

General Grand Chapter mission and objects

From a recent address to the Grand Chapter of Iowa General Grand High Priest Dyas explained succinctly the mission and objects of this august body, which he stated was organized in 1797 by committees representing three Chapters located in Massachusetts and New York. "Its original object evidently was to issue charters for Chapters in unoccupied territory, which is evidenced by the fact that most all the old Chapters in the then western country obtained their first charters from the national body. Three chartered Chapters in a state or territory have the privilege of forming a Grand Chapter, with the consent of the parent body, and with the exception of Utah Grand Chapters are now established in every state and territory, so that there only now remain eight Chapters in Utah and one Chapter each in Honolulu, Manila, Valparaiso, Shanghai, San Juan, Havana, and Alaska — fifteen in all, immediately subordinate to the General Grand Chapter. There are now forty-six Grand Chapters within its jurisdiction, representing a total membership of nearly three hundred thousand Royal Arch Masons."

"The General Grand Chapter fifty years ago relinquished all supervision and disciplinary powers over Grand Chapters, and since that time has simply been an advisory body as to Grand Chapters — settling disputes between Grand Chapters should they be submitted — and deciding questions of Capitular law whenever such questions are presented."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1910 report on Foreign Correspondence - GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER