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THE BYZANTIUM

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL • RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE



THE GRAND SOVEREIGN
JAMES ERNEST WINZENREID, KGC

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL

James E. Winzenreid, KGC
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Most Eminent Grand Viceroy

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Vaughn F. Shafer
Illustrious Grand Orator

Henry L. Lesber, Sr.
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Martin R. Trent
Illustrious Grand Marshal

John A. Habel Jr.
Illustrious Grand Herald

William M. Kratzenberg
Illustrious Grand Sentinel

Rev. William D. Hartman
Illustrious Grand High Prelate

Rev. Ronald E. Wood, Jr., KGC
Illustrious Grand Chaplain

John A. Bridegroom
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Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign James Ernest Winzenreid, KGC

James Ernest Winzenreid was elected and installed as the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign at the 147th Annual Assembly of the

United Grand Imperial Council in Houston, Texas on June 8, 2019. He is a member of Mountain State Conclave and served as its Sovereign in 1989. He was born in Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia on June 9, 1951, the eldest son of Ernest Christian and Dorothy Emma Wolf Winzenreid. He attended the public schools of Ohio County and graduated from Wheeling High School in 1969.

Upon graduation from high school, he entered West Liberty State College at West Liberty, West Virginia and graduated in June 1973, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He entered the College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia and graduated in 1979 with the degree of Master of Business Administration. He then entered the School of Law, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and graduated in 1987, with the degree of Juris Doctor and continuing his legal education, entered the School of Law, Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where he graduated in 1989, with the degree of Master of Laws in Labor Law. Afterward, he entered the College of Management, Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan where he graduated in 2009 with the degree of Doctor of Business Administration.

In 1974, the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign began a career in business and industry, and since that time has held management positions with several Fortune 500 companies, currently with Aramark, where he holds the position of Labor Relations Director.

He is married to the former Rebecca Lee Rice and is the father of two children: Diana Lee and Lauren Rice.



The Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign's Masonic career began when he was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 3, 1975, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 20, 1975 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 5, 1975 in Ohio Lodge No. 1 in Wheeling, West Virginia. He served as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1980-81 and Grand Master of Masons in West Virginia in 1992-93. He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason on September 18, 1976 in Wheeling Union Chapter No. 1 in Wheeling. He served as High Priest in 1982-83 and again in 1983-84. He served as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of West Virginia in 2001-02. In 1976, he was

created a Knight Templar in Wheeling Commandery No. 1 in Wheeling. He served as Commander in 1985-86. In 1996, he was created a Knight Commander of the Temple by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. He currently serves as Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of West Virginia.

In 1979, the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign was made a Companion Knight of Ft. Henry York Rite College No. 61 in Wheeling. He served as Preeminent Governor in 1985-86. He served as Grand Governor of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in 1990-92 and again in 1992-94. He was elected a Regent at the 37th General Assembly in Toronto, Ontario. In 1988, he was awarded the Order of the Purple Cross by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in Seattle, Washington. In 2002, the York Rite Sovereign College bestowed upon him the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Purple Cross and in 2004 Knight Grand Cross of York. He was elected and installed as the 18th Governor General of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in 2004, to serve during its 43rd Biennium.

The Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign became a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies of Wheeling in November 1976 and served as Wise Master of Wheeling Chapter Rose Croix in 1987 and again in 1989. He served as Venerable Master of Kadosh for Wheeling Consistory in 1991. In 1985, he was invested with the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, and in 1993, duly crowned an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd Degree by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, both occurring in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

The Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign became a member of the Royal Order of Scotland in October of 1995. He served as Senior Provincial Grand Warden from 2007 to 2013 and Deputy Provincial Grand Master from 2013 to 2014. On Saturday, May 31, 2014, he was installed as the 11th Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge USA of the Royal Order of Scotland in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In 2007, the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign was made a Reverend Knight of the Great Priory of America, Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cite Sainte. At the Sixty-Eighth Convent held in Dallas, Texas on Saturday, July 28, 2018, he was elected and installed as the Most Reverend Great Prior to serve in 2018-2019.

