

Minutes, May 10, 1913

Regular meeting of the Knights of Malta held on Saturday, May 10, 1913 at 6:00 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City.

Meeting called for the purpose of the Order's business and to receive the reports of the various Committees.

Chairman-President: Dr. William Sohler Bryant.  
Secretary-Grand Chancellor: William B. Stites.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Ruling requested from the Chair by the Secretary:

In view of the suggestion made at the previous meeting to have the officers designate the name of their office at all future time in the manner prescribed in the Constitution and By-laws, the Secretary now styled Grand Chancellor requests a clarification of the present Chairman for the purpose of properly transcribing such in the minutes of the Order. This question was addressed to the Chairman Dr. Bryant.

Dr. Bryant clarified his designation as follows: "I, upon election to the office of President, understood that this office was to be held by me (and the other officers elected at that time) as a temporary trust until the selection and election of a Prince of Royal Blood as Grand Master of the Order and that upon such election, all officers would resign and a new election would be held to fill offices other than the grand master. I thus feel that at the moment my designation according to the intent of our Constitution and the desire of our members should be considered to be that of Lieutenant Grand Master and Grand Bailli of the American Grand Priory, and for the legal purposes of our meetings, the terms lieutenant grand master, chairman, and president be considered synonymous terms."

This clarification was accepted by the secretary and members and it was moved and seconded that henceforth Dr. Bryant should be so designated in all future matters pertaining to the affairs of the Order.

The Committee on the selection of a prince of royal blood to fill the office of grand master tendered its report for the consideration of the membership. It reported that it had the good fortune to receive a favorable reply from the Grand Duke Alexander of Russia, who expressed his willingness to accept the office of grand master at the hands of the membership of the Knights of Malta. It was explained that Grand Duke Alexander is a descendant of the 70th Grand Master, who was also the last legally elected Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. It was established by the Committee that the Grand Duke is in agreement with the purposes of the Order in the United States and its Constitution to preserve and conserve the aims of the Order as originally founded and expressed his pleasure that in the formation of the American Order the members were drawn from all languages of the Order.



The Committee further reported that it will wait for the Grand Duke upon his arrival in the United States which is anticipated in the fall of this year, at which time the election of a grand master will take place.

The report of the Committee was received with acclamation by the knights present and highly commended for its excellent selection, by the Lt-Grand Master Dr. Bryant.

The Chair accepted the reports of the Membership and Credentials Committees.

The Grand Chancellor then offered for the consideration of the membership, the names and ranks of the following applicants:

Baron O. A. Korf, Knight of Justice, and Don Joaquin F. de Pardo Dufco, the sixth Baron of San Carlos, Knight of Justice.

Motion made by Baron von Hengervar and seconded by Dr. Bulloch that the applicants be accepted into the Order. Motion passed unanimously.

A further motion by the above proponents that those other applications which are pending be left for approval by the Chapter General, to accept or reject on behalf of the membership as if approved at a regular meeting. Motion passed by majority vote.

Motion made from the floor that the customary procedure for the election or elevation of a knight to a higher rank, be suspended in the case of Dr. Wm. Schier Bryant and that he be promoted to the dignity of a knight commander of Justice. Motion made by the Baron of San Carlos and seconded by Mr. Bowen. The motion received unanimous approval and was greeted by acclamation by the knights.

Knight Commander Bryant thanked the knights for their good will expressed toward him and accepted the honor.

The Chair called upon Dr. William Hargrove Fouke, Bishop of the United Evangelical Church, to lead the knights in a prayer for the peaceful repose of the deceased knights of the Order.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Lieut. Grand Master at the time of the arrival of Grand Duke Alexander.

Respectfully submitted

(Signed) William B. Stites,  
Grand Chancellor.

