Mistrict 'C'hronicle

HAMILTON DISTRICT 'C'

'C'hronicle

SILVER AWARD

2016, 2017

September 2024

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.193

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This being our final year as Hamilton C District, it is my hope/anticipation that we will give our full support of one another at all 7 of my Official Visits.

The district has 9 Lodges as of this date, but will be reduced to 7 as of November 12th, as Dufferin Lodge No. 291 will no longer be a member of the district. Hence, we should give our full support to one another wherever possible. We are a fraternity after all, and that is what fraternities do, support one other.

Our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren,

I hope that your summer break has been a successful and relaxing one, but it is now time to get back to work. I am sure you are well prepared for your 1st meeting of our new Masonic year.

I will be making 7 fraternal visits in the month of September and the remainder in October. The District Secretary will inform you of my intended attendance.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

1) Hamilton C District Fall Meeting, Saturday September 14th at the MCH at 10 AM,

2) Romanian Masons visitation, Tuesday October 8th, Temple Lodge No. 324, MCH

- 3) **Amalgamation ceremony** Tuesday October 22nd, at the MCH, Temple Lodge No. 324 and Ancient Landmarks/Doric No. 654,
- 4) Amalgamation ceremony Tuesday November 12th at the Waterdown Temple, Dufferin Lodge No. 291 and Waterdown Lodge No. 357. The Grand Master will be in attendance for both ceremonies.



The Grand Master will be providing, the District Deputy Grand Masters of all 3 Hamilton districts, with the plans for the formation of the 2 new Hamilton Districts in early September. As soon as I have that update, I will disseminate that information. I know there are a lot of questions swirling around the status of the new districts. It will be a busy year navigating this and drawing up the new guidelines for the North and South districts. Whether you approve of it or not, it was going to happen regardless, either this year or the following. Let's make this a positive step forward.

Fraternally,

R. W. Bro. Steven William Badger FCF

District Deputy Grand Master Hamilton C District Fraternally,

Fall District Meeting
10 am, Saturday September 14th
Masonic Centre of Hamilton

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at http://www.hamiltondistrictcmasons.org. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website. Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'hronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

Grand Master's August Communique (From the Ontario Masons Magazine)

Brethren.

Welcome to the Ontario Masons Magazine for this new Masonic year. V.W. Bro. Dan Dignard, for thank you leading this Committee and for continuing to publish such a wonderful vehicle to transfer Lodge Grand information entire Jurisdiction. We are kicking off the year with the August Edition of the OMM, to give you an early start



on some Masonic Education that can be used in your September Summons.

In addition, Brethren, if you would like to be considered to be added to this team, please feel free to contact me through the Grand Secretary.

Let me take a moment to say thank you, I am so honoured to be the Grand Master of this. The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The Jurisdiction has placed the Office of Grand Master in my hands, and I will do my best to uphold and maintain its integrity and traditions. I have been looking forward to this day for a very long time and now, it's finally here. What would my grandfather think about this, I'm pretty sure that his smile would say it all. Brethren, the sun is glowing, the penny is shining, and inspiration and positivity are evident wherever we look. I am feeling hopeful that Freemasonry is on the upswing and our Grand Lodge vision of R.E.M., Ritual, Education and Mentoring, is bearing fruit. Let's keep the momentum going, let us vow to do better in all our undertakings and let us be proud to be an Ontario Mason.

Congratulations to our newly elected Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Art DiCecco, I am completely confident that you will proudly uphold your office, you will lead the Board of General Purposes on their quest to fulfill the Committee work and you will continue to be a great friend to me and to this vast Jurisdiction. Welcome aboard Deputy, we have much to do.

To the incoming District Deputy Grand Masters and Board of General Purposes members, Congratulations on your recent elections and appointments. We are going to have a great Masonic year together. You are now a member of the Board and I would ask that you represent Grand Lodge accordingly. If you have any questions about anything, please feel free to contact me at any time.

I also want to mention all of the outgoing elected and appointed officers as well, your time, talents and dedication to our Grand Lodge has been amazing and incredibly appreciated. You have all contributed to the successes that we are now experiencing, and I appreciate it very much. Hopefully you will continue contributing to our Grand Lodge in some meaningful way, whether it's Grand lodge Committee responsibilities or even just promoting Grand Lodge initiatives in your respective Districts. I would appreciate any help that you are willing to give.

