

History

Of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland and Labrador

Royal Arch Masonry got its start in Newfoundland on February 16, 1851. On that date, The hon. Alexander Keith (then Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry in Nova Scotia and Provincial Grand Master under the English Jurisdiction for the Atlantic Provinces) granted a warrant to Comps. J. S. Clift, C. Wright and N. S. Stabb to establish a Royal Arch Chapter at St. John's Nfld. to be attached to St. John's Lodge # 579, English Constitution. As such, the Chapter could only confer the R. A. Degree, whilst in the U. S. A. and Canada, Grand Chapters were conferring the MMM, PM, and MEM Degrees in addition to the Royal Arch.

On June 6, 1876, M. Ex. Comp. Charles John McDonald, Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, empowered by a warrant of constitution issued under the authority of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia and having received consent of the Grand Chapter of England, granted authority to assemble as a regular Chapter of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia at St. John's Nfld and to be known as "Shannon Chapter # 9 G. R. N. S."

Over the next 70 years Capitular Masonry slowly spread across the Province. However, it was not until after World War 2 that things really started to happen with new Chapters being chartered in a fairly rapid but orderly fashion. Milley Chapter # 23, Corner Brook was chartered August 29, 1946; Arklie Chapter # 25 (Gander) Botwood November 21, 1949; Atlantic Chapter # 30 Grand Bank, June 10, 1958; Ouananiche Chapter # 31 (Stephenville) Wabush May 12, 1973; and James Strong Chapter # 32 Springdale October 3, 1987.

During the latter years many and varied discussions took place among members of Capitular Masonry as to the formation of a Grand Chapter in our Province; by 1993 it had progressed to a point where concrete steps were being taken to make this a reality. Preliminary discussions that M. E. Comp. Job Parsons held with a number of Past Grand High Priests of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and with various companions in our province proved that all were favourably disposed to this move. Obviously, the initial move had to be made somewhere. Accordingly, at the regular meeting of James Strong Chapter # 32 held at Springdale on May 10, 1993, M. E. Comp. Parsons moved the following motion, seconded by R. Ex. Comp. Mike Parry, which was unanimously CARRIED..

That James Strong Chapter # 32 seek permission from the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to approach the Chapters in the Province of Newfoundland to determine the interest of the Companions in forming a Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

Consequently, on May 11, 1993, a letter was written to the Board of General Purpose of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia seeking such permission. These were exciting times. It was

emphasized, however, that the move to form our own Grand Chapter was not being made because of any dissatisfaction with the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. A quote from the letter states, "We are all proud of our association with and membership in the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and have always enjoyed the most cordial relationships with the Grand Chapter. We do feel, however, that it is time for masonry in Newfoundland to stand on it's own." That letter was read at their meeting of the Board of General Purposes on June 3, 1993 in Halifax. After consideration, it was moved by M. E. Comp W. Marshall Black and seconded by M. E. Comp. Lionel Chaffey,

That James Strong Chapter be given permission to explore the possibility of forming a Grand Chapter in Newfoundland with the other Chapters in the Province.

The motion was unanimously endorsed with the members of the Board offering their full support, encouragement and cooperation. The next day it was presented at the 124th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and was again unanimously approved. Following this favourable and encouraging support from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia authorization was given to proceed.

M. E. Comp. Job Parsons appointed a Steering Committee to plan for the creation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland. Each Chapter in Newfoundland was represented on the Steering Committee as follows:

M. E. Comp. Job Parsons	James Strong Chapter #32
M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier	Arklie Chapter #25
R. E. Comp. Oliver White	Milley Chapter #23
R. E. Comp. Mike Parry	James Strong Chapter #32
V. E. Comp. William Bladwin	Shannon Chapter #9
V. E. Comp. Colin Forward	James Strong Chapter #32
V. E. Comp. Claude Meslage	Ouananiche Chapter #31
E. Comp. Gerald Mayo	Atlantic Chapter #30

The Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia also appointed a separate Jurisprudence Committee to liaise with our Steering Committee, to observe the procedures being followed. The committee consisted of M. E. Comp. W. Marshall Black, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and M. E. Comp. Albert Mortlock, Past Grand First Principal of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario. That committee was kept fully

informed on matters as they proceeded and were in agreement that the proper steps were being taken.

A number of preliminary meetings were held, with a formal meeting of the Steering Committee held in Gander on July 3, 1993. Members present were M. E. Comps. Job Parsons and Robert Hellier, R. E. Comps. Oliver White and Mike Parry, V. E. Comps. William Baldwin and Colin Forward, absent were V. E. Comp. Claude Meslage and E. Comp. Gerald Mayo. M. E. Comp. Parsons called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed all the Companions. He extended regrets and apologies of the absent members. R. E. Comp. Parry led the Companions in a brief prayer.

The next order of business was to formally set up the Steering Committee. It was moved by V. E. Comp. Baldwin and seconded by R. E. Comp. White and CARRIED: "That M. E. Comp. Job Parsons serve as the Chairperson of the Steering Committee." It was moved by V. E. Comp. Baldwin and seconded by R. E. Comp. White and Carried: "That V. E. Comp. Colin Forward serve as the Treasurer and R. E. Comp. Mike Parry serve as the Secretary of the Steering Committee." It was moved by V. E. Comp. Forward and seconded V. E. Comp. Baldwin and CARRIED: "That an account be opened at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Baie Verte and that the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary be the signing officers." The requisite documentation for opening the account was signed by the signing officers.

The Steering Committee being formally set up, it was now ready to discuss matters pertaining to the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland which could be discussed and voted on by the Membership at a later date. Items discussed for liaison with the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia were Per Capita Fees, the Benevolence Account, General Account, Life Membership Fund, Laundry Trust Account and District Grand Representatives' Regalia. Items discussed for liaison with the Chapters in Newfoundland were Voluntary Start-up Fee, Honour Fees, Organization and Ritual, Constitution, Special Duties of the Grand King and Grand Scribe, Chapter Numbering and Remuneration for Officers

The following is a summary of the discussion and motions moved, seconded and CARRIED, at the Steering Committee level, on the above listed items.

Per Capita Fees. Moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and seconded by V. E. Comp. William Baldwin: "That the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be asked to collect the annual fees from all Chapters in Newfoundland for 1994 and that if and when the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland is constituted in May 1994, 50% of the fees collected from Chapters in Newfoundland be reimbursed to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland." CARRIED.

Benevolence Account. Moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and seconded by V. E. Comp. Colin Forward: "That the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be asked to collect all dues for the Benevolence Account for 1994 and that when the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland is formed in May 1994 all sums collected for 1994 from Chapters in

Newfoundland, together with a share of the accumulated interest based on membership, be transferred to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.” CARRIED.

General Account. Chairperson, M. E. Comp. Job Parsons, indicated that last time Grand Chapters were formed in Canada was 1923. At that time, the Grand Chapter of Ontario donated \$1,000.00 to each of the new Grand Chapters of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Any sum that the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia could donate to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, as a start-up donation, would be gratefully received.

Life Membership Fund. Moved by V. E. Comp. William Baldwin and seconded by R. E. Comp. Oliver White: “That on the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, we manage our own Life Membership Fund and that a committee of two, namely M. E. Comps. Hellier and Parsons, negotiate with the Board of Trustees of the Life Membership Fund of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to determine the most viable and equitable manner of executing the transfer of funds.” CARRIED.

Laundry Trust Account. The estate of the late Companion Charles Laundry created a trust account with the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia with the proceeds from the interest being paid to the C. N. I. B. in St. John’s. Moved by V. E. Comp. Colin Forward and seconded by V. E. Comp. William Baldwin: “That we request the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to transfer this account back to Newfoundland on formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.” CARRIED.

District Grand Superintendent’s Regalia. It was agreed that the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be requested to transfer the regalia of the two District Grand Superintendents for the Districts #6 and #7 to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

Voluntary Start-up Fee. The Chairperson, M. E. Comp. Parsons, stated that the development of a budget for the annual operation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland had indicated that there will be no need for any increase in the per capita fee for the foreseeable future. The Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, however, will have a number of initial costs, including the printing of charters, certificates, constitutions, dues cards and stationary. Jewels and a seal will have to be purchased. Incorporation and bonding fees will have to be paid. Moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and Seconded by R. E. Comp. Oliver White: “That all companions in Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland be asked to contribute, through their Chapters, a one time start-up fee of \$10.00.” CARRIED.

Honour Fee. Moved by V. E. Comp. Colin Forward and seconded by V. E. Comp. William Baldwin: “That members elected or appointed to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland pay an honour fee of \$15.00 on initial holding of office. If elected or appointed later to a higher office an additional fee of \$10.00 will be charged. These fees

will be paid on election or appointment only and will not be an annual assessment.``
CARRIED.

The funds generated will be used to acquire and refurbish Grand Chapter Regalia. It was also anticipated that a number of Grand Chapters in North America would donate regalia on the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

Organization and Ritual. Moved by R. E. Comp. Oliver White and seconded by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier: ``That the designation of the three Principal Officers of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland be the M. E. Grand High Priest, the R. E. Grand King and the R. E. Grand Scribe; that initially we continue to use **The Work** as the ritual; that the Order of High Priesthood as currently practised in the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia continue in the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland; that all honours awarded to the companions in the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be honoured and recognized in the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.`` CARRIED.

Constitution. The Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia will be the legal and guiding Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland until a committee on the constitution has been appointed to develop our own Constitution.

Special duties of the Grand King and Grand Scribe. The duties of the two district Grand Superintendents of districts #6 and #7 will, on the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, be carried out by the R. E. Grand King and R. E. Grand Scribe. (Under the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, District #6 included Chapters from St. John`s to Gander and District #7 included Chapters west of Gander and Labrador.)

Chapter Numbers. On the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, Chapters in Newfoundland will be renumbered according to their chronological formation, with the oldest Chapter being titled #1.

Remuneration for Officers. Moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and seconded by R. E. Comp. Oliver White: ``That there be no remuneration for the three Principal Officers.``
CARRIED.

It was then moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and seconded by V. E. Comp. William Baldwin: ``That the vote of the majority, being FOUR, of the Chapters in Newfoundland would determine Acceptance or Rejection of the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.`` CARRIED.

On July 6, 1993, the Secretary of the Steering Committee, R. E. Comp. Parry, then wrote a letter to all the Chapter Secretaries in Newfoundland advising them of developments to date, including a copy of the minutes of the meeting of July 3, 1993. He also asked the Secretaries to ``Give Notice of Motion`` in their September summonses that at the October 1993 meeting the following motion would be put; ``Be it resolved that the Chapters in the Province of

Newfoundland, currently under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, form themselves into the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.`` A vote would be taken of all Royal Arch Masons in attendance at the October meeting. Companion Parry requested the Secretaries to advise him, by telephone, immediately after the October meeting whether the Chapter voted to ACCEPT or REJECT the motion. He also asked the Secretaries to record, in their minutes, the actual ballot results by vote. The motion to be accepted by a majority of those voting; balloting, therefore, should be by show of hands or by written ballot, not by use of the ballot box.

R. E Comp. Parry advised the Chapter Secretaries that he must have all results received no later than October 25, 1993, in order to advise the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia of the result, when they met on October 30, 1993. It was essential that the wishes of the companions in the Province, be received by the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, for their October meeting, if the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland was to be constituted in May 1994.

If the vote was favourable to form a Grand Chapter of Newfoundland and plans progressed as envisaged by the Steering Committee, a special assembly would be held at the Masonic Hall in Gander at 2.00 P.M. on Saturday, March 12, 1994 in which each Chapter would be entitled to three votes. At that Special Assembly the three Principal Officers of the New Grand Chapter would be elected and obligated, other necessary officers appointed and the delegates would be asked to vote on recommendations and motions contained in the minutes of the Steering Committee.

The result of Chapter Ballots, for the formation of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland was as follows:-

Shannon Chapter # 9. Received October 8, 1993. REJECT. Chapter not consulted. Proposal imposed upon them. Want feasibility study conducted – believe the cost could be too high.

James Strong Chapter # 32. Received October 11, 1993. ACCEPT. Unanimous approval.

Arklie Chapter # 25. Received October 12, 1993. ACCEPT. Unanimous approval.

Milley Chapter # 23. Received October 12, 1993. ACCEPT. Unanimous approval in principal, but some concerns expressed regarding Life Membership led to one vote against.

Ounaniche Chapter # 31. Received October 18, 1993. ACCEPT. Majority. One vote against as fears re Life Membership Plan.

Atlantic Chapter # 30. Received October 18, 1993. ACCEPT. Majority. Two votes against due to some concerns re finances.

Initially, as indicated by the above results, not all Chapters were in favour, however, after some correspondence and clarification by the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, all Chapters made it

unanimous. Also, as indicated by the above dates, the Secretary of the Steering Committee received the result of the ballots in time to write a letter to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia on October 9, 1993 formally requesting the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia for permission to proceed with the plans as outlined in the minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee on July 3, 1993.

The Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia unanimously agreed to our request at their meeting of October 30, 1993. It is worthy of mention that motion to grant approval was moved and seconded by the two most senior Past Grand High Priests present, namely M. E. Comp. Marshall Black and M. E. Comp Paul Fleming. A letter was written on October 31, 1993, granting approval from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. The letter read as follows:-

October 31, 1993

Michael Parry
Secretary
James Strong Chapter No. 32
Box 338 ,
Baie Verte , Nfld.
A0K 1B0

Dear Companion Parry

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 19, 1993 in which you report on the results of the ballots conducted in the six Newfoundland Chapters with regards to the formation of a new Grand Chapter in Newfoundland , and in which you formally request the permission of the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia for the Steering Committee to proceed with its plans as outlined in the minutes of the meeting held on July 3rd , 1993.

Please be advised that your letter was presented to the Board of General Purposes at a meeting held on Saturday , October 30th, 1993 . In addition a comprehensive verbal report was presented to the Board by Most Excellent Companion W Job Parsons, P . G .H . P . , who was in attendance at the meeting. Based upon the contents of your letter and the report given by Companion Parsons, the Board of General Purposes unanimously passed a motion granting permission to the Steering Committee to proceed with their plans for the formation of a Grand Chapter in Newfoundland . This letter is our confirmation of that approval .

The Board has appointed a committee to work on behalf of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to enter into discussions with your Steering Committee to come to an agreement on the necessary arrangements to be made between the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and the new Grand Chapter of

Newfoundland as relates to various matters such as the annual per capita assessment , the Life Membership Fund , the Fund of Benevolence , regalia, etc. etc.

The members of this committee are as follows :

M. E. Comp. Lawrin C. Armstrong , Grand Secretary.

R. E. Comp. Brock L. Junkin , Grand Treasurer.

M. E. Comp. Cecil E. Decker , Chairman of the Trustees of the
Life Membership Fund .

M. E. Comp. Frederic C. Morrison , a member of the Board of Jurisprudence .

M. E. Comp. Lindsay Woodhams , Past Grand High Priest .

V. E. Comp. J. Douglas Walsh .

This Committee will be holding its first meeting within the next 3 or 4 weeks and will keep your Steering Committee advised of its deliberations .

Should you have any questions of the Committee or any comments you wish to pass on to them for consideration please write to the Committee in care of the writer .

Again we would like to commend the Steering Committee on the very efficient manner in which they have conducted the progress of this matter and wish them well as they proceed towards the formation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland .

Fraternally yours ,

Lawrin C. Armstrong
Grand Secretary .

At the same time the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia appointed M. E. Comp. Lindsay (Lofty) Woodhams to co-ordinate the acquisition and ordering of regalia for our Grand Chapter, so that there would be no duplication by Grand Chapters across North America who had so kindly offered to assist with such donations. The concerns expressed by some of our Chapters regarding the status of the Life Membership Fund were noted but it was agreed that no decision would be made until a thorough review was conducted, in discussion with M. E. Comp. Cecil Decker, the Chairperson of the Trustees of the Life Membership Fund and members of the Liaison Committee, and a report presented to our own Grand Chapter members for their decision. The proposed budget presented by the Steering Committee was also reviewed and unanimously approved, without amendment.

On November 18, 1993, the Secretary of the Steering Committee, R. E. Comp. Parry, wrote a letter to all Chapters in the Province advising them of the progress to date and enclosed nomination forms for elected offices of Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Grand King and Right Excellent Grand Scribe. The following guidelines were stated for nominations to elective office:- (1) Any anointed High Priest, in good standing in his Chapter, was eligible to seek either of the three Principal Offices, (2) Nominations need only to be proposed. No seconder was required. Proposers must be Anointed High Priests in good standing their Chapters. (3) Nominate only eligible candidates from your own Chapter. (4) Those nominated must give their consent to the nominations.

