

Masonic Cabinet Update – 09/19/09

The Grand Master of Masons of Colorado Brian L. Cotter in partnership with Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite in Colorado, Ill. Stephen Munsinger hosted the bi-annual meeting of the Masonic Cabinet on Tuesday September 29th at the Denver Consistory. The Cabinet is composed of the three Principal Officers of each Masonic organization and an additional State adult leader of each Masonic youth group. In addition to the Grand Lodge of Colorado, there were representatives of the Scottish Rite Bodies in Denver, Grand Junction and Colorado Springs, the three York Rite Bodies, El Jebel Shrine, and Jobs Daughters.

The purpose and intention of the formation of this Cabinet is to unify and support all Masonic Family endeavors and to recognize all the major functions that are important to each Body. Each group or Body is charged to insure attendance with the authority to act on behalf of their constituents. Attempts are made to coordinate calendars and to maintain these on a WEB Site.

After a delicious meal, Russ Silvey, Chairman of the State Fair Project reported on the success of the Masonic Family Booth at this year's Fair. He indicated that about 2,500 children participated in the Child ID program and that the booth was recognized as the Best Indoor Commercial Booth at the State Fair. The booth is open from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m daily. The success was not without some difficulties in staffing the booth for the eleven days of the event. Russ suggested if we agree to continue this project, Masonic groups need to commit to providing people to occupy the booth for one day of the Fair. The response was positive and all agreed that we should try to continue with this project. Funding is also an issue and it is estimated that about \$7,000 will be needed from all the sources. Various ideas were shared and a committee will be formed to organize the 2010 event which will run from Friday August 27th through Labor Day Monday September 6th of 2010. This committee plans to start earlier so that donations can be sent to the Grand Lodge office for placement in a special fund. Expenses will be drawn on that account as they occur and the funds can be monitored accordingly.

The following are excerpts from the representatives of each Masonic Body:

JOBS Daughters – The Supreme Grand Guardian lives in Australia but is hosting the Sessions at the Crown Plaza in Colorado Springs starting August 1, 2010. This will provide a chance to showcase Colorado Bethels and will be a very positive experience for all participants. They will be asking Masonic Family groups for help with the many activities that will need to be supervised by adults. JOBS Bethels are struggling with retaining all the traditions of the past but allowing for the trends of the future. Some dress codes have changed dramatically but we were all assured that although they look different, the values they represent are still being observed. They have two excellent programs for Masonic Family groups to request to be presented at meetings. The Story of Job and the Living Cross both provide opportunity for the young ladies to deliver a positive message and assist the Masonic Family with programs for their meetings. Contact the Grand Guardian or a Bethel representative in your area.

El Jebel Shrine – Leadership is very busy with parades winding down and the Circus ramping up. The Potentate indicated that all dates of importance are listed and kept current on the El Jebel website.

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar– New members want to be involved and may not be as interested in the process we have followed for ions in conducting our meetings. We need to passionately keep all our traditional Ritual but streamline the way we deliver services to our members. We are moving into the second decade of the 21st century and all of us need to recognize that fact that times do change and we can make it a positive activity.

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons– The group was informed of the global influence of Masonry and that we can learn from other parts of the world as far as the interest that has been generated in the Masonic Fraternity. Companions in this York Rite Body are trying to communicate by showing, doing, and mentoring to better inform their membership. We must be courteous at all times as we are on display with our symbols and emblems on our cars and clothing. Our image is import and one small act of stupidity can have a negative influence on the public. Councils in all the communities are being encouraged to ask for more participation in the form of help at events as well as regular meetings.

Grand Chapter RAM – The importance of our Ritual Work needs to be more visible. Modeling good behavior while in meetings means not correcting speakers or blurting out prompt words while work is being presented. All criticism offered in open Lodge or Chapter should be saved for private consultation after the fact. Our manners should not be checked at the door and the respect that we have been taught should be observed at all times. This group is attempting to maintain the importance of opening and closing rituals but on official visits of the Grand Officers offer an open setting so that ladies and guests can participate. The response has been very positive. The outdoor Festivals of the York Rite Bodies in Akron, Delta, and Salida conducted during the summer months were praised and all were urged to continue.

Denver Scottish Rite Consistory – They are having success in offering an ambassador program with reps in local lodges. They are also partnering with other groups and promoting Masonic Family cooperation on various common events. They are trying to ‘cash in’ on the current interest in Dan Brown’s book with valuable and factual Masonic information. It was announced that information can be found on a website by accessing www.freemasonlostsymbol.com. As always, if any group needs assistance with any Masonic event or activity, just contact the Consistory Secretary or Personal Representative.

Grand Junction Scottish Rite Consistory - Dedicated leaders are a key part of a successful organization and the Consistory is attempting to encourage those who meet the challenge and gracefully counsel those who fall short of that goal. We must be able to explain what we do and that communication needs to be a two way street. Their website has been very successful in disseminating information to their membership.