To the members of Ionic Lodge No.328 in Napier Ontario, I can't thank you enough for the support that you have shown me since I became a member of this gentle Craft. This, my mother Lodge, is the perfect example of how a group of "like minded men" have exemplified peace, harmony and Brotherly love in a Lodge room where piques and quarrels are unheard of. On behalf of Ionic Lodge No.328, I would invite the entire Jurisdiction to visit one of the smallest, most rural Lodge's in Ontario, the hospitality here is incredible. Thank you again Brethren, it's going to be an amazing journey for us all.

Sarnia District is where my journey began and I also want to thank everyone in my home District for your support, your help with every District Committee that I was on over the years, and most of all for your friendship. I truly have a great support group.

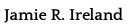
And lastly, this Jurisdiction has been so generous to me. I have travelled from the far north to the far south, as well as from the west to the east, Brethren of Ontario, it has been an amazing trip. From the E.A. Degree in 1996 to becoming your Grand Master in 2024, I can't say enough what being an Ontario Mason means to me and I hope that everyone shares that same feeling on their own journey.

R.W. Bro. Hugh Fleming, the incoming Grand Director of Ceremonies, are you ready Brother to set out on these next two years with me? Buckle up, it's going to be an incredible ride.

In conclusion, as always my Brethren, let us rub and cherish our shiny penny, plan for a bright, safe and happy future, keep our Lodges vibrant and make someone smile today and tomorrow. Let us look ahead to this upcoming Masonic year with hope and determination and let us all inspire someone to do better!!!

Remember Brethren, a cloudy day doesn't mean the sun is not there...let us all be the shining light to our friends and families, our Lodges and ourselves.

Thank you Brethren, safe travels and God Bless





Deputy Grand Master's August Communique

Dear Brethren.

I take this opportunity to welcome all our Brethren as we embark on our new Masonic year.

A special note of gratitude to all the Brethren of our Grand Jurisdiction as I am humbled by your consideration and confidence to serve you as your Deputy Grand Master as we move our Craft forward.



A heartfelt acknowledgement to all the Brethren who had put their name forward to serve. As the results of our Communication may not have been favourable to all, your devotion and commitment to serve is much appreciated, as it speaks to the purpose and impact our gentle Craft has imparted on many of our Brethren.

To our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Jamie R. Ireland, what a great achievement and a preferment well deserved. It has been my privilege to work with you for many years, and I look forward to serving with you in our continued journey of progress and betterment of Freemasonry in Ontario.

A warm welcome and congratulations to our elected and appointed officers. Having had the opportunity to work with many of you, I look forward to our continued successes as we continue to develop and refine the many programs and mandates for the benefit of all our Brethren and the whole Jurisdiction.

It is hard to believe that our summer break is half way through as the month of July has come to a close and is already behind us. As we are reviewing the past activities and successes, we are finalizing our committee structures to be at the ready as our new Masonic year quickly begins to unfold.

Brethren, I extend my very best wishes to you, your families and friends, and may you enjoy all the very best that your summer has to offer. I look forward to the opportunities that lay before us to enjoy our fellowship and promote our gentle Craft.

With my best fraternal regards,

R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Deputy Grand Master



Invitation from the Two Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges

What a wonderful way to highlight this friendship, this opportunity, this symbiosis, this collaboration, and the fraternal bond between our two leaders!

Therefore, we are pleased to invite you to an exceptional Gala for this exceptional event.

GALA DINNER

When: Saturday, October 12TH 2024 Time: 6:00 PM, Men: Formal Attire & Ladies: Cocktail Dress

Rivermead Golf Club

150 Chemin Rivermead, Gatineau, QC J9H 5W6 Price: \$130 Buffet Dinner

Scan the QR Code for more details!

Dates to Remember September 2024

Fall District Meeting

10 am, Saturday September 14th Masonic Centre of Hamilton

INSTALLATION

September 18
Meridian Lodge No. 513
Dinner: n/a
Installation Ceremony: 7:30
Ancaster Temple

Fraternal Visits

Come join our D.D.G.M. in his travels!

