

**157th ANNUAL
COMMUNICATION**



GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

**GRAND LODGE F. & A. M.
OF NEVADA**

NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2021

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

M.W. Richard M. Graver, Jr.

WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the 157th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of the State of Nevada. It has been my extreme pleasure to serve as your Grand Master for the past Masonic year. Our Annual Communication is the one time of the year when all the Worshipful Masters, Principal Officers, Past Grand Masters, and elected voting officers join to participate in Grand Lodge business. Thank you for your attendance.

I would like to welcome our distinguished guests with the Nevada hand of friendship and Brotherly love, and I look forward to hearing from you during this session, as time allows.

This year has passed quickly. In every Lodge I visited, I was received with the honors and respect of the office. It was great to see firsthand the work being performed by the Lodges in this State.

Let this Annual Communication be conducted not only for the transaction of Masonic business, but also for the exchange of ideas and social interaction; this should strengthen our Masonic bond. We have legislative business we must attend to, and beyond that duty, I anticipate we will have some time for fun and fellowship.

I sincerely appreciate all of you being here for the next few days of fellowship. It is my hope that you will return home with the fondest memories.

NECROLOGY

Brethren, it is my sad duty to report that we lost 119 workmen from the quarry. They have laid down their working tools. God's finger touched them, and they slept.

We lost one Past Grand Master during this last Masonic year; on December 15, 2020, M.W. Gordon F. Wessell, P.G.M.

Gordon F. Wessell, P.G.M.

Most Worshipful Gordon Franklin Wessell, the 128th Brother to be elected Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Nevada, was installed at the conclusion of the 136th Annual Communication in Las Vegas, Nevada on November 14, 2000. He was born September 20, 1930, in Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of Theodore E. and Myrtle L. Wessell. He graduated from White Pine High School, Ely, Nevada, in June 1948. On February 11, 1951, he, and Lorna Yvonne Oxborrow were married in Ely, Nevada. They have two children, Debra Jill Phillips, and Roger G. He entered the U.S. Army in 1949 retiring with the rank of Colonel in 1983. After retiring he became an electrical contractor specializing in electrical design engineering and installation.

M.W. Brother Wessell was raised a Master Mason in Pyramid Lodge No. 43 in Reno, Nevada, on March 29, 1962, serving as Worshipful Master in 1971. He also held a plural membership in Eureka Lodge No. 16 and was a Past Master of Research Lodge No. 1. He was appointed to the Grand Lodge in 1985 by G. William Casteel, P.G.M.

M.W. Brother Gordon served as head of all four Scottish Rite Bodies and was Coroneted a 33^o Honorary on November 22, 1997.

He was a member of the York Rite Bodies of Nevada, served as Governor of the York Rite College No. 144 in 1995, and in 1996, was awarded the Order of the Purple Cross in 1998. He also held membership and was active in the Royal Order of Scotland, Chief of Clan

Bannockburn in 1998 and 1999, Knight Masons Excellent Chief in 1999 and 2000 of Kilkenny Council No. 33; Red Cross of Constantine, Herald in 2001; Quarter Coronati Lodge No. 2076, London, England as Q.C.C.C. Secretary for Nevada. He was active in Nevada DeMolay as Chapter Dad and in 2001 received the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He was, also active with the International Order of Rainbow for Girls in Nevada who awarded him the Rainbow Grand Cross of Colors. In 1970, he served as patron of Rose Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

STATE OF THE CRAFT

The start of this Masonic year had its challenges, specifically the directives from our Governor regarding in person meetings. I appreciate the understanding and compliance from our Lodges concerning the issues around this pandemic. The directive loosening the precautions in February came as welcome news and many Lodges gradually opened, some opting to elect officers and others to retain them. All our Nevada Lodges showed great care and understanding to deal with a chaotic situation, and I think their flexibility served us well. My Grand Master's calendar took a severe hit too. Many of my visitations and planned travel had to be rescheduled or cancelled, and my focus became scheduling my Grand Master visitations with our Nevada Lodges.

