

Grand High Priest - New Year

Continued from page 1

I know that several of the Chapters are going through some difficult times, mainly in attendance. If at your regular meetings you have nine members or more to hold your meeting and conduct business, that is wonderful. But, if you don't get your nine, then at least practice your opening and closing. You can even practice doing a degree. This doesn't have to be in Chapter either. If you need work in Council or Commandery, then go for it. The main thing is to come together as York Rite Masons and enjoy being with each other. Also, for you "die hard eight or nine" if you sat down together and chose three names to contact to bring to meetings, look where that might get you.

By the time you get this article, the big thing will be our Grand Sessions in March. I know everyone will enjoy the new location at The Crown Plaza Hotel in west Little Rock. The rooms, the meeting areas, and the hospitality suite are all top notch. Companions, as York Rite Masons it is your duty to try to attend our Grand Sessions. I know this is not always possible, but please try to make the effort. It is a great experience. You will hear a lot, you will see a lot. and you will learn a lot. Not only do we want you to come, we want you to bring your ladies. We need to grow in the York Rite and Grand Sessions is the place to start.
(See tentative schedule of events on page 4. Ed.)

If there is anyone who does not know, we lost our York Rite Grand Secretary early in the year. This really put us in a difficult situation. God bless our Companions Silas Wilson and Paul Wilson for stepping up and taking on this great responsibility. Paul Wilson holds the position as Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter and Silas Wilson is the Grand Recorder of The Grand Council and the Grand Commandery. These two men can never be thanked enough, so when you see them, please express your gratitude.

Continued on page 3

Grand High Priest - Moving Forward

Continued from page 2

One of the major accomplishments, that our Ill. Grand Master, Ronald Schmidt and I wanted to achieve, was to make sure that every Companion was receiving the Royal Arch Magazine. To every Secretary/Recorder, please contact your members and make sure they are getting the magazine. If anyone is not getting it, then let our Editor T.J. Henwood know. He has been a great help to us, working with the national Publisher. This has been a problem that we are working hard to correct.

Companions, in finishing up my article, I have a thousand "thank you's" to give out. Mainly, to all of you for your support, and to T.J. Henwood for your help and patience. I am looking forward to many more visits to each Chapter and sharing the beauty of York Rite Masonry with all of you.

God bless you,

Mike

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



Grand York Rite Sessions - 2018

March 8, 9, & 10, 2018

Crowne Plaza Hotel 201 S. Shackleford Rd. Little Rock, AR
Tentative Schedules - Subject to Change

Thursday, March 8:

- 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Registration & Committee Meetings
- 2:00 pm Knight Masons - AR, Jack Sharp, & Harvey Mize Councils
- 3:00 pm AMD - Carson Scott & F.J. Scully Councils
- 1:00 - 4:00 pm Committee Meetings
- 4:00 pm Pasta Buffett
- 5:30 pm Joint Memorial Service - Rev. Steven G. Tiner (Open to all)
- 6:00 pm Conferral of the Order of High-Priesthood
(Candidates & High Priests Only)
- 8:00 pm AR Assn. of Past Commanders Business Meeting

Friday, March 9:

- 6:30 am Breakfast - AR Order of Sword & Trowel
(Members and visiting TIMs only)
- 7:30 am - 10:00 am Registration Continues (No Registration during Sessions)
- 8:00 am Joint Opening & Reception of Distinguished Guests (Open)
Joint Business Session #1 (Members only)
- 10:00 am Opening of Grand Chapter, RAM of Arkansas
- 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon
- 11:45 am Grand Chapter called from Labor to Refreshment
- 12 Noon AR York Rite College Luncheon
(Members & visiting Companion Knights only)
- 1:00 pm Grand Chapter resumes Labor to conclude business
- 2:00 pm Opening of Grand Council, R & SM of Arkansas
- 5:00 pm Grand Council called to Refreshment
- 6:30 pm Grand York Rite Banquet
Men-KT Uniform w/o sword or chapeau, Tuxedo or Dark Suit
Ladies-street length dress/suit-formal optional

Saturday, March 10:

- 6:30 am Breakfast - Albert Pike Priory #20, KYCH
(Members & visiting Knights only)
- 7:30 am-8:00 am Registration continues
- 8:00 am Opening, Grand Commandery
Knights Templars of Arkansas
- 10:45 am Grand Commandery called to Refreshment
(1 hour available for unfinished Grand Chapter/Council business)
- 11:45 am Joint Installation of Grand York Rite Officers (open)
(Installation will follow close of all business with a short time for preparation.)

