



The Byzantium



United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine

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Issue 1

THE GRAND SOVEREIGN



RONALD E. WOOD, JR.

GRAND SOVEREIGN'S MESSAGE

The first thing that I wish to do is express my appreciation for allowing me to become your Grand Sovereign. It is a station that I have viewed with awe, but appreciated the responsibilities that come with being Grand Sovereign.

We hit the ground running having several long trips before us. The trip to the Southwest Regional proved fascinating and entertaining. We had our first chance to travel through the desert. It came on unexpectedly, but was something to see. Betty and I strayed from the highway to see the Bonneville Salt Flats where I drove our car out onto the flats. Didn't try to get up any speed, this was just so that I can say that we were there.

I thought that we had left the mountains behind when we departed Utah, but was I ever deceived. California Mountains are really beautiful and challenging.

The Southwest Regional has always put on good work, and it was no different this time. They have men who have done parts for a length of time and others whom they are working into the degrees. It is amazing that there are subtle changes in all the ritual that we have witnessed.

We had the opportunity to visit the Oklahoma Divisional. It was a good experience. We saw some good degree work, and good fellowship. They treated us to a dinner at one of the older restaurants in Cow Town. I do mean old, but serving good food.

It is hard to believe, the restaurant had a line of customers waiting inside to be seated, and there was a line outside extending down the block also waiting just to get in. It would be great if we could get that kind of response to York Rite Masonry.

But there is one matter that I feel needs to be handled better. The term "casual" when used to describe the dress for a meeting or a meal. It should be pointed out that there is no problem with casual when it defined --- business casual, street casual or something else. Regardless, it should be remembered that we are an Honor body, and street casual for a banquet doesn't quite fit the bill. Casual dress is fine for our trips. But otherwise remember what we are!

Our trips to Toronto, Canada were really exciting. We attended the York Rite Sovereign College on our first trip to Toronto. There was a good attendance, and the committee had worked hard to see that everything went off in good fashion. The time spent there was great.

We returned home, and about 10 days later, we departed the second time for Toronto, and the Canadian Grand Council where we were treated graciously.

We have to express our appreciation to Dr. David P. Hardie, G.C.C and F. Douglas Draker, G. C. C. for their fine hospitality. We could not have been treated any better. David Hardie probably dreaded to see me coming at times, for I had all kinds of questions. However, he gave me a factual answer, and I learned a great deal about their Grand Council.

We have now left Ontario by every possible customs route. There is not much difference, coming in they

they are crowded. But the lines moved in good order. Going out they are a little less crowded unless you are at Niagara Falls, then it is a long line going in and out of each country.

We attended the Missouri Regional in Springfield, and enjoyed the fine degree work that took place. The meetings came off on time and the meals were excellent. The committee who planned the meeting did a very good job.

Now for a commercial, remember June 6 – 8 of 2013. The registration sheet is on the web site. You will be able to see the house where Jesse James was shot along with several other historical places.

GRAND SOVEREIGN'S BIOGRAPHY

Ronald E. Wood, Jr. was born in Rolla, Missouri. At an early age, the family moved to Sweetwater, a small town in East Tennessee. He received his early education there and graduated from Tennessee Military Institute (high school.) After graduation in 1949, he returned to Missouri where his parents were then living.

Ron found employment with Pittsburgh Plate Glass at Crystal City, Missouri. While working for Pittsburgh Plate Glass, he served as pastor of several Methodist Churches. While doing so, he began attending Flat River Junior College (Mineral Area Junior College) from which he graduated in 1954 with an Associate Degree; he completed his college education by attending Southeast Missouri State University and in 1957 graduated with a degree in Secondary Education. Brother Wood was presented an Award of Merit from Southeast Missouri State University in 1984 in recognition of his achievements.

After graduation from Southeast Missouri State University, Brother Ron enrolled in Eden Theological Seminary in Saint Louis, graduating in 1960 with a Master of Divinity Degree. After graduation, he was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church.

April 14, 1951, he and Marie were married and became partners in life's journey. To this union were born five children: Ronda, Patricia, Steven, Paula, and Mark. (Mark died at birth). The kids are all now married and widely dispersed across the country. The two older girls were interested in sports and as a result Brother Wood began coaching boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18 in an AAU Track and Field program. He has coached several hundred children over the years and has enjoyed a great deal of success. In fact, several boys and girls were nationally ranked. The Woods have nine grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren.

