



Brethren,

August 7, 2019

For several years the question has been raised as to the correct title of the Sublime Recorder's position, i.e.: Sublime Noble Grand Recorder (SNGR) or Sublime Grand Noble Recorder (SGNR). The position is vital to our service to St. Vitus, the brethren of our Ancient and Honorable Order, and recognizing as accurately as possible the history of E Clampus Vitus.

In Nov. 1915 it was written into the articles of incorporation for E Clampus Vitus that there shall be 15 board of director/trustees. All 15 directors signed it with no designation of individual titles. That number is still honored today.

On April 6th, 1940 a special meeting of the directors was held. Nine of the fifteen directors had passed away, and only six were still alive. A quorum of the remaining directors appointed successors to the deceased directors. This document was signed by Charles A. Wetmore – Clampus Vitus Secretary.

From 1940 – 1955 the official titles of the members of the Board of Directors was as follows:

President (Chairman), Vice President, Secretary, Director

The position now known as the Sublime Recorder was recognized as the Secretary during that time.

On October 24th, 1954 a motion was made to form a Council of all XNGH's, thus creating Grand Council, and on August 21st, 1955 the first meeting of the Grand Council took place. During that meeting, the first known use of any title other than Secretary was noted as seen below: (Al Shumate, Grand Noble Recorder)

The following were moved, seconded and elected as officers and directors:

Edgar Jessup, president
Archie Stevenot, vice president
Albert Shumate, Grand Noble Recorder

Directors:

Clyde Arbuckle
Charlie Camp
Eric Falconer
Herb Scheuner
Hugh Gordon
Don Segerstrom
Lee Stopple
Robert Woods
Eldon Zeuger

(Cross)
(Rogers)
(Wheat)

At the 1956 Grand Council meeting, no positions changed, and Dr. Al Shumate signed the minutes as the Secretary. In the 1957 Grand Council meeting minutes we have the first example of Grand and Noble being switched. The 1958 minutes he signs as the secretary, in '59 it says Lee Stopple is elected as SNGR, but then Shumate signs them as the x-SGR, and in '60 no one signs them as it appears they were reproduced indicating SNGR Stopple passed away 10 days after the meeting.

In 1961 we see the first reference to the Noble Grand Secretary, and in 1962 and '63 the official title is back to SNGR as reflected in the meeting minutes, but we have copies of Dr. Al Shumate's agenda with some hand written notes, and SNGR is referenced on the agenda, but not in the official minutes.

From 1964 – 1967 we clearly see the title of Sublime Grand Noble Recorder used, but in 1968 we once again see SNGR title when George Washington is elected to the position, but in 1969 and 1970 the same George Washington is reference and signs the meeting minutes as the SNGR.

1971 and '72 we see SNGR, and in '73 we have an interesting year with SNGR in one spot, and the recorder shown with SNGH in another, then right back to SNGR in 1974. Over the next 35 year it would transition back and forth many times over, but I believe it's been shown time and time again, the original and intended title of the position was Sublime Grand Noble Recorder (SNGR), but over the years has been switched in error; in preference of the individual, or in jest! We can never forget our predecessors liked to express a little CQA now and then.

This request to research our history, and honor the originally intended title of the position was not taken lightly, and has been researched thoroughly with the records we have available. Therefore, to honor the history of our Ancient and Honorable Order, by Sublime decree, the position of Sublime Recorder shall now an inviolate be known and acknowledged as the Sublime Grand Noble Recorder (SNGR). The official e-mail address for the SNGR has been updated to reflect this. (sgnr@ecvinc.org)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan McCormick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dan McCormick
Sublime Noble Grand Humbug
E Clampus Vitus, Inc.