The Secretary of each Chapter was advised that the nomination forms must be received by the Secretary of the Steering Committee by January 15, 1994. This was accomplished and the names of all companions in nomination for the three Principal Offices were circulated to all Chapters by the end of January 1994. Each Chapter was advised to elect, in their January or February meeting, THREE voting delegates, who were Past High Priests or reigning High Priest, King or Scribe, to attend the Special Assembly at the Masonic Hall, Gander, on March 12, 1994. If all three elected delegates could not attend, one of the delegates would be permitted to vote, through a regularly authorized proxy, on behalf of the non-attending delegate or delegates to a maximum of three votes per Chapter.

At the Special Assembly, the delegates would :- (a) elect the three founding Principal Officers of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland who would, on election, appoint the other Grand Chapter Officers and Committee Chairpersons for the first year; and (b) vote on the relevant motions and recommendations contained in the minutes of the Steering Committee; and (c) determine any other items relevant to the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland. Also, in his letter of November 18, 1993, to the Chapters, R. E. Comp. Parry advised them that he would be retiring at the end of the year and leaving the Province and V. E. Comp. Colin Forward had agreed to assume the duties of Secretary of the Steering Committee.

There was still work to be done as we liaised with the committee appointed by Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. To this end a meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Gander on December 4, 1993. Present were M. E. Comps. Job Parsons and Robert Hellier, R. E. Comp. Oliver White, V. E. Comp. Colin Forward and E. Comp. Gerald Mayo. Absent were V. E. Comp. Claude Meslage and V. E. Comp. William Baldwin. At this point R. E. Comp. Parry, due to his impending departure from the Province, had removed himself from the Committee. M. E. Comp. Parsons called the meeting to order at 11.00 A. M. and welcomed all the companions. He extended the apologies of the absent members. E. Comp. Gerald Mayo led the companions in a brief prayer. The first item of business was a motion by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier seconded by R. E. Comp. Oliver White and CARRIED:- **‘That due to the impending retirement of R. E. Comp. Mike Parry, V. E. Comp. Colin Forward assume the combined duties of Secretary and Treasurer of the Steering Committee.’**

Discussion was held and motions made on items for liaison with the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia referred to in the minutes of the July 3, 1993 meeting. To that end the following two motions were made. Moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and seconded by E. Comp Gerald Mayo:- **“That because Chapters remit Per Capita Fees and Dues for the Benevolence Account at the conclusion of a calender year, the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be requested to forgive payment of all or a portion of these monies for 1994.”** CARRIED. Moved by R. E. Comp. Oliver White and seconded by M. E. Comp Robert Hellier;- **That the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be requested to permit our Life Members to remain within their Life Membership Fund and that the new Grand Chapter be permitted to appoint three members to the Board of Trustees of this fund. The arrangements would be reviewed in five years,;”** CARRIED.

Discussion was held on items for liaison with the Chapters in Newfoundland referred to in the minutes of the July 3, 1993 meeting. To this end, it was felt that a Committee on Ritual should be appointed by the new Principal Officers following their election in March. It was also felt that although it had been decided that there would be no remuneration for the Principal Officers, visits to Labrador might prove too costly for them; discussion of this point should probably be held in March.

Under new business the following motions were made. Moved by E. Comp. Gerald Mayo and seconded by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier;- **“That the name of the new Grand Chapter be The Grand Chapter of Roual Arch Masons of Newfoundland.”** CARRIED. Moved by V. E. Comp. Colin Forward and seconded by E. Comp. Gerald Mayo;- **“That the new Grand Chapter use the same regalia as the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and adapted as necessary.”** CARRIED. Moved M. E. Comp Robert Hellier and seconded by R. E. Comp. Oliver White;- **“That the Secretary be directed to contact families of deceased Past Grand High Priests who were members of Chapter in Newfoundland to ask if they might donate regalia in memory of their relatives.”** CARRIED. Moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and seconded by R. E. Comp. Oliver White;- **“That the new Grand Chapter be incorporated.”** CARRIED. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$82.04 in our account. Moved by M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier and seconded by R. E. Comp. Oliver White;- **“ That the accounts in the amount of \$11. 96 be paid.”** CARRIED. The meeting was adjourned at 1.20 p. m. with the next meeting, if necessary, being at the call of the chair.

On December 6, 1993, a letter was written by the Secretary of the Steering Committee, V. E. Comp Colin Forward, to the Secretaries of the Chapters in Newfoundland informing them of the meeting held by the Steering Committee on December 4, 1993 and included a copy of the minutes. In the letter he again reiterated that the nominations for those seeking election to the Principal Offices should be returned to him by registered or certified mail by January 15, 1994.

The final date for nomination of names for the three Principal Offices having closed on January 15, 1994, the Secretary of the Steering Committee wrote a letter to the Secretaries of all Chapters, all Steering Committee Members, all Nominees and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia advising them of the names submitted. They were as follows;-

1. For M. Ex. Grand High Priest ----- M. E. Comp. Job Parsons, James Strong Chapter.
2. For Grand King ----- M. E. Comp. Robert Hellier, Arklie Chapter.
3. For Grand Scribe ----- V. E. Comp. William J Baldwin, Shannon Chapter.
V. E. Comp. T. E. Carmichael, Shannon Chapter.
V. E. Comp. A. Fraser Noseworthy, Shannon Chapter.

Preparation was now well advanced for the forming of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland. It only remained for each of the Chapters, in their January or February meeting, to elect three voting delegates to attend the Special Assembly to be held in Gander on March 12, 1994.

**Ceremony
For the founding of
The Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland
and election of
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Right Excellent Grand King
and Right Excellent Grand Scribe**

On the 12th day of March 1994, at 2.00 p. m. , Right Excellent Companion Oliver White, Past District Grand Superintendent, attends the Masonic Temple in Gander, Newfoundland, to open a casual Chapter in due form, for the purpose of electing and obligating the three Principal Officers and founding of the first Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland.

On the same date, time and place, all companions below the rank of Excellent assemble in the Chapter Room.

Most Excellent Companion Frederick C. Morrison, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, is escorted into the Chapter Room by the Acting Grand Captain of the Host, Excellent Companion Gerald Mayo. Most Excellent Companion Morrison bows at the Altar and assumes the Chair.

Most Excellent Companion Lawrin C. Armstrong, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, is escorted into the Chapter Room; he bows at the Altar and assumes a position in the East next to the Chair of Grand King.

Right Excellent Companions Roy Jenkins and Donald Smith, District Grand Superintendents of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, are escorted into the Chapter Room; they bow at the Altar and assume positions in the East left of the Chair of Grand Scribe.

The Most Excellent, Right Excellent, Very Excellent and Excellent Companions assemble in the anti-room, where they are arranged in procession by the Acting Grand Captain of the Host, Excellent Companion Gerald Mayo and march into the Chapter Room, Excellent Companions leading, followed by Very Excellent, Right Excellent and Most Excellent Companions in two lines West of the Altar.

Right Excellent Companion Oliver White passes through the lines, bows at the Altar, and is escorted to Most Excellent Companion Morrison by the Acting Grand Captain of the Host.

Most Excellent Companion Morrison presents the Gavel to Right Excellent Companion White, with appropriate words, and moves to a position next to the Chair of Grand Scribe.

Right Excellent Companion White accepts the Gavel as a symbol of approval and authority from the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, assumes the Chair and proceeds, after all Companions are seated.

Right Excellent Companion White invites others appointed as follows:

R. Ex. Comp. Wallace Noel	Shannon Chapter # 9	Acting Grand King
V. Ex. Comp. Gerald Hewitt	Arklie Chapter # 23	Acting Grand Scribe
V. Ex. Comp. Colin Forward	James Strong Chapter # 32	Acting Grand Secretary
Ex. Comp. Gerald Mayo	Atlantic Chapter # 30	Acting Grand C of H.
Ex. Comp. Bruce Barrett	Shannon Chapter # 9	Acting R. A. C.
V. Ex. Comp. Donald Milley	Arklie Chapter # 23	Acting Grand Tyler
Comp. Cyril Locke	James Strong Chapter # 32	Acting Grand Chaplain
V. Ex. Comp. Clarence Bowring	Arklie Chapter # 23	Acting Grand Organist

to take their places and prepare for the opening of a Casual Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

-o-o-o-o-

Opening

Right Excellent Companion White: “Acting Grand Captain of the Host, are all present Royal Arch Masons?”

Acting Grand Captain of the Host: “All present are Royal Arch Masons.”

Right Excellent Companion White: “Acting Grand Royal Arch Captain, you will inform the Tyler that I am about to open a Casual Chapter, Royal Arch Masons and direct him to tyle accordingly.”

Acting Grand Royal Arch Captain goes to the door, informs the Tyler, returns to his place and responds; “The Tyler is informed.”

Right Excellent Companion White: “ Acting Grand Captain of the Host, you will assemble the Excellent Companions in groups of three for the purpose of opening a Casual Chapter, Royal Arch Masons.”

Acting Grand Captain of the Host directs the formation of the groups.

Right Excellent Companion White and the other Officers descend to the floor, form in groups, balance three times three, form arch, share word, break and ascend to the East.

Right Excellent Companion White: “I hereby declare that this Casual Chapter, Royal Arch Masons is now open. Acting Grand Captain of the Host, attend to the Great Lights. (Done) Acting Grand Royal Arch Captain, you will inform the Tyler. (Done) Acting Grand Chaplain, attend to the Altar.”

Acting Grand Chaplain: “O Thou Eternal and Omnipotent Jehovah, the Glorious and Everlasting I Am, direct us in all our doings with Thy gracious favour and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name. Amen.”

Excellent Companions: “So mote it be.”
Hymn: All people that on Earth do dwell.

Acting Grand Captain of the Host directs Grand Honours for the Visitors.

-o-o-o-o-

Right Excellent Companion White: “ After many preliminary discussions among ourselves and with members of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, a motion was made in James Strong Chapter # 32 on May 10, 1993, to seek permission from the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to approach the Chapters in Newfoundland to determine the interest of the Companions in forming a Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

The motion was presented to the Board of General Purposes on June 3, 1993, and was carried unanimously.

The next day it was presented to the 124th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and again unanimously approved.

Following this approval, we were authorized by the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to proceed. Most Excellent Companion Parsons appointed a Steering Committee to plan for the creation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

Each Chapter in Newfoundland was represented on the Steering Committee.

The Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia also appointed a committee to liaise with us.

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Gander on July 3, 1993, and all Chapters received minutes of that meeting.

Among items discussed were Per Capita Fees, the Benevolence Account, General Account, Life Membership Fund, Laundry Trust Fund, District Grand Superintendents' Regalia, Voluntary Start-up Fee, Honour Fees, Organization and Ritual, Constitution, Special Duties of the Grand King and Grand Scribe, Chapter numbering and Remuneration for Officers.

A letter was then written to all Chapters requesting that they put a Notice of Motion in their September notices (to be voted on in their October meetings) stating; "Be it resolved that the Chapters in Newfoundland currently under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia form themselves into the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland." and notify the Secretary of the Steering Committee by October 25, 1993, so that he could let the Board of General Purposes know the result of the vote before their meeting on October 30, 1993,

Four out of six Chapters would determine a majority vote. The vote was subsequently taken. Initially, not all Chapters were in favour. At this time, however, all Chapters make it unanimous.

The Chapters did a good job. The Secretary of the Steering Committee received the results in time to write a letter to the Grand Secretary on October 19, 1993 formally requesting the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia for permission to proceed with plans as outlined in the Minutes of July 3, 1993.

A letter was received back from the Grand Secretary, written on October 31, 1993, granting permission."

Right Excellent Companion White reads that portion of the letter.

Right Excellent Companion White then continues; "On November 18, 1993, a letter was written to all Chapters advising them of the progress to that time

The Steering Committee met again on December 4, 1993. A letter and a copy of the Minutes of that meeting were sent to all Chapters on December 6, 1993.

A final letter was written to all Chapters on January 19, 1994, advising them to nominate candidates for the three Principal Officers. This letter also included information regarding a meeting to be held in Gander on March 12, 1994, which brings us to this present point in time.

Companions, we have assembled here for the purpose of founding the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland, electing the first three Principal Officers, namely the Most Excellent

Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Grand King and Right Excellent Grand Scribe, in accordance with the procedure as outlined to the Chapters in Newfoundland by the Steering Committee in consultation with and the approval of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia, appointing the necessary officers and conducting some business.

Other appointments will be made during the Installation and Investiture of Officers on May 28, 1994.

At this time I would entertain a motion from Right Excellent Companion Wallace R. Noel.”

Right Excellent Companion Noel: **“All six Chapters in Newfoundland having voted individually to form a Grand Chapter, I move we now collectively approve that action and form the Sovereign Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland.”** Seconded by Right Excellent Companion Ralph White. **CARRIED.**

Right Excellent Companion White asks the Acting Grand Secretary to read the correspondence pertaining to the elections.

Very Excellent Companion Colin Forward does so and reads the names of those in nomination for each of the elected three Principal Offices.

Right Excellent Companion White: “There is more than one nomination for the Office of Right Excellent Grand Scribe. I will therefore appoint Right Excellent Companion Noel, Most Excellent Companion Fred C. Morrison and Most Excellent Companion Lawrin C. Armstrong as scrutineers.

Each of the three delegates from each of the six Chapters, namely Shannon # 9, Milley # 23, Arklie # 25, Atlantic # 30, Ounaniche # 31 and James Strong # 32, are entitled to one vote each. Should a delegate be absent, a duly authorized proxy may be carried by one of the other delegates from the same Chapter.

In the election of Right Excellent Grand Scribe, if there is no clear majority on the first ballot, the Companion with the least number of votes will be dropped and another ballot taken.

There being one name only in nomination for the Office of Most Excellent Grand High Priest, that Officer shall be acclaimed in office and no election required. I shall therefore ask the Acting Grand Secretary to cast one ballot in favour of Walter Job Parsons that I may officially declare him so acclaimed.” (Done)

“Companions, I declare Most Excellent Companion Walter Job Parsons acclaimed the first Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland.”

The same format is repeated for the acclamation of Most Excellent Companion Robert Morris Hellier as the first Right Excellent Grand King of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland,

Elections are then conducted for the office of Right Excellent Grand Scribe and Very Excellent Companion William Baldwin is declared elected.

Right Excellent Companion White: “Acting Grand Captain of the Host, you will conduct Most Excellent Companion Walter Job Parson to the West of the Altar.”

Acting Grand Captain of the Host: “Right Excellent Companion White, I have the honour to present Most Excellent Companion Walter Job Parsons, the Grand High Priest Elect.”

Right Excellent Companion White: “You will approach the Altar, kneel on both knees and place both hands on the Volume of the Sacred Law.”

Right Excellent Companion White (ooo) calls up the Chapter, hands the Gavel to Most Excellent Companion Morrison and proceeds to East of the Altar.

Right Excellent Companion White: “Say I, pronounce your several names in full and repeat after me.

In the presence of the Almighty, do solemnly promise that I will accept the Office of Grand High Priest of the this Grand Chapter and the duties of that high office, faithfully, zealously and impartially to administer. That I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws, Regulations and Edicts of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter to the best of my skill and ability. So help me God.

As a pledge of your fidelity, you will kiss the Volume of the Sacred Law now open before you.”
(Done)

“Rise newly obligated Most Excellent Grand High Priest.”

Right Excellent Companion White returns to the East, accepts the Gavel from Most Excellent Companion Morrison, seats the Chapter and delivers the Charge.

CHARGE

“Most Excellent Companion Parsons, by the voice of your companions, you have been chosen to occupy the most important and honourable office in their power to bestow and to me has been entrusted the most pleasing and gratifying duty of seating you in this office, for the period from now until May 28, 1994, that you may, with the assistance of the Right Excellent Grand King and Right Excellent Grand Scribe, officially perform the duties of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal

Arch Masons of Newfoundland, make formulative plans and preparations for that very important date, when you and your officers will be officially installed, invested and proclaimed for the coming year.

You have been too long a member of our Royal Craft to require now any instructions in relation to the duties of this High Office and I do not doubt that you will be constant and diligent in their discharge; watching with fidelity and exactness the conduct of the Chapters within our jurisdiction, paying punctual attention to the Constitution of the Order and requiring obedience to it from every member and in all things, making the Glory of the Great I Am and the good of the Craft the chief objects of your concern.

