

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention  
8/12 & 8/13  
Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

The 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay Convention was called to order on Wednesday August 12, 2020 at 7:00PM with State Master Councilor Austin Altman presiding. Br. Paladin of Knickerbocker Chapter provide the prayer while Deputy State Master Councilor Michael Jordan led the brethren in the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Master Councilor Austin Altman welcomed all of the brothers, sweethearts, advisors and members of the Masonic family present.

A 2020 year in review video was played. The State Master Councilor thanked “Mom” Bartels for putting it together.

He preceded to introduce and welcome the Sweethearts of New York DeMolay which included:

Ms. Heidi Levin of Washington Chapter  
Ms. Genevieve Bucknam of Ridge Council  
Ms. Hannah Scheffer of Lakes Region  
Ms. Kaitlynn Piston of Rivers Region  
Ms. Pearl Draves, Our New York DeMolay Sweetheart

He proceeded to introduce and welcome the Master Councilors of New York DeMolay, which included:

Br. Jordan of Ridge Council  
Br. Heitmann of Trinity Chapter  
Br. Hernandez of Mohawk Valley Chapter  
Br. Chase Mein of Washington Chapter  
Br. Razon of Knickerbocker Chapter  
Br. Larson of Richmond Chapter

He thanked the State Advisory Council for their hard work and dedication, and the Supreme Council for their work.

Joining virtually was the Most Worshipful “Dad” William M Sardone, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the State of New York. The State Master Councilor thanked him and all of the Masons of New York for their support and dedication to DeMolay.

**Legislative Business session:**

State Master Councilor Austin Altman then moved to consider state legislation. He thanked

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

Br. Michael Jordan and Br. Nicholas J. Heitmann for the work they did in putting together the legislative call. The legislative call was reported favorably out of the State Executive Committee, transmitted to all of the chapters and now was in proper form to be considered.

The first item was the State Executive Committee En Bloc. Being properly moved and seconded, the State Master Councilor called for debate, their being none it was approved via voice vote.

The second item was Jordan-Heitmann Amendment #3, which would make the petition for a forced election strictly a youth process. Being properly moved and seconded, the State Master Councilor called for debate, their being none it was approved via voice vote.

The third item was the Jordan Heitmann Amendment #6 as amended by the State Executive Committee. Being properly moved and seconded, the State Master Councilor called for debate, their being none it was approved via voice vote.

The fourth item was the Jordan Heitmann Amendment #4. Being properly moved and seconded, the State Master Councilor called for debate, their being none it was approved via voice vote.

The fifth piece of legislation was SEC Amendment #5. Being properly moved and seconded, the State Master Councilor called for debate. Metropolitan Region Master Councilor RJ Larson spoke in favor of the amendment and discussed how it would enable people to run for Deputy State Master Councilor. The State Master Councilor asked if there was any other debate. There being none, he called for the vote it was approved via voice vote.

The State Chapter then moved to consider an amended Article IV. The State Master Councilor discussed that there was a debate over if one person could cast multiple votes for their chapter. He recognized Deputy State Master Councilor Michael Jordan to speak to the question. Br. Jordan discussed how this would empower chapters to have more equal representation. The State Master Councilor asked if there was anyone seeking recognition to speak against, there being none the question was called and it was approved via voice vote. Part A Section Five was struck from proposed Article IV.

The State Master Councilor then called up Article IV as amended for debate. Deputy State Master Councilor Jordan spoke in favor of the Amendment. There being none opposed the question was called and it was approved via voice vote.

The State Master Councilor presented the legislative changes to the Personal Representative of DeMolay International for his approval. "Dad" Brusoe approved them.

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

**State Officer Retirement:**

The State Officers then retired in the following order:

State Scribe, Br. Brian Ramos

Metro Region Master Councilor Br. RJ Larson

Lakes Region Master Councilor Br. Nicholas J. Heitmann

Deputy State Master Councilor Br. Michael Jordan.

The group was recognized for their hard work and dedication.

**State Elections**

The State Master Councilor then moved to State Elections.

The State Master Councilor in his capacity as Chair of the Credentials committee reported that the credentials committee met and reported out the following:

“The following brothers have all met the statutory requirements laid out in the constitution and bylaws:

Br. Michael Jordan for the office of State Master Councilor.

Br. Brian Ramos for Deputy State Master Councilor and all other state offices

Br. Nick Heitmann for the office of Deputy State Master Councilor and all other state offices.

Br. Leonard Lao for the office of Metro Region Master Councilor and appointed state officer.