I am happy to report that I was able to visit either jointly or individually all the Lodges in the state with the exceptions of St. John Lodge No. 18 and the Nevada Lodge of Research No. 2. I was able to socialize with W. Eugene Sullivan, Master of St. John Lodge No. 18 on several occasions during my term and expressed my gratitude to him and the members of his Lodge, along with my apologies for not being able to see them in their home Lodge. I hope to visit Pioche as a Past Grand Master in the future. I would also like to thank those Lodges that accommodated my request to hold a joint visit, without your flexibility and understanding I would have regrettably been unable to visit all our Lodges in the roughly six months I had.

As I approached the beginning of my term, my attitude was that of the workman doing his job. Very soon after I began my travels, I was gently reminded that the Grand Master's term is only one year, and an attitude adjustment might be in order. In other words, "you better start having fun." I thank that Brother for the wise council, it is helpful to remember to have fun. I embraced the fun and have truly enjoyed this Grand Master's "job".

Every visit I made and every event I attended was unique and enjoyable in its own way. From the Hawaiian party at Vegas Lodge No. 32 to the pig roast at King Solomon Lodge No. 58, it has been a culinary journey not to be forgotten. As a self-proclaimed pork rib connoisseur, the bones prepared at Boulder City Lodge No. 37 could compete with the ribs served at the rib cookoff in Sparks. All the meals and all the hospitality I received from all the Lodges came with heartfelt gratitude and mutual love.

I had my first experience in podcasting thanks to the Brothers at Vegas Lodge No. 32, and for anyone wishing to see their work it can be found by searching YouTube "Masonic or Not." The joint visits this year were particularly rewarding as we had great turnouts from all the Lodges. The visit to Carson Valley Lodge No. 33 jointly with Douglas Lodge No. 12 had Brothers from the whole state in attendance. Other unique experiences included the trip to the Imperial Shrine, the visitation to Jack Haywood Lodge No. 6 with the Brothers from Acacia Lodge No. 49 for an E.A. Degree, my first G.M.O.V. to Golden Lodge No. 50, a 75-year pin presentation to a Brother from Washoe Lodge No. 35, a 50-year pin presentation to W. Skip Hammargren at Humboldt Lodge No. 27, a 60-year pin presentation to W. Ernie Zebal at Amity Lodge No. 4. These and others are unforgettable. Please know that each visitation or event I attended was special to me and I thank you again.

In almost all the Lodges I visited, petitions were being read and Degrees were being conducted. With few exceptions, our Brothers continue to exhibit the love and respect of our Fraternity, truly spreading the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection.

OFFICIAL ACTS

PROCLAMATIONS (3)

I issued the following proclamations on December 10, 2020.

So that the Worshipful Master of each Constituent Lodge may plan his programs for this year, I do hereby issue the following three (3) Proclamations:

PROCLAMATION NO. 1

Pursuant to the adopted custom of Masons in Nevada, and in conformity with Section 4.400 of the Nevada Masonic Code and as a means of honoring the memory of George Washington, the Man and the Mason, for his steady devotion to our Masonic Principles, I do hereby; PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021 AS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE MONTH. It is my order that every Lodge, or several Lodges, together, during the month of February 2021, shall hold a suitable program, either private or public, thus affirming that Free and Accepted Masons will always honor their great Masonic Leaders.

PROCLAMATION NO. 2

All Masons of Constituent Lodges should observe and display their pride in our Masonic Youth Organizations – the International Order of DeMolay, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and the International Order of Job's Daughters. I therefore; PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MARCH AS MASONIC YOUTH OBSERVANCE MONTH and order that each Lodge, or several Lodges, shall join together to attend and observe our Masonic Youth at their labors in their Chapters, Assemblies or Bethels, on their respective meeting nights, providing that any Masonic Youth Group is located in said Lodge's area. If this is not possible, an informative program about Masonic Youth Groups shall be presented to the Brethren of their Lodges during March 2021. Additionally, as a supplement, but not as a substitute, to the foregoing, the Lodges may consider offering financial support to a local Chapter, Assembly or Bethel, or to any state organization representing our Masonic Youth.