May you ever realize that each and all of us are dependent upon God, that perfection is not given to man upon Earth, and that Holiness belongeth to the Lord alone.

May you always bear in mind your responsibility to the Laws and Ordinances of the institution, and that the honour and interests of our Order should always be near to your heart. The Ancient Landmarks of the Order by which we are distinguished from the rest of the world are particularly entrusted to your care, and it therefore becomes your sacred duty to see that during your administration not the least of them may be removed. From the knowledge of your zeal, skill and ability in Masonic matters, we feel quite confident that you will discharge the duties of this important station in such a manner as will greatly redound to the honour of yourself, as well as the Fraternity over which you have been elected to preside.

Acting Grand Captain of the Host, you will conduct Most Excellent Companion Parsons to me in the East.”

Acting Grand Captain of the Host does so and returns to his station.

Right Excellent Companion White: “Most Excellent Companion Parsons, I now surrender to you the seat of authority due to you as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland.”

Right Excellent Companion White seats the Most Excellent Grand High Priest. He then presents him with the Gavel. “I present to you this Gavel, the emblem of your Masonic authority which, in your hands, should never be sounded in vain.”

-0-0-0-0-0-

The same format is repeated for the Right Excellent Grand King. The Chapter is called up after the Right Excellent Grand King kneels.

Right Excellent Companion White: “Say I, pronounce your several names in full and repeat after me. In the presence of the Almighty, do solemnly promise that I will accept the office of Right

Excellent Grand King of this Grand Chapter, and the duties of that office, faithfully, zealously, and impartially to administer, That I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws, Regulations and Edicts of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter to the best of my skill and ability. So help me God.”

The Chapter is then seated and Right Excellent Companion White delivers the charge.

CHARGE

“Most Excellent Companion Hellier, the important station to which you have been elected, that of Grand King, requires from you exemplary conduct, and its duties demand the most assiduous attention.

In the absence of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, you will preside; in his presence, you are to strengthen and support the authority of your chief and assist him with your counsel and advise.

May I remind you that to reign sovereign in the hearts and affections of men, one must be far more grateful to a generous and benevolent mind than to rule over their lives and fortunes.

As Right Excellent Grand King you will be the Chairman of the Board of General purposes.

In the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland, there will be no office of District Grand Superintendent. Instead, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest will be appointing you as his representative in one of the Districts under our Jurisdiction and as such you will be invested with a portion of his powers, duties and responsibilities.

You will be expected to visit each of the Chapters assigned to you at least once during the year, inspect its mode of working, examine its by-laws, see that the records are properly kept, and point out, in a kind and fraternal manner, any inaccuracies that may appear, giving such useful advice as will tend to the advancement and prosperity of the Chapter and its members.

If you have accepted this office under the impression that it is a position of honour, with few or no duties, I beseech you to dismiss that idea at once from your mind and realize that its duties can be successfully performed only by constant care and study. Endeavour, therefore, to discharge your duties in such a manner as to show that our confidence in you has not been misplaced.”

Right Excellent Companion White: “Acting Grand Captain of the Host, you will conduct Right Excellent Companion Hellier to Most Excellent Companion Armstrong in the East.” (Done)

The same format is repeated for the Right Excellent Grand Scribe. The Chapter is called up after the Right Excellent Grand Scribe kneels. The obligation is the same as that used for the Right Excellent Grand King. The Chapter is seated after the obligation.

Right Excellent Companion White then delivers the charge.

CHARGE

Right Excellent Companion Baldwin, the office of Grand Scribe to which you are elected is a very important and responsible one. In the absence of your superior officers, you are bound to succeed them and perform their duties. The purpose of the Institution ought never to suffer from want of knowledge or intelligence in its proper officers. You will therefore perceive the necessity of possessing such qualifications as will enable you to accomplish those duties which are incumbent upon you in your appropriate station, as well as those which may devolve on you by the absence of your superiors.

The harmony and unanimity of the Order should be your constant aim, and to this end you are studiously to avoid all occasions which may offend, or to countenance anything which may create division or dissension. You are, by all means in your power, to establish a permanent union and good understanding among all Orders and Degrees in Masonry, and as the Glorious Sun, at its meridian height, dispels the mist and clouds which obscure the horizon, so may your exertions tend to dissipate the gloom of jealousy and discord, should they ever appear.

In the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland, there will be no office of District Grand Superintendent. Instead, the Most Excellent Grand Hugh Priest will be appointing you as his representative in one of the Districts under our Jurisdiction and as such you will be invested with a portion of his powers, duties and responsibilities.

You will be expected to visit each of the Chapters assigned to you at least once during the year, inspect its mode of working, examine its by-laws, see that the records are properly kept, and point out, in a kind and fraternal manner, any inaccuracies that may appear, giving such useful advice as will tend to the advancement and prosperity of the Chapter and its members.

If you have accepted this office under the impression that it is a position of honour, with few or no duties, I beseech you to dismiss that idea at once from your mind and realize that its duties can be successfully performed only by constant care and study. Endeavour, therefore, to discharge your duties in such a manner as to show that our confidence in you has not been misplaced.”

Right Excellent Companion White: “Acting Grand Captain of the Host, you will conduct Right Excellent Companion Baldwin to Most Excellent Companion Morrison in the East.” (Done)

PROCLAMATION

Right Excellent Companion White: “From the East, on this 12th day of March 1994, A. D., in the year of Light of Ancient Craft Masonry, 5994 A. L. (anno lucius), in the year of Discovery of Royal Arch Masonry, 2524 A. I. (anno inventious) , I make proclamation that this Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland, has been solemnly founded, according to ancient usage, for the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry within this Province. The Royal Craft will take due notice thereof and govern itself accordingly.”

The Proclamation is then repeated from the East and West.

-o-o-o-o-

The following is a copy of the minutes of the meeting, where the above ceremony was performed and other business conducted,; a copy of which was sent to all Chapters in Newfoundland on March 28, 1994.

MINUTES

of a meeting held at the Masonic Temple

Gander Newfoundland

To Found

THE GRAND CHAPTER, ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF NEWFOUNDLAND

March 12, 1994

A casual Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened at 2.06 p. m. with the following officers at their stations

Right Ex. Companion	Oliver White	Milley	M. E. H. P.
Right Ex. Companion	Wallace Noel	Shannon	Ex. King
Right Ex. Companion	Gerald Hewitt	Arklie	Ex. Scribe
Very Ex. Companion	Colin Forward	James Strong	Secretary
Ex. Companion	Gerald Mayo	Atlantic	C. of the H.
Ex. Companion	Bruce Barrett	Shannon	R. A. Capt.
Companion	Cyril Locke	James Strong	Chaplain
Very Ex. Companion	Donald Milley	Arklie	Tyler

The Ceremony of the Founding of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland was then performed. That ceremony is appended to and form part of these minutes.

The Grand Chapter was most honoured by the presence of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, Most Excellent Companion Lawrin C. Armstrong and Most Excellent Companion Fred C. Morrison, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.

The porch register indicated an attendance of 46 Companions representing all Chapters in Newfoundland except Ounaniche # 31.

Following the election and installation of Most Excellent Companion W. Job Parsons as Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion Robert M. Hellier as Grand King and Right Excellent Companion William J. Baldwin as Grand Scribe, it was moved by Very Excellent Companion Colin Forward, seconded by Right Excellent Companion Gerald Hewitt, **That the ballots be destroyed.” CARRIED.**

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then thanked all who participated in the ceremony, for the commendable manner in which the ceremonies had been held and excellency of their work upon the floor.

He likewise thanked the two unsuccessful candidates for their interest in the new Grand Chapter and assured them that they would be considered when appointments were made in May.

Most Excellent Companion Parsons then appointed Very Excellent Companion Colin Forward as Grand Secretary and Excellent Companion Ross Ashbourne as Grand Treasurer.

The following Companions were then appointed to the rank of Honorary Grand King in recognition of their service to Capitular Masonry.

Right Ex. Companion	Wallace Noel	Shannon
Right Ex. Companion	Ralph Wight	Milley
Right Ex. Companion	Reginald Hopkins	Arklie
Right Ex. Companion	Fred Hollett	Atlantic
Right Ex. Companion	D. Michael Parry	James Strong

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest also indicated that he wished to appoint Companion J. Gordon Barnes, Companion Lloyd V. Hussey and Companion Leo A. Marquis to the Board of General Purposes.

Right Excellent Companion Lance Ralph, Roy Jenkins and Oliver White were appointed as the three Principals of the Order of High Priesthood.

The Grand Treasurer was appointed as Finance Chairman.

Right Excellent Companion Oliver White was appointed as Grand Lecturer and given the Chairmanship of a Committee on Ritual.

The Grand King was made Chairman of the Board of General Purposes and the Grand Scribe made Vice-Chairman.

Most Excellent Companions Marshall Black and Albert Mortlock were appointed to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

It was moved by Right Excellent Companion Wallace Noel, seconded by Right Excellent Companion Ralph Wight, **“That Most Excellent Companions Black and Mortlock be made honorary Members of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.” CARRIED.**

It was moved by Most Excellent Companion Robert Hellier, seconded by Right Excellent Companion William Baldwin, **“That Most Excellent Companions Lawrin Armstrong and Fred Morrison be made Honorary Members of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.” CARRIED.**

It was moved by Right Excellent Companion Ralph Wight, seconded by Right Excellent Companion Ralph Mills, **“That all ranks currently held by Companions in the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be transferable to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland,” CARRIED.**

A number of motions arising from the minutes of the Steering Committee meetings were then passed. For the sake of expediency these were read and moved by the Grand Secretary.

“That al Companions in Chapters under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland be asked to contribute, through there Chapters, a one time start up fee of \$10.00.” Seconded by Excellent Companion Gerald Mayo. **CARRIED.**

“That members elected or appointed to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland pay an honour fee of \$15.00 on initial holding of the office. If elected or appointed later to a higher office, an additional fee of \$10.00 will be charged. These fees will be paid on election or appointment only and will not be an annual assessment.” Seconded by Excellent Companion Fraser Noseworthy. **CARRIED.**

“ That the designation of the three Principal Officers of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland be the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, the Right Excellent Grand King and Right Excellent Grand Scribe; that initially the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland continue to use The Work as the ritual; that the Order of High Priesthood as currently practised in the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia continue in the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland; that all honours awarded to Companions in the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be honoured and recognized in the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.” Seconded by Right Excellent Companion Ralph Wight. **CARRIED.**

“That the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia will be the legal and guiding constitution of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland until a committee on the constitution has been appointed and developed a constitution of our own.” Seconded by Right Excellent Companion Gerald Hewitt. **CARRIED.**

“ That the duties of the two District Grand Superintendents of Districts 6 and 7 will be carried out by the Right Excellent Grand King and Grand Scribe.” Seconded by Excellent Companion Ernest Paddock. **CARRIED.**

“ That the Chapters in Newfoundland be renumerated according to their chronological formation with the oldest Chapter being # 1.” Seconded by Excellent Companion Gerald Vokey. **CARRIED.**

“ That there be no remuneration for the three Principal Officers.” Seconded by Most Excellent Companion Robert Hellier. **CARRIED.**

Some discussion was held at this point as to whether trips to Labrador should be subsidised in some way.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then informed the Companions of the results of the discussions held with the Liaison Committee of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. Of particular note were that the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland would be permitted to retain all of the 1994 per capita fees, that the Laundry Trust Fund would be transferred in total to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, and the Life Members from Newfoundland would be permitted to remain in the Nova Scotia Fund for five years, at which point the matter would be re-examined and that the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland would be permitted to appoint one member to the Board governing Life Memberships.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then thanked the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia for their help and support during the formative meetings.

The Grand Secretary then moved, seconded by Right Excellent Companion Noel, **“That the families of deceased Grand High Priests who were Newfoundlanders be contacted to request that they donate any regalia in their possession to the new Grand Chapter in memory of these distinguished Companions.”** **CARRIED.**

The Grand Secretary then rose to thank Most Excellent Companion Lawrin C. Armstrong for the tremendous support he had received from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. Most Excellent Companion Armstrong had put together a package of forms and certificates for initial use by the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland and was donating a supply of these to the new Grand Chapter.

It was moved by Most Excellent Companion Hellier, seconded by Right Excellent Companion Wallace Noel, **“That the warrants issued by the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia be transferred and confirmed by the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland and be renumerated in accordance with the earlier motion.”** **CARRIED.**

It was moved by Excellent Companion Paul Forward, seconded by Excellent Companion Cyril Locke, **“That all regalia be ordered through the Grand Secretary.” CARRIED.**

It was moved by Most Excellent Companion Hellier, seconded by Excellent Companion Ralph Mills, **“That the Seal of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland be the Caribou.” CARRIED.**

A collection was taken in the amount of \$136.57 to be used to pay the Per Capita Fees of needy members. The Grand Secretary was to inform all Secretaries of the Chapters in Newfoundland of the existence of this fund.

Most Excellent Companion Armstrong then gave a brief report on the response of other Grand Chapters to the call for donations. Response has been most gratifying. Specifically he cited that the Grand Chapters of Nova Scotia, Vermont and British Columbia would be donating sets of regalia. Quebec would be giving both regalia and gavels. Most Excellent Companion Morrison would be donating a set of flags, and Right Excellent Companion Collicott a Volume of the Sacred Law, Square and Compasses.

It was moved by Right Excellent Ralph Wight, seconded by Most Excellent Companion Hellier, **“That aprons not be fringed.” CARRIED.**

Right Excellent Companions Noel, Wight and Hopkins each rose to thank the Grand Chapter for the honour bestowed upon them.

Regrets were received on behalf of Companion Gerry Whalen. Congratulations and best wishes were extended from the South, West, North and East. Excellent Companion Mayo brought greetings from Atlantic Chapter, Right Excellent Companion Smith from Milley Chapter, Right Excellent Companion Vokey from Arklie Chapter, Excellent Companion Paddock from James Strong Chapter and Excellent Companion Barrett from Shannon Chapter.

Right Excellent Companion Oliver White thanked all the Officers who had assisted him in the Ceremony and Election.

Right Excellent Companion William Baldwin then rose to thank the Companions for electing him Grand Scribe and to pledge his support to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and the newly formed Grand Chapter.

Most excellent Companion Robert Hellier also offered congratulations to Right Excellent Companion White and his team for the admirable way in which they had conducted the Casual Chapter. He also thanked the Companions for placing their confidence in him.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion W. Job Parsons then added his words of congratulations to Right Excellent Companion White and his Officers. He gave thanks to all who

had helped in the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland and pledged to do his utmost to assure a flourishing future for the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

The Grand Chapter of Newfoundland was then closed in ample form at 4.45 p. m. with Most Excellent Companion Robert M. Hellier closing the Great Lights.
Respectfully submitted.

Colin Forward
Grand Secretary

W. Job Parsons
Grand High Priest

The First Fifteen Years

The final exercise in the formation of the Grand Chapter R. A. M. of Newfoundland took place at the One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia held at Hotel Gander on 28 May 1994. In a joint installation ceremony conducted by M. E. Comp. Wilfred Young P. G. H. P. Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, The Officers of both Grand Chapters were installed in a most impressive manner. Over two hundred companions were in attendance from jurisdictions throughout North America and Ireland. It was a historic occasion that will be long remembered by those present.

The first list of officers were as follows:--

Grand high Priest	W. Job Parsons
Grand King	Robert M. Hellier
Grand Scribe	William J. Baldwin
Grand Treasurer	W. D. Ross Ashbourne
Grand Secretary	Colin A Forward
Grand Lecturer	Oliver White
Grand Chaplain	Cyril Locke
Grand Captain of the Host	Maxwell Mullett
Grand Principal Sojourner	Gerald Mayo
Grand Royal Arch Captain	Vincent Pike
Grand Master of the Third Veil	Ralph Mills
Grand Master of the Second Veil	Fraser Noseworthy
Grand Master of the First Veil	T Harvey Brenton
Grand Organist	Clarence Bowering
Grand Tyler	Claude Meslage

It was determined that the **Board of General Purposes** would consist of the following:--
Grand King, Grand high Priest, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Lecturer,
Grand Chaplain, three elected members, three appointed members and all committee chairmen..

At the meeting of March 12, 1994, for the founding of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, it was moved, seconded and carried, **“that the Seal of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland be the Caribou”**. At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 3, 1994, the Grand Secretary was directed to advise all Chapters to make arrangements to either purchase a new Seal or have their old ones refitted with the new Seal of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET For First Year of Operation. An original document of this Proposed Budget is in the archives but for those reading this History I will print it here.