Brother Wood served as a Minister in the United Methodist Church for more than 50 years. He served as Chairman of two Annual Conference committees: The Board of Christian Social Concerns and the Standing Rules Committee (1992-1996), and he has served on several other boards in the Missouri East and West Annual Conferences.

In 1961, Ron served as a delegate to the World Council of Methodism in Oslo, Norway. While en-route to Oslo, he visited England and the Scandinavian countries.

Unfortunately, Marie died on March 2, 2010 after 59 years of marriage, and our Grand Sovereign then married Mrs. Betty Blumhost on July 17th. Betty brought with her a diversity of talent and has definitely been a great companion.

During the past several years the Woods have been able to travel extensively. They have made several trips to Europe, visiting nearly every country on the European Continent except Russia and Finland. They even ventured behind the Iron Curtain into Hungary and Yugoslavia. They have been to Australia and New Zealand twice. These trips have made them appreciate our great country and its many opportunities. They have had opportunity to visit Israel. Grand Sovereign Wood has been to Israel on eight occasions. He took four courses from Dr. Jim Fleming, and thereby, received graduate credit from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. These courses made it possible for him to study Israel from Matula in the north to Mount Sinai in the south visiting St. Catherine's Monastery twice while in the Sinai area.

In Rotary International Brother Wood has served as President of the Rotary Club of Neosho, Missouri and on the Board of the Downtown Rotary Club in St. Joseph, Missouri. In January of 1987, the Rotary Club in Clinton, Missouri made him a Paul Harris Fellow. In the Clinton community, Brother Wood served on the Board of Directors of the Clinton United Fund and as Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee which was a success.

Ron was raised a Master Mason in Ionic Lodge No. 154 in Desloge, Missouri on December 10, 1956. He subsequently demitted to Mystic Tie Lodge No. 221, at Oak Ridge, Missouri, then to Richmond Lodge No. 57, then to Clinton Lodge No. 548. He served as Master of Mystic Tie Lodge No. 221, Clinton Lodge No. 548, and Charity Lodge No. 331 in 2004, before it's consolidation with Zeredatha No. 189. He is now a member of Charity-Zeredatha Lodge No. 189.

He received the Grand Lodge of Missouri Achievement Award twice: in 1991 for his service in Clinton Lodge No. 548 and in 2004 for his service in Charity Lodge No. 331.

Brother Wood served as a Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Missouri from 1984 through 2008. He edited the publications of the Missouri Lodge of Research from 1993 through 2008 and was made a Fellow of the Lodge of Research in 1999. He has served as the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Victoria (Australia) near the Grand Lodge of Missouri since 1996.

Brother Wood became a Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of St. Louis in 1958. He served as Master of Kadosh of the Consistory in 1979 and also served as Vice-President of the Speakers Bureau for the St. Louis Valley. He did considerable traveling and speaking in this capacity.

He was awarded the rank and decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor on October 20, 1969. He was coroneted an Inspector General Honorary of the 33rd Degree on November 26, 1983. He is now a Dual member of St. Joseph Scottish Rite and St. Louis.

In the York Rite, Companion Wood joined the Royal Arch Chapter, Cryptic Council and the Commandry in Liberty, Missouri in 1981. He served as President of the York Rite Association of St. Joseph in 1994.

He served as High Priest of DeMolay Royal Arch Chapter No. 26 in Warrensburg in 1991, where he

became a member of the Order of High Priesthood and received the Grand Chapter Achievement Award in that year. He served as President of the Missouri Order of High Priesthood in 1991. He served as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Missouri from 1996-2001 and as Grand Chaplain 2007-2008. He is fortunate to belong to The Holy Land Royal Arch Chapter No. 8 in Jerusalem, Israel. He served the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International as General Grand Chaplain 1999-2002.

Companion Wood served as Illustrious Master of Warrensburg Council No. 57, Cryptic Masons, in 1992. He served as Grand Recorder from 1996-2001 and as Grand Chaplain 2005-2006. He was inducted into the Missouri Order of the Silver Trowel in 1992 and served as Thrice Illustrious Master in 2005. He has served as Grand Representative of the Grand Council of Vermont near the Grand Council of Missouri since 1996. He served General Grand Council as Assistant Grand Chaplain 2008-2011 and is now serving 2011-2014.

