



# THE JERSEY PYTHIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE GRAND LODGE, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS, DOMAIN OF NEW JERSEY  
*CELEBRATING 153 YEARS OF PYTHIANISM*

VOLUME LI No.9

DECEMBER 2017

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018

- November 27      Grand Lodge Council meeting Pantagis Diner Edison
- December 18      Grand Lodge Council meeting Fairlawn Senior Center  
Fairlawn
- January 29        Grand Lodge Council meeting Pantagis Diner Edison

**There are no planned Official Grand Lodge Visitations to Lodges during December, January and March but unplanned visits are always possible.**

Happy Hanukkah



**A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE HOLIDAY  
SEASON AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL  
BROTHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM  
YOUR GRAND COUNCIL**

*From the Desk of...* **YOUR PAST GRAND CHANCELLOR**

**P.G.C. SIR Barry Winston**

My Dear Fellow New Jersey Pythians,

I have reached that point where I now begin to conclude my term of office as your Grand Chancellor in this the 149th year of the existence of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. As a member of the Council I had a number of goals that I sought to achieve as I advanced through the various Grand Lodge positions.

My singular goal throughout my tenure on the Council as a result of my earliest appointment was to increase membership throughout the domain. Little did I realize until I became a Grand Lodge just how precarious and existential the decline and loss of membership was throughout Order. From a high of over 700,000 with members throughout the world in Lodges both in the United States as well as internationally, our Order had shrunk to less than 20,000 in 2011.

This is not to say that I was completely unaware of the loss in membership that the K.O.P. across the country and around the world had sustained in a manner that was similar to that of other similar organizations. Indeed, as the Membership Chairman of Benjamin N. Cardozo Lodge for several years prior to joining the Grand Lodge I had experienced the obstacles and challenges facing my subordinate Home Lodge and knew that the task of recruitment to a volunteer organization like ours was a daunting challenge. But if our Order was to have a future, the effort had to be made. Each of our remaining four subordinate lodges have different challenges together with different advantages in the effort to increase membership. The challenges include an aging membership, difficult economic times, increasing membership costs, a leadership vacuum that traced its direct cause to the failure to recruit talented individuals willing and able to answer to answer the call to leadership, and a changing human demographic among others. This last obstacle closed the circle on what was a vicious cycle which saw most lodges having to use members multiple times to fill lodge offices.

This cycle created a situation where older men were filling positions that normally would have been filled by men 20 to 25 years younger. This, in fact, was what had resulted in the merger or loss of at least five other lodges during my time as a Grand Lodge officer. An unavoidable consequence of the failure to recruit younger men with the energy to carry on with activities that a younger generation was more equipped for, e.g. volunteering for subordinate lodge offices, was an aging membership that is tired, worn out, and often not capable of replacing those who have gotten too old to do the heavy lifting of a challenging membership campaign.

Another consequence of the failure to recruit younger men eager for the challenge and mantle of leadership was that Grand Lodge offices and subordinate lodge offices were getting so hard to fill that they would often go unfilled or filled by men whose qualifications were suspect at best.

Despite these problems there are definite signs for reasons to be optimistic. For one thing I believe that every lodge has bought in to the idea that every member of the Order has got to consider themselves as members of the Membership Committee (either their Home Lodge or the (Continued)

(Continued)

Grand Lodge). And efforts are being made through breakfasts and street fairs and any other venue that gives us an opportunity to “pitch” our message to men who we believe will benefit the Order-participation is not optional. We now also have a functioning Grand Lodge web-site thanks to the efforts of Grand Lodge Master at Arms Matt Silverman and Brother Ron Schnapp. In addition, Matt was singularly responsible for the first fundraising efforts that actually raised money for the Domain as well as building Pythian awareness through the running of our Baseball Pool, and the 150 year anniversary pin program.

Needless to say, there are programs and projects to build on for the future as well as well as the success or shortcomings of our different membership programs. I will be helping my home lodge in its membership efforts, and to the degree possible will offer whatever help I can to other lodges in the domain if requested.