His memberships include the Grand Convention of Anointed High Priests; West Virginia Council No. 7, Knight Masons of the United States of America, Mt. Calvary Temple No. XIX, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests; St. Lawrence the Martyr Council No. 21, Allied Masonic Degrees, Pilgrim Chapter No. 11, Order of St. Thomas of Acon, Osiris Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. of Wheeling and Ben Bey Grotto of Parkersburg. Along with his wife Becky, he is a member of Miriam Chapter No. 1, Order of the Eastern Star in Wheeling. In 1988, the rank and title of Knight of York Cross of Honour was conferred upon him by West Virginia Priory No. 40. In 1993, he was awarded the Honorary Legion of Honor by DeMolay and is a member of DeMolay's Southern West Virginia Preceptory in Charleston. He is a fellow in good standing of the Grand College of Rites of the United States of America and is a Life Member of Ye Ancient Order of Corks and the Masonic Order of the Bath of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America.

Other memberships include West Virginia College Masonic Societas Rosicruciana, The Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, The Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers, The Grand Court of the Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and its Provinces Overseas and Royal Order of Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord. He is a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

The Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign is a member of the American, Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations. He also holds membership in the Society for Human Resources Management, the Labor and Employment Relations Association, the Academy of Management and the Society for the Advancement of Management.





The Column of Constantine, Istanbul

Renderings of what the column has looked like in the past, including the original base, its placement in situ in the Forum of Constantine, and how the column has changed over the years. The Column of Constantine, also known as the Burnt Stone or the Burnt Pillar, is a Roman monumental column constructed on the orders of the Roman emperor Constantine the Great in 330 AD. It commemorates the declaration of Byzantium as the new capital city of the Roman Empire.



James E. Winzenreid, KGC
Most Illustrious
Grand Sovereign



*Elected Officers of the
United Grand Imperial Council*



Douglas F. Hegyi
Most Eminent
Grand Viceroy



D. Allen Surratt
Very Illustrious Grand
Senior General



Marcos D. Ostrander
Very Illustrious Grand
Junior General



Joe R. Manning, Jr. KGC
Right Illustrious
Grand Treasurer



R. Stephen Doan, KGC
Right Illustrious
Grand Recorder



Bryce B. Hildreth
Illustrious Grand Trustee
(2020)



Charles L. Stuckey, KGC
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(2021)



Brian R. Dodson
Illustrious Grand Trustee
(2022)



Richard V. Travis, KCC
Illustrious Grand
Chancellor



David D. Goodwin
Illustrious Grand
Almoner

Appointed Officers of the United Grand Imperial Council



Thomas F. Miller, KCC
Illustrious Grand
Chamberlain



Vaughn F. Shafer
Illustrious Grand
Orator



Henry L. Leshar, Sr.
Illustrious Grand
Standard Bearer



Martin R. Trent
Illustrious Grand
Marshal



John A. Habel, Jr.
Illustrious Grand
Herald



William M. Kratzenberg
Illustrious Grand
Sentinel



Rev. William D. Hartman
Illustrious Grand
High Prelate



Rev. Ronald E. Wood, Jr., KGC
Illustrious Grand
Chaplain

148th Annual Assembly Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania June 4th through June 6th, 2020

The 148th Annual Assembly of the UGIC will be held June 4 - 6, 2020 at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222. The theme is “Coming Home to Western Pennsylvania,” celebrating the 150th Anniversary of United States Premier Conclave No. 1. A dedicated website is available to book rooms online at: <https://book.passkey.com/e/49930848>. Individual guest reservations also can be made by calling 1-888-317-0197; or by calling the hotel directly at 412-391-4600 and asking for In House reservations. As is customary, the business of the Annual Assembly will be conducted on Friday and Saturday mornings. Special activities will follow and include the Pittsburgh Arts Festival (an outdoor music and arts festival), a Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise on the three rivers and a visit with lunch at the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Don't miss this important event. Registration forms will be available no later than early 2020.





Report on the 147th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council

The 147th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council was held on June 7th and 8th of this year in League City, Texas.