In the Commandery SK Wood was Commander of Mary Commandery No. 19 in Warrensburg in 1992 and became a member of the Past Commander's Club that same year. He served as Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery of Missouri in 1995, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery in 1996 and was elected an Honorary Grand Commander in 1996. He served as Grand Prelate 1989-1990 and 2005-2009. He has been Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of South Carolina near the Grand Commandery of Missouri since 1996. He edited the Missouri supplement in the Knight Templar Magazine 1994-2010. He is a Knight of Siloam of the Grand Commandry of Missouri. SK Wood was created a Knight Commander of the Temple by the Grand Encampment in 1995. He has also edited the Grand Encampment Program Books in 1997, 2000, and 2003 and is twice a member of the Grand Master's Club. He served as Seneschal of the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor in 2007.

Ron has served as Grand Lecturer of both the Grand Chapter and Grand Council. Presently he is serving as Regional Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council. He has and is presently serving as Grand Historian of the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandry.

Companion & Sir Knight Wood was made a Knight of the York Cross of Honor in 1993 and served as General Grand Prelate of Convent General 1996-1997. He served as Prior of Missouri Priory No. 17 2008-2009.

Brother Wood joined the Allied Masonic Degrees in 1995 in Buckner, MO. He assisted in establishing the AMD in St. Joseph in 1996 and served as the first Sovereign Master there.

Ron was inducted into the Royal Order of Scotland in Chicago in 1992. Later, he was invited to become a member of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests in June of 1992 in Springfield, Missouri, affiliated in Liberty, Missouri in 1993 and served as Preceptor in 2005.

Companion Knight Wood is a Charter Member of Harry S. Truman York Rite College in Buckner, Missouri. He served as Secretary in 1998. He also helped found Edwin C. Carpenter York Rite College in St. Joseph in 1997 and served as Governor 1997-1998. He served as Deputy Grand Governor of Missouri 2002-2006 and as Grand Governor 2006-2010. He is an Associate Regent (Order of the Purple Cross of York) and Associate General Grand Primate of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

In Knight Masons, Brother Wood joined Great Chief's Council No. 0 in 1997, later helping to form Charlemagne Council No. 79 in Buckner, MO and served as its Excellent Chief.

Ron joined the Order of the Eastern Star in Clinton Chapter No. 73, moved his membership to and later affiliated with Crosby Chapter No. 145 and where he served as Worthy Patron in 2008, 2010 and 2011.

Brother Wood has been very active in the High Twelve Club, serving as Chaplain, Secretary and President of the St. Joseph Club and as Chaplain and President of the Missouri Association of High Twelve Clubs, and as International Grand Chaplain in 2002 and 2005.

In the Order of St. Thomas of Acon Brother Wood served as Worthy Master of Immanuel Chapel No. 56 in 2007 and as Master of Trinity Chapel No. 56 in 2012.

He joined Ararat Shrine in Kansas City in 1981 and later affiliated with Moila Shrine of St. Joseph, serving as Chaplain 1992-1997, and as Potentate in 2001.

Brother Wood has been involved with both Job's Daughters and the Order of DeMolay. He was instrumental in founding a very successful Job's Daughters Bethel in Jackson, Missouri and a DeMolay Chapter in Clinton, Missouri. Unfortunately, the DeMolay Chapter did not survive. Ron has been accorded Honorary Membership in the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

In the Red Cross of Constantine, Knight Companion Wood became a member of St. Joseph Conclave in 1992. He served as Sovereign in 2001. On the national level he served as Grand High Prelate 1996-1997, 2004-2005 and 2006-2007; also as Grand Chaplain 1997-1999, 2000-2004 and 2005-2006. He was elected and installed Grand Sovereign on June 2, 2012.

2012-2013 GRAND OFFICERS INSTALLED IN CHARLOTTE



L to R: Very Illustrious Grand Junior General, Robert S. Finley; Very Illustrious Grand Senior General, William R. Miller; Most Eminent Grand Viceroy Burch E. Zehner; Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, Ronald E. Wood, Jr.; Illustrious Grand Chancellor R. Steven Doan; Illustrious Grand Almoner Joseph C. Harrison, Jr.; and, Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, Fred Kleyn, III, KGC.