At this point, I would like to express my great appreciation for those who were helpful and supportive of me during my term of office. Without them and the work they do, the Grand Lodge would fail to survive even one day: Dave Bellask and Henry Kazin as administrative officers; Steve Pardes, who agreed to serve as the Editor In Chief of The Jersey Pythian, a truly thankless job but one that is vital in any membership effort; Matt Silverman, my driving companion with a number of ideas and the willingness and energy to get them done ( and a future outstanding Grand Chancellor); and my ultimate senior advisor, the man who makes Cardozo run and without whom I cannot imagine the Knights of Pythias being an organization that I would like to be a part of, Supreme Representative Marvin I. Diner. There are many others who have been helpful to me during this year and throughout my career as a member and officer of Cardozo Lodge and the Grand Lodge, but I will not list each and every one because to do so would fill two pages and I know I would leave someone out. They know who they are and I have and will continue to be eternally grateful. I also would like to take this occasion to offer my sincere wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to Grand Prelate Steve Pardes and his family. In the short time that I have come to know him it has become obvious to me that he has been an outstanding Pythian Brother and Grand Lodge Officer, someone who has been deserving of all the awards and honors that have been bestowed on him from his induction to the NJ Pythian Hall of Fame to the Knight of the Golden Spur, and his willingness to serve this Grand Chancellor in the very challenging position of Editor-In-Chief of the Jersey Pythian is one additional reason to be optimistic about the fate of the Domain In New Jersey.

Let us all pray for Steve’s quick recovery. We can ill-afford to lose his involvement for even one week.

And finally, to my darling wife and children, I have too often sacrificed time that I would have spent with you to travel or to be away from home on Pythian business, I thank you for your understanding and participation in the Pythian activities that meant so much to me.

*From the Desk of...* **YOUR CURRENT GRAND CHANCELLOR**

**G.C. Allen Haller**

My Brothers first let me thank you for electing me your Grand Chancellor for the 2017/2018 term. On my knightly honor I will do my best to support all Lodges and their members, support all Lodges in their membership endeavors and uphold the words our order is built on, Friendship, Charity and Benevolence. I will make myself available to all lodges and participate in as many lodge events as possible.

My calendar for the upcoming year is simple; I and the council will only officially visit one lodge per month and tentatively will not do any Lodge visitations during the winter months of December, January and February. This way Lodges will not be saying they are coming here again, weren't they just here, but it will be we are getting an official visit from the Grand Lodge.

Grand council meetings will be all business and as short as possible. Get in, do our business and go home. I and the Grand Secretary have visited a new location for the council meetings to be held south of the big bridge. This would cut down on the travel time for our brothers from the north and add it on to our brothers from the south making all things fairer. The new location is the Pantagis Diner in Edison

I will be open to inviting all, not at one time, interested Past Chancellors to attend a council meeting and see what Grand Lodge does and how we operate. This May get some interest generated from a new PC to run for a seat on the council.

I will work with the lodges to get new members to run for a lodge office and move up the ladder each year. Without this happening there will not be a pool of new PC's to move up to Grand Lodge at election time.

I will set up an e-mail system between every lodge Chancellor Commander, secretary and myself and the Grand Secretary. This will assist us in hearing what is going on in the state and what we can do to assist each lodge. I will also ask each Lodge Secretary to use this system with the editor of the Jersey Pythian so our newsletter can grow and represent all lodges.

You will be hearing from me very often in the future year and I can only hope we can learn a lesson on communications which will make every lodge and Grand Lodge grow and prosper.

Thank you again for your trust in me and I will leave you in Friendship, Charity & Benevolence.

Allen Haller, Grand Chancellor K of P Domain of NJ

**2017 – 2018 Grand Lodge of NJ Committees and Chair Persons**

- Budget – Sir Marvin Diner
- Clothes and Clothing Collection – Sir Mel Feldschneider
- Convention - Sir David Bellask
- Credential – Robert Schlegel
- Deborah Raffles – Sir Jerry Weiner
- Deborah Liaison – Sir David Bellask
- Finance and Mileage – Sir Marvin Diner
- Fund Raising – G.P. Matt Silverman
- Hall of Fame – Sir Joe Spindel
- Instruction/Traveling Rank Team – G.P. Matt Silverman
- Jersey Pythian – G.V.C Sir Steve Pardes
- Law and Supervision – Sir Joe Spindel
- Long Range Planning – S.V.C. Sir Joel Fierstein
- Membership – Ron Schnapp
- Memorial Committee – G.P. Matt Silverman
- Operation We Care – Michael Seligman
- Public Relations – P.G.C. Sir Barry Winston
- Website – G. P. Matt Silverman

If you have any questions for a specific committee please direct it to the committee chairperson or to the G.S. David Bellask.