Br. RJ Larson has for the office of Deputy State Master Councilor all other state offices

Br. Robin Santos for the office of State Scribe and other appointed state officer.

Br. Joseph Pepanio for the office of State Scribe and other appointed state officer.

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention  
8/12 & 8/13  
Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

Br. Aedan Bunch for the office of Lakes Region Master Councilor and appointed state officer.

Br. Jorge Hernandez for the office of Rivers Region Master Councilor and appointed state officer.”

The State Master Councilor reported that the Personal Representative has approved the credentials committee report.

There being one and only one candidate for State Master Councilor a unanimous ballot for Br. Michael Jordan was cast. Br. Jordan accepted.

The election for Deputy State Master Councilor was held. Nomination videos were sent out on the New York DeMolay website. Running were:

Br. Brian Ramos, nominated by Br. Leonard Lao

Br. Nicholas J. Heitmann nominated by Br. Jorge Hernandez

Br. RJ Larson nominated by Br. Nicholas Greenberg.

Each made a two-minute statement, and a question and answer session was held. The electronic ballot was sent out and left open for 10 minutes. Upon return of the ballots, Br. Brian Ramos was elected. He accepted the election.

There being only one candidate for Lakes Region Master Councilor, one Four Rivers Region Master Councilor and one Metro Region Master Councilor a unanimous ballot was held and they were elected.

Br. Michael Jordan announced his appointments:

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention  
8/12 & 8/13  
Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

State Chaplain Br. Nicholas G. Heitmann

State Marshal Br. Robin Santos

State Scribe Br. JD Pepanio

State Treasurer Br. Richie Larson

**State Sweetheart Election:**

The State Master Councilor than called upon Ms. Pearl Draves to conduct the election of the State Sweetheart.

Ms. Draves reported that there were two young women who wish to run for New York DeMolay State Sweetheart. Ms. Za'Reyah Brown and Ms. Kaitlynn Marlowe.

Each spoke for a few minutes and a question and answer session was held.

An election was held and Ms. Kaitlynn Marlowe was elected State Sweetheart.

**Necrology:**

Leonard Lao did a necrology report

"Dad" Edwin Ardenski of Ridge Council

Mr. John E. Ferretti, Father of Wantagh Chapter Advisor John J. Ferretti, grandfather of Wantagh Chapter member Jack Ferretti

Br. Keith O'Neill Wantagh

Br. Joe Carmine of Pilgrim Chapter

John G. Wyshosky of New York Chapter

"Dad" Ray Platto, New York Chapter & Knickerbocker Chapter

"Mom" Katherine Wharmby of the Order of the Eastern Star

"Mom" Elsie Burke

"Mom" Debra Fernandez

A memorial prayer was done by Br. Lao.

**Recess:**

The State Master Councilor asked "Dad" Brusoe if he had any comments to give.

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

“Dad” Brusoe thanked the State Master Councilor for the opportunity to speak, congratulated him on presiding over a well run meeting, and that he was looking forward to the next day.

The State Master Councilor announced that after the 9 O’clock interpolation, there will be skribble.io, and Thursday night will have the awards, installation of state officers followed by a murder mystery event.

The 9 O’clock interpolation was done with State Master Councilor-elect Michael Jordan doing the chaplain part.

The State Chapter was declared in recess at 8:41PM until 7PM Thursday.

**Call Back from Recess:**

On August 13, 2020 at 7:00PM the State Master Councilor called the state chapter back from recess. Br. Lao attended to the altar, Br. Paladin led the opening prayer and the State Master Councilor did the pledge.

A video tribute was done for the 2020 Graduates.

The following were recognized for various awards:

New York State Kach Essay Contest

Kach Essay New York Contest

First place:

Br. Michael Jordan of Ridge Council

Sister Pearl Draves of Meridian Sun Chapter

Second place:

Br. RJ Larson of Richmond Chapter

Third Place:

Br. Brian Ramos of Knickerbocker Chapter

Br. Austin Altman of Knickerbocker Chapter

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

The awards were made possible by the Ancient Temple Chapter #5 Royal Arch Masons and Bloss-DeWitt Clinton Council # 14, Royal and Select Masters both of Albany. The State Master Councilor thanked “Dad” Hernandez for the support.

Dad Zachary Williams of Washington Chapter was recognized for being the Frank S. Land Scholarship Winner this year.