In Memoriam

Knight Companion Warren D. Lichty

Grand Sovereign 2001 - 2002

Born: December 17, 1930 Died: May 23, 2012

Knight Companion Warren D. Lichty was born at Colorado Springs, Colorado. He grew up in western Nebraska, graduating from Chadron High School in 1948. After undergraduate work at Chadron State College he transferred to the College of Law at the University of Nebraska where he graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Law and Doctor of Jurisprudence.

He then attended and graduated from the U.S. Army Intelligence School then served with the Counter Intelligence Corps. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army, he returned to Chadron where he was elected Dawes County Judge. In February, 1961 he joined the staff of the Attorney General of Nebraska where he continued to serve until his retirement on December 31, 1996. From 1969 until his retirement he occupied the position of Assistant Attorney General, Manager of the Roads Section of the Department of Justice and Chief Council for the Nebraska Department of Roads.

On December 8, 1962, Warren Lichty and Margaret Grupy were united in marriage. They were members of Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church.

Lichty was initiated, passed and raised in Samaritan Lodge No. 158, Chadron, in 1953. He has more recently been a member of Craftsmen Lodge No. 314, Lincoln, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1972.

Warren joined the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Alliance, Nebraska in 1959. In the Valley of Lincoln, he was invested with the rank and Decoration of KCCH in 1973 and coroneted Inspector General Honorary, 33° on December 10, 1977. He served as Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection in 1977, as Wise Master of Lincoln Chapter of Rose Croix in 1984 and was Director of Work and Class Conductor for the Valley of Lincoln from 1974 to 1990. He served for a number of years as Personal Representative of the S.G.I.G. and on June 30, 1990 was appointed a Deputy of the Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction. On October 22, 1991 he was crowned an Active Member of the Supreme Council and Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Nebraska.

In the Supreme Council he held the office of First Grand Equerry and was Chairman of the Supreme Council Publications Committee. He incorporated the Scottish Rite Research Society and served as its first President.

In the York Rite, Lichty became a Royal Arch Mason in Occidental Chapter No. 48, RAM, a Cryptic Mason in Zerubbabel Council No. 27 R&SM in 1953 and was knighted in Melita Commandery No. 22, Knights Templar in 1956, all bodies being in Chadron. Later he moved to Lincoln Chapter No. 6 where he served as High Priest in 1985; Lincoln Council No. 4 where he served as Illustrious Master 1985 and Mt. Moriah Commandery No. 4 where he was Commander in 1979. Later he served as the 109th Most Illustrious Grand Master, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Nebraska in 1990-1991 and as the 120th Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska in 1991-1992. Warren was installed as the 114th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska. In February of 1980, at the annual meeting of the Masonic Service Association of the U.S.A. Lichty was elected temporary Chairman and served as presiding officer of the annual meeting of that Association. At the February 1980 meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America held in Washington, D.C., Lichty was elected Vice-Chairman of the Conference. He and Conference Chairman William Koenig, Grand Master of Masons of Maryland presided over the 1980 Conference and opened the 1981 Conference in Orlando, FL.

Warren was Master Council of Chadron Chapter, Order of DeMolay in 1948, an active member of the DeMolay Legion of Honor and an Honorary Member of the DeMolay Supreme Council.

SAN LORENZO CONCLAVE

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND BANQUET, SATURDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2012
UNION CLUB, CENTER OF PANAMA CITY, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA



Left to Right: KC William R. Miller, Grand Senior General; KC Marcos D. Ostrander, Intendant General Division of Panama; Most Worshipful Brother Manuel F. Carredera, Sr., Grand Master of Masons in Panama; Most Worshipful Brother Raul G. de Obaldia, Past Grand Master of Panama; and, KC Donald P. Garrido, Past Intendant General Division of Panama and Recorder for the Conclave.

DIVISION OF IOWA ASSEMBLY

On 21 July 2012, the Division of Iowa held a Divisional Assembly in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Des Moines, Iowa. This was Iowa's second Divisional Assembly.