GRAND CHAPTER
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

Proposed Operating Bddget

1. For First Year of Operation

INCOME

Assessment 843 members @ \$8.00	\$ 6,744.00	
Benevolent Fund 843 @ \$1.50	\$ 1,264.50	
Honour Fee 15 @ \$15.00	\$ 225.00	
* Start-up fee 650 members 2 \$10.00	<u>\$ 6,500.00</u>	
Total Income	\$ 14,733.50	\$ 14,733.50

* It is proposed that each member pay a start-up fee of \$10.00. Some companions are members of more than one chapter, and this payment will only be made through one of the chapters to which they belong , preferably , their mother Chapter. The estimate of 650 members is no more than an estimate. There could be more than 650 companions eligible for the fee.

EXPENDITURE

** Incorporation Fee	\$ 250.00
** Warrants and seal	\$ 300.00
** Certificates	\$ 100.00
Printing of Proceedings	\$ 300.00
General Printing	\$ 500.00
Supplies	\$ 300.00

Postage	\$ 300.00	
Telephone	\$ 150.00	
Grand Secretary Honorarium	\$ 800.00	
Rent of office Space	<u>\$ 600.00</u>	
Total Expenditure	\$ 3,600.00	<u>\$ 3,600.00</u>

Excess of Income over Expenditure \$ 11,133.50

** These will be one-time start-up costs.

The cost of Regalia is not included. Many Grand Chapters on the Mainland have indicated their intentions of donating regalia. The balance of the regalia will be purchased as needed.

2. Annual Operating Budget after first year.

INCOME

Assessment 843 members @ \$8.00	\$ 6,744.00	
Benevolent Fund 843 @ \$1.50	\$ 1,264.00	
Honour Fee 3stimate	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	
Total Income	\$ 8,208.50	\$ 8,208.50

EXPENDITURE

Incorporation Annual Fee	\$ 35.00	
Printing of Proceedings	\$ 300.00	
General Printing	\$ 500.00	
Supplies	\$ 300.00	
Postage	\$ 300.00	
Telephone	\$ 150.00	
Grand Secretary Honorarium	\$ 800.00	
Rent of Office Space	<u>\$ 600.00</u>	
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,985.00	<u>\$ 2,985.00</u>

Excess of Income Over Expenditure \$ 5,223.00

NAME CHANGE OF GRAND CHAPTER. At the B. G, P, Meeting, January 19,2002, it was brought to the attention of the Board that the name of our Province had been officially changed to Newfoundland and Labrador, and therefore, such a change should be reflected in the name of our Grand Chapter as well. The matter was referred to the Jurisprudence and Laws Committee to prepare a notice of Motion which could be sent out in time to be brought before Grand Chapter in

May of 2002. At the Grand Chapter Convocation, May 25, 2002, it was moved and seconded that; **Whereas the Official name of our Province has been changed to “Newfoundland and Labrador”, therefore let it be moved to amend “ Section 1.01 STYLE AND TITLE” in the following manner: 1.01 Add the words “ and Labrador” after “Newfoundland”. Carried.**

At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 17, 2002, the Grand Secretary stated that the new name of Grand Chapter would be difficult to have printed on the bar of companions jewels. He sought advice from the Board. It was moved and seconded that **the abbreviations “ NFLD. & LAB. “ be inscribed on future jewels. Carried.**

NEW GRAND CHAPTER SEAL. Following the Grand Chapter name change, May 25, 2000, from (Newfoundland) to (Newfoundland and Labrador) the original seal continued to be used for quite some time. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2006, it was stated that we were still using the old seal (Newfoundland) and that we should consider obtaining a new hand seal to reflect the change to (Newfoundland and Labrador). It was moved and seconded that **we would obtain a new Grand Chapter Hand Seal to reflect the change to Newfoundland and Labrador. Carried.**

Most Ex. Companion John Baird then stated that, if he had a copy of the New Logo, he would make arrangements for the new seal, and that he would donate it to our Grand Chapter. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 19, 2006, Most Ex. Comp. Baird informed the Board that the new seal was ordered and should be ready soon. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2007, M. EX. Comp. Baird reported that he had to obtain some new art work for the new seal, and that, hopefully, this would be suitable to have the new seal completed. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 25, 2007, the Grand Secretary reported that the new seal was still not ready and that he would continue to use the old seal.

Companion William Smith stated that there were some problems with the artwork for the new seal and that both him and Companion Baird had to locate a clearer crest font, but it was now nearing completion. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 23, 2008, it was reported that the art work problems for the new seal had, hopefully, been resolved. Two artwork samples were then circulated by Companions John Baird and William Smith (that of our old artwork and a new more detailed sample). Following some discussion, it was moved and seconded that **the new more detailed sample would be used in producing our New Grand Chapter Seal. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meetings, October 11, 2008, the Grand Secretary reported that he was still waiting to receive the new seal. He said he had inquired about it as he thought it should have been ready by that time. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 22, 2009, the Grand Secretary reported, again, that he was *still* waiting to receive the new seal. He stated, he had inquired about it on a couple of occasions, but still no further ahead. It was stated that we should not have to wait that long for a seal, when we could order one through Companion Darryl Thurbur in Nova Scotia. It was then moved and seconded that **the Grand Secretary would order a new seal through the above mentioned contact in Nova Scotia. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, October 24, 2009, the Grand Secretary reported that there had been no further advancement with the New Seal. He stated that he had contacted Darryl Thurbur in Nova Scotia regarding a new seal through his business, and that he was awaiting some samples from which to choose one, and he would then be forwarding our artwork for same. Finally, at the B. G. P. Meeting, May 28, 2010, the Grand Secretary reported that we had received our New Seal from Canadian Masonic Supply at a cost of \$59.66; and that this cost was covered by Most Ex.

Companion John Baird. M. Ex. Comp Baird was congratulated by the Companions in the usual manner.

Following the Convocation on 28 May 1994, The Grand Council met on June 4, 1994 to discuss some of the more important items pertaining to the new Grand Chapter. (Constitution and Bye-laws, Certification of Warrants, Grand honours Protocol, Ritual, The difficulties of Ounaniche Chapter)

Re **Constitution and Bye-laws**; It was agreed that the Grand High Priest would look after the part pertaining to Grand Chapter, the Grand King would look after the part pertaining to Chapters, and the Grand Scribe would review the whole and pass any findings and/or suggestions on to the G. H. P. and G. K. and the Grand Scribe would chair the Committee. At the B. G. P. Meeting on May 26, 1995 the Committee reported that a draft was nearly complete and should be ready for circulation early in the Fall. At the B. G. P. Meeting October 14, 1995 the Committee reported that a draft was complete and ready to be circulated to Chapters. It was moved and seconded **that a Special Convocation be held in the new year at the call of the Grand High priest to deal with the Constitution. Carried.** At a meeting of Grand Council on 22 January 1996, a Special Convocation to be held on April 12, 1996 was discussed. It was originally intended that it be used to discuss only the Constitution, however, because of the importance of Life Membership, it was added to the agenda. All Chapters were notified. A Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland was opened by the M. E. Grand High Priest W. Job Parsons at 10.00 a.m., April 12, 1996, at Gander with 28 Royal Arch Masons present representing all six Newfoundland Chapters. A draft of the Constitution had been circulated to all Chapters and responses were directed back to the Committee. The Committee had then considered the responses and prepared amendments to the draft which were circulated to the assembly. The Grand High Priest outlined the procedure for voting on the various articles of the proposed Constitution. Motions, discussion and votes were then taken on each article. A motion was then moved and seconded, **that the draft Constitution as amended by this Convocation be accepted and presented for adoption at the Annual Convocation. Carried.** At the Grand Convocation 25 May 1996 it was moved and seconded, **that the following be added to Clause 56 of the Constitution “to retain membership in a Chapter a Brother must be a member in good standing in a Lodge whose operation regularly includes initiation, passing and raising of candidates”.** Carried. It was then moved by Ex. Comp. Fred Wilson on behalf of R. Ex. Comp. Wallace Noel and seconded by R. Ex. Comp. Ralph Wight **“that the Constitution be ratified as amended in clause 56”.** Carried **unanimously.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, September 7, 1996, several copies of the most recent draft of the Constitution were passed along to the Grand Council in order that they might have some time to pick up on any cosmetic changes which the Past Grand Secretary and the Present Grand Secretary may have missed in their preparation. These members were to have their observations back to the Grand Secretary by October 31, 1996, so that any changes could be made before going to print. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 11, 1997, it was decided that 200 copies of the Constitution would be enough to print at that time. Two copies were to be sent to each Chapter free of charge. Any others ordered by the Chapters would be billed at a cost to be determined after all production costs had been taken into consideration. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 23, 1997, The Grand Secretary informed the Board that 200 copies had been printed. He stated that he had brought several copies

with him and suggested that each of the members of the Board should purchase one in order to familiarize themselves with the contents. He informed the Board that after all costs had been taken into consideration, a reasonable price to charge would be \$10.00 per copy. That was agreed upon by all members present who immediately bought their copies. The Grand Secretary stated, he would ensure that each of the Chapters received their free copies during the Convocation. Others would be forwarded upon request at \$10.00 per copy.

Re Certification of Warrants; It was recommended that Certification of the change of Chapter Number would be accomplished by using a “form” with the signatures of the G. H. P., G. K., G. S. and Grand Secretary on it. This would be placed at the bottom right hand corner of the present Warrants of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia. This method would not detract from the present wording or spoil the look of the Warrants. At the Grand Chapter Convocation 25 May 1996, the Grand High Priest asked the High Priests of the six Chapters to come forward and receive certificate of warrants from the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland to be affixed to the existing warrants from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. The Chapters were renumbered in following chronological order:--

Shannon Chapter # 9. G. R. of N. S.	to	Shannon Chapter # 1. G. R. of Nfld.
Milley Chapter # 23. G. R. of N. S.	to	Milley Chapter # 2. G. R. of Nfld.
Arklie Chapter # 25. G. R. of N. S.	to	Arklie Chapter # 3. G. R. of Nfld.
Atlantic Chapter # 30. G. R. of N. S.	to	Atlantic Chapter # 4. G. R. of Nfld.
Ounaniche Chapter # 31. G. R. of N. S.	to	Ounaniche Chapter # 5. G. R. of Nfld.
James Strong Chapter # 32. G. R. of N. S.	to	James Strong Chapter # 6. G. R. of Nfld.

At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 29, 2000, it was moved and seconded **that new warrants be issued to the constituent Chapters by the Grand Chapter. Carried.** The task of wording and designing the warrants was given to the Grand King to be ready for presentation and approval at the next B. G. P. Meeting. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2000, it was moved and seconded **to table the printing of the new Warrants for the Chapters until such time as the Provincial Government officially change the Province’s name to Newfoundland and Labrador. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 19, 2000, it was moved and seconded **that New Warrants for the Chapters be printed in the format presented at an earlier B. G. P. Meeting, be framed and promptly issued to the Chapters. Carried.** A proviso stated that, should the name of the province be officially changed, the warrants would be immediately reprinted and issued. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 27, 2001, it was moved and seconded **that the New Warrants for the Chapters as printed and presented by the Grand High Priest at today’s B. G. P. Meeting, be provided at no cost to the Chapters and be presented at the next Annual Convocation. Carried.** The Grand Secretary was directed to inform the Chapters to have a representative (preferably the High Priest) from the Chapter be present at the Annual Convocation to receive their new warrants. At the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, May 26, 2001, the High Priests of the Chapters were presented to the altar where the Grand High Priest presented them with the New Warrants for each of the Chapters.

Re **Grand Honours Protocol**; the following was recommended :--

For the Grand High Priest, 3 x 9 (27), that is 9 with the right hand on top, 9 with the left hand on top, then 9 again with the right hand on top, followed by a short pause, then a single right, left, right.

For R. Ex. Companions, same sequence using 3 x 7 and a single R. L. R.

For V. Ex. Companions, same sequence using 3 x 5 and a single R. L. R.

For Ex. Companions, same sequence using 3 x 3 and a single R. L. R.

Grand Honours to be given only to the Highest Ranking Companion at any one ceremony. G. H. P., G. K. and G. S. are to be given Grand Honours in the East. Others receive Honours at the Alter. At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 3, 1994, the Grand Secretary was directed to write the Chapters informing them of protocol when any member of Grand Council visits, that the Grand Council Member should always be the last to speak during the meeting. No further business should take place after that.

Re **Ritual**; It was determined that R. Ex. Comp. Oliver white would chair a committee to review the Ritual and make recommendations on the same. At the B. G. P. Meeting on October 14, 1995 the Committee circulated a draft opening and closing of Chapters to be considered. At the B. G. P. Meeting September 7, 1996, it was moved and seconded **that the format of opening and closing of Chapters as presented by the Ritual Committee be approved in principle by the B. G. P. Carried.** A dispensation by the Grand High Priest was granted to all Chapters, at no cost to the Chapters, to allow the new Ritual to be practised at the next couple of meetings before the end of 1996. At the B. G. P. meeting on January 11, 1997 a report was given by the Ritual Committee with regard to the opening and closing of Chapters in the Royal Arch Degree which had been circulated to the chapters for trial. Comments from Committees of Chapters had been examined and final adjustments were to be made. It was stated that, for the most part, all Chapters were pleased with the changes. It was moved and seconded **that the format for Opening and Closing of Chapters (with the suggested changes) as presented by the Ritual Committee be approved by the B. G. P. Carried.** A draft copy of the Opening and Closing of the Mark Master Mason Degree was then circulated for their perusal and comments. It was agreed that the format for the Opening and Closing for all degrees would follow that of the Opening and Closing of the Chapter. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 23, 1997, draft copies of the Opening and Closing for the Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees were presented. It was moved and seconded, **that the format for the Opening and Closing of the Past Master and Most Excellent Master degrees (with some minor changes) as presented by the Ritual Committee be approved by the B. G. P. Carried.** At the B. G. P. meeting on January 24, 1988 the Chairman of the Ritual Committee stated that the Committee was then in the process of upgrading the Work in the Mark Master Mason Degree. He stated that they aim to change the format of the P.M. Degree slightly from that used by the Grand

Chapter of Nova Scotia. At the B. G. P. Meeting May 22, 1998 the Committee Chairman stated that since he had received the Old Grand Chapter computer from the Grand Secretary, work had progressed much faster on the Degrees. He circulated draft copies of the Work for the Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees for their perusal. At the B. G. P. meeting of August 8, 1998, the Committee Chairman stated that the Committee had completed its job with all the degrees. He proceeded to outline the changes which had been made in the P. M. M. E. M. and R. A. Degrees. The Board made editorial comments and the Chairman noted the suggestions. It was then moved and seconded, **that the P. M. , M. E. M., and R. A. Degrees as presented to the Board be accepted with the noted corrections. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 12, 1998, the Grand Secretary circulated copies of the finished Ritual for review and final comments prior to B. G. P. Meeting in January 1999. It was suggested that, subject to the approval of the B. G. P. the Chapters be informed that this completed Ritual would soon be going to print. This would then give each of the Chapters one more opportunity to make final comments as they would have had ample opportunity by then to try each of the revised Openings, Closings and Degrees. At the B. G. P. meeting on January 30, 1999 The Committee Chairman stated that the Ritual Committee had completed its work (re suggestions and corrections) on all degrees. He noted that draft copies of the completed Ritual had been distributed to the Grand Council by the Grand Secretary for editorial comments. It was moved by J. Dollimount and seconded by R. Hellier, **to accept the revised Ritual and see to getting it printed and ready for sale to the Chapters. Carried.** A complete version of the Ritual was presented to the Grand Convocation on May 22, 1999 and accepted unanimously. At the meeting of the B. G. P. on September 18, 1999 the Grand King (Colin Forward) gave an update on the progress of the New Ritual. He reported that the Ritual had been completed with the latest difficulty encountered being the importation of the Hebrew Characters into the document and he was ready to approach some printers for pricing. After some discussion, it was decided to have the Ritual printed in a five and a half by eight inch size. This was felt to be a size which would make it easily readable and yet not too bulky. At the B. G. P. Meeting on January 29, 2000, the M. E. G. H. P. (Colin Forward) stated that the completed Ritual had been passed along to Rt. E. Comp. A. P. Wilson and Ex Comp. P. Forward to insert the Hebrew Characters and then to get quotes from some publishing companies. At the B.G.P. meeting on May 26, 2000 the Grand Secretary (Carson Snelgrove) gave an update on the status of getting the Ritual printed. It was moved by A. P. Wilson and seconded by R. Hellier that **Grand Council be empowered to seek more proposals for printing of the Ritual and to decide on the best offer (not necessarily the cheapest.) Carried.** At the B. G. P. meeting on August 19, 2000 a number of approximate quotes were presented as information to the Board, with added comments that these would be of inferior quality and unable to take much ill treatment. A quote from the *Vincent Press Limited* was then presented to the Board. It stated the cost per book, stitched and bound, size and format. It was moved by J. Parsons and seconded by W. Baldwin, **that a quantity of three hundred new Ritual books be ordered from The Vincent Press Limited as quoted, and that copies be made available to the Chapters at a reasonable price per copy (approx. \$10.00) final determination to be based on the cost analysis. Carried.** At the B. G. P. meeting on January 27, 2001 the Grand Secretary informed the Board that the new Rituals had been printed and received. He stated that the Finance Committee had looked at the cost to print, as well as future cost to post when ordered by the Chapters and had therefore decided on a price of \$12.00 per book to the Chapters. The Board agreed that this was a

very reasonable price. The Grand Secretary asked for direction on what to do with the old Nova Scotia Rituals. It was moved by J. Parsons and seconded by R. Hellier **that the Chapters be informed to direct their members to return all the old Nova Scotia Ritual books and that the only Ritual to be used in the Chapters would be the Newfoundland Ritual book. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting on May 25, 2001 the Grand Secretary informed the Board that the printed Rituals had been distributed to the Chapters and, by all reports, were being well received.