Holders of the obligation card for the past year were recognized including:

Aedan Conaway Bunch

Nikolas James Greenberg

Brandon M. K. Howard

Nathaniel Robert Levin

Frank James McCleneghen

Ethan McKinney

Chase Emerick Mein

Brayden Richard Townsend

Caden Michael Troia

Raven Santos

Dad David Schneider was recognized for listing

Alejandro Cisneros of Knights Templar Chapter

Matthew Robert El Lakkis of Knights Templar Chapter

Daniel J. El Lakkis of Knights Templar Chapter

Robin Anthony Honeycutt of Ridge Council Chapter

Joseph Dexter Papanio of Knickerbocker Chapter

Luigi Razon Of Knickerbocker Chapter

Dominic Falcone of Knights Templar Chapter

Brayden Richard Townsend of Washington Chapter

Nathan Heitmann Of Trinity Chapter

Br. Jorge Hernandez of Mohawk Valley Chapter

The Chapters who are recipients of the LCC Honor roll were

Knickerbocker Chapter

Knights Templar Chapter

Ridge Council Chapter

Trinity Chapter

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

Washington Chapter

Mohawk Valley Chapter

The 2019-2020 Representative DeMolay honorees were recognized.

Br. Aedan Conaway Bunch Of Ridge Council

Br. Jorge Emilio Hernandez of Mohawk Valley

Br. Leonard Lao of Knickerbocker

Br. Joseph Dexter Pepanio Of Knickerbocker

Br. Robin Christopher S. Santos of Knickerbocker

The recipients of the Representative DeMolay Chapter are

Ridge Council

Mohawk Valley

Knickerbocker

The State Master Councilor thanked Dad Schneider for all of the hard work he puts into the programs and the great mentorship he provides the youth of DeMolay.

Br. Jorge Hernandez was recognized for announcing membership awards:

New York DeMolay earned the Frank S. Land Membership Award and the Gorman McBride Award for achieving positive growth and welcoming more members.

When a Young Man asks his friends to join for the first time, they are honored with the #1 pin.

The following were recognized:

Gabriel Mosby Bucknam

James Ronald Hess

Dominick Raymond Licata

Jaeden Pepanio

Paulo Neves Derrica

Matthew Robert El Lakkis

When a Young Man asks five of his friends to join he is honored with the Founder's Membership Award the following were announced:



Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

Jorge Emilio Hernandez

Robin Christopher S. Santos

Several brothers were announced as being close to earning the Founder's Membership Award including:

Gabriel Bucknam (3)

Paulo Neves Derrica (4)

Johnathan Fernandez (4)

Darren Friedland (4)

Gavin Johnson (4)

New York DeMolay has a young man who earned the Blue Honor key, for asking 10 of his friends to join:

Br. Austin Altman

Three brothers are close to earning their Blue Honor Keys:

Michael Jordan (9)

Robin Santos (9)

Sam Levin (8)

The "Excelsior Membership Award" recognizes those chapters that grew.

Knights Templar Chapter (+1)

Washington Chapter (+1)

Mohawk Valley Chapter (+2)

Ridge Council Chapter (+2)

Richmond Chapter (+2)

Orange Rockland Central Chapter (+3)

Knickerbocker Chapter (+10)

The Most Worshipful Calvin G. Bond Award is presented to the member who has first line signed the most amount of petitions from August 1 to August 1. Named after a Past Grand Master who was a tireless supporter of DeMolay.

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

This year's honoree is Br. Robin Santos who asked 7 friends to join!

The State Master Councilor called on "Dad" Brandt to do presentations for The MW Carl J. Smith Award and Chapter of the Year.

The MW Carl J. Smith Chapter Most Improved Chapter Award is done by a secret ballot of the members of the State Advisory Council. This year there was a tie and to break the tie we went with the most amount of members recruited since the end of last Convention. The Winner was Mohawk Valley!

Chapter of the Year is Ridge Council DeMolay!

The State Master Councilor Thanked Dad Brandt for his leadership and work on chapter of the year!

He moved to State Master Councilor Awards. A tradition that started with "Dad" Michael Hernandez was to allow the SMC to present a number of awards to recognize people.

He recognized the Advisor Mentorship award - Dad Jeffery Calderon  
Comradeship Through Action Award: The Draves Family  
4th preceptor Award Washington Chapter  
Geoffrey De Charney Award - Quade Lathrop  
DeMolay of the year - Jorge Hernandez  
Rookie of the year - Matthew El-Lakkis

The State Master Councilor called on "Dad" Brusoe for the guild of the leather apron. The Guild of the Leather Apron is open to be nominated by any DeMolay or registered advisor and then voted on by a secret ballot on the New York Supreme Council Delegation. "Dad" Brusoe announced "Dad" Mark Alvarado as the 2020 honoree.