PROCLAMATION NO. 3

Whereas, Free and Accepted Masons are dedicated to the support and furtherance of Public Schools, and per Section 4.390 of the Nevada Masonic Code, I do hereby; PROCLAIM PUBLIC SCHOOL OBSERVANCE WEEK TO BE OBSERVED AT SOME PERIOD BETWEEN APRIL 15, 2021, AND MAY 15, 2021. It is my order that each Lodge, or several Lodges, join together in the presentation of a program to display our Masonic Fraternity's support of Public Schools. Our support is sometimes better displayed when the program activities are presented to the public.

Edict No. 1-2021

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and for the health and safety of our members and their families, I hereby suspend all Masonic activities until further notice.

For upcoming Lodge elections, under Section 5.020 (1) of the Nevada Masonic Code, the Grand Master has issued a blanket dispensation to all Lodges to allow them to hold their Elections at a safer time when they can meet. Per Section 5.010 (4) of the Nevada Masonic Code, all current

Officers shall hold their current offices until their successors are elected and installed. While this Edict is in effect, all usual bills such as rent, utilities and services may be paid when ordered by the Worshipful Master.

In these very unpredictable times, let us continue to reach out to our Brothers by telephone, text, email, or zoom to make sure they are doing well. Enjoy the upcoming Holidays with your family.

A written compliance to this Edict shall be transmitted to the office of the Grand Secretary immediately following receipt thereof.

Edict No. 2-2021

1. Certain internet sites purport to offer the Nevada Masonic Ritual for downloading. Please be advised that any such Ritual is not "Nevada Standard Work" (refer to Section 4.350 of the Nevada Masonic Code) and no such download of the ritual shall be used, in any form, for any Masonic purpose, by any member of the Grand Lodge of Nevada or any of its Constituent Lodges and Lodges of Research in the Jurisdiction of Nevada.

2. Also, be advised, as per Section 4.630 (1) of the Nevada Masonic Code, only ONE Ritual Book may be used during a tiled Lodge meeting (opening and closing and for the conferral of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees by a designated member of the Lodge to check the standard work for the purpose of instruction). In addition, Section 4.630(2) states that a violation of subsection 1 is a Masonic offense.

A written compliance to this Edict shall be transmitted to the office of the Grand Secretary immediately following receipt thereof.

Edict No. 3-2021

This clarification Edict 3-2021 supplements Edict 1-2021 dated November 19, 2020. Your Grand Lodge Office has received many questions and complaints regarding the definition of "Masonic activity" as it relates to Edict 1-2021. As your Grand Master, I apologize for causing confusion in the Craft. For that reason, this clarification Edict 3-2021 defines "Masonic activity" as any in-person activity for which being a Master Mason in good standing in the State of Nevada is a prerequisite for attendance or membership.

Public or private gatherings that do not require good standing as a Master Mason in Nevada to participate do not apply to this clarification Edict 3-2021.

The current recommendations by CDC and our local health departments are to observe the following: wear a mask, proper social distancing and avoiding all non-essential business or meetings.

Edict 1-2021 and Edict 3-2021 will remain in effect until further notice.

It is my sincere hope that Edict 1-2021 and Edict 3-2021 will be rescinded in the very near future based on positive news from our State of Nevada. I thank you for your continued patience, understanding and assistance in these very difficult and unpredictable times.

Please be safe, my Brothers.

Edict No. 4-2021

This Edict 4-2021 replaces Edict 1-2021 and Edict 3-2021 and is effective on February 15, 2021. The new authority for guidance related to meetings will be Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery which can be found at the following website: nvhealthresponse.nv.gov and clicking on the box below Current Status: Mitigation Measures and under What's happening now.

For upcoming Lodge elections, under Section 5.020 (1) of the Nevada Masonic Code, the Grand Master has issued a blanket Dispensation to all Lodges to allow them to hold their elections at a time when the individual Lodges feel safe to meet.

Per Section 5.010 (4) of the Nevada Masonic Code, all current Officers shall hold their current offices until their successors are elected and installed. All usual bills such as rent, utilities and services may be paid when ordered by the Worshipful Master.