At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 28, 2000, the Grand Secretary was asked to contact the Ritual Committee to assist in changes felt necessary to the Ritual of the Order of High Priesthood and the Ritual of Installation of Grand Chapter Officers. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 19, 2000, it was stated that, other than some slight changes to the Order of High Priesthood, there only remained to approve the Ceremony of Installation of Chapter Officers, copies of which had been distributed for comments. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 27, 2001, the Grand Secretary stated that the revised Ceremony of Installation of Chapter Officers had been reviewed since the last meeting. He circulated to the Board a copy of the booklet for the ceremony. It was then moved and seconded that **the Board accept the format of the Ceremony of Installation of Chapter Officers as circulated and that the Grand Secretary print 60 copies of the booklets and distribute to the Chapters for their use. Carried.** Re Ritual of the Order of High Priesthood, at B. G. P. Meetings, August 17, 2002 and February 8, 2003, it was determined that changes were to delete the Bible verses in the perambulation, retaining the knocks. No kneeling would be required at the opening and closing and the presentation of bibles would be deferred until after the obligation and secrets. It was agreed that 20 copies be printed in any colour other than buff. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 19, 2006, it was felt necessary to revise the Ritual for Installation of Grand Chapter Officers to include Grand Marshall, Assistant Grand Secretary and Grand Standard Bearer, with the ceremony to be revamped with these additions, including charges for same. It was stated that the five elected officers would be installed first, with all appointed officers to follow. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2007, Companion Snelgrove circulated a sample copy of a revised format based on the old one with some changes and additions as mentioned above. Companion Snelgrove donated six copies of the new handbook to Grand Chapter and the Grand Secretary was asked to have another twenty four copies made. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 25, 2007, the Grand Secretary reported that he had the 24 copies of the new Installation Handbooks printed.

Re Difficulties of Ounaniche Chapter; At the meeting on June 4, 1994 The Grand Council discussed the difficulties encountered by Ounaniche Chapter # 5 at Wabush, Labrador as a result of several members leaving the area due to a cutback in the mining operation. Although the problem had been discussed on several occasions, no action could be concluded until we were a sovereign Grand Chapter. The Council discussed three options concerning Ounaniche Chapter as follows:--

1. To remain active, the Chapter must hold at least four Convocations per year in the Holy Royal Arch Degree.
2. The Chapter could be moved to Goose Bay

3. The Chapter could be moved to Stephenville.

With regards to option # 1, as Ounaniche had not found it possible to convene a Convocation in the Royal Arch Degree over the past two or three years, matters were continuing to deteriorate and it was evident that # 1 was not a viable option.

The Brethren of Goose Bay had made it clear that they were not prepared to accept responsibility for the Chapter. Therefore Option # 2 was negated.

On 20 June 1994 the Grand Council along with the Grand Secretary travelled to Stephenville and met with the companions there, who had indicated, more than a year previous, that they were discussing the possibility of forming a Chapter in that area. They pursued the option of changing the domicile of Ounaniche Chapter from Wabush to Stephenville. A motion was passed by the Stephenville companions agreeing to accept full responsibility for the Chapter. The Grand Council along with the Grand Secretary agreed that the move would keep the membership of Ounaniche Chapter intact and at the same time would enable the companions at Stephenville to have a Chapter in their community. We were saddened, August 1994, when Companion Melvin Hillier, High Priest Elect of the Chapter laid down his working tools in this life. Ex. Comp. John Dollimount was then elected as High Priest, and the officers were installed 8 October 1994, when a special Convocation of our Grand Chapter was called for that purpose.

During its first 15 year history, Convocations of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland were convened as follows:--

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. May 26-27, 1995 Hotel Gander | Hosted by James Strong Chapter # 6. |
| 2. May 24-25, 1996 Holiday Inn, Corner Brook | Hosted by Milley Chapter # 2. |
| 3. May 23-24, 1997 Holiday Inn, St. John's | Hosted by Shannon Chapter # 1. |
| 4. May 22-23, 1998 Hotel Marystown | Hosted by Atlantic Chapter # 4. |
| 5. May 21-22, 1999 Holiday Inn, Stephenville | Hosted by Ounaniche Chapter # 5. |
| 6. May 26-27, 2000 Hotel Gander | Hosted by James Strong Chapter # 6. |
| 7. May 25-26, 2001 Albatross Hotel, Gander | Hosted by Arklie Chapter # 3. |
| 8. May 24-25, 2002. Holiday Inn, Corner Brook | Hosted by Milley Chapter # 2. |
| 9. May 23-24, 2003 Airport Inn, St. John's | Hosted by Shannon Chapter # 1. |
| 10. May 27-28, 2004 Hotel Marystown | Hosted by Atlantic Chapter # 4. |
| 11. May 27-28, 2005 Holiday Inn, Stephenville | Hosted by Ounaniche Chapter # 5. |
| 12. May 26-27, 2006 Hotel Gander | Hosted by James Strong Chapter # 6. |
| 13. May 25-26, 2007 Albatross Hotel, Gander | Hosted by Arklie Chapter # 3. |
| 14. May 23-24, 2008 Glynmill Inn, Corner Brook | Hosted by Milley Chapter # 2. |
| 15. May 22-23, 2009 Battery Hotel, St. John's | Hosted by Shannon Chapter # 1. |

The Grand High Priests serving our Grand Chapter for the first 15 years were as follows:--

W. Job Parsons	1994-1996.	Installed March 12, 1994.
Robert M. Hellier	1996-1998.	Installed May 25, 1996.
William J. Baldwin	1998-1999.	Installed May 23, 1998.
Colin A. Forward	1999-2000.	Installed May 22, 1999
John R. Dollimount	2000-2001.	Installed May 27, 2000.
Oliver W. White	2001-2002.	Installed May 26, 2001.
Reginald G. Reid	2002-2003.	Installed May 25, 2002.
Gerald W. Budden	2003-2004.	Installed May 24, 2003.
Gerald F. Mayo	2004-2005.	Installed May 28, 2004.
W. John Baird	2005-2006.	Installed May 29, 2005.
Carson Snelgrove	2006-2007.	Installed May 28, 2006.
William J. Smith	2007-2008.	Installed May 27, 2007.
Lawrence G. Moss	2008-2009.	Installed May 24, 2008.
Malcolm W. Moss	2009-2010.	Installed May 23, 2009.

After the formation of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland and during it's first year of operation several gifts and presentations were made as follows:--

Grand High Priest's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.
Grand King's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Canada in Ontario.
Grand Scribe's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Quebec.
Grand Treasurer's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Vermont.
Grand Secretary's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Alberta.
Grand Tyler's Regalia	Grand Chapter of British Columbia.
Volume of the Sacred Law	M. E. Comp. C. Collocott G. H. P. Nova Scotia.
Gavel	M. E. Comp. A. Calderisi G. Z. Quebec.
Flags - four	M. E. Comp. F Morrison, P. G. H. P. Nova Scotia.
Seal	V. E. Comp. R. Royle, P. G. C of H. Nova Scotia.
Past Superintendent's Aprons and Cases –two	Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia.
Apron Cases	M. E. Comp. W. Job Parsons, G. H. P. Nfld. P. G. H. P. Nova Scotia.
Grand Secretary's Forms and Supplies	M. E. Comp. L. Armstrong, Grand Secretary Nova Scotia.
Computer System	R. E. Comp. D. Gent in memory of M. E. Comp. Leo J. Gent.
Tape Recorder	M. E. Comp. R. Douillette, G. H. P. New Hampshire
Set of Silver Communion Trays for use by O. H. P.	M. Ex. Comp. Lionel Chaffey

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:- At the meeting for the founding of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, 12 March 1994, the M. E. Grand High Priest informed the Companions that as a result of

discussions held with the Liaison Committee of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, the Life Members from Newfoundland would be permitted to remain in the Nova Scotia fund for five years, at which time the matter would be re-examined. However, this did not prove to be the case, because shortly after that, the Life Membership Committee of Nova Scotia indicated that because of falling interest rates, the Life Membership Fund could not exist as is. At the B. G. P. Meeting 3 December 1994, it was reported that some Chapters had applications for Life Membership on file. This led to a discussion as to the benefits of Life Membership and whether or not the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland should offer it as a privilege to its members and if so, under what conditions. A Committee on Life Membership was formed of the following members:- Leo Marquis, Gerald Vokey, Gerald Hewitt and Roy Jenkins, with the Grand King and Grand Scribe as ex officio members. On May 26, 1995 the Committee indicated that the Newfoundland share of the Nova Scotia Life Membership Fund amounted to \$11,800 and that 153 members from Newfoundland were currently enrolled. On April 12, 1996, a Special Convocation of Grand Chapter of Newfoundland was called to deal with the Constitution, however, because of the importance of Life Membership, it was added to the agenda. It was then discussed in some detail. Finally it was moved and seconded, **that we request the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia to return our share of the fund that we might decide what future directions to take. Carried.** A letter to this affect, dated April 22, 1996, was written to the Life Membership Committee of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. In discussions with the Nova Scotia Life Membership during the summer we were advised that the matter would be discussed at their B. G. P. Meeting in September. At the B. G. P. Meeting of Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, 7 September 1996, it was moved and seconded, **that a letter be sent to the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, through their Grand Secretary, referring to the letter of April 22, 1996 and request that our share of the assets of the Life Membership Fund as of the end of December, 1995 (153/670) be sent to us. Carried.** A letter, dated December 2, 1996 was received from the chairman of the Nova Scotia Life Membership Committee. It stated that their B. G. P. had voted to collapse the Life Membership Fund and return the assets back to the remaining Life Members after also paying the 1997 Life Members dues. This was not what had been agreed to in earlier correspondence with them. At a B. G. P. Meeting of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, January 11, 1997, it was then moved and seconded, **that the grand Secretary write the Life Membership Committee of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia and demand that all the assets accumulated by the Newfoundland members of the Life Membership Fund be immediately transferred to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland as had been already agreed in earlier correspondence and meetings between representatives of both Life Membership Committees. Carried.** What followed was a protracted exercise with various viewpoints being expressed, actuary studies, different scenarios and long distance communications, decisions to be sanctioned by both bodies. V. E. Comp. Leo Marquis most graciously and generously provided plane tickets to enable two of our Companions to travel to Halifax to attend the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia B. G. P. Meeting where a satisfactory settlement was reached. . The 1997 Life Membership Dues paid to the Chapters, \$8000.00 as the Newfoundland members share was then transferred to the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland.

This transfer settled the question of the value of the assets held by the Newfoundland companions but brought with it the problem of how to maintain the Fund and continue to pay the dues of members to the Chapters.

Initial inquiry indicated that Life Membership Funds could be viewed as being similar to insurance policies, investments, etc. which would be viewed as a poor investment should they fail. It was noted that the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Newfoundland, in article 2.21, gives jurisdiction over Life Membership Funds to the Constituent Chapters. This would suggest that Grand Chapter has no responsibilities for Life Membership Funds except to approve their setting up and to review such funds and plans from time to time. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 30, 1997, much discussion took place on this very important topic. Members of the Committee, who were present, were asked to take note of the many comments made so that they could discuss them at their next Committee Meeting. They were asked to bring back to the Board's next meeting:- (a) their research, (b) suggestions of options available to members, Chapters and to Grand Chapter, and (c) their recommendations for the present and the future existence of the Life Membership Fund.

It was also moved and seconded, **that no more Life Memberships would be sold over the ensuing year until the Life Membership Committee could present its report for the B. G. P. to act upon. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 24, 1998, the idea of offering a Supplementary to the Life Members was introduced for discussion. The Committee Chairman stated that his Committee was reviewing everything about the plan. The Committee was going to approach each individual member of the Plan for suggestions. From the feedback received from the Members would be decided the future route which would be taken to:- 1. Ensure the viability of the Plan, and 2. Ensure the plan is administered in a manner which would be satisfactory to all concerned.

A paper entitled "Seeking Options" was presented to the B. G. P., May 22, 1998; it listed six options as follows:-

1. Freeze membership at its current level.
2. Open the Fund to new members. The enrolment of new members using their current dues and a new factor would provide new capital and thereby increase the life of the plan.
3. Make Grand Chapter responsible for the Fund. (This would necessitate the addition of a Section to the Constitution to cover the administration of such a plan.)
4. Each member of the plan be provided with a current statement of their account. This statement would include :- amounts paid at time of entry, any supplements paid, total of all monies paid to the Chapters on his behalf, current dues, dues currently paid by the Fund and the shortfall experienced by his Chapter.

This information would enable the member to assess the return he had received on his investment and allow him to ; (a) write himself out of the Fund if he is was satisfied with the return, (b) make application to purchase a supplement to his plan based on his current dues shortfall and his age in accordance with a revised factor.

5. Collapse the fund and return to the Chapters the funds held by their respective members. It was suggested that these refunds would be based on the current per capita Payout which is the

same as the Dues purchased by the member on application and any supplement purchased after. This option was supported by referencing Article 2.21 of the Constitution.

6. Be reactive and leave the fund as is. This would result in the depletion of the Fund by the year 2003.

The Chairman of the Committee stated that the Committee had previously met and discussed the paper in depth. From that meeting, the Committee had decided to make a recommendation to the Board that the Life Membership Fund as it then existed be collapsed and the funds in the possession of the Grand Chapter be returned to the Constituent Chapters based on the present per capita payout. Much discussion was generated by the paper and many questions asked.

It was then moved and seconded, **that the Board accept the recommendation of the Committee and that a motion be put to the floor of Grand Convocation as stated below:**

“That the Life Membership Fund as it now exists be collapsed, and the Funds in the possession of the Grand Chapter be returned to the Constituent Chapters. Article 2.21 (2) (a) of the Constitution gives the Chapters the power to institute life membership programs. The Refund to be based on the current per capita payout which is equal to the dues purchased by the member on application and any supplement purchased after. Specifically, the \$8000.00 in Assets would be distributed as follows:-

Arklie Chapter	32%	\$2500.00
Atlantic Chapter	19%	\$1520.00
Milley Chapter	15%	\$1200,00
Ounaniche Chapter	5%	\$ 400.00
James Strong Chapter	8%	\$ 640.00
Shannon Chapter	21%	\$1680.00

Grand Chapter would provide any assistance and financial advise available to assist any Chapter seeking to create their own Life Membership Program. Carried.

The above motion was moved, seconded and carried at the Grand Convocation, May 23, 1998. In keeping with that motion, the previous Life Membership Fund was collapsed and the funds returned to the Constituent Chapters as per the formula contained in the motion.