Grand Viceroy James E. Winzenreid, a Past Grand Master of Masons of West Virginia, was installed Grand Sovereign and invested with the dignity and decorations of a Knight Grand Cross. Knight Companion David D. Goodwin, a Past Intendant General and a Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, was installed Grand Almoner.

The following new Intendants General were appointed:

- Alaska: Harry C. Telling
- New York Western: W. Bruce Renner
- North Dakota:..... Lon W. Kvasager
- Pennsylvania Eastern: Victor K. Crooks II
- South Carolina: J. Samuel Burton

Knights Companions Thomas F. Miller and Lloyd F. Christopher received the Order of Knight Commander of Constantine.

Section 405.010 of the Statutes and Regulations was amended to allow the Grand Sovereign to both set divisional boundaries as well as appoint an Intendant General for each such division. A copy of the Constitution and Statutes and Regulations of the United Grand Imperial Council as amended through the close of the 147th Annual Assembly may be downloaded at <http://www.redcrossconstantine.org/resources.html>.

Recognition was granted to the Grand Imperial Conclave of Germany.

The 148th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council will be held on June 4th through 6th, 2020, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222. Registration forms will be available on the UGIC website in early 2020.





THE WORD

R. Stephen Doan, KGC, Grand Recorder

In some Continental lodges, the craft degrees are known as the St. John's degrees. Some of these lodges open the Bible to the beginning of John's Gospel, the first five verses of which provide the central lesson offered in our Order of Knights of St. John the Evangelist. An Entered Apprentice in these St. John's lodges is thus obligated with his hand on these five verses at the start of his Masonic journey while we do not confront their Masonic significance until much later in ours. As with much in Masonry, this significance is not immediately apparent.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.¹

The Word is an imprecise translation of the Greek word *Logos*. The concept of the *Logos* goes back to the Music or Harmony of the Spheres observed by Pythagoras. In the Hellenistic world in which Jesus and his followers lived, the *Logos* was understood by the Greeks and Hellenistic Jews to refer to divinely inspired harmony here on earth. The Creator made the Creation in its own image, but sometimes the Creation wandered. It was then that the Creator sent the *Logos* to the Creation to bring it back into harmony, to bring to Humanity the Music of the Spheres which Pythagoreans would describe as the *Logos*.

The Word was present at the beginning when God said: "Let there be light"; and there was light."² The Word was present at the beginning because the Word was God, whose overarching characteristic is Harmony.

*2 He was in the beginning with God.
3 All things came into being through Him,
and without Him not one thing came
into being. What has come into being
4 in Him was life, and the life was the
light of all people.*

Science tells us that the Big Bang was the beginning, and Scripture tells us that all which followed the Big Bang was created in Harmony which continues to this very day. Science supports Scripture on this point. As evidenced in quantum mechanics, everything created at the beginning and existing today is ultimately energy. Energy on the quantum level will return to equilibrium when disturbed which of course is what the Music of the Spheres is all about. No matter how violent Nature may be, harmony will ultimately return, and our daily choice to be part of that harmony is what Freemasonry encourages. Geometry measures harmony and thus is not only the symbol of that harmony but of its source: the Supreme Being.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

If God created Light for good, why was dark allowed to remain? Because Humanity was created with free will. How boring life would be without it! Yet, free will allows us to choose darkness. We also sometimes face darkness which we did not choose: depression, fear of the unknown, hopelessness after a senseless loss. That the darkness did not overcome the light gives us hope. We can come to understand that we can choose light by simply stepping into it. Happiness is a choice.

There is another key verse in John 1 which we do not recite in Constantine:

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The *Logos* or the Word became incarnate in Jesus. In traditional Christian theology, Jesus was both God and Man. In all His humanity, He was the Word, evidencing that each of us can be a vessel of the Word too.



Our duty as Masons is now clear. We can always choose, and the right choice, the moral choice, is conduct enhancing and spreading harmony, by the exercise of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The choice is not always clear or easy. But, Geometry is the working tool which can keep us on track, by providing the standard to measure how we are doing.

