing the Standard Chapter by-laws to ensure there were no conflicts with the revised Constitution. In the meantime, they recommended that specific fee structures be removed from by-laws and replaced with the Chapter's Budget (or Finance) Committee reviewing the fee structure each October, to be voted on for approval in November.

The Committee on Fraternal Relations now reported 56 active representatives for the 79 jurisdictions on our list. They were now asking those jurisdictions if they would like to continue to have representation in Alberta. The Committee was also trying to update the lists of contact information.

The Committee on the Work had requests for clarification which they plan to provide in an updated version of the Manual of Instruction.

The Grand Historian reported that despite the urgings of the Grand Z and other Grand Officers there are still few Chapter Historians and Chapter histories are only slowly coming in. At its February meeting the Executive Committee agreed that the historical material should reside on a special section of the Grand Chapter website instead of in print form, so that it could be revised and expanded as required.

A motion was carried that the Grand Scribe E, in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Committee, provide a report to each Grand Convocation summarizing the deliberations and decision of annual meeting of that Committee.

The Centennial Planning Committee reported that a Centennial design had been selected and a Commemorative Medal struck. Other items were still being reviewed.