PROTOCOL BOOKLET: At the B. G. P. Meeting, following the Grand Convocation, May 24 1997, there were several suggestions for future Convocations. One suggestion was to develop a protocol booklet for Grand Chapter Activities. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 8, 1998, it was confirmed that a Committee had been established to develop Protocol which would address issues pertinent to the smooth running of various portions of Grand Chapter Convocation, Specifically; (1) the Presentation of the Flags; (2) the Rose Ceremony during the Memorial Service; (3) the Introduction of Distinguished Visitors, and (4) the Installation of Officers. At The B. G. P. Meeting, January 30, 1999, the Chairman of the Committee reported on work done to date but stated that there were a number of items which still need to be addressed. At the B. G. P. Meeting and Grand Convocation, May 21, 1999, the Committee presented protocol covering the following; Opening of Grand Chapter; Reception of Distinguished Guests; Reception of Flags; Memorial Service; Installation of Grand Chapter Officers; and Grand Chapter Banquet. At the B. G. P.

Meeting, September 18, 1999, the Grand Secretary stated that the Chairman of the Protocol Committee had requested that the Past Grand high Priests and the Present Grand High Priest get together and define the Duties of the Grand Marshall and outline what, in their experience, was necessary to include as Protocol with regard to Reception of Grand Chapter Officers into a Chapter. The Grand Secretary also stated that the Chairman had asked that the Duties of the Assistant Grand Secretary be also submitted to the Protocol Committee. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 29, 2000, the Grand King reminded the present Grand High Priest and the Past grand High Priests of the request submitted at the last B. G. P. Meeting. Some discussion took place regarding the defining of the Duties of a Grand Marshall and Assistant Grand Secretary. It was then moved and seconded that **the Grand Secretary define the Duties of Assistant Grand secretary to be submitted for discussion and/or approval at the next B. G. P. Meeting. Carried.** It was also moved and seconded **to add to the line of Grand Chapter Officers, a Grand Marshall with the rank of Very Excellent Companion, to appoint Comp. Jim Dawe as Grand Marshall, and that he define the Duties of the Grand Marshall to be submitted for discussion and/or approval at the next B. G. P. Meeting. Carried.** At the Grand Convocation, May 27, 2000, the Protocol Committee reported that, due to illness of the Chairman during the year, there were no meetings of the Committee. However, on page 40 of the Proceedings, additional Duties of the Grand Captain of the Host and Grand Principal Sojourner along with the Duties of the Grand Marshall were listed as follows.

Grand Captain of the Host: In addition to those duties outlined in the Constitution and regulations and protocol, the Grand Captain of the Host shall accompany the grand Scribe on his Official Visits when visiting the Chapters.

Grand Principal Sojourner: In addition to those duties outlined in the Constitution and Regulations and Protocol, the Grand Principal Sojourner shall accompany the Grand King on as many of his Official Visits to the Chapters as possible.

Grand Marshall: The Grand Marshall shall be a Past High Priest of a Chapter. He shall assist the Grand Captain of the Host by announcing and introducing the Distinguished Guests upon their arrival at the Inner Door of Grand Chapter. He shall present and introduce Grand Chapter Officers for Installation, and Proclaim the Officers installed into office.

At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 17, 2002, it was stated that the Protocol Booklet needs to be completed. During the year 2001-2002 the Protocol Committee met on one occasion, at which time a general discussion took place with regard to getting a Protocol Booklet completed. No other action was taken. There were no meetings of the Protocol Committee during the period 2002-2003 2003-2004. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 28, 2004, it was stated that it was time that we produced the long-awaited Protocol Booklet. It was moved and seconded that **the responsibility for this be passed to the Grand Secretary. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 29, 2004, some discussion arose regarding protocol, and the fact that our Grand Marshall was not utilized as in past years. It was noted, that the custom of using our Grand Marshall, and greeting visitors on the floor of Grand Chapter had a tendency to vary from year to year, and possibly, a standard protocol be established for future convocations. It was decided that the Grand Secretary, in consultation with the New Protocol Committee, would establish a standard to be used at future Convocations. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 28, 2004, the Grand Secretary distributed copies of his efforts to date and sought further advice from the meeting. Several suggestions were made and members were invited

to submit suggestions to the Grand Secretary. At the B. G. P. Meeting, March 19, 2005, the Grand Secretary reported that he had incorporated the suggestions made at the last meeting. At the Grand Convocation, May 28, 2005, in the Report of the New Committee on Protocol, a new Protocol Document was presented. It covered the following headings

- Opening of grand Chapter
- Reception of Distinguished Guests
- Receiving Grand Representatives
- Reception of Flags
- Closing Grand Chapter
- Installation of Grand Chapter Officers
- Board of General Purposes
- Officers Duties
- Grand Chapter Banquet
- Memorial Service
- Order of Rank for purposes of Protocol
- Greeting Grand Chapter Guests

The complete document was printed in 2005 Proceedings.

At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 20, 2005, it was reported that a number of issues were being received by the Protocol Committee, and that the presenting of flags had been worked out. It was also noted, that the material of the Protocol Booklet not be included in the constitution, so that any further revisions to this publication would not be an issue with respect to the constitution. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2006, it was reported that a New Protocol Booklet had been printed by the committee and copies had been distributed to members. The Chairman of the Protocol Committee stated that no comments had been received regarding the new booklet. It was then moved and seconded that **the New Protocol Booklet be approved (by the B. G. P.) as circulated. Carried.**

The New Protocol Booklet, printed in 2006, is broad in scope and fine in detail covering the following topics

A. ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF GRAND CHAPTER

1. Guidelines for Host Chapters organizing the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter
 - A. Request to Host
 - B. Grand Registrar (or other appointee)
 - C. Grand Secretary
 - D. Host Committee
 1. Hotel
 11. Registration
 111. Convention Organization
 - 1V. Ladies
 - V. Fund Raising
 - V1. Entertainment
 - V11. Transportation
 - V111. Church
 - 1X. Notes

2. Opening of Grand Chapter
 - A. Method of Entrance of Grand Chapter Officers
 - B. Opening Ceremonies
 - C. Appendix A for Floor Plan Positioning
 3. Reception of Distinguished Guests
 4. Sequence of Distinguished Guests
 5. Manner of Reception of Distinguished Guests
 6. Reception of Grand Representatives
 7. Reception of Flags
 - A. Appendix B for positioning
 8. Order of Business after Opening of Grand Chapter
 9. Reports
 10. Installation of Grand Chapter Officers
 11. Closing of Grand Chapter
 - A. Closing Ceremonies
 - B. Appendix C for positioning
- B. BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES
1. Members
 2. Meetings
- C. OFFICERS DUTIES
- D. GRAND CHAPTER BANQUET
1. Head Table
 2. Toasts
 3. Joint Banquets with other Masonic Orders
- E. MEMORIAL SERVICE
- F. ORDER OF RANK
- G. GRAND CHAPTER GUESTS
- H. GRAND HIGH PRIEST
- I. GRAND SECRETARY
- J. GRAND HONOURS
1. Grand Chapter Officers visiting Constituent Chapters
 2. Distinguished Visitors to Grand Chapter Convocation
- K. WEARING OF GRAND CHAPTER REGALIA.

It was stated, regarding the Booklet, that it was still a work in progress and suggested that we allow the Chapters to work with it and in a year or two, a review could be made. It was also decided that the quantity in circulation be left as is, with any future printing to be done as required.

LAUNDRY TRUST FUND; At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 3, 1994, a discussion was held about the disposition of the Laundry Trust Account which was, at that time, held by the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. The Grand Secretary was directed to arrange for the transfer of this money and see that it would be deposited in an appropriate account at the best rate possible. It was moved by R. Ex. Comp. Hewitt, seconded by the Grand Scribe, **that the Grand Chapter of**

Newfoundland continue to adhere to the guidelines established by the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia in the distribution of funds from this account. Carried. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 1995, the Board was advised that The Laundry Trust Fund had been received from Nova Scotia and was on deposit in our account. At the B. G. P. Meeting, September 7, 1996, it was moved and seconded, **to put the approx. \$3892.00 in the Laundry Trust Fund into a G I C and that the interest from that would be paid to the C N I B on behalf of Shannon Chapter. Carried.**

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD; An awards Committee was appointed in 1995. They struggled for a couple of years to try and come up with a suitable name and format for the award. It was finally reported at the B. G. P. Meeting, August 30, 1997, that the first High Priest of Shannon Chapter (Moses Munroe) was being considered as who the award would be named after. The Committee did another year of research, then, at the B. G. P. Meeting, August 8, 1998, it was moved and seconded, **that this Grand Chapter would adopt a Distinguished Service Award named the Moses Munroe Distinguished Service Award; that it would consist of a Jewel containing the likeness of Moses Munroe, and upon presentation, the recipient would receive a copy of a booklet which outlined the life of Moses Munroe. Carried.** It was then agreed that the Awards Committee would develop the criteria for the award and submit it to the Board for approval. It was also agreed that J. Parsons would look into the cost of having a Jewel struck. At a meeting of The Grand Council, December 12, 1998, the material which had been developed by the Awards Committee on the Moses Munroe Distinguished Service Award (ie., Information booklet about Moses Munroe and the Criteria for application for award) was presented. It was also stated that a quote had been received from Dominion Regalia for the striking of a Medallion for the award. With slight corrections and suggestions, it was agreed by Grand Council that the package was ready for presentation to the B. G. P. For approval. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 30, 1999, it was moved and seconded, **that the B. G. P. would accept the developed criteria and application for the Moses Munroe Service Award as it was printed and circulated, as well as a Certificate. Carried.** The Grand Secretary also reported that a quote had been received from Dominion Regalia at \$75.00 each for having the Jewel struck. He also stated that the Constituent Chapters would be informed of the award, sent the criteria and application forms, and asked for suggested names for the award. The Committee Chairman stated that a tremendous amount of the material about Moses Munroe had been compiled by R. Ex. Comp. Wallace Noel and wished that he be acknowledged for that. It was moved and seconded, **that a letter of thanks be sent to Comp. Noel for his contribution to the work of the Committee. Carried.** The Committee then presented a format for 25 and 50 years Long Service Lapel Pins to the Board. It was moved and seconded. **That in light of the small number of 50 year members and the large number of 25 year members, this Grand Chapter have a 25 year pin struck (as presented by the Awards Committee) and made available for sale to the Chapters. Carried.** The above was ratified at the Grand Convocation May 22, 1999. At the B. G. P. Meeting, September 18, 1999, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that he had received the 25-year pins which had been ordered. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded **that these Pins be made available to the Chapters at a cost of \$7.00 each. Carried.** The matter of 50 year pins was brought to the table at the B. G. P. Meeting on May 28, 2000. After discussion, it was moved and seconded, **that these pins be**

ordered and that they be provided to such members at no cost to them. Carried. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 19, 2000, the Grand Secretary reported that contact had been made with Dominion Regalia regarding the making of a 50 year pin. It was then moved and seconded, **that 50 year service pins be ordered from Dominion Regalia in the quantity of 50 and they be made available, at no cost to the Chapters, for presentation to Companions who had attained that number of years in Royal Arch Masonry. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 27, 2001, the Grand Secretary reported that the 50 year service pins had been received in a quantity of 50. The Grand Secretary was then directed to write the Chapters informing them that the 50 year service pins were available, at no cost to the Chapters, for presentation to Companions who had attained that number of years in Royal Arch Masonry and request the names of those Companions who were in that category so that presentation could be made at the next Annual Convocation or some other appropriate time.

At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 21, 1999, the Awards Committee reported that, because of the lateness of the information getting to the Chapters regarding the Moses Monroe Service Award, the applications received were all considered right up to the time of that meeting of the Board. In future the applications would fall within the guidelines. It was then moved and seconded, **that the Moses Monroe Service Award would be awarded that year to Robert M. Hellier, W. Job Parsons, D. Michael Parry and the late Maxwell Mullett. Carried.** It was pointed out that the jewel of this award remains the property of Grand Chapter, and is therefore to be recovered upon the death of the recipient. In the case of Comp. Mullett, the award (Booklet and Certificate) would be presented to a member of the Mullett family at the Rededication Meeting of Milley Chapter # 2, at which time the jewel would remain on display in the Chapter for one year and then returned to Grand Chapter. In the case of Comp. Hellier and Comp. Parsons the award would be presented at the Grand Convocation. In the case of Comp. Parry, who was then living in Wales, the award would be presented upon his visit to James Strong Chapter # 6 in September 1999. The Grand Secretary was instructed to write the Grand Chapter of England to inform them of the award so that Comp. Parry could be permitted to wear the jewel when he attended their meetings. This was reiterated at the B. G. P. Meeting of May 23, 1999. At the B. G. P. Meeting September 18, 1999, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that Comp. Parry had been presented with his award upon his visit to James Strong Chapter # 6 on September 13, 1999 and that he had written the Grand Chapter of England to inform them of the presentation.

At a B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2000, it was moved and seconded **that the Board accept the names of Rt. Ex. Comp. Wallace R. Noel and M. Ex. Comp. Frederick C Morrison as recipients of the Moses Monroe Distinguished Service Award for 2000. Carried.**

At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2001, it was moved and seconded **that the Board accept the recommendation from the awards Committee of the following for the Moses Monroe Distinguished Service Award; from this jurisdiction, Ex. Comp. George Dingwell; from a sister jurisdiction, M. Ex. Comp. Albert Mortlock. Carried.**

At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2002 the Awards Committee presented the names of recipients as; **M. Ex. John Dollimount** from this jurisdiction and **Douglas Taylor** from a sister jurisdiction. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 17, 2002, it was recommended that an Awards Committee consisting of past recipients, the Grand High Priest and the Grand Secretary be established to determine future recipients. A terms of reference should be developed for this committee and a

recommendation should be brought back to the next meeting of the Board. However; at the next B. G. P. Meeting, February 8, 2003, it was reported that there had been no action to date. It was noted that there may have been some confusion regarding the membership of the committee. It was then agreed on motion that the Awards Committee be made up of the recipients of the Moses Monroe Award along with the M E G H P and the Grand Secretary and that the most recent recipient be the chairman and, further, that the decisions of the committee be final. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 23, 2003, some suggestions were made by the Grand Secretary to bring the regulations in line with the decision made in August 2002 regarding the structure of the committee as well as to clarify some other points. This matter was referred to the Awards Committee. At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 13, 2003, the Awards Committee indicated there had been some discussion on the draft amendments to the Moses Munroe Award Criteria and regulations. These were approved and the Grand Secretary was directed to distribute the amended Criteria and Regulations for use in the 2004 awards.

RECIPIENTS OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS. (First 15 years)

1999	M. E. Companion Robert M. Hellier.	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	M. E. Companion W, Job Parsons	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	Rt. E. Companion D. Michael Parry	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	Rt, E. Companion Maxwell Mullett	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
2000	Rt. E. Companion Wallace R, Noel	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador
	M. E. Comp. Frederick C. Morrison.	Grand Chapter RAM	Nova Scotia.
2001	Ex. Comp. George M. Dingwell	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	M. E. Companion Albert Mortlock	Grand Chapter RAM	of Canada in Ontario.
2002	M. E. Comp. John R. Dollimount	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	M. E. Companion Douglas Taylor	Grand Chapter RAM	of Maine.
2003	Rt. E. Companion Henry Burrige	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	M. E. Comp. Lawrin C Armstrong	Grand Chapter RAM	Nova Scotia.
2004	M. E. Companion Colin Forward	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	M. E. Companion Earl MacDonald	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
2005	M. E. Companion Oliver White	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	M. E. Companion Peter Yanalavitch	Grand Chapter RAM	New York.
2006	Rt. E. Companion Ralph Wight	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.
	M. E. Companion Cecil Decker	Grand Chapter RAM	Nova Scotia.
2007	M. E. Comp. William J. Baldwin	Grand Chapter RAM	Newfoundland & Labrador.

	M. E. Comp. Lindsey Woodhams	Grand Chapter RAM Nova Scotia.
2008	Rt. E. Companion Ronald Howell M. E. Companion Robert Munday	Grand Chapter RAM Newfoundland & Labrador. Grand Chapter RAM New Brunswick.
2009	Rt. E. Companion Lance G. Ralph M. E. Companion Neil M. Astle	Grand Chapter RAM Newfoundland & Labrador. Grand Chapter RAM New Brunswick.

(The first four recipients are listed in error (wrong year) in the proceedings from 2008 to 2011.)

REGALIA; At the consecration in 1994 the following regalia was given to our Grand Chapter.

