

Minutes, August 8, 1908

Meeting of the members for the purpose of continuing discussion on the organization of the Grand Priory of the Order of the Knights of Malta in the United States of America, held on Saturday, August 8th 1908, 6:00 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York.

This meeting was called by the Chairman pro-tem Consul Lamb for the purpose of discussing with Mr. William B. Stites, the wishes expressed by the nobles who attended the meeting of January 10, 1908 and receiving his suggestions for the implementation of those ideas.

Chairman pro-tem: Consul William Lamb.
Secretary pro-tem: Baron von Hengervar.

The Chairman explained for the benefit of those not present at the previous meeting, the purpose of the group assembled. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting of January 10th 1908, which were unanimously approved.

The Secretary read to the meeting, incoming and outgoing letters and communications of interest to the members.

The attorney, Mr. Stites being present at the invitation of the chairman was requested to advise those assembled on the proper procedure for the legalization of the Order in the United States.

The attorney stated that such advice as he could give at the moment should not be binding upon him as the subject required thorough study. He did suggest however, that in his opinion based on the preliminary study of the subject, that for the purpose of legalizing the existence of the Order within the United States it would be essential that the organization comply with the existing laws of the nation or those of a state, the rules and opinions of the courts, and incorporate itself as a legal body. Without committing himself he also suggested that he did not believe it advisable for non-citizens of the United States to incorporate for such aims and purposes as the organization desired under the existing laws. He requested that he be given more time to go into these legal aspects more thoroughly.

Motion made by hereditary Commander Prince Khilkov and seconded by Vicomte de Martel that the counsellor be empowered to proceed further with determination of the best method and means of securing registration of the Order. Carried by majority vote.

Amendment offered by Baron de Holstein that those present and those represented at this meeting consider themselves financially responsible for the professional services of Counsellor Stites, and any other necessary expenses of the Order, listed by the Secretary. Amendment and motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Baron Hengervar and seconded by Prince Vincent Graetz that the chairman be empowered to appoint at his discretion a committee consisting of informed members of the group

which would keep in contact with attorney Stites and aid him in working out the legal problems involved and that when this committee feels that it has accomplished its purpose, to contact the chairman pro-tem for the purpose of calling a meeting for the consideration and approval of their conclusions by the group. Motion carried.

The chairman then asked if there was any further business before the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Stites and seconded by Prince Khilkov, that all persons taking part in this and the previous meetings be created and elected as Knights of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, (Knights of Malta), pending further classification as to rank and quality to be determined by the credentials committee, to be appointed by the chairman. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by hereditary knight Count de Choiseul-Gouffier and seconded by hereditary knight Count Narishkin, that acting as direct descendants of the Knights of Malta created by Letters-Patent of the 70th grand master H.I.M. Paul I of Russia, this assembly shall be known as the "American Grand Priory of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, including the Grand Priory of Russia," also, that a grand prior or grand bailli shall be named for the American Grand Priory, and also a grand prior or grand bailli be named for the Grand Priory of Russia, both to act under the direction of the to-be selected and elected grand master.

Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Secretary called upon Bishop Thoburn to lead the assembly in a prayer for the peaceful rest of the souls of our departed knights.

No other business being presented, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. to stand at the call of the chairman.

Respectfully submitted

(Signed) Hengemuller von Hengervar,
Secretary pro-tem.