Each individual Lodge, its Worshipful Master and its members are encouraged to evaluate their ability to meet safely and must follow the mitigation requirements found on the Overview page of the Roadmap to Recovery (attached). This global pandemic has already taken too many of our Brothers and the decision to meet should be taken seriously and under the strict guidance established by the State of Nevada.

Should your Lodge feel the need to delay regular meetings in order to comply with the mitigation measures or simply over COVID-19 concerns, appropriate permissions will be given.

Please govern yourselves accordingly and stay safe, my Brothers.

MASONIC TRIALS

Four Masonic Trials were held this past Masonic year. Two trials were held at Vegas Lodge No. 32 on November 18, 2020, for Brothers David M. Griego and Ricque Belluscio. Both Brothers were found guilty with the penalty of expulsion. Both filed appeals in the proper time frame and the Grand Lodge Appeals and Grievances Committee reviewed both trials and found them to be in conformity with Article 7 of the Nevada Masonic Code; therefore, the verdict has been enforced.

Two trials were held in Indian Springs Lodge No. 48. The first was held on October 24, 2020, for Brother Joselito Maningat who was found guilty with the penalty of indefinite suspension. The second trial was held on February 27, 2021, for Brother Aldy Calbay who was found guilty with the penalty of expulsion. Both filed appeals in the proper time frame and the Grand Lodge Appeals and Grievances Committee reviewed both trials and found them to be in conformity with Article 7 of the Nevada Masonic Code; therefore, the verdict has been enforced.

BYLAWS APPROVED

June 18, 2021

Vegas 32: Change Article II, Section 2: Add language: and be in good standing with membership dues paid for the following year.
Vegas 32: Change Article VIII, Section 3: Increases the transaction amount for the Trustees to \$7,500.00.
Vegas 32: Change Article XIX: Increases the amount for donations or embellishments to \$7,500.00.

July 15, 2021

Winnemucca 19: Change Article VI, Section 1: Change the start time of the Stated Communication to 6:30 P.M.

October 14, 2021 Washoe 35: Change Article X, Section 1: Change the Masonic year to end on December 31st.

DISPENSATIONS APPROVED

November 20, 2020 Robert Burns U.D.: To continue as a Lodge Under Dispensation for another Masonic year.

December 10, 2020 Winnemucca 19: To re-ballot on a Petition for the Degrees waiving the one year waiting period.

December 10, 2020 Vegas 32: To hold an out of time Election and Installation of a Treasurer.

December 10, 2020 Vegas 32: To hold an out of time Election and Installation of a Lodge Trustee.

May 12, 2021 Indian Springs 48: To hold an out of time Election and Installation of a Junior Warden and a 3-Year Lodge Trustee.

DISPENSATIONS DENIED

June 18, 2021 Escurial 7: To move their Stated Communication to another day.

PERMISSIONS GRANTED

April 23, 2021 Churchill 26: To hold a Table Lodge on May 26, 2021.

April 30, 2021 Carson 1: To participate in a Ceremony at the Nevada State Museum.

May 12, 2021 Vegas 32: To hold a Table Lodge on June 4, 2021.

May 12, 2021 Nellis 46: To participate in the Las Vegas Days Parade on May 15, 2021.

May 12, 2021 Carson Valley 33: To hold a joint Table Lodge with Douglas 12 on June 19, 2021.

May 12, 2021 Golden 50: To hold a Table Lodge on September 18, 2021.

May 12, 2021 Daylite 44: To hold a Table Lodge on June 14, 2021.

May 12, 2021 St. John 18: To hold a Fundraising Raffle in 2021.

May 20, 2021 Boulder City 37: To hold a Table Lodge on October 19, 2021.

May 27, 2021 Nellis 46: To hold a Table Lodge on June 8, 2021.

June 18, 2021 King Solomon 58: To hold a Table Lodge on June 25, 2021.

July 15, 2021	Pahrump 54: To hold a Table Lodge on September 4, 2021.
September 2, 2021	Fernley 34: To hold a Table Lodge on October 2, 2021.
September 9, 2021	Acacia 49: To hold a Table Lodge on September 22, 2021.
October 14, 2021	Oasis 41: To hold a Table Lodge on October 25, 2021.