Grand High Priest's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia
Grand King's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Canada in Ontario
Grand Scribe's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Quebec
Grand Treasurer's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Vermont
Grand Secretary's Regalia	Grand Chapter of Alberta
Grand Tyler's Regalia	Grand Chapter of British Columbia

At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 3, 1994, the Grand Secretary was directed to correspond with the Grand Secretary of Nova Scotia regarding any financial obligations that we might have regarding regalia purchased for our Grand Chapter prior to the convocation held previous May. He was also given permission to establish with Dominion Regalia a cost to refurbish the old District Grand Superintendent's regalia as suits for the Grand Captain of the Host and the Grand Principal Sojourner. As well the purchase of a suit for the Grand Royal Arch Captain was approved. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 1995, the Grand Secretary advised that outstanding accounts with the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia had been resolved with regards to regalia and moved that a cheque be sent. The motion was seconded and carried. A discussion was held on the refurbishing of the District Grand Superintendent's Regalia given to us by Nova Scotia. We had been advised by Dominion Regalia that there was no significant difference in the cost of refurbishing as opposed to purchasing new. Previous District Grand Superintendents would be given the opportunity to purchase the aprons and sashes. The Grand Secretary reported that aprons had been purchased for the ranks from Grand Captain of the Host to Grand Tyler and that jewels and collars had been acquired for Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner and Grand Royal Arch Captain. Others would be ordered as resources permitted. At the B. G. P. Meeting, October 14, 1995, the Grand Treasurer reported that the bank balance was approximately \$10,000. It was moved and seconded **that regalia be purchased for the three veils, Grand Lecturer, Grand Chaplain and Grand Organist. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, September 7, 1996, M. Ex. Comp. Job Parsons and Rt. Ex. Comp. William Baldwin reported that they had met with Royal Regalia (George Fisher) in London Ontario. They had an opportunity to access some of their regalia and considered it to be better quality than we were presently getting from Dominion Regalia. It was pointed out that we were still not getting satisfactory service from Dominion Regalia. It was then moved and seconded **that we discontinue ties with Dominion Regalia and establish a business relationship**

with Royal Regalia. Carried. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 11, 1997, it was reported that the regalia for the remaining Grand Chapter Officers had been received from Dominion regalia just before Christmas. However, there was no engraving on the jewels and the collars were the wrong ones. This regalia was returned with instructions to fix .As well, the Grand Secretary informed the Board, he had phoned the company head to inform him what had been happening. It was stated, we would still have to deal with Dominion Regalia for some items, however, we were continuing to build ties with Royal Regalia and as these ties grow we would see a lessening dependence on Dominion. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 23, 1997, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that the Grand Chapter Regalia had been received from Dominion Regalia and had been distributed.. However, there was still one with the wrong jewel attached. Relationships with Dominion had vastly improved, however, we were still building a partnership with Royal Regalia. At B. G. P. Meeting, January 24, 1998, the Grand Secretary reported that Dominion Regalia had replaced the Archivist's Jewel with the proper one.(Lamp of Learning). At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 23, 1999, it was stated that an Assistant Grand Secretary should be appointed, (a) to specifically look after the existing Grand Chapter Regalia, and (b) to be the officer through which all orders for regalia and other items from Chapters be processed. However, no action was taken on that suggestion at that time. It was also suggested that a tag should be made and attached to Grand Chapter Regalia to show that it is the "Property of Grand Chapter R. A. M. of Newfoundland". At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 28, 2000, it was stated, in response to questions about the same, that it was quite proper for Grand Chapter Officers to wear their Grand Chapter Regalia to Chapter Meetings. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 27, 2001, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that there was then a need to purchase more Grand Chapter Regalia and that he required direction from the Board as to how much to order. After the Grand Treasurer's report was received it was moved and seconded **that the Grand Secretary be given approval to purchase new regalia up to the worth of \$1500.00. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2001, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that he had ordered and received the regalia approved by the Board at the previous meeting. This brought the Grand Chapter Regalia up to its current requirements. There was still an ongoing problem, however, with getting quality Past Grand High Priests Jewels. Dominion Regalia was still being contacted with regards to this.

At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 19, 2002, discussion again took place with regards to the status of the Past Grand High Priests Jewels that we were waiting on from Dominion Regalia. Repeated contact with representatives of the company had not proven very satisfactory. It was unanimously agreed that we should seriously pursue other avenues of obtaining regalia. However, the matter of these jewels would still be followed up until concluded. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2002, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that the Past Grand High Priest Jewels had been received. However, they were pocket jewels but could be changed over to the collars. It was pointed out that this was just another example of how Dominion regalia had not been paying attention to what we had been asking. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 28, 2004, it was moved and seconded **that the Grand Secretary bring in a draft amendment to the Constitution to permit all elected and appointed officers of the rank of Right Excellent to wear the tri colour sash. Carried.**

WEARING OF GRAND CHAPTER REGALIA AT GRAND LODGE: At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2002, the Grand secretary informed the Board that a letter had been received from

Grand Lodge in response to one of ours which had been sent to their Board requesting that the Grand High Priest be permitted to wear the Regalia of his Office at Grand Lodge Communication when Officially invited. The response was to deny the request. A copy of both letters are as follows; originals are in Grand Chapter Archives.

January 31, 2002.

Donald Vokey
Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of NFLD. & LAB.
P. O. Box23018
St John's NF.
A1B 4J9
Grand Convocation
Dear Sir and Brother

On behalf of our Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion Oliver White, I extend fraternal greetings through you to the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother George Cull, and to the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador.

I am informed by Past Grand High Priests of this Grand Chapter that, thus far, it has been the practise for Grand Lodge to ask Reigning Grand High Priests of Grand Chapter to wear their **Lodge Regalia** at Grand Lodge, even when Officially invited to attend Grand Convention as the Official Representative of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland.

I have been directed by Most Excellent Companion Oliver White to request that Grand Lodge consider amending its unwritten policy with regard to this matter so that the Grand High Priest can wear the Regalia of the Reigning Principal Officer of the Grand Chapter when attending Grand Convocation of Grand Lodge in that capacity. The intent of this request is to more directly reflect and point out to the Brethren, that this Grand Lodge earnestly supports the statement,"that pure Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch." It would also give the Brethren attending Grand Lodge the opportunity to see this support in a tangible manner.

In making this request , Most Excellent Companion White asks that you consider the Constitution of Grand Lodge, Section 142 which recognizes Amity between our Grand Bodies; and also to Section 19 which refers to proper Masonic clothing and jewels recognized by Grand Lodge. It is the contention of our Grand Chapter that, as Grand Lodge, within its own Constitution, recognizes and supports the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Newfoundland; Grand Lodge also recognizes within its own Constitution that Grand Chapter regalia **is** "proper Masonic clothing" and therefore should be permitted to be worn by the Reigning Principal Officer of Grand Chapter when attending Grand Lodge Convention by invitation for the purpose of representing Grand Chapter.

We respectfully request that you bring this matter to the attention of the Grand Master and the Board of General purposes for discussion at your earliest convenience. Should they wish to

discuss this more fully with us, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss our request and rationale for same.

Yours Fraternally,
Carson Snelgrove
Grand Secretary.

Cc. Oliver White , Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

March 21, 2002.

Carson Snelgrove
Grand Secretary
Grand Chapter of Newfoundland RAM
P. O. Box 351, 5 Church St.
Baie Verte, Newfoundland
A0K 1B0

Dear Brother Snelgrove;

We acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding the wearing of Grand Chapter regalia while attending the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland & Labrador.

The policy regarding wearing of regalia while attending Grand Lodge is set forth in its Constitution, Section 19. The Annual Communication of Grand Lodge is a tyled Masonic meeting with the Great Lights displayed. Attendance is open to members of Grand Lodge and Master Masons may attend with permission of the Grand Master. No Brother shall attend any meeting of Grand Lodge without his proper Masonic clothing, nor wear any jewel not recognized by Grand Lodge. The term 'proper Masonic clothing' is defined as a Master Mason's apron, Past Master's apron, or Grand Lodge apron. This definition is the same one used by most Grand Jurisdictions, including the United Grand Lodge of England and Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland.

Grand Lodge recognizes that Concordant Bodies are autonomous (having self-government) and the style of regalia worn is completely within the control of each body. Some bodies do not have aprons as part of its regalia. It has been the policy of Grand Lodge to extend invitations to leaders of all Concordant Bodies to attend its Annual Communication, to be seated in a place of prominence, to be formally introduced, and to bring greetings. To permit the wearing of Concordant Body regalia in Grand Lodge would be a violation of our Constitution and insensitive towards those bodies whose regalia does not include an apron.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

W. Donald Vokey
Grand Secretary.

cc. Board of General Purposes.

This matter remained stagnant for a period of about four years. It was brought up again, under new business, at a B. G. P. Meeting , August 19, 2006, at which time Most Excellent Companion John Baird stated “that we would be better recognized within our Lodges if we were permitted to wear our Grand Chapter Regalia when making presentations such as the 4 x 4 program and that we should continue to make this request to Grand Lodge”. Most Excellent Companion Gerald Budden added to that by stating that “ more visibility at Grand Lodge events would also be to our advantage. Currently we are not permitted to wear our Regalia at the Annual Communications and that we need to have this changed as well”.

REGALIA FUND FOR ORDER OF HIGH PRIESTHOOD; At B. G. P. Meeting, May 22, 1998, it was moved and seconded **that the collection from the Order of High priesthood be put towards a Regalia Fund for that Order. Carried.**

BENEVOLENT FUND: At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2001, it was moved and seconded **to cap the Benevolent Fund at \$4000.00; and, to move into the General Account the per capita \$1.50 presently being collected and assigned to that Fund for use in the general running of the Grand Chapter. (such figure to be reassigned to the Benevolent Fund should a need arise) Carried.** Rational for this motion was given as there being no demand on the Benevolent Fund, and Grand Chapter having been able to keep costs down enough to not warrant an increase in per capita dues, this would enable Grand Chapter to continue for some time without any increase in such dues even though there has been, and still continues to be, a steady decline in membership. During the discussion of the motion, it was pointed out that this falls within the constitutional powers of the Board.

NEW COMPUTER: In 2002, realizing that the computer system, donated by the Gent Family to Grand Chapter at it’s formation, could not be any further updated; it was deemed necessary to purchase a new computer. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2002, after some discussion on the subject, it was moved and seconded that **the incoming Grand Secretary be given authority to purchase a new Laptop Computer for use in that Office; such computer to be passed along to successive Grand Secretaries; the cost of such computer not to exceed \$3000.00; and that the computer would be insured under the Grand Secretary’s homeowner’s policy. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 17, 2002, the Grand Secretary reported that five quotations had been received and the lowest price and best value came from Cyber Solutions Ltd. of Springdale at

\$2333.35 including software. That unit lasted approximately five years. (In the meantime, the original computer was then used by the Ritual Committee for three years while working on the new Chapter Ritual, then at the B. G. P. Meeting, May 27, 2005, it was moved and seconded that **the computer be sold to M. E. C. Parsons for \$1.00. Carried.** It was mentioned that this computer was donated and that the plaque on it be photographed and placed in the archives.)

At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2007, the Grand Secretary reported that our laptop had been overheating and not working properly. He said that he had it looked at and that it needed the hard drive updated, but it would be simpler and much cheaper to purchase a new one. It was moved and seconded that **the Grand Secretary be empowered to purchase a new laptop computer and that we would either trade or sell the old laptop. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 25, 2007, the Grand Secretary reported that he had obtained the new laptop computer and had most of the files transferred to it. He then said that he had two guys bidding on the old computer and the current bid was \$150.00. It was concluded that William Smith would take the old laptop for \$150.00, with the said amount being forwarded to the Grand Secretary for deposit to our account.

CHOICE of CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT: At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2001, it was moved and seconded **that a committee be appointed to investigate a choice of a charitable organization which Grand Chapter would support. Carried.** Very Excellent Comp. Larry Moss was appointed as chairman and advised to choose his members to that committee. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 4, 2001, V. E. Comp. Moss reported that the committee would gather more information which would be put together in a package which could be sent out to Chapters and Board members which would aid in making some decision regarding the matter. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 19, 2002, V. E. Comp. Moss reported the conclusion by the investigating committee was that, other than the public exposure which could be presumably received by doing so, there was no particular advantage to the Grand Chapter, Chapter, or Companion. Consensus of those present was that the subject should be tabled for the time being. Charity focus came up again at the B. G. P. Meeting following the Grand Convocation, May 29, 2004. A brief discussion developed regarding the charity which would receive the benevolence collection taken during the day's meeting. Several charities were mentioned, but it was finally moved and seconded **that the collection of \$175.00 be presented to the Glaucoma Fund of Nova Scotia, and that a symbolic presentation be made at the banquet that night through Comp, Ted Caulier. Carried.**

DONATIONS: Over the years a number of donations have been made by Grand Chapter;

Gander Appeal '97: At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 23, 1997, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that the Grand Council had committed \$600.00 to the Gander Appeal '97 on behalf of the Grand Chapter and asked that this be ratified by the Board. It was then moved and seconded that **the amount of \$600.00 be donated by the Grand Chapter to the Gander Appeal '97. Carried.**

Grand Lodge: At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 30, 1997, it was moved and seconded **that Grand Chapter donate \$1000.00 to the new Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador to assist them in their formation. Carried.**

At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 10, 1999, it was pointed out to the Board that the terms of reference for the Benevolent Fund were to be found in the Constitution in article 1:32 subsection 4(a).

It was then moved and seconded that **pursuant to the above stated article 1:32 Subsection 4(a) the sum of \$600.00 be transferred from the Benevolent Fund to the General Account to cover the donation made to the Gander appeal '97. Carried.**

It was also moved and seconded that **pursuant to the above stated article 1:32 Subsection 4(a) the sum of \$1000.00 be transferred from the Benevolent Fund to the General Account to cover the donation made to the Grand Lodge. Carried.**

Corner Brook Lodge# 11 & Westgate Lodge # 18. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 27, 2001, the Grand Secretary introduced a letter from a joint Committee from Corner Brook Lodge # 11 and Westgate Lodge # 18 requesting support for a booklet commemorating their Anniversaries. It was moved and seconded that **Grand Lodge support these two Lodges by purchasing a full page ad to be placed in the above booklet at a cost of \$100.00. Carried.**

Lodge Mic Mac: At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2001, it was moved and seconded **to donate \$100.00 towards the repair of Lodge Mic Mac. Carried.**

Masonic Charity Golf. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2002, the Grand Secretary read a letter of request from a provincial Masonic Charity Golf Committee which requested monetary support for its Fund Raiser in support of supplying breakfast to needy school children. It was moved and seconded that **Grand Chapter support this cause by sponsoring a hole for \$75.00. Carried.**

To assist a blind companion: At the B. G. P. Meeting, March, 19, 2005, it was moved and seconded **to approve a request from James Strong Chapter for \$500.00 from the Benevolent Fund to assist a blind companion, with the purchase of a DVD 'Talking Book' player to replace the present tape equipment which CNIB was phasing out. Carried.** It was noted that this equipment should remain in the ownership of Grand Chapter. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 27, 2005, the Grand Secretary reported that the matter of benevolence had been completed with much gratitude on the part of the recipient, (Companion Ralph Rogers, Baie Verte). At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2007, M. Ex. Companion Carson Snelgrove commented on the reading device we donated to Companion Rogers through the CNIB and stated that, as Comp. Rogers had passed on, the device had been obtained back by our Grand Chapter. It was suggested that it be donated back to the CNIB and act as a credit on our behalf and no longer be shown on our books.

Douglas (Old Doug) and Alice Taylor: At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2006, M. Ex. Companion William Baldwin spoke regarding Old Doug and Alice Taylor of Maine who were in hospital at Grand Falls as the result of a car accident on their way to attend our Convocation that weekend, mentioned that today was Old Doug's 86th birthday. He requested that both a Birthday Card and a Get Well Card be obtained, and through the assistance of the Grand Chaplain, everyone would be asked to sign it at the convocation so it could be taken to Doug and Alice at the Hospital. After spending some time at the hospital in Grand Falls/windsor they were taken back to Maine by air ambulance. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 19, 2006, it was reported that Alice had passed away as a result of

complications to her injuries and that M. Ex. Companion William Baldwin was currently in Maine for the memorial service which was taking place the next day. It was noted that we would have the Grand Chaplain send cards accordingly. Some discussion took place regarding the matter and the ordeal which Old Doug and his family had been through since the accident, ending in the passing of his wife Alice. A brief report was given on the financial burden which had fallen to Old Doug as a result of the accident in May, stating that we should try and alleviate some of the burden if possible. It was then moved and seconded that **we would forward \$1000.00 in US funds to Old Doug, and that it be sent in the form of a bank money order. Carried.**

New Freemason's Hall: At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2007, R. Ex. Comp. Larry Moss spoke regarding the new Freemason's Hall currently under construction at St. John's and felt we should make a donation. A short discussion followed. It was then moved and seconded that **we would donate \$500.00 towards the new Freemason's Hall. Carried.**

CHANGE OF ELECTED OFFICERS AND TERM OF OFFICE. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 22, 1998, Most Ex. Comp. Job Parsons stated that because of the interest generated in reducing the number of years to move up in the line of Grand Chapter Officers, it was his intention to put a Notice of Motion on the floor of Grand Convocation that," the Elected Officers of Grand Chapter be Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Scribe, Grand King and Grand High Priest, and that the term of Office for each be one (1) year.