NOTES:

1. John 1:1, *The New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). This is the source of the balance of the Gospel quotes.
2. Genesis 1:3.

Upcoming Events

2019:

- 1-2 November 61st Annual Eastern Regional Assembly, Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA
- 9 November North Carolina Divisional Assembly, Lenoir, NC
- 16 November Georgia State Wide Assembly, Warner Robins, GA

2020:

- 11 January Tennessee Divisional Assembly, Nashville, TN
- 5-9 February AMD Masonic Week, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, VA
- 15-18 February Conference of Grand Masters, Downtown Marriott, Louisville,
Louisville, KY
- 20-21 March 35th Annual Northwest Regional Assembly, Kennewick, WA
- 10 April Good Friday Breakfast, Washington, DC
- 11-12 April Grand Encampment Easter Observance, Alexandria, Kansas City and
Salt Lake City
- 4-6 June 148th UGIC Annual Assembly, Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown,
600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
- 18-20 June DeMolay International, Arizona Grand Resort and Spa, Phoenix,
Arizona
- 10-11 July 34th Annual Southwest Regional Assembly, Orleans Hotel and Casino,
Las Vegas, Nevada
- 12-14 July Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons, Maggie Valley,
NC



PGS Wood Honored

On February 21, 2019, Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign and Rev. Ronald E Wood Jr., KGC, was honored by his local Conclave. At the dinner that evening prior to the meeting of St. Joseph Conclave, Bobbie White (now Intendant General Missouri Northern) and the late Dan Daniel (then Intendant General Missouri Northern) presented Knight Companion Ron with a plaque naming him Recorder Emeritus and thanking him for his many years of service. PGS Wood is not quitting however! He is remaining in the line as Treasurer.

St. Timothy Conclave, Fort Worth, Texas

Saint Timothy Conclave held its Traditional Banquet on May 11, 2019, at the Fort Worth Club, Fort Worth, Texas. Newly installed officers were Knights Companions Roy Dean Foster, Puissant Sovereign; and Kenneth C. Curry, Viceroy. Saint Timothy Conclave was honored to welcome Knight Companion John A. Hughes, Illustrious Intendant General Division of Texas Northern. Three new Knights Companions were welcomed: Richard P. Baker, Barry Dean Brunk, Sr., and Michael Wayne Roberson. The principal speaker was Knight Companion Wendell P. Miller, Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas-2016.



(L to R) Knight Companion Roy Dean Foster, Puissant Sovereign, 2019; Judy Foster; Knight Companion Wendel P. Miller, Past Sovereign, Saint Mark Conclave, Dallas, Texas 2013 and Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas 2016; Billie Miller; Becky Hughes; Knight Companion John A. Hughes, Past Sovereign, Saint Timothy Conclave, Fort Worth, Texas 2002 and Illustrious Intendant General Division of Texas Northern; and Knight Companion Kenneth C. Curry, Viceroy, Saint Timothy Conclave, 2019, and Grand Senior Warden, 2019, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas.



Five Past Potentates of Moslah Shrine, Fort Worth, Texas, were present at the banquet. (L to R) Knights Companions: Paul A. Johnson (Potentate 1993); Richard P. Baker who received Red Cross Orders May 11, 2019 (Potentate 1998); James H. King (Potentate 1999); Gary E. Reynolds (Potentate 2001); and Raymond M. Moyer (Potentate 2004).

Photos by Knight Companion Loyd O. (Neal) Addy, Jr.

Saint Denys Conclave, 100th Anniversary

Saint Denys Conclave No. 40, R.C.C. of Sheridan, WY observed its 100th Anniversary with a special Assembly held on May 18, 2019. (The official Charter date is June 6, 1919, but June 6, 2019 conflicted with the UGIC Annual Assembly.) In observance of this special occasion, two new members were installed as Knights Companions followed by a celebratory banquet.



Picture No. 1: From Left to Right: Kenneth M. Badget, Grand Master of Masons of Wyoming, Bryan J. Compton, Newly Invested Knight Companion, James T. Rader, Puissant Sovereign, Mark S. Young, Intendent General, Division of Wyoming, and Peyton S. Young, Newly Invested Knight Companion and son of Intendent General Young.