Buchanan Lodge Visitation!



Buchanan Lodge No. 550 is planning a trip to our sister lodge Western Star No 21 Sept 6-8 in Boardman, Ohio

I would like to extend the opportunity for other brethren in our district to join me on this fraternal weekend of hospitality and brotherhood. The main events of the weekend are an outdoor quarry EA degree on Friday evening illuminated with tiki torches (which is spectacular as I have attended in the past), and a turkey shoot on the Saturday afternoon.

Dress code is casual for all events, an apron should be worn to attend the degree. Bringing your own lawnchair is recommended.

Meals and beverages are all included as part of the event. There is no cost to attend as our brothers at Western Star are extremely hospitable except for accommodations. I have reserved several hotel rooms at \$86 US/night plus tax for anyone interested to join us.

I will also arrange transportation at no charge for anyone interested, but please contact me to let me know by Wednesday Sept 4th at the latest. robin.colville@gmail.com

We will be departing from the Hillcrest Temple on Friday Sept 6th at 12:00 noon. Passport is required.

Submitted by: W.M. Robin Colville

October 2024

Poseidon Lodge No. 232 from Romania Visits Temple Lodge No. 324

15 members of Poseidon Lodge are extending their international hand of Friendship to

Temple Lodge No.324

Tuesday October 8th.

Dinner 6:00 pm. Tyle 7:30

MCH

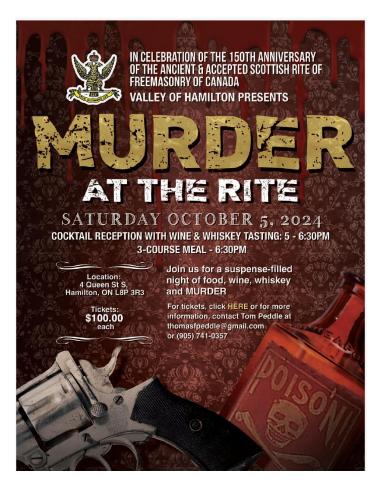
Amalgamation Ceremony

Temple Lodge No. 324 &
Ancient Landmarks / Doric No. 654
Tuesday October 22, 2024
Tyle at 7:30 pm,
MCH

LODGE of INSTRUCTION

M.W. Bro. Donald A. Campbell Custodian of the Work

Saturday Oct. 19 9:00 am Caistorville 9550 York St. Canfield Hosted by: The Harmony No. 57 Hamilton A Hamilton B Hamilton C



Masonic Education

THE LANDMARKS OF MASONRY

a paper by V.W. Barry D. Thom, St. Clair lodge No. 577 GL of Canada in the Prov. of ON



Greetings Glen,

I just read your latest issue. The Ancient Landmarks have always been of interest to me. However, Mackey's 25, just doesn't cut it. In Canada there are only 2 GLs, that I know of that use Mackey's 25. They are The GL of Quebec (listed in their Constitution) and the GL of British Columbia & Yukon, followed but not in their Constitution. R.W. Brother Harry Carr has warned us to be careful of any Masonic information written before 1940. Mackey's earlier encyclopedias certainly have many errors. They have been revised, (errors removed) and reproduced in the 1950's



The following was issued in the Phoenix Masonic Forum on Mar. 26th, 2021.

A paper by **V.W. Bro. Barry D. Thom**, Lodge Mcleod No. 27, GL of NL

Sources:

Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia
"The Freemason at Work" by R.W. Bro. Harry Carr

We are told from the beginning of our Masonic lives, to "preserve sacred and inviolable the Landmarks of the Order." But what are they? Our ritual doesn't list them. Neither are they listed in the Constitutions of the United GL of England, nor the GL of Scotland. Of the 10 Cdn. GL's only 5 have listed a set of Landmarks. What then, are we preserving? A dictionary states that a landmark is:

- a. A permanent feature used to establish a boundary.
- b. A prominent feature of the landscape that is fixed, permanent and, used to identify a particular location.
- 3. A high or turning point in history.

