

The Brief History of the General Conference of Grand Councils, Royal & Select Masters, PHA, United States of America & Bahamas The General Conference of Grand Councils, Royal and Select Masters, PHA, United States of America & Bahamas was organized May 21, 1988, in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey with representatives of the following jurisdictions: Ohio (1917); New York (1958) (New Jersey was part of New York until September 15, 1988); Pennsylvania (1980); Illinois (1984) and the District of Columbia (1988).

The functions of the General Conference are to maintain and preserve the ancient traditions, customs and usages of Cryptic Masonry, to perpetuate its principles, to assist the Grand Councils in solving the intricate problems that may confront them by discussion and suggestion for the regulation and betterment of Cryptic Masonry and to secure uniformity and unanimity of action through assemblies and conferences of the jurisdictional Grand Councils. The General Grand Conference of Grand Councils, a self-governing fraternal, charitable and benevolent nonprofit organization, does not attempt to regulate or interfere with the policies of the individual Grand Councils of Royal & Select Masters. The original name of the General Conference was the Most Illustrious General Grand Conference of Grand Councils, Royal and Select Masters, PHA, United States of America.

First Elected Officers of the General Conference of Grand Councils, Royal & Select Masters, PHA, USA as of May 21, 1988:

James F. Clarke, Sr. (IL)

General Conference Thrice Illustrious Grand Master

Howard Lennon (PA)

General Conference Deputy Grand Master

Arthur L. Taylor (NY)

General Conference Grand P.C.W.

Charles Johnson (PA)

General Conference Grand Treasurer

James Fouse, Jr. (NY)

General Conference Grand Recorder

The following Illustrious Companions has served as General Conference

Thrice Illustrious Grand Masters:

James F. Clarke, Sr. (IL)

1988-1993

Arthur L. Taylor (NJ)

1993-1995

Howard Lennon (PA)

1995-1997

Emmett L. Burks (OH)*

1997-1998

*died in office March 31, 1998

James Fouse, Jr. (NJ)

1998-2000
Leonard Long (NJ)
2000-2003
Donald F. Tynes, Sr. (DC)
2003-2005
Albert Bennett (NY)
2005-2007
Willie L. Mosley (OH)
2007-2009
Albert R. Cobb (FL)
2009-2011
James W. Ellerbee (DC)
2011-2013
Russell A. Earl, Sr. (FL)
2013-2015
John A. Robinson, Sr. (GA)
2015-2017
Reginald V. Tolbert (VA)
2017-2019
William A. Cooke (NC)
2019-2021
Fredrick Joyner (DC)
2021-2023
Joel Mends (GA)
2023-

For over 35 years, the Illustrious Companions and the Grand Councils of the General Conference of Grand Councils, Royal & Select Masters, PHA, USA & Bahamas, have practiced the true principles of Cryptic Masonry for their many accomplishments and contributions to our communities worldwide.

Yours in the Cryptic Rite,
PTIM Walter J. Sims, Jr. (PA)
Illustrious Grand Historian & Auditor
General Conference Grand Auditor

PGCTIGM Russell A. Earl, Sr. (FL)
PGCTIGM Reginald V. Tolbert (VA)
PGCTIGM Leonard Long (NJ)
TIGM Roderick Q. Blount (OH)
PCW & Ill. Grand Historian Arthur Thompson (SC)