Southern Colorado Scottish Rite Consistory – They are promoting a philosophy that indicates that a member is more valuable and important than the dues that he pays. We in Masonry have something to offer that potential members desire and need and that no others provide. They have a strong leader in charge of membership and it has been very successful. They furnish funds for new members to participate in the Master Craftsman Leadership Development Program offered by the Supreme Council. They have renewed

their efforts to involve ladies and guests as part of every meeting. The interest in Masonry on the part of the public can provide us a very unique opportunity as all of us need to be Ambassadors of Masonry.

Grand Lodge of Colorado – It was shared that sometimes we must ‘go slow to go fast’ and that we need to take the time to model our behavior by displaying an observable way of life. Grand Master Cotter indicted that all new comers to Masonry in current times are better informed than any of us were at the time we were initiated. They get their information electronically and we need to respond accordingly. We must communicate our story because we can deliver what they desire in an organization. His remarks concluded with an admonition for all of us to continue to work diligently in our local communities to promote our Craft.

Discussion was held throughout the meeting concerning the important dates of each Masonic Family group. It is suggested that all the leaders urge their Grand Secretaries to share electronic copies of each officer team among the Grand Secretaries of all Bodies to help improve communication. The next meeting will be held in Colorado Springs on Friday March 5, 2010. Information and invitations will be sent by Southern Colorado Consistory at that time. The gathering was closed upon a benediction by Past Grand Chaplain Bob Elsloo, Peace and Harmony Prevailing.

Calendar dates of importance:

- 10/03/09 – Al Kaly Shrine Luncheon in Colorado Springs
- 10/15/09 – Northwest Regional York Rite Conference in Boise Idaho
- 10/23/09 – Grand Lodge Officer Retreat in Estes Park
- 11/05,06,07/2009 – Southern Colorado Consistory Reunion
- 11/12,13,14/2009 – Denver Consistory Reunion
- 11/14/09 - DeMolay Youth event; Fall Ceremonial Al Kaly Shrine in Colorado Springs.
- 11/21/09 – El Jebel Ceremonial
- 12/12/09 – DeMolay Winter Ball
- 01/16/10 – Deputy Grand Master Roast in Akron
- 01/22&23/10 – Grand Lodge of Colorado Annual Sessions
- 01/30/10 – Research Lodge of Colorado Installation
- 02/13/10 – DeMolay Ritual Tournament
- 02/20/10 – DeMolay Sweetheart Ball
- 02/20,21,22,&23/2010 – Conference of Grand Masters of North America, Wash. D.C.
- 03/05/10 – Masonic Cabinet meeting in Colorado Springs.
- 03/05&06/2010 – JOBS Grand Bethel Retreat
- 03/27/10 – DeMolay Youth Event
- 04/04/10 - Knight’s Templar Easter Sunrise Ceremony at El Jebel Shrine Center
- 04/17/10 – DeMolay Congress Annual Meeting
- 04/22,23,&24/2010 – Southern Colorado Consistory Reunion
- 04/24/10 – Research Lodge of Colorado
- 05/06,07,&08/2010 – Grand Junction Consistory Reunion.
- 05/13,14,&15/2010 – Denver Consistory Reunion.
- 05/20/10 – DeMolay Youth Event.
- 06/05/10 – Royal Arch Pasture Degree Festival in Akron

06/11/10 – Rainbow Grand Assembly
06/15/10 through 06/18/10 – JOBS Grand Sessions in Loveland
06/19/10 – Cryptic Masons Festival at the Fort in Delta
06/26/10 – Colorado DeMolay Congress; Great Plains Cryptic Masons Rendezvous
06/28 through 07/04/10 – Colorado Masonic High School Band Camp in Greeley
07/04/10 through 07/08/10 – Imperial Shrine Sessions in Toronto
07/10/10 – Grand Lodge Scholarship Luncheon in Denver
07/10/10 – Knight Templar Angel of Shavano Festival in Salida
07/16, & 17/2010 Grand Lodge Rocky Mountain Conference in Albuquerque
07/19/10 through 07/24/10 - Sovereign York Rite College Sessions in Pittsburg
07/31/10 – Research Lodge of Colorado
08/01/10 through 08/06/10 – JOBS International Sessions, Crown Plaza in Colo. Springs
08/07/10 – Grand Lodge Anniversary Communication at Highland’s Temple, Denver
08/14/10 – DeMolay Youth Event
08/21/10 – DeMolay Legion of Honor
08/21/10 – Cryptic Masons Ish Sodi Ceremony in Colorado Springs
08/27/10 through 09/06/10 – Masonic Family Booth at the Colorado State Fair
09/09,10,&11/2010 – Grand York Rite Sessions in Colorado Springs
09/15/10 through 09/18/10 – Grand OES Sessions
10/08/10 – Masonic Cabinet Meeting at Denver Consistory
10/30/10 – Research Lodge of Colorado
11/04, 05, & 06/2010 – Southern Colorado Consistory Reunion
11/11, 12, & 13/2010 – Denver Consistory Reunion
12/11/10 – DeMolay Winter Ball
01/28& 29/2011 – Grand Lodge Annual Sessions

Meetings of the Masonic Cabinet are rotated between the Denver Consistory and the Southern Colorado Consistory on the first Fridays in October and March.

Charles G. Johnson – Deputy Grand Master