Applying these definitions to Masonry, we then must look for certain criteria to identify our Landmarks. (Our landmarks are our beliefs and ideals) First, they must be prominent features, characteristic of our order. This implies that they are common to all Masonic lodges. Second, they must set the limits or boundaries of the Craft, that are those features which set us apart from other institutions of a similar nature, and third, from a historical point of view they must have been of sufficient significance to have been incorporated into the basic philosophy of our Masonic system.

The best scholars agree on two essential tests of a true landmark of Masonry:

- 1. A landmark must have existed as long as the memories of man can be traced.
- 2. A landmark is an element of such importance that Freemasonry would no longer be Freemasonry if it were removed.

So, then we first must determine 'time immemorial'. Is it 1858 when Bro. Charles Mackey put together his famous 'Twenty-five Landmarks'? Bro. Mackey agreed with the two essential tests of a true Landmark of Masonry, yet in his list, most were in contradiction of his own definition! In the U.S. they did produce much dispute and dissension, however, the rest of the Masonic world paid little attention.

So let's back up farther, to 1717, when the first GL was formed. Is this era considered 'time immemorial'? In my opinion, not really. Let's back up another 327 years, for a total of 600 years into our Masonic past. This, in my opinion, is 'time immemorial! Our oldest known document is the Regius Poem (manuscript) written circa 1390. It was probably the work of a priest or monk who had access to older Masonic documents. It was recorded on pieces of vellum 4 x 5 inches and contained a total of 794 lines.

It contained:

- 1. The legendary history of Geometry/Masonry.
- 2. 15 articles to govern the Master and another 15 for the Craftsmen to obey.
- 3. Rules relating to an assembly.
- 4. Legend of the Four Crowned Martyrs.
- 5. Rules of behaviour in Church.
- 6. Rules of etiquette.

While there are Masonic Landmarks contained in the Regius Manuscript, the term did not yet exist. It would be over three hundred years before the word "Landmarks" appears in Dr. Anderson's first Constitution dated 1723. It stated that "the old Landmarks be carefully preserved", but did not state what they were! Anderson's second set of Constitutions dated 1738 again does not list the Landmarks.

An English Constitution dated 1810, states that the Ceremony of Installing a Master is a Landmark. So, in 1813, approximately 100 years after the first Grand Lodge in England was formed, they believed that the Landmarks were degrees and other secret workings of the lodge, but still, no Landmarks were listed and placed into the Constitution!

This is quite obvious as in 1847 The UGL of Eng. changed one of the requirements in order to join the Craft. Freeborn was changed to Free man, thus allowing a freed slave to join. Would a freed slave have the education and social standing necessary to 'fit in'? The GL of Scotland followed suit, however, all of the US and Canada, with the exception of Newfoundland, and the GL of Canada in the Prov. of ON has maintained 'Freeborn'.

In 1815 the UGL of Eng. amended Charge #I (remember they do not have a list of Landmarks) to require a belief in 'the glorious Architect of heaven and earth'.

So, who was first to list a set of Landmarks? In 1823 the short-lived GL of Wigan (England) listed 15 Landmarks. They list the powers/regulations of GL/lodges and while they state that the Ancient Landmarks must be observed, not one of those Landmarks contained in the Regus Manuscript are listed! I find their Landmark # 5 of interest: "The Grand Master must be elected to rule over the Fraternity – neither the lodges nor their representatives are authorized to give him despotic power, nor empower him to appoint others to use it".

In 1856, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota listed 26 Landmarks, and in the same year, the GL of Kentucky named 17. Bro. Mackey named 25 in 1858, and falsely claimed that he was first to record a set of Landmarks, when in fact he was fourth! Looking at Mackey's list only four qualify as Ancient Landmarks as stated in Bro. Harry Carr's list. I have read all of the lists mentioned in this paper, and in my opinion, most items qualify to be in a Constitution but not under the heading of Landmarks.

Mackey's list caused much dissension and turmoil and many Brothers disputed his findings. His main proponent was Albert Pike, while seven other brothers came up with their own lists and this does not include lists made up by the various U.S. GL's.