At the Assembly, Knight Companion John M. Klaus was installed into the St. Ignatius Conclave of Cedar Rapids, Iowa (he is fourth from the left), and is pictured with two Sovereigns, KC Donald M. Heath, St. Ignatius Conclave (to the left), and KC Charles L. Brinkerhoff, St. Bartholomew Conclave (to the right). The Intendant General, KC Jay Coles, is not pictured as he was the photographer!

DIVISION OF OHIO EASTERN AND DIVISION OF OHIO WESTERN
Members from Ohio attending the Annual U.G.I.C. Assembly on 8 – 9 June 2012 in Charlotte, NC gather for a photo opportunity.



Left to Right are: KC Robert Coster, Past Sovereign; KC Louis VanSlyck, Past Sovereign; KC Steven Duncan, Past Sovereign; KC Richard Weaver (Intendent General Ohio Eastern), KC Randy Williams (Puissant Sovereign, LaFayette Conclave), KC Burch E. Zehner (Grand Viceroy), KC Harvey Lowry (Intendant General Ohio Western), KC William Koon II, (GM GEKT), and KC Franklin Boner, Past Sovereign.

GUATEMALA CONCLAVE

At an installation held in Guatemala City on 15 June 2012, 5 new Knights Companions joined the Conclave, four from El Salvador



Left to Right: Front Row...The new KCs are Oswald Hernandez Huerta (El Salvador), Abraham Aviles (El Salvador), Ronny Patricio Aguilar (Guatemala), Eduardo Villavicencio (El Salvador), Carlos Araujo (El Salvador).

Left to Right: Back Row: KCs Pedro Leonel Moreno Monge (El Salvador), Ramon Huerta (Puissant Sovereign, Guatemala), Eduardo Perez (Guatemala), Humberto Juarez (Guatemala), Francisco Alberto Saenz (Guatemala). On the left, in a middle row, is KC Enrique Alwood (El Salvador), a previous Conclave KC.

***SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
SACRAMENTO, CA***

SW Regional Intendent Generals Meet



Left to Right are: KC David J. Kussman, IG California Southern; KC Richard S. Butterfield, IG New Mexico; KC Gordon F. Wessell, IG Nevada; KC Jerry Ford, Grand Chaplain; KC Ron Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign; KC John L. Elwell, Jr., IG Iowa; KC Jerry L. Fenimore, IG Colorado; KC Bruce Pruitt, IG California Northern; KC Robert A. Elsner, IG Arizona; KC Denny Strole, IG Mexico/Guatemala; KC Burch E. Zchner, Eminent Grand Viceroy; KC Fred Kleyn, Past Grand Sovereign/Grand Recorder. (Photo by: Very Illustrious Senior Grand General William A. Miller)

***ST. BERNARD CONCLAVE, MOBILE, ALABAMA
OFFICERS 2012 – 2013***



Seated L to R: KC Robert A. Mayer, Senior General; KC Billy Walley, Puissant Sovereign; KC Ed White, Sr., Eminent Viceroy.

Standing L to R: KC Harold Worthington, Herald; KC Jerry Fulford, Prefect; KC Tom Lott, Prelate; KC Jim McGee, Treasurer/Recorder; KC Joe Tomberlin, Junior General; KC Barney Lusk, Sentinel; KC MacArthur Davis, Intendant General Division of Alabama.

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT



Reign: 25 July 306 AD – 22 May 337

Full Name: Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus Augustus

Born: 27 February 272

Birthplace: Naissus, Moesia Superior (present day Serbia)

Died: 22 May 337 (age 65)

Consort: Minervina, died or divorced before 307

Offspring: Constantina, Helena, Crispus, Constantine II, Constantius II, Constans

Father: Constantius Chlorus Mother: Helena

Byzantium was an ancient Greek city, founded by Greek colonists from Megara in 657 BC and named after their king Byzas. The name *Byzantium* is a Latinization of the original name **Byzantion**. The city was later renamed Nova Roma by Constantine the Great, but popularly called Constantinople and briefly became the imperial residence of the classical Roman Empire. Then subsequently the city was, for more than a thousand years, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, the Greek-speaking Roman Empire of late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Constantinople was captured by the Ottoman Turks, becoming the capital of their empire, in 1453. The name of the city was officially changed to Istanbul in 1930 following the establishment of modern Turkey.

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United Grand Imperial Council

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