

Minutes, May 10, 1911

At a Chapter General meeting of the Knights of Malta held on Wednesday, May 10th 1911, 6:00 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City.

Meeting called for the purpose of accepting the legal charter of incorporation from our attorney and to conduct such other official business as may be of benefit to the corporation.

Chairman: Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch.
Secretary: Baron Hengemuller von Hengervar.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The secretary read a number in outgoing and incoming letters and communications of interest to the members.

Report of the committee for co-operation with our attorney in securing of the incorporation certificate received, and committee discharged with thanks, with a special commendation cited for a task well accomplished.

Presentation of the Certificate of Incorporation was made to the chairman. Motion made by Vicomte de Fronsac and seconded by Count von Bernstorff that the Chapter proceed to the official election of regular officers. Amendment to the motion by Baron de Bode that the office of president and secretary be for the present restricted to American citizens so as to conform to the advice of our attorney until a prince of royal blood could be selected, accepted and elected as president or grand master. Motion carried.

The name of Dr. William Schier Bryant, a descendant of the Counts of Vermandois of France was offered by Baron Ernest de Schilling to serve as president and grand bailli of the American Grand Priory. Motion seconded by Dr. Joseph G. B. Bulloch. There being no further nominations, Dr. Bryant's name was put to a vote and accepted unanimously.

The name of William B. Stites LL.B. was offered for nomination as secretary by Chev. von Loewenthal-Linau and seconded by Dr. Bulloch. The president asked for the floor and spoke of the valuable services given by Mr. Stites to the Order and of the great value of his legal ability to the future welfare of the Order. There being no other nominations, the motion was put to a vote and the election of Wm. B. Stites as secretary was unanimously adopted.

Motion made by Baron de Saint Laurent that the following committees be appointed by the president with instructions to submit reports of their work at the following meeting or meetings. Seconded by Baron de Schlippenbach. Motion carried.

Committees appointed:

Committee on Constitution and By-laws (Previously named)

Committee on Membership.

Committee on Credentials.

Committee on Finances, to assist the secretary.

Committee on the selection of a prince of royal blood

as the head or grand master of the Order next in succession to the 70th Grand Master of the Order, Emperor Paul I of Russia.
Motion amended so that these committees be appointed at the pleasure of the president. Motion carried.

Motion by hereditary knight Count Ilinski and seconded by hereditary knight Count Korwin-Kossagowski, that the nobiliary qualifications of prospective knights be modified in certain well deserving cases. That more attention and credit be given to the noble qualifications of each particular individual applicant rather than those of ancestors, all this consideration in accordance with the present day sad condition of so many broken dynasties and noble lineages, misalliances, etc., caused by the ravages of wars and revolutions.

After considerable discussion pro and con, the motion was passed by a majority vote.

Motion by hereditary knight Maksimov and seconded by hereditary knight Lubomirski, that the voting rights of the members in all elections be restricted to those holding a rank or diploma of knight grand cross of justice, hereditary knight commander of justice, and knight of justice.
Motion carried by a majority vote.

Motion by hereditary knight Count Davidov and seconded by hereditary knight Prince Volkonsky, that the office of secretary, later to be called grand chancellor, be considered the treasurer of the Order and entrusted with the collection and disbursement of all funds and that this office be permitted to assess all necessary fees for membership, diplomas, decorations, or any other necessary expenses connected with the Order. The grand chancellor to be assisted in this work by the Committee on Finances.
After some discussion the motion was carried by a vote of those present.

The chairman asked Henry McNeal Turner, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to lead the assembly in a prayer for the peaceful repose of the souls of our departed members.

Motion for adjournment and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m. to be held at the call of the president or secretary.

Respectfully submitted

(Signed) William B. Stites,

Secretary.