As you can see by the variant in numbers, nobody could agree! To name all of the Landmarks listed by Mackay, and the other GL's would only confuse things. They ranged from, the three degrees, secrecy, belief in a Supreme being, pass grips, passwords, and on and on. Going back to the 1850s hardly falls under one of the rules of the essential test that states, "A Landmark must have existed as long as the memories of man can be traced." Strict application of rules numbered 1. and 2., in the third paragraph of this paper it decimates most lists of landmarks.

R.W. Bro. Harry Carr has gone back to the Regius Manuscript of 1390 to list the first three, he has added the other two. In his view, these five are the essential landmarks.

They are:

- 1. That a Mason professes a belief in God, the Supreme Being, the Great Architect of the Universe.
- 2. A Mason must be male, freeborn, and of mature age.
- 3. That a Mason, owes allegiance to the Sovereign and to the Craft.
- 4. That the Volume of the Sacred Law is an essential and indispensable part of the lodge, to be open in full view when the brethren are at labour.

Note: The term V.O.S.L. was not introduced until 1813. In the days of the Regius Manuscript, the church only allowed Clergy to read from the Bible. The Bibles were hand-copied, thus very expensive, and were in Latin. Most operative stonemasons were most likely illiterate, although the Master Mason (who was the employer) most likely could read and write, otherwise, he could not conduct a business. In 1382 John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English, they were also hand-copied and remained very expensive. With the advent of moveable type and the printing press, in 1450, the price of producing a Bible dropped immensely, however, they were in Latin.

In 1534 Henry VIII broke away from Rome and soon after, mandated that every Church had to have a Bible printed in English. I believe, although I have no proof, that the ceremonies of the stonemason's lodges evolved between 1390 and 1717 and at some point that the Bible replaced Manuscripts for E.A.'s and F.C.'s to take their oath on. I also believe but have no proof, that the Rituals of Speculative Masonry were developed from those rituals/ceremonies of the Operative stonemasons.

5. That a Mason believes in the immortality of the soul.

Note: While the Regius Manuscript does not state this, one would think that a belief in God/Supreme Being would include a belief in the immortality of the soul, as well

Now let's look at those GL's that have not listed a set of Landmarks in their Constitution.

1. That a Mason professes a belief in God, the Supreme Being, the Great Architect of the Universe.

A lodge receives a Petition from a man who wishes to join the Order. The Master sends out a Committee of Inquiry. They search out many things, one of which is the topic of Religion. Assuming all goes well, and the night of Initiation arrives. Under Emulation Cdn. Working, the Master sends out three Brothers to the Anteroom. They ask three questions, all relating to a belief in a Supreme Being. The answers being, 'Yes', then the degree starts. In the NW corner the Candidate kneels for prayer after which, the Master then asks, "In whom do you place your trust"? Depending on the Candidate's faith he answers for example, "In God". Now all Brethren present are witnesses to this.

- 2. A Mason must be male, freeborn, and of mature age. Before the Candidate enters the lodge room, the Inner Guard asks the J.D. "How does the Candidate hope to obtain the 'mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry"? The J.D. answers, 'By being a man, freeborn (not free man) of mature age and under the tongue of good report'.
- 3. That a Mason, owes allegiance to the Sovereign and to the Craft.

 After a lodge meeting is closed, here in Canada, all

Masons face the flag and sing the national anthem. At the festive board, the first toast is called 'the loyalty toast'. It is to the King and the Craft. In US lodges at the very beginning of opening a lodge, the national flag is brought before the Altar and the 'pledge of allegiance' is recited.

- 4. That the Volume of the Sacred Law is an essential and indispensable part of the lodge, to be open in full view when the Brethren are at labour. When the lodge is opened the VOSL is opened to that page stated in the Ritual as per the degree.
- 5. That a Masons believes in the immortality of the soul. This is one of the principal parts of the 'sublime degree of a M.M.'

So then we have covered the 5 essential Landmarks that in my opinion, cannot be disputed or refuted by any Mason. I believe all GL's should list these, in their Constitution. .

