

Friday, March 2, 2007

TO:

ALL OF THE OFFICERS OF GRAND LINE, ALL ELECTED AND PERMENANT MEMBERS, DISTRCIT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, GRAND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS, AND TO ALL HIGH PRIESTS, COUNCIL OFFICERS, AND SECRETARIES OF EACH CHAPTER UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THIS GRAND CHAPTER.

SUBJECT: GREAT NEWS - ROYAL ARCH ACHIEVES HALLMARK OF COMPANIONSHIP IN NEW YORK STATE!

Dear Companions:

On Friday, March 2, 2007, Capitular Masonry experienced yet another historic and uplifting event whose positive reverberations will be felt for many years to come throughout this Jurisdiction. Grand Chapter State of New York Royal Arch Masons and the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons, In The State of New York and its Jurisdiction have unanimously voted to accept and ratify the resolution granting the rights of visitation that had been previously approved at their 2006 Annual Convocation held on October 7th. A copy of which is attached.

The avenues of visitation between the Chapters warranted by our two Grand Chapters are now open and genuinely encouraged. Specifically, fellow Companions who hold membership in good standing in any Royal Arch Chapter warranted by either Grand Chapter may visit, attend and participate in the Labors and Activities.

Please note, however, that each Grand Chapter has granted mutual recognition for visitation only, between those Chapters warranted by each of our respective Grand Chapters in New York State. Such recognition and visitation does not presently extend to Chapters or Grand Chapters outside of this State or Jurisdiction, which have not applied for and have subsequently been granted recognition. At this juncture, we have recognized only the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons, In The State of New York and its Jurisdictions, the recognition of other Prince Hall Grand Chapters can only be granted on an individual basis, whereby the some process has been used with all other Grand Chapters seeking mutual affinity.

It should also be noted, that in keeping in accord with the Constitutions and Masonic Law of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York, dual and/or plural membership is not permitted. A Royal Arch Mason having been granted a Dimit and/or a Non-Affiliated Royal Arch Mason who had hailed from a Chapter warranted by either Grand Chapter may not petition any recognized Chapter for affiliation unless he also Dimits from or is a Non-Affiliated Master Mason from their respective Grand Lodges.

As is the ancient custom of Masonic protocol, communication between officers and Chapters of different Grand Chapters, inclusive of the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons, In The State of New York and its Jurisdiction, must always be conveyed through your respective Grand Secretary's office.

Let us hope and pray that this long-awaited mutual recognition between the members of the Royal Craft in New York State will continue to grow, flourish, and prosper in harmony as True Brotherhood without walls or fences.

With Fervency & Zeal

Alan J. Morgan, Grand High Priest