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**Most Excellent Grand High Priest**  
**Michael P. Lockhart**  
2017-2018



### **Educate & Motivate**

Greetings, Companions:  
Grand Sessions have come and gone----.and now a new year in York Rite Masonry begins. Thank you for letting me serve this Grand Chapter as your Grand High Priest. I extend hearty congratulations to Companion Ronald Schmidt for advancing to our Illustrious Grand Master of our Grand Council and to Sir Knight David Bassett for advancing to

Grand Commander of our Grand Commandery. It will be a honor to serve with you both and I offer any assistance that you may need from me.

As I stated at Grand Sessions, my main objective this year is to educate and motivate everyone about R.A.R.A. .

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## Grand High Priest - Educate & Motivate

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That brings me to the lapel pins that I choose for this year. Please support our charity by taking a pin and giving .a generous donation I will be asking the District Deputies and the Grand Chapter Officers to "encourage" you to get one or more. We will see that your donation gets to our Past Grand High Priest, Steve Gregory and he will make sure that it gets to the right place.

It looks like the new veterans medal from the General Grand Chapter is very popular. I know it has been well received at Mountain Home Chapter. I am now in the process to getting applications for them to each Chapter Secretary and District Deputy so that each veteran can apply for one.  
(See related on page 3)



I did not submit a list for my visitations. However I have notified those Chapters which I intend to visit in April and am now working on my May list. I promise to visit every chapter and will let your Secretary know as soon as possible

With all of us working together, this year will not only be enjoyable, but productive.

God's blessings to you all.

*Mike*

## General Grand Chapter Veterans Jewel



The Companions at Mt. Home Chapter #43 have jump-started the program of presenting the new General Grand Chapter veteran's recognition jewel. Shown above with Grand High Priest Lockhart are (L-R): Companions Jerry Montgomery—Air Force, David Waggoner—Navy, and Luke Monday—Army. Companion Brian Jones also received the Jewel for his service in the Marine Corps, but was not available for the photo.

It is the hope of GHP Lockhart that all Companions will desire the jewel, and that all Chapters will consider recognizing their members who served by presenting the jewels to them. The application form is available from the General Grand Chapter web site.

## RARA Awards for 2016

Two Arkansas chapters were honored with the General Grand Chapter Diamond recognition pins for contributions of over \$500.00 to Royal Arch Research Assistance in 2016.



For the fourth year in a row, Union Chapter #2 was honored with the RARA pin.



Fay Hempstead #144 also received a pin. Arkansas RARA chairman, PGHP Steve Gregory is a member of both Union #2 and Fay Hempstead #144.

ME Companion Gregory noted that many Chapters had contributed well over \$1.00 per member, which entitled them to the RARA Gold certificate.



**Most Illustrious Grand Master  
Ronald Schmidt  
2017-2018**



**The Work Begins!**

Greetings Companions:

First of all, I thank each and every Companion for having the confidence in me to be the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Arkansas. I will do everything I can to assist your councils. Please do not

hesitate to call me. My phone number is 870.257.2286, my email address is [karonent@centurytel.net](mailto:karonent@centurytel.net).

We will continue to work closely with the Chapter and Commandery. I ask each of you to please make every effort to bring in at least one new member this year. Membership and membership retention are a prime concern. As the only source of membership is the Symbolic Lodge, please attend and support your Symbolic Lodges. Participate in the lodge work whenever possible. Ask the Worshipful Master if you can present programs about York Rite Masonry at future meetings.

Break this into three meetings: Chapter, Council and Commandery. Go into detail on each of the three groups. There is a good book, titled "The York Rite of Freemasonry." It is available from the Grand Recorder, Robert Jackson. There is also a Power Point program and narration available from the Grand Recorder, Robert Jackson.

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## MIGM—Work

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We will again present the Super Excellent Masters degree in full form in 2017. If you would like a part in the degree, please contact TJ Henwood or Steve Gregory. I'm sure they will have a part for you.

Companions I am 100% behind our charity, the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF). This is not to detract from Royal Arch Research Assistance or the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. CMMRF, started in 1986, is beginning to see fruition in its efforts. We are seeing limbs being saved from diabetes, extend stroke victims time from 4 hours to 36 hours before brain damage takes its toll. There is a list of videos available from the CMMRF web site for downloading that can be used as an educational program at a Council meeting. The web site address is: [www.cmmrf.org/videos.html](http://www.cmmrf.org/videos.html). I would suggest: Dr. March: 2016 Update on Research, 32 minutes.

Zealously Yours,

***Ronald Schmidt,***  
Most Illustrious Grand Master



### **Schmidt Receives Order of Secret Vault**

After the conclusion of Council Business on Friday, then Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council, Ronald Schmidt was invested with the General Grand Council Award of Guardian of the Secret Vault.



## General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year Arkansas



Companion David Arnold was the recipient of the award for the most outstanding Cryptic Mason in Arkansas for 2016-17.

The General Grand Council Adult Leadership Award recipient for 2016-17 was Comp. Michael Rushin, Jr. Executive Officer for DeMolay in AR. (Not present)

## Lady of the Council



Mrs. Karen Schmidt was recognized for her efforts in support of Cryptic Masonry in Arkansas as the “Lady of the Council” for 2016—17.

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## Councils Recognized For Support of CMMRF



English Council #14 (above) and Paul C. Bush Council #80 (below) were honored to receive not one, but TWO extension bars from the general Grand Council. Each bar represents at least \$1000.00 in donations to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. (The first \$1000.00 in contributions is rewarded by a triangular plaque, to which the bars are added.)