PERMISSIONS DENIED

September 16, 2021	Elko 15: To hold a Table Lodge due to insufficient notice given.
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GRAND REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTMENTS – APPROVED

No requests for Grand Representatives were received or made.

INSTALLATIONS OF CONSTITUENT LODGES

I had the pleasure to attend and / or install Officers at the following Lodges:

March 10, 2021	Virtual Zoom Installation Acacia Lodge No. 49
March 18, 2021	Carson Lodge No. 1, Carson City
April 10, 2021	Reno Lodge No. 13, Reno
April 14, 2021	Douglas Lodge No. 12, Genoa
April 17, 2021	Job's Daughters Bethel No. 5 Installation, Represented by W. Craig Phillips

TRAVEL AND OFFICIAL VISITS

December 19, 2020	Virtual Zoom Meeting with approximately 40 attendees
January 16, 2021	Virtual Zoom Meeting with approximately 70 attendees
February 27, 2021	Virtual Zoom Meeting with approximately 80 attendees
March 20, 2021	Attended Douglas Lodge No. 12. EA Degree
April 6, 2021	Attended Reno Lodge No. 13 Stated Meeting and Election of Officers
April 7, 2021	Attended Washoe Lodge No. 35 Stated Meeting and 75-year pin presentation
April 9, 2021	Attended Past Master's Degree held at Reno Lodge No. 13
April 12, 2021	G.M.O.V. Golden Lodge No. 50
May 1, 2021	G.M.O.V. Sandy Valley Lodge No. 57 jointly with Pahrump Lodge No. 54
May 3, 2021	G.M.O.V. Daylite Lodge No. 44
May 4, 2021	G.M.O.V. Oasis Lodge No. 41
May 5, 2021	G.M.O.V. Acacia Lodge No. 49
May 8, 2021	G.M.O.V. Guardian Lodge No. 53 jointly with Churchill Lodge No. 26 and Lander Lodge No. 8
May 12, 2021	Attended Scottish Rite Valley of Reno Stated Meeting
May 22, 2021	G.M.O.V. Carson Valley Lodge No. 33 jointly with Douglas Lodge No. 12
June 1, 2021	G.M.O.V. Boulder City Lodge No. 37
June 2, 2021	G.M.O.V. Mt Moriah Lodge No. 39
June 3, 2021	G.M.O.V. Dharan Daylight Lodge No. 55
June 3, 2021	Attended Scottish Rite Valley of Las Vegas Stated Meeting

June 4, 2021	G.M.O.V. Vegas Lodge No. 32
June 5, 2021	G.M.O.V. Indian Springs Lodge No. 48
June 10, 2021	G.M.O.V. Silver Cord Lodge No. 51
June 11, 2021	G.M.O.V. King Solomon Lodge No. 58
June 12, 2021	G.M.O.V. Tonopah Lodge No. 28 jointly with Montezuma Lodge No. 30 and Brucite Lodge No. 42
June 19, 2021	Attended Nevada Rainbow Virtual Grand Assembly
June 23, 2021	Attended Kerak Shrine Stated Meeting
June 25-26, 2021	Attended Scottish Rite Reunion in Las Vegas
July 3-8, 2021	Attended Imperial Shrine in Houston, Texas
August 4, 2021	G.M.O.V. Fernley Lodge No. 34 – 100-year presentation from the Mayor of Fernley
August 7, 2021	G.M.O.V. Escurial Lodge No. 7
August 15, 2021	Attended the Chinese Acacia Club in Millbrae, CA
August 22, 2021	Attended the 2021 Biennial Session of The Supreme Council 33 rd Degree Southern Jurisdiction Virtual Public Session
August 25, 2021	G.M.O.V. Humboldt Lodge No. 27
September 2, 2021	G.M.O.V. Amity Lodge No. 4
September 3, 2021	G.M.O.V. Wadsworth Lodge No. 25 jointly with Pyramid Lodge No. 43, Mt. Rose Lodge No. 40, and Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 45
September 8, 2021	Attended Scottish Rite Valley of Reno Stated Meeting
September 22, 2021	Attended MM Degree at Washoe Lodge No. 35
September 24, 2021	Attended Jack Haywood No. 6 Prince Hall Lodge EA Degree
September 25, 2021	Attended Orient of Nevada KCCH Ceremony in Las Vegas
October 2, 2021	G.M.O.V. Winnemucca Lodge No. 19 jointly with Elko Lodge No. 15 and Eureka Lodge No. 16
October 5, 2021	G.M.O.V. Reno Lodge No. 13
October 6, 2021	G.M.O.V. Washoe Lodge No. 35
October 12, 2021	Attended Reno Lodge No. 13 Stated Meeting
October 13, 2021	Attended Scottish Rite Valley of Reno Stated Meeting
October 15-16, 2021	Attended Scottish Rite Valley of Reno Reunion
October 23, 2021	G.M.O.V. Carson Lodge No. 1 jointly with Hope Lodge No. 22
November 7-9, 2021	Nevada Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Reno