No Registration during Business Sessions

For information about attending the Grand Sessions, contact your local Secretary/Recorder.

Most Illustrious Grand Master
Ronald Schmidt
2017-2018



**Time to
Reflect**

Greetings Companions:

The year is coming to a close. We will be attending the Grand York Rite sessions in March and a new slate of officers will lead the Grand Council to bigger and better things. I offer my support to the new team.

It is time to say "Thank You" to all the councils I have visited, to the new friends I have made, to the out of state Grand Councils I visited and to my officers. It was a great pleasure and I assure you an honor to have served as the MIGM of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Arkansas. I want to thank every Council for their hospitality and the warm welcomes I received during my visits.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Grand Sessions. Remember, we are at a new hotel. It is the Crowne Plaza, 201 South Shackleford Road in Little Rock, 72211. The committee has added items to the menu, changed some prices and we feel it is a great improvement. Please plan to come and participate in your Grand Council sessions. The registration forms are on line at <http://www.yorkrite.com/ar/>. Click on the box that states Grand York Rite of Arkansas Annual Session towards the top of the page. This is an active form so you can fill it out on line, print it and send it to the PO Box on the form. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

Continued on page 6

MIGM — Reflect

Continued from page 5

A reminder: The Super Excellent Master Degree will be held at the Scottish Rite Temple, auditorium main stage, on January 20, 2018. Registration at 8am, degree to start at 9am with a lunch, for a small fee, to follow the degree. I encourage all of your newly made Companions and Sir Knights to attend this most impressive degree as well as those who want to see it again.

Director's note: You may not be aware that the Super Excellent Master Degree came to us from the Scottish Rite! I was certainly not, until during the preparation for the conferral in 2016, I was in the fly loft of the Scottish Rite stage to select the scenes for the degree. In that area, there is a clip-board with all of the sets for all of the Scottish Rite Degrees, I decided to start at the beginning, and flipping the cards to the front, I was amazed to discover a card that was titled, "Super Excellent Master". As we say, upon further investigation, I discovered that among the drops for the Scottish Rite degrees, were hand-painted drops, dating from the 1920's, for all three scenes of the Super Excellent Master



Setting the stage for the SEM in 2016.

Degree! This coming January, we plan to share not only these historic scenes, but the rich history of this degree with our Companions. I am hoping you will make a point to be with us. T.J. Henwood, Degree Director

The holidays have come and gone. I trust you had a joyous time with family and friends. My wish for you is a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Zealously Yours,

Ronald Schmidt,

Most Illustrious Grand Master, 2017 - 2018

All-The-Way in a Day



On September 23rd of 2017, these fourteen Brothers were Exalted to the Most Sublime Degree of the Royal Arch. And, thus began a long, but wonderful day of York Rite Masonry, culminating in 21 new Sir Knights.



As the day went on, more Royal Arch Masons joined the class to make 20 greeted as Royal & Select Masters.



It takes a great team to make such an event come to fruition.



Everybody was ready to go...except for the GHP and EHP, who just had to have a "Kodak Moment". Above, PMIGM Joe Rouse as King, & PGHP Royce Taylor as Scribe. At left, MEGHP Mike Lockhardt with DDGHP Joe Dixon as EHP

**Union #2 Visits Fay Hempstead #144
For Fay Hempstead Day**



In what has become an annual tradition, the Companions of Union Chapter visited with the Companions of Fay Hempstead for the Fay Hempstead founders day. There were 19 Companions present, including MEGHP Michael Lockhart, RE Gr. King Charles Ferguson, PGHP Dick Browning, who gave the program for the event, PGHP Joe Clements, RE DDGHP Joe Dixon, and RE Gr. Treasurer T.J. Henwood.



Capitular and Cryptic Installations at Damascus



New chapter officers, including EHP Monty Fulmer as they were installed at Ananias chapter #156 on November 21, 2017.

And, the officers of Saul of Tarsus Council # 83, Including new TIM Joe Barbar.