The State Master Councilor called on "Dad" And Br. Brian Singer, the Right Excellent Grand King of the New York Royal Arch Masons for the York Rite Tribune honoree.

"Dad" Singer reported that this year there would be an honoree for the West and the East. For the West was Br. Aedan Bunch of Ridge Council and Br. Brian Ramos of Knickerbocker Chapter.

The State Master Councilor thanked "Dad" Singer and the entire York Rite for their tireless support of New York DeMolay.

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

**State Sweetheart Retirement:**

Ms. Pearl Draves gave her retirement speech.

A tribute video was played from the Past State Sweethearts.

**State Master Councilor Retirement:**

Br. Austin Altman gave his retirement speech. A tribute video was played from the Past State Mater Councilors.

**State Installation:**

The State Installation was held. Br. Austin Altman served as the Installing Officer with the following Past State Master Councilors filling in positions:

Installing State Chaplain was “Dad” Kevin Bartels.

Installing State Marshal (Virtual) was “Dad” Zachary Williams, PSMC

Installing State Marshal (Buffalo) was “Dad” Bill Koller, PSMC

Assisting with the Collaring was “Dad” Matthew O. Tyree, PSMC

Installing the State Marshal was “Dad” Justin Cook, PSMC

Installing the State Chaplain was “Dad” Thomas Perry, PSMC

Installing the State Chaplain was “Dad” Peter Stokke, PSMC

Installing the State Scribe was “Dad” Peter Brusoe, PSMC

Installing the Region Master Councilors was “Dad” Jeffery E. McMorris, PSMC and Active Member of DeMolay International

Installing the Deputy State Master Councilor was “Dad” David Celentano, PSMC

The following State Officers were installed:

State Master Councilor Br. Michael Jordan of Ridge Council Chapter

Deputy State Master Councilor Br. Brian RAH-mos of Knickerbocker Chapter

Lakes Region Master Councilor Br. Aedan Bunch of Meridian Sun Chapter

Four Rivers Region Master Councilor Br. Jorge Hernandez of Mohawk Valley Chapter

Metro Region Master Councilor Br. Leonard Lao of Knickerbocker Chapter

State Scribe Br. JD Pepanio of Knickerbocker Chapter

State Treasurer Br. RJ Larson of Richmond Chapter

State Chaplain Br. Nicholas Heitmann of Trinity Chapter

State Marshal Br. Robin Santos of Knickerbocker Chapter

The 51<sup>st</sup> State Master Councilor Br. Michael Jordan gave his inaugural address. He asked for presentations. His parents presented him with a gavel.

Ms. Pearl Draves was then called upon to install the State Sweetheart Ms. Kaitlynn Marlowe.

Ms. Kaitlynn Marlowe gave her inaugural address.

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

Held Via Zoom from the City of New York and the City of Buffalo

Ms. Megan Williams, Past State Sweetheart presented Ms. Pearl Draves with her Past State Sweetheart Sash and thanked her for her hard work and dedication.

State Master Councilor Jordan called upon “Dad” Jeph Dais, State Chapter Advisor for presentations he may have. “Dad” Jeph congratulated Br. Austin Altman for his hard work and dedication and had “Mom” Veronica Altman present Austin with a Past State Master Councilor Jewel.

Br. Michael Jordan then talked about his term plan. The State Chapter heard greetings from members of the Masonic family including:

A recorded message from the The Most Worthy Kenneth W. Wheeler, Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of the ORder of the Eastern Star and Most Excellent Dad David Raymond, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

Right Eminent Yves Etienne Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State Of New York spoke live.

Most Illustrious Phil Chandler from Cryptic Masons and Grand Royal Matron Helen Utter sent their well wishes.

Sister Haley Dallerien, the Grand Worthy Advisor of the Grand Assembly of the International Order of The Rainbow for Girls sent a recorded message.

Sister Maggie Callaghan, the State Representative of the Organization of Triangle, Inc. gave her comments.

Dad Brusoe deferred any comments given the lateness of the hour.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, the Most Worshipful Dad William M. Sardone gave a speech congratulating all of the DeMolays for their hard work.

### **9 O'clock interpolation**

The Nine O'clock interpolation was done with the State Master Councilor and the State Chaplain.

The State Master Councilor announced that

Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> New York DeMolay State Convention

8/12 & 8/13

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a murder mystery would follow.

Adjourn:

The State Chapter was adjourned at 8:55 PM in Buffalo, NY, peace and harmony prevailing.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Ramos

State Scribe

2019-2020