At the Grand Convocation, May 23, 1998, Companion Parsons rose and gave Notice that he would, at the 1999 Convocation, move or cause to be moved, the following amendment to the Constitution, "that Section 1.07 of the Constitution be amended so that the term of Office for Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe be changed to a one year term and that the Offices of Grand Captain of the Host and Grand Principal Sojourner be added to the Elected Offices of Grand Chapter with the same term of Office as the previous three".

At the Grand Convocation, May 22, 1999, it was moved by M. Ex. Comp. Job Parsons and seconded by R. Ex. Comp. Colin Forward **that the term of office for the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe be changed to one year, and that the Grand Captain of the Host and Grand Principal Sojourner become Elective Offices with terms of one year.** Much discussion followed. The question was called and voting took place by eligible voters standing in place for counting. The motion was **CARRIED** by a much larger majority than the required two-thirds. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 23, 2003, the matter of a two year term for Principal Officers received some discussion but no action was taken. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 20, 2005, the subject was brought up again. Most Ex. Comp. William Baldwin stated that when our Grand Chapter was founded, we used a two year term for the Grand High Priest and that it was changed to a one year term during his term in office. This however, he said, may have to be changed back in the future *IF* we find problems in filling the offices. Companion Carson Snelgrove spoke to this point, saying that if we went back to a two year term for the Grand High Priest, this would also mean a two year term for each of the other officers and that for a companion starting in the veils it would mean a twenty year commitment. Most Ex. Comp John Baird stated that returning to a two year term of office could

prove to be a deterrent for anyone wanting to advance to the Grand High Priest Chair. No further action was taken.

MISCELLANEOUS

Amnesty. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 1996, it was moved and seconded that **an Amnesty for dues would be offered to companions from January 1, 1997 to September 30, 1997 for those companions who have been excluded from their chapters for non payment of dues. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2007, the Grand High Priest, Most Ex. Comp. William Smith, added a new edit for his term of office which would allow delinquent members to be reinstated in their respective chapters by simply paying the current year's dues. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 23, 2008, "Amnesty Extension" was discussed. It was discussed that the "amnesty period" implemented by M. Ex Comp. William Smith might be extended for another term, in order to allow former companions to come back to their respective Chapters; as the edit was passed in May of 2007, the majority of the Chapters were in recess for the summer, and the information was not printed and distributed to the membership until in the fall. It was stated that, in fact, it was a given that many of our former members were just then learning of the period of amnesty, and that was why we should consider granting an extension. Most Ex. Comp. Larry Moss then stated that, yes, he would grant the extension, but that it would be for **one more year only**; and that it would be the "*final call*" **with the deadline May 22, 2009.**

First B. G. P. Meeting immediately after the close of Grand Convocation; May 24, 1997. That meeting was called at the suggestion of the Grand Secretary. It was convened at 2.30 Saturday afternoon, immediately following the close of Grand Chapter. The purpose of the meeting was to give the new Grand Chapter Officers and Members of the Board of General Purposes an opportunity to; (1) become briefly familiar with the duties expected of them during the upcoming year, (2) accept and sign regalia issued to them, (3) offer comments about the Grand Convocation just completed, and, (4) offer suggestions for future Grand Convocations while this one was still fresh in the minds of everyone.

The next time the B. G. P. met immediately after Grand Chapter Convocation was 8.05 Sunday morning, May 23, 1999 and again 8.30 a.m. Sunday, May 28, 2000. At the May 28, 2000 meeting, concern about the scheduling on Sunday Morning was raised by several members. Discussion ensued which posed the possibility of re-arranging some of the Saturday schedule in order to accommodate a B. G. P. Meeting between Grand Chapter Convocation and the Banquet. Continuing along that vein of thought, a question was put about the necessity of having a Church Service immediately following the Grand Convocation. Several suggestions followed, including; (1) Extend the Memorial Service slightly and count that as our Service; and (2) Have our Church Service on the Sunday morning after Grand Convocation. A decision on this was deferred to a future B. G, P, Meeting. At the B. G. P.

Meeting, August 19, 2000, some discussion took place on the subject but it was decided to leave the format as it was until input was received from the Grand Chaplain and the Grand High Priest.

At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 27, 2001, discussion took place on the format of Grand Convocation with regards to the scheduling of Memorial Service, Church Service, Installation of Grand Chapter Officers, and the B. G. P. Meeting following Grand Convocation. The Grand High Priest stated that he had discussed it with the grand Chaplain. He then put forward some suggestions. The Board agreed with some modifications to be made in scheduling times, and the resulting changes saw the above being completed on the Saturday of the Convocation.

First Open Installation. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January 29, 2000, discussion took place regarding the presence of the ladies and other family and friends at the Installation Ceremony of the Grand High Priest and Officers of Grand Chapter. It was moved and seconded that **the 2000 Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter be an open Installation with the provision that no cameras be permitted during the ceremony. Carried.**

Regalia Officer. At the B. G. P. Meeting, January, 19, 2002, discussion took place with regard to the necessity of having a Regalia Officer enshrined into the Constitution as an Official Grand Chapter Officer. It was generally felt that this was not necessary, that such an Officer could be chosen by the Installing Grand High Priest as part of his Installation Team.

10th Anniversary of Grand Chapter. At the B. G. P. Meetings, August 17, 2002 and August 23, 2003, the Grand Secretary noted that 2004 would be the 10th anniversary of the formation of our Grand Chapter and wondered if any celebrations were contemplated. General feeling was that no special celebration was warranted but that it would be noted at the 2004 Annual Convocation, noted on our letterhead and our history updated.

Grand Standard. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2003, the Grand Standard Bearer mentioned the possibility of obtaining a Grand Standard, as he would like to be able to complete his duties to the fullest. At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 13, 2003, the Grand Secretary stated that he had contacted Dominion Regalia and that several details needed to be determined. It was moved and seconded that **the Standard should be approximately 24 x 30 inches, that it should contain the Grand High Priest emblem, that it should be purple with gold thread and that it should be done locally if possible. Carried.** It was decided that an effort would be made to have it available in time for the next Annual Convocation. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 28, 2004, the Grand Secretary reported he had received a price quotation of approximately \$375.00 on a Standard which would be of velvet material lined with satin material and with gold thread. The price was exclusive of rod and pole. It was moved and seconded that **the Standard be purchased. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 28, 2004, the Grand Secretary reported that work on the banner was in progress and should be finished shortly. At the B. G. P. Meeting, March 19, 2005, the Grand Secretary reported that work on the banner was still not finished. He stated that he and the Grand Treasurer had viewed the mock-up and were satisfied that it would be a good job and it would definitely be finished in time for use at the next Annual Convocation.

List of Concordant Bodies (for invitation). At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 23, 2003, the Grand Secretary presented a suggested list of Concordant Bodies for Invitation to future Annual Convocations. The following was approved;

Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador
Supreme Grand Master, Sovereign Grand Priory
Supreme Grand Master, Eastern Jurisdiction of Canada, R & S Masters
District Superintendent, District 21, Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests
Grand Registrar General, Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour
Potentate, Mazol Shrine
District Grand Master, District Grand Lodge of Scotland
Sovereign Grand Commander, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite
Provincial Grand Master, Royal Order of Scotland
Governor General, York Rite Sovereign College
Grand Sovereign, Grand Imperial Conclave
Grand High Priests / Grand First Principals of Sister Jurisdictions
Civic representative of Host Town/City. Canada.

Accommodation for Grand High Priest. At the B. G. P. Meeting, December 13, 2003, it was agreed that it should be suggested to each Chapter that, since the Most Excellent Grand High Priest receives no travel allowance from Grand Chapter, it would be very much appreciated if each Chapter would arrange for one night complimentary accommodation for the Most Excellent Grand High Priest on the occasion on his official visit.

Format of Annual Proceedings. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 28, 2003, the Grand Secretary reported that he had been advised that a switch from 8 ½ x 11 to 5 ½ x 8 ½ would save approximately 50% in printing costs. It was moved and seconded that **the Grand Secretary be authorized to make the change and that Comp. George Cull, who looks after the printing, be added as a member of the Publication/Education Committee.** The 2003 Proceedings were printed in 5 ½ x 8 ½ format. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 28, 2004, the matter of Annual Proceedings was again brought up for discussion. The Grand Secretary noted that the anticipated savings in going from 8 ½ x 11 to 5 ½ x 8 ½ had not materialized and that the extra work involved in formatting was extensive. It was noted that the smaller print was more difficult to read. It was generally agreed that we revert to the 8 ½ x 11 format. At the B. G. P. Meeting, March 19, 2005, the Grand Secretary questioned whether it was absolutely necessary for us to continue to produce such an extensive copy of Annual Proceedings or whether a “digest” or abbreviated copy of the minutes of the annual convocation might be sufficient. It was agreed that as a cost savings measure the Grand Secretary might condense some items and that we not provide copies for honorary members.

Purchase of filing cabinet. At the B. G. P. Meeting, March 19, 2005, it was moved and seconded that **Grand Chapter purchase a two drawer filing cabinet with lock to cost in the area of \$150.00 plus HST, not to exceed \$200.00. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 27, 2005, it was

reported that the cost of a two drawer filing cabinet with lock would be approximately \$150.00. The incoming Grand Secretary would purchase it.

Lost Regalia. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August, 20, 2005, there was a question as to where the regalia for the Grand Standard Bearer and the collar and jewel of the Master of 1st veil was located. It was decided the regalia receipts would be investigated in this respect. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2006, the Grand Secretary informed the Board that the complete set of Regalia for the Grand Standard Bearer was still missing and once again asked if any member might know where it would be located. He stated that both he and the Assistant Grand Secretary had contacted various members by telephone and e-mail, but to no avail. The last place it was seen was in Marystown in 2004, but wasn't invested because the Grand Standard Bearer had to leave prior to the installation due to illness. Consensus was that it must have somehow been misplaced or taken accidentally following the 2004 Installation of Officers. It was stated that correspondence was being drafted by the Assistant Grand Secretary to this effect and being sent to all Grand Chapter Members. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 27, 2006, it was noted that we had a collar for the Master of 1st veil and that a new jewel was on order. The Grand Secretary then mentioned that the Regalia for the Grand Standard Bearer was still missing. After some discussion it was moved and seconded that **at the discretion of the Grand Secretary, a new set of regalia be obtained. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, August, 19, 2006 it was noted that the Regalia for the Grand Standard Bearer was still missing. Companion Carson Snelgrove mentioned that we had insurance for this type of instance and if the regalia was not found by our next meeting, a claim would be made. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May, 25, 2007, the Grand Secretary reported that regalia for the Grand Standard Bearer was still not found, that a new set of regalia was ordered, but would not be available for the installation in Grand Chapter the following day. At the B. G. P. Meeting, August, 25, 2007, the Grand Secretary reported that we finally had a new set of Regalia for the Grand Standard Bearer. He said that the lengthy search for the missing regalia yielded no results so a new set of regalia was ordered. He reported that the new regalia cost \$514.03. Discussion developed on this topic, as it was felt that our Regalia is one of our Grand Chapter's largest assets and that we need to look after it in a proper manner. It was reported that we now have a tracking system in place and that all regalia is signed out and will also have to be signed back in at the end of each term.

Constitutional Review. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2006, Companion Carson Snelgrove, as chair of the Constitutional Review Committee, and on behalf of the other members (Companions John Dolimount, Oliver White, Larry Moss and Jim Davis) informed the Board that they had completed their review. All sections of the document had been revamped and proofread for accuracy, complete with notice of motion. He stated that copies had been sent to each BGP Member and Grand Chapter Officer, but no comments had been received. Companion Job Parsons noted that possible reference may need to be made to the section on Protocol and the new Protocol Booklet. Companion Moss informed him that the Constitution would give authority to the Book of Protocol, which is permissible, and that nothing should be conflicting. It was then moved and seconded that **the report of the Constitutional Review Committee be accepted for recommendation to the Convention. Carried.** Companion Snelgrove then thanked the members of the committee for their work and dedication on the project. He also stated that in anticipation of a successful motion on the project, quotes had been obtained by the Grand Secretary for the printing of the new document. (M & M

Printing 500 copies @ \$2.95 per copy for \$1475.00 plus \$221.25 HST for a total cost of \$1696.25) The Grand Secretary Stated that the quote was for a smaller document that can easily fit in your inside pocket for convenience. Companion Parsons asked how small the wording would be, as we would not want a book that many found difficult on their eyes. He suggested that possibly a sample page be brought back in two font sizes for comparison purposes. Following some discussion it was then moved and seconded that **we proceed with the printing, providing that the wording is no smaller than that in the ritual. Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, August 19, 2006, the Grand Secretary circulated a sample copy of the size and font for review by those present. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2007, Companion Snelgrove reported on the constitution, stating that the new pocket size format was in circulation at a cost of \$15.00 per copy, and that he was quite pleased to see that the chapters were purchasing various quantities for their members. He said that all feedback to date had been positive and he stressed the fact that all members should be encouraged to purchase a copy of our new constitution.

Website. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 26, 2006, Companion Malcolm Moss mentioned that our Grand Chapter website needed to be updated. Companion Larry Moss noted that our webmaster is Companion Fred Wilson and that he acts in that capacity for our Grand Chapter and the Grand Lodge. However, due to Fred being away a great deal, our website was not being updated, and a new webmaster was being sought by Grand Lodge. He stated that when a new webmaster was found, we can remain with Grand Lodge, or if it is the wish of the members, we could try and seek our own webmaster for the Grand Chapter. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2008, it was stated that we were currently running off the Grand Lodge website, and that we were not getting a very warm reception by those maintaining the site, and that maybe we should write the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes for their permission to continue utilizing their website. That was then put in the form of a motion and **Carried.** At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 22, 2009, it was reported that we had received a letter from the Grand Lodge of NL. stating that our Grand Chapter could continue to use their website as in the past. The letter also stated that their web page was being redesigned, and that we may find access to the page difficult until completed.

CD History and Proceedings. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 25, 2007, it was decided a CD format of Grand Chapter History be done, and Companion Malcolm Moss agreed to take on the project. The Grand Secretary stated that he had been investigating having our Proceedings for out of Province mailings done on a CD Format. He said the cost of Mailing would be much less than mailing the hard copies. It was then moved and seconded that **the Grand Secretary be empowered to have out of Province Proceedings done on a CD Format. Carried.**

Printer/Copier Unit. At the B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2008, the Grand Secretary requested permission to purchase a Printer/Copier/Scanner Unit for the Grand Secretary's Office. He said that this would both make his work easier and would eliminate most, if not all, of the copying charges we have from time to time with respect to reports and the like. It was moved and seconded that **the Grand Secretary be permitted to purchase a 3 in1 Printer Unit up to a maximum of \$200.00. Carried.**

Finance Program. At th B. G. P. Meeting, May 24, 2008, The Grand Treasurer requested permission to purchase a new “Quicken” finance software program for the Grand Treasurer’s Office, to make his record keeping more efficient. It was moved and seconded that **the Grand Treasurer would purchase the Finance Software Program for his work as Grand Treasurer. Carried.**

Membership Numbers during First Fifteen Years Membership in the Proposed Operating Budget for the First Year of Operation (shown earlier in this document) listed 843 members. The Grand Secretary’s report in the 1995 proceedings stated that the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia reported a Newfoundland Membership of 802 on May 28, 1994, when our Grand Chapter was Consecrated. It also reported a membership of 785 as of December 31, 1994. Membership reported in Proceedings for following years is as follows;

December 31, 1995	772 members
December 31, 1996	735 members
December 31, 1997	665 =
December 31, 1998	635 =
December 31, 1999	580 =
December 31, 2000	533 =
December 31, 2001	487 =
December 31, 2002	467 =
December 31, 2003	443 =
December 31, 2004	not reported
December 31, 2005	401 members
December 31, 2006	405 =
December 31, 2007	371 =
December 31, 2008	355 =
December 31, 2009	342 =

