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On-Line, in color, at: <http://www.aryorkrite.org/ARRAinsert.pdf>

Winter 2024

Published Quarterly

Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Troy W. Cole

2023-2024

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Faith, Truth, & Wisdom

Greetings from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas:

I hope you enjoyed the past Holidays! Christmas is probably my favorite time of the year as everyone seems happier and it seems a more tolerant time. But we must

always remember the reason for the Christmas season is the birth of our beloved Jesus. Now however, we are past the Holidays and it is time to begin a New Year in York Rite Masonry. . It is a period to reflect and review on what we did accomplish (or didn't accomplish) last year. We need to realize what programs should be continued and which should be deleted. Any of the aims and goals that are developed should

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Grand High Priest - Wisdom

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be directed to increase growth in the Chapter, improve our Chapter programs, improve our Stated meetings, improve our ritual, and increase our commitment to RARA.

Research in RARA is an important and a worthy project for the Arkansas Grand Chapter to support. One reason is that this disease is difficult to diagnose correctly. The moneys we collect goes to improve disease detection and training of medical staff. We sold LED lights this year to support RARA. Please send any moneys you have collected from selling these LED lights to our Grand Secretary and it will be sent it to RARA organization.

Important note: Plan to attend the Grand York Rite annual session in March 7,8, and 9 2024 that will be held at the Delta Hotel in Little Rock, AR. Be sure to register early and additional information on this session will be available through your Chapter Secretary.

The main theme for this year Grand Chapter was to increase the membership in the local Chapters. This should increase membership in the Council and Commandery and make a more viable Arkansas York Rite. We felt that if our Blue Lodge Brethren were more familiar with the benefits of being a member of the York Rite, they would wish to join. To that end, we offered the first two Chapter degrees free to any Master Mason interested in the Chapter.

The last 6 years the Grand Chapter has lost nearly 150 Companions. This is nearly a 16% decrease in total membership since 2018. This year we provided many programs to help improve our Chapter membership.

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Grand High Priest - Wisdom

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Even with all the work that was accomplished this year, we will probable still lose almost 3.5% in total membership. But Companions, don't be discouraged, what would our [total Grand Chapter membership](#) numbers be if there wasn't that much effort accomplish to improve our numbers this year. Much work has been done but more continuous effort is needed to achieve a positive result. This is a Challenge for the future Grand Line Officers They must take what worked in the past and think of new methods to reach new members.

I wish to sincerely thank the Chapters that conducted our first "Free Degrees" programs: Far West #1, Hot Springs #47, and Jonesboro #79. Also, thanks to Union Chapter #2 for conducting a Honor Festival for M.:E.:General Grand High Priest Steven G. Tiner General Grand Chapter International In addition, thanks to all the other Chapters that participated in these "Free Degree" programs.

Also, I wish to thank all the Arkansas Chapter Companions for allowing me to serve as your Grand High Priest of Arkansas this year. It wasn't the start of my program that I had anticipated because I contacted Legionnaires disease shortly after the Arkansas Grand Session concluded. Recovery in the hospital and rehab lasted a couple of months which greatly reduced my ability to travel and to visit all the various Chapters. But I did get to enjoy many festivals and meetings with our Companions and Chapters that I have had the privilege to visit.

I want to thank the Grand Line Officers for all their support and advise. Knowing and working with these Companions, I know the future of the Arkansas Chapters are in good hands. Additionally, thanks to Ron Tucker for his tireless assistance in travel and suggestions.

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A very special thanks to our Grand Secretary, Dick E. Browning for his continue support, advice and assistance during my tenure this year. Dick is a jewel in the Arkansas York Rite because of his interest in the Craft, his Masonic knowledge, and his wiliness to help. Word to the wise though, don't get into a shotgun shooting contest with him.

Finally, thanks to a wonderful lady, Evelyn, my wife. She was a tremendous asset to me during my tenure and for allowing me to participate in all my Masonic activities.

I wish to close with a quote from my good friend Steven G. Tiner taken from the Summer 2022 Royal Arch Mason Magazine:

“Each Royal Arch Companion should be a man who believes in God as the Father of us all, love and serve to our country, a demonstrator of work etic and integrity, one who has respect for his fellowman, a supporter of religious, political, social, and economic freedom.”

Respectfully submitted,

M.:E.: Grand High Priest Troy W. Cole



Most Illustrious Grand Master

Jarrold R. Adkisson

2023-2024

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Opportunities Anew

Companions:

Benjamin Franklin said: “Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man”.

I congratulate all of the new Council Officers who have been elected and installed to serve in 2024. A new year brings fresh opportunities to start over – a chance to make a self-review/ assessment so that we can make news plans and resolutions to achieve all of our dreams. It is a chance to set new goals, objectives, and desires; but also an opportunity to meet new challenges head on. Let us make this New Year a memory for a lifetime. I hope you all find the confidence in yourselves – as well as the ability to achieve all that you can.

Let us also take this opportunity to think and appreciate each other. Too often we ignore this in our daily life. We get busy with deadlines and assignments. We forget to look around and appreciate those who support us and keep us running. I appreciate the opportunity I have been given to serve as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal & Select Master of Arkansas. Thank you all for this singular honor.

I look forward to greeting each of you at our Grand Session in March. This is a unique opportunity to come together as Cryptic Masons to set the policies for a new term and elect the officers that will lead us down the road into our next journey.

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MIGM - Opportunities

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We need all of our Council officers and members to commit to attending our Grand Session. Let us all grow together; to work toward a solution that will bring happiness and success to all of our Councils. We are at our best when we support each other. Not when we cancel each other out for our past mistakes but when we help each other to grow.

Brother Brad Paisley remarked: "Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one."

Now is our opportunity to welcome the New Year – full of things that have never been. Keep track of your success and reward yourself along the way.

Fraternally,
Jarrod R. Adkisson
M.: I.: Grand Master



This year we are selling Arkansas Grand Council Coins with the profits benefiting Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. These coins will make a nice addition to your own personal coin collection. My home lodge bought 16 coins to use in the Charity portion of our Entered Apprentice Degree – thank you Washington Lodge #1 for continuing to support CMMRF. Order forms are now on-line on the Arkansas York Rite Website for those Companions/Councils interested in supporting CMMRF through the purchase of our coins as well as my MIGM pins.



Gold Honor Award



M.:E.: Steven Tiner, Past General Grand High Priest, presents Companion J. Dan Kemp, Jr. with the General Grand Chapter's Distinguished Service Award in Gold. The presentation was made at the Orient of Arkansas' Scottish Rite Honors banquet in Little Rock. Companion Kemp is 30+ year member of Batesville Chapter #9 in Batesville Arkansas. Companion Kemp is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Grand York Rite Sessions - 2024

March 7, 8, & 9, 2024

Delta Hotel, Little Rock-West 201 S. Shackelford Rd.
Little Rock, AR

Tentative Schedules - Subject to Change

Thursday, March 7:

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Registration & Committee Meetings
2:00 pm Knight Masons - Joint Arkansas Councils
3:00 pm AMD - Joint Arkansas Councils
1:00 - 4:00 pm Committee Meetings
4:00 pm Open 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 8:

6:30 am Open Breakfast - AR Order of Sword & Trowel - Following
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 Men's Luncheon - AR York Rite College Following
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 9:

6:30 am Open Breakfast - Albert Pike Priory KYCH Following
7:30 am-8:00 am Registration continues
8:00 am Opening, Grand Commandery
Knights Templar 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.)