Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons
Of Arkansas

Raising the Bar

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Grand High Priest for 2020-21. I will try to do my best to preserve and promote the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance. With your support, my goal for the year is to grow RAM in Arkansas by strengthening our Chapters, improving ritual proficiency, promoting Masonic education, and supporting our philanthropy RARA.

Continued on page 2

Editor’s Note: The Spring edition of “The Arkansas Royal Arch” usually includes results from our Grand Sessions. As you know, as a result of the covid-19 outbreak, all Masonic activity in Arkansas was suspended on March 13, 2020. As of the date of this publication that suspension is expected to end on June 1, 2020. Our Grand Sessions are postponed until August 27, 28, & 29, 2020. The articles in this edition were written before these actions. It is my hope that I will be able to report on AR Grand York Rite in the fall edition. TJH
Our Grand Communication was very successful and a great time of fellowship. For those who attended, thank you for your attendance and support. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I and your time was well spent. Without your support the Grand Chapter could not function. For those who did not attend, you should. You missed out on a really good time and great fellowship.

As your Grand High Priest, I want to take the opportunity to use these articles to keep you informed of the programs and activities going on during the year. To begin, I want to start with this year’s RARA program. I am instituting a few changes that I hope will increase our contributions as a state and provide the Chapters an opportunity to unite in a worthwhile effort. First, I want to set our contribution bar a little higher. I am challenging us as a state to step up our efforts by setting a statewide goal of $5,000 minimum. Secondly, I am challenging each Chapter to raise a minimum of $500 and to hold at least one fundraiser to support RARA. Finally, I have challenged our RARA committee to increase their efforts in promoting our philanthropy and providing support to the Chapters in their efforts.

Our charity giving is one thing we are known for and it is my hope that all of the Chapters will step up their efforts and exceed the $5,000 goal.

Fraternally,

William R. “Ronnie” Frizzell
Grand High Priest
Installations

2020 Officers at Ananias No. 156, including EHP Darrell Maxwell, were installed by ME Comp. T.J. Henwood. (left) He also did the honors for Union No 2, assisted by EHP Ronnie Frizzell and Gen. Grand King Steven Tiner; installing David Miles as EHP. (below)

Excellent Companion Michael Minton and the new leadership at Iris No. 151 (below) were installed by ME Companion Steven Gregory, assisted by RE Comp. Joe Dixon, Grand RAC.
In Memorium
Earl Fay Tubbs
Grand High Priest - 1982

November 6, 1929 - December 28, 2019

ME Companion Earl Tubbs passed away on December 28, 2019. At the time of his death, he was the oldest living Past Grand High Priest in Arkansas. A mason for over 50 years, Brother, Companion and Sir Knight Tubbs had also been honored to serve as the presiding officer of Albert Pike Priory, KYCH; AR Council, Order of Sword and Trowel; Holy Grail Tabernacle HRAKTP and many others.

Farewell, Brother Earl, Farewell

Arkansas Section
Most Illustrious Grand Master
Richard Shotzman
2020-2010
igm@aryorkrite.org

Coping With Covid-19

Editor’s note: The printed version of the Spring 2020 “Arkansas Royal Arch” was submitted to the national publisher on March 1, 2020. This was obviously before the covid-19 outbreak had fully developed, resulting in the postponement of the Grand York Rite Sessions, and suspension of Masonic activity. Please disregard the printed version, and consider this the correct “Spring 2020” edition. TJH

Companions:

As I write this article it is with hope that all is well in your household. It has been a very busy time with the Three (3) heads of YOUR York Rite Bodies. Who would have ever thought that a Virus such as the Covid 19 would attack the American People. But it has, so now we have to deal with it. All our Governments have said to stay home until this passes. So we must adhere to what they are asking. We (3) Three along with our Grand Recorder have been working very hard with the hotel to come up with a plan to hold our Grand Session in August. Our on Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas has even sent out an edict on Masonic Meetings; None at all. So with all that said and done we had to cancel our March session and reschedule and we did. Then we had to reschedule again and NOW we are set to meet on August 27, 28, and 29th. Please mark your calendars for these dates.

Continued on page 6
Companions, I do not want this to seem like a scare tactic but your York Rite Bodies of Arkansas need your support. Participation in the Grand Sessions is a financial benefit for the Grand Bodies. Our Grand Recorder has sent out new Registration forms for all to fill out and to make your new registration at the Hotel Crown Plaza in Little Rock. I know that all Masons, and you as a York Rite Mason, will band together and all work together to make this a very successful event.

Yes we don’t know how long this is going to last and we may have to reschedule again but if need be, we will. I want to Thank our Grand Recorder MW Dick Browning for all of his work for our Grand York Rite these past few weeks to do all we can to make us have a Grand Session. He has worked very diligently with the Hotel Crown Plaza and they with us to make this endeavor happen and be successful. We have had conversation with the incoming officers on conference calls and have discussed all that has taken place with them and the are in agreement with all that has taken place, even though it will shorten their year of service to you and our Grand York Rite. Companions it is NOW up to you as a York Rite Mason to Come to the aid of YOUR YORK RITE. So Register for the session if you will.

In closing, I leave you with this thought and Prayer that we all humble ourselves to the Lord God in whom you have put your TRUST that in your prayer time that you Pray for one another and Pray For our United States Of America that he will Heal our Country. May God Bless You

Fraternally,

Charles H. Ferguson
MIGM

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Arkansas Section
Council Installations

Comp. Brian Bryant returned to the Damascus area just in time to be installed as the TIM at Saul of Tarsus No. 83.

In Pine Bluff, Comp. Billy Britt is the new TIM at English No. 14. (above) While Comp. Mark Kalkbrenner, PHP is stoking the fires at Lafayette No.7.
Leaping Into Spring
At Pine Bluff

February 29 of 2020 was a great day at the new home of the Masonic bodies of Pine Bluff on Princeton Pike.

Six Brothers were exalted as Royal Arch Masons, with a host of Companions from across the state assisting, including the Grand Chapter line officers from the Excellent High Priest to the Royal Arch Captain. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were there, too.

After a break, the Companions were Greeted as Royal and Select Masters. Again, many of the Grand Officers were there to participate. The Super Excellent Master was communicated, with the full-form expected to be exemplified in January of 2021.