Take care,

Barry



Passport Visit to Romania

Poseidon Lodge No.232



Mike with some of the Romanian Brethren





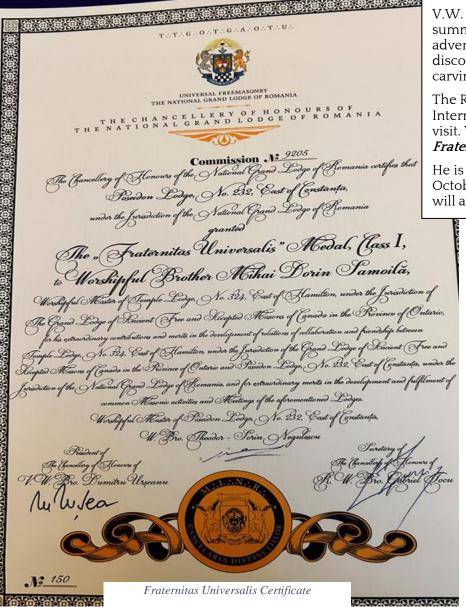
A Square and Compass stone carving from circa 917 A.D. Discovered on his travels around the region

Due to a unique situation, Temple Lodge No.324 has 4 Romanian speaking members. This has led to an international relationship with Poseidon Lodge No.232. from Romania.

V.W. Bro. Mike Samoila visited with them this summer and experienced some amazing adventures (and meals) Along his travels he discovered a 1000 year old Square and Compass carving and swam with dolphins. (No pic sorry)

The Romanian Grand Lodge is looking to build International Relationships and near the end of his visit. V.W.Bro. Samolia was presented with the *Fraternitas Universalis Medal Class 1*

He is hoping many of our members can attend our October 8th meeting when the Romanian Brethren will attend lodge here in Ontario.





Fraternitas Universalis Medal

Editor's Page Humour, In Memoriam and Note

Lesser Known Knights of the Round Table

- · The knight who was afraid to fight: Sir Render
- · The knight no one believed: Sir Real
- The knight too big to sit at the table: Sir Round
- The knight who designed the table: Sir Cumference
- The undercover knight: Sir Veillance
- The knight who was never killed in battle: Sir Vivor
- · The knight who exceeded expectations: Sir Passed
- The knight who showed up unexpectedly: Sir Prize
- The knight who overcame obstacles: Sir Mount
- The knight who funded the kingdom: Sir Tax
- The knight who kept the maps up-to-date: Sir Veyor
- · The knight who drank too much: Sir Rhosis
- The knight who stood in for the king: Sir Rogate
- The knight who stood out among the rest: Sir Perb
- · The knight with the fragile ego: Sir Amic
- The knight who performed in three rings: Sir Cus
- · The saddest knight of all: Sir Rowful
- · The knight who wasn't needed: Sir Perfluous
- · The knight who liked to dance: Sir Prance Alot

If GH can stand for P as in Hiccough,
If OUGH stands for O as in Dough,
If PHTH stands for T as in Phthisis,
If EIGH stands for A as in Neighbor,
If TTE stands for T as in Gazette,
If EAU stands for O as in Plateau,
The right way to spell POTATO should be:
GHOUGHPHTHEIGHTTEEAU

English is such an easy language to learn and use!



IN MEMORIAM

Bro. William Sheridan

Ancient Landmarks / Doric Lodge No.654

Initiated: 1955-03-05 Passed: 1955-04-02 Raised: 1955-05-07

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above July 1, 2024



In Life Respected, In Death Regretted. We will cherish them in our hearts forever.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the new Masonic Year, our last one as Hamilton District C. We would love to hear from the readers about what makes a lodge?, How do you feel about Lodge? and about Masonry in general?

We received a submission with a different take on our Landmarks from V.W. Bro. Barry Thom. It is an interesting read and a timely submission following last month's Masonic Ed piece. I think it gives us something to anchor our approach with.

Best Wishes to Ed Patterson, glad to hear you are recovering well. Hope you have a speedy healing process.

Bro. John Raso and R.W. Bro. Devin Tuinstra have been doing excellent work preparing the website for the new Hamilton Realignment.

We are still looking for your submissions, Thank you to Robin Colville for the upcoming Buchanan Roadtrip invitation and Mike Samoila for his Romanian adventures. Your additions make for a more interesting read

Hope to see an active membership in 2024-25

Glen gnotman@hotmail.com



Editorial Team

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