OTHER JURISDICTIONS VISITED

September 15-17, 2021	Grand Lodge of Idaho
October 8-10, 2021	Grand Lodge of California

OTHER GRAND JURISDICTIONS REPRESENTED

June 3-5, 2021	Grand Lodge of Arizona by R.W. Kevin McCans, S.G.W.
August 8-10, 2021	Grand Lodge of Wyoming by R.W. Kevin McCans, S.G.W.
August 22-24, 2021	Grand York Rite Session by R.W. Kevin McCans, S.G.W.
October 3, 2021	Grand Chapter Session Order of Eastern Star by R.W. Mike Giles, D.G.M.

CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS IN NORTH AMERICA

C.O.G.M.N.A. was held as a virtual conference on February 20th, 2021. I was glad to attend this virtual meeting.

IMPERIAL SHRINE SESSION

The session was held in Houston, Texas from July 3rd to July 8th, 2021. In attendance were Grand Masters from approximately 37 states. Nobles from Kerak and Zelzah Temples were in attendance. This year marked the first Tap Room competition where Kerak finished at the top. Thank you to all the Nobles who traveled to Texas bringing the home brews and the cars, and thanks to Zelzah Temple for hosting an excellent dinner for me and my wife.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MASONIC CONFERENCE

R.W. Kevin McCans represented me and the Grand Lodge of Nevada at the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference in 2021. He presented a video created by CC Media that gave an overview of the Grand Lodge marketing campaign. Thank you, R.W. Kevin for the representation!

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommend the continued support of the Scholarship participation program.
2. Recommend the continued support of the Youth Groups.
3. Recommend the continued support of the Masonic Services Association.
4. Recommend the continued support of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.
5. Recommend continuing the Nevada Masonic Leadership Conferences.
6. Recommend continued participation in the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference

APPRECIATIONS

To the Brothers of Nevada, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your Grand Master. Your support of Masonry is evident in the work I witnessed throughout the State.

To the Grand Lodge Officers: Thank you for the continued years of service, part of the fun of traveling is to see you at the events. Each of you have served the Grand Lodge and the Brothers of Nevada with distinction, and I wish you continued success; you all did a phenomenal job this year!

I wish to commend the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in the State. Each of you went out of your way to ensure that my visit was a special occasion. You received the Grand Lodge Officers with respect and decorum, and you managed through a very difficult time with courage and strength.

Special thanks to Very Worshipful David O. Martinez, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Orator and SGIG in Nevada for the Supreme Council 33^o Degree of the Southern Jurisdiction, and most importantly my Brother for his support. Your continued hard work and service to Masonry is beyond compare, and I thank you for being my mentor.

To the Annual Communication Chairman, Tim Evans, my gratitude for planning this special event.

To the Brothers and Lodges that rearranged their schedules to accommodate my visit, and offering your Lodge to host a joint visit, thank you!

To my wife Dawn and my sons Anthony, Nicolas, and James, thank you for supporting my endeavors in these Masonic circles, I know that you know how much it means to me, and your never-ending encouragement has bolstered me! I love you and I thank you.

R.W. Deputy Grand Master, I move for the Grand Master's message to be accepted and referred to the Committee on Distribution.