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**★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ PYTHIAN STAR ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★**

Over my years in the Pythian Order I have seen many good Brothers who have never received any recognition for the work that they do. It will not be the Brother who brings in the most new members but it will be the Brother who is there at every meeting helping to set up and break down the meeting hall, who cleans up after a collation and who does all the small jobs that keeps the Lodge running. This is the Brother I want to HONOR. It may only be a paper certificate done on the computer in a frame bought at the dollar store but it will be recognition. I will personally try and visit the Lodge make the presentation myself. Contact me, your GC, directly at [al1425@msn.com](mailto:al1425@msn.com) with your nomination for this award.



**Grand Lodge Testimonial Luncheon Honoring Grand Chancellor Allen Haller**

**November 5, 2017**

In a change of tradition the Testimonial Dinner became the Testimonial Luncheon hoping to bring more Brothers out to this affair being in the afternoon and not at night. Over 75 Brothers and their wives/significant others, families and friends attended the luncheon at the Knob Hill Country Club. Good food and entertainment were the highlight of the affair and everyone had a great time.



The Grand Chancellor Welcome's the attendees.

Master of Ceremonies Sir David Bellask did a terrific job hosting the afternoon affair. The affair was highlighted by the lack of speeches and the abundance of friendship, good food, wine and entertainment. A big Thank You goes out to Dave, as usual.



The "Master" Master of Ceremonies, Dave Bellask



The Grand Chancellor and his Family, his wife Merri, his son Fred, his daughter in-law Donna and his family Madeline and Katelyn, his sister and brother-in-law Harriet and Vic.



Some of the Pythians and guests attending the luncheon.



Having a great time

# My Apologies

As Grand Chancellor I want to explain to you the reason for the delay in getting the Jersey Pythian out in a timely fashion. With our GVC Jersey Pythian Editor Steve Pardes out sick I told the council I would do my best to get the November issue out and it did not happen.

I am glad to say that Steve is on the mend and hopefully before the next issue is due he will be back in charge of this very time consuming job.

Get well soon Steve.

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## Grand Lodge Convention September 2017

After all the business of the Grand Lodge was completed the only thing left was the installation of the Officers for 2017/2018. Your new officers are:

Grand Chancellor Allen Haller  
Grand Vice Chancellor Steve Pardes  
Grand Prelate Matt Silverman  
Grand Secretary Dave Bellask

Grand Treasurer Henry Kazin  
Grand Master at Arms Elliot Frankfort  
Grand Inner Guard Chuck Greenberg  
Grand Outer Guard Martin Schlager

The following are pictures of the swearing in ceremony:



Grand Lodge Officers being sworn in...



Steve Pardes being sworn in remotely.



Steve receiving his sash.



Allen Haller, new Grand Lodge Chancellor



Allen being congratulated by past GC and Old friend Hal Kravetz



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***The Jersey Pythian will be published 5 times during 2017. It is most important that your articles reach our Editor by the deadline dates listed below. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Articles for publication must reach the Editor, Steve Pardes, at no later than the 15th Publication Deadlines for 2017:***

***January Issue December 1st***  
***April. Issuer March 1st***  
***July. Issue June 1st***  
***Oct. Issue Sept 1st***  
***Dec. Issue November 1st***



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### GRAND LODGE OFFICERS 2017-2018

**Grand Chancellor..... ALLEN HALLER**  
**Grand Vice Chancellor..... SIR STEVE PARDES**  
**Grand Prelate.....MATT SILVERMAN**  
**Grand Secretary...PGC SIR DAVE BELLASK**  
**Grand Treasurer..... PGC HENRY KAZIN**  
**Grand Master Arms...ELLIOT FRANKFORT**  
**Grand Inner Guard...CHUCK GREENBERG**  
**Grand Outer Guard ...MARTIN SCHLAGER**

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