

Monday, August 8, 2024

Dear Companions, members and friends of Hamburg Council #91, greetings. As you may already know, at our May 2024 assembly, we made an assessment of our current leadership need with all members present and the current IM David Bindig (who was out of State for business and family reasons, but was able to join us by telephone). The following officers were elected, appointed and installed for the Cryptic Year 2024-2025.

IM: R.:I.: Selom Adjogah  
Deputy Master: C.: Ken Stuczynski  
Principal Conductor of the Work: I.: David Bindig  
Treasurer: C.: Michael MacTurk  
Recorder: R.:I.: Tom Beck  
Chaplain: I.: Michael Driver  
Captain of the Guard: C.: Hugh "Scott" Brown  
Conductor of the Council: C.: Simeon Konan  
Steward: C.: tbd  
Marshal: C.: Allen Wanderlich  
Sentinel: R.:I.: Robert Drzewucki  
Trustees: Comps Fazio, Drzewucki and Driver

Please join me in congratulating our new officers and wish them, as well as all members, a successful cryptic year 2024-2025. We thank all the outgoing (2023-2024) officers, especially Illustrious Master David Bindig for their service and commitment to the continued success of our beloved Council.

The main goal of a Council is to keep and maintain existing members and bring in new ones. This requires the effort of not only the officers but that of every member. The latest group of companions to join our ranks, date back to the 9<sup>th</sup> District's degree festival of August 2021. While the 4 newest companions are progressing well in the leadership line, it is time to renew our effort and commitment to seek new members.

**Getting new members:** I encourage every companion, during your travels in Blue Lodge or Chapter meetings, to try and identify potential candidates. Refer any interest back to me or R:I: Tom Beck. We will do the follow up and necessary due diligence.

**Retention:** I have spoken to few companions since the elections and asked them for ideas on how to improve our Council. I intend to call as many more as possible in the near future. In the meantime I ask all to send me or to our recorder your ideas on how we may grow and improve our Council. For starters some of the ideas and suggestions I received from conversations thus far are listed below (not in any particular order):

- **Improve ritual of opening and closing:** Most of our teachings are imbedded in our Degree as well as our opening and closing rituals. We are admittedly far from proficiency in this area. It was suggested (and I agree) that this is an area we should focus on. I am suggesting that each officer strives to work on the ritual, study and be able to open and close from memory. If necessary, we will devote some time practicing or rehearsing together so that we may gain a deeper meaning of our rituals.

- Create additional values to **enhance membership experience**. These may include: birthdays cards or notes, companion-to-companion calls, get well cards, visits, making member roster available to help promote and facilitate interaction and fellowship among members, arrange for group participation in Erie District Masonic events, etc...

- **Inform/educate:** To further enrich our membership experience we will also welcome brief (7 to 10 minutes) presentations of research on a ritual topic of your own choosing as educational pieces at our assemblies (Kindly let me and or our recorder know if you would like to make a presentation, so we may include you in the agenda)

- **Communicate:** We will continue to rely on electronic email to keep our members informed and connected. I plan to work with Companion Stuczynski to post Hamburg Council News and updates on the 9<sup>th</sup> District's website: [www.district9.nycryptic.org](http://www.district9.nycryptic.org) . More details on this will be share when they become available. A wealth of information can also be found on Grand Council website: [www.nycryptic.org](http://www.nycryptic.org)

### **Hamburg Council Trestleboard 2024-2025**

(Subject to change after Grand Assembly in August or other urgencies).

Our bylaws call for 4 quarterly assemblies. Following are the proposed dates for the ensuing cryptic year.

**September 11, 2024** Stated Assembly. Special program: Presentation of Aprons to the 9<sup>th</sup> District (presumed) Officers: DDGM R.:I.: Bob Drzewucki (Hamburg #91) and AGL V.:I.: Myron Deputat (Buffalo Keystone #17). Possible Keynote speaker (TBA). Dress code: Officers Tux. Others Tux or dark suit and tie

**November 13, 2024:** Stated Assembly. DDGM's Official Visit? (Possible program: Grand Lecture's Convention: Topic: Royal Master Degree). Grand Line Officer visit? Tux or dark suit or tie.

**March 12, 2025:** Stated Assembly. Grand Line Officer visit? Tux or dark suit and tie.

**May 14, 2025:** Stated Assembly. Election and installation of officers. Officers Tux. Others Tux or dark suit and tie.

The 201<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly will take place on Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup> in Albany, NY. Information regarding reservations and program are posted to the Grand Council web site:

[www.nycryptic.org](http://www.nycryptic.org)

Please remember, we are a small group of companions. We need everyone's participation and attendance to succeed. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend, kindly let me or our recorder know. If you have any suggestions or need help, do not hesitate to reach out to me or our recorder. We are here to serve you. I look forward to seeing you in the quarry and building a stronger Hamburg Council.

Zealously,

R.:I.: Selom Adjogah, IM  
Hamburg Council #91  
Cryptic Masons, State of NY