Picture No. 2: Group picture of attendees.



Division of Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador

City of Mexico Conclave is well organized and holds three meetings per year in different cities. During 2018 these meetings were held in Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara. This conclave is comprised of members from Mexico and also includes members residing in Mexico from the United States and Canada. At the Annual Assembly on January 20, 2018 in Mexico City, the officers were elected and installed for 2018-2019. KC Oscar Castillo is the Conclave's Puissant Sovereign and works effectively with all members and with KC Christian Martinez, the Recorder. See the picture below of the September 22, 2018 assembly held in Guadalajara.

Guatemala Conclave is comprised of members from Guatemala plus three dual members with El Salvador Conclave. The Conclave holds two meetings a year. See the picture on the next page from the assembly on June 30, 2018. The Annual Assembly was held on December 8, 2018.

The Annual Assembly of El Salvador Conclave was held on December 28, 2018 when officers were elected and installed for 2018-2019. Elected and installed Puissant Sovereign was K. C. Alejandro Zabaneh. This conclave was chartered in Seattle in June of 2015 and is therefore the newest of the three conclaves in the Division. It also has members from Honduras and Costa Rica. See the picture on the next page from the December meeting.



City of Mexico Conclave



Guatemala Conclave



El Salvador Conclave

San Lorenzo Conclave, Republic of Panama

The Annual Assembly of San Lorenzo Conclave was held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Union Club, located in the Paitilla District of Panama City, Republic of Panama, under the leadership of Puissant Sovereign Carlos Sanfilippo. After elections, other business and the conferral of the Sovereign and Viceroy chair degrees, the meeting was adjourned and an open installation held. Along with a full corps of other officers, Ruben J. Levy was installed Puissant Sovereign and Ricaurte Arrocha Eminent Viceroy. The ladies attended as well as various Masonic dignitaries, including K.C. Sid Leluan III, Right Eminent Department Commander, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, M.W. Marcos D. Ostrander, Past Grand Master, Illustrious Grand Chancellor of the United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, R. W. John Bernard Bamber, Past District Grand Master and Intendant General, K.C. Rafael E. Cedefio, Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery of Panama, M.E. Francisco J. Flores, Grand High Priest, Panama Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Ill. and K.C. Rodolfo Moreno, Potentate, Abou Saad Shriners Panama. Knight Companion John B. Bamber, Intendant General of the Republic of Panama, presented fraternal greetings from the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign Kenneth B. Fischer, KGC, and congratulated the new officers. The traditional toasts to the Masonic Bodies and departed Brethren were offered. The evening ended with a delicious dinner and refreshments enjoyed by all.



John Bernard Bamber, Intendant General, Puissant Sovereign Ruben J. Levy
and Marcos D. Ostrander, Grand Chancellor



St Thomas Conclave, Waterville, Ohio

St. Thomas Conclave installed its 2019 officers on December 10, 2018 at Browning Masonic Community in Waterville, Ohio. The installation was performed by Steven A. Duncan, Intendant General of Ohio Western, assisted by Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign Burch E. Zehner, KGC and Past Sovereign Theodore B. Korn.

Picture caption: Shown from left to right were: Russell A. Herner, Eminent Viceroy, Theodore B. Korn, PPS, Dimitrios Xanthakos M.D., Junior General, Steven M. Grindle, Treasurer, David T. Harold, Prelate, Steven A. Duncan, Intendant General, Bernard "Bernie" Welniak Jr., Puissant Sovereign, Michael E. Shobe, Recorder, Burch E. Zehner, KGC, Robert C. Rill Jr., PGM, Prefect, David J. Roth, Standard Bearer, David J. Roper, Herald and Trent T. Dominique, Sentinel. Not pictured was Douglas W. King, Senior General.



St Stephen's Conclave, New Jersey

Members and four new Knights Companions at St. Stephen's Conclave (NJ) conferral of the Red Cross of Constantine on July 20, 2019.





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UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL

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John A. Bridegroom..... Byzantium Assistant Editor