

GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

by PACDGC Sir Bruce Nelson

The Grand Lodge of New York Knights of Pythias held its annual convention from June 28-30 at the Honor's Haven Resort & Spa in Ellenville, New York.

After the convention was opened in ritual form by the Grand Chancellor, the Hon. Sheldon Blitz, Supreme Treasurer Sir Alan Ast, who would serve as the installing officer, was greeted with Supreme honors, although Supreme Chancellor, Sir Alan Krell was also in attendance.

A quorum call showed 25 lodges and 27 Grand Council members present.

The Grand Secretary gave the State of the Order report listing the current membership in New York is 7,238, which is down approximately three percent from last year. Next, Grand Chancellor Sheldon Blitz gave his report as Grand Chancellor.

The business of the convention moved to elections, and the Hon. Phillip Feigel was elected as our new Grand Chancellor. The other officers elected were the Hon. David Stanger as Grand Vice Chancellor, the Hon. Randy Silverman as Grand Prelate, the Hon. Harvey Rosenshein as Grand Master at Arms, Roy Triguero as Grand Secretary, and the Hon. Donald Rosenberg as Grand Treasurer.

The only contested election was for Grand Inner Guard, which was won by PCDGC Charles Pakula. The other candidate, PACDGC Michael Kerner, was then elected as Grand Outer Guard.

The first evening, the Pythian Sisters and Brothers conducted a memorial service.

On Thursday morning, Supreme Treasurer Alan Ast delivered the Supreme Chancellor's message, followed by voting on propositions and resolutions.

The body ratified two Supreme Lodge Constitution amendments, one concerning the ability to petition to pardon or commute a decision by the Supreme Tribunal, and another to allow members of the Supreme Foundation to have a vote on the Supreme Council.

A proposal to hold the Grand Chancellor's dinner at the annual convention was defeated. Several proposals were withdrawn by their authors, and then a proposal to hold the 2018 convention at Honor's Haven was passed.

The installation ceremony for the Pythian Sisters was held on Thursday afternoon followed by a sit-down dinner followed by the installation for the Pythian brothers.

There were discussions over dinner and breakfast regarding the Upstate Investiture line item which had been removed from the budget. The Grand Council is upset about the 6½ hour

trip each way with an overnight stay, at their own expense coupled with the low attendance from upstate brothers, and especially by absence of the brothers being installed. They would like to see the meeting moved to a more convenient location.

Next, representatives of several lodges presented donations to various Pythian altruisms.

The newly installed Grand Lodge Officers took their respective stations and the convention closed in ritualistic form.

View pictures of the Convention [here](#) and [here](#).