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**Most Excellent Grand High Priest**  
**Silas M. Wilson**  
2019-2020

## **Slipping Into the Future**



Greetings, Companions:

Where has the time gone? It's hard to believe this York Rite Year is half over. What have you done to improve your Chapter meetings?

I hope each Chapter is having a program on Royal Arch Masonry and not just reading the minutes closing and going home. The Masonic Service Association has Short Talk Bulletins that can be loaded as a podcast and played at the end of your meetings. A lot of these bulletins are directed toward the Blue Lodge, but there are several of interest to all bodies of Masonry. Check it out!

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## Grand High Priest - Future

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Did you attend the South Central York Rite Conference? If you didn't, you missed a great opportunity to meet Companions and Sir Knights from the other States that make up the South Central Conference. There were outstanding presentations made by some of our own Companions as well as presentations on RARA and CMMRF. A great time was had by all!

It's not too early to be making plans to attend our Grand Session in March 2020. It will again be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Little Rock. More information will be coming after the first of the year.

Companions, do you receive GGC RAM e-newsletter? This is a very informative newsletter. It contains articles of interest from the General Grand High Priest, General Grand King and the General Grand Scribe as well as other articles. In the August edition it was announced that the RARA Committee will be providing a Royal Arch Throw Blanket to help raise donations for RARA. The blanket will be available for \$30.00 and \$15.00 will be donated to RARA in your name. The General Grand Chapter has not had a program to raise funds in a number of years and this comes just in time for those fall football games. To order yours contact Andy Martinez, REGCoH at: [g.martinez@gmail.com](mailto:g.martinez@gmail.com).

Vacation time is over and the kids are back in school, let's all roll up our sleeves and work for the good of Capitular Masonry.

Fraternally,  
*Silas M. Wilson*  
M.E. Grand High Priest





## Union Smokin' For RARA - Again

For the fifth straight year, Companion Michael Elcan has been the Pit-Master for RARA at Union Chapter #2. Michael uses his award-winning skills to prepare real pit smoked bar-B-Que for the annual RARA fundraiser. (The fund-raisers actually started in 2012.)

This year, the ladies got into the game. Below, Michael's mom Carolyn with her famous coconut cake!



At the left is Paula "Tater Salad" Henwood. And below right, Bean Bakers Yvonda Rochelle and Jenifer Dixon.



Over 70 plates were served, and Union is above the \$500.00 donation level again this year!

## The Work Continues, Continued



I am saying the work continues is continued, because we had reports of work at Iris and Ananias in the Summer, 2019 edition. The photo above was the Royal Arch conferral at Union #2 on August 26. Brother Taylor Glover (3rd from the right) was Exalted to the Degree of Royal Arch Mason, with help from Jim Morehead and Garry Jones from Fay Hempstead Chapter, and the formerly newest member of Union Chapter, Paul Walker. (Back row, left) Apologies to our Excellent High Priest Zach Ray for cutting off his head. But, that's what happens when you are the tallest guy in the room!

Also reporting in: Lafayette Chapter #7 in Pine Bluff advanced 3 Master Masons the the Degree of Mark Master on August 19. The Degree was the first in three years, according to Mark Kalkbrenner, who was the RWM. Hoping to have pictures of new Royal Arch Masons for the Winter Edition.



**Most Illustrious Grand Master  
Charles H. Ferguson  
2019-2020**



**Make It Special  
For CMMRF**

Greetings Companions of the  
Councils of the  
State of Arkansas:

It has been a busy past 6 weeks for me on a personal note. I hope all enjoyed the South Central Conference that was in Little Rock. We had a lot of great speakers and a lot of York Rite Masonry was discussed. It was hoped that you were able to attend and enjoy the good fellowship. I know that the food was great, and appeared to have had a great attendance.

I hope all of the Councils across the State have had the opportunity to have an event to raise money for CMMRF. If you haven't, there is still time. You can plan an event for your Council to help make this very important effort very special.

Also this gives your Council the opportunity to invite the non York Mason to come see a special event and possibly could start a Blue Lodge Mason on a journey in York Rite Masonry.

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## MIGM—Special

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I Ask you this question: WON'T YOU TRY? I hope so. Maybe you could plan a Homemade Ice Cream night or maybe a Watermelon feast. You know all people like Ice Cream or Watermelon. Or, with cooler fall weather here, a chili cook-off or spaghetti feed. Maybe a family game tailgating/viewing day?

Remember I am going to present a plaque to the Council that raises the most money for CMMRF at the Grand York Session in March.

I will continue to visit the Councils and will have the pens for sale and all the money will go to CMMRF. I have a few left, and I need to sell them. So, if you would want one just let me know. (You could buy one for a friend, or non-Mason. That might start a conversation that would lead him to seek to join our great Fraternity.)

I hope all is well and that you try and make your Council meetings informative and exciting.

Fraternally,  
*Charles H. Ferguson,*  
Most Illustrious Grand Master



## Arkansasa York Rite College Gold Honor Award



The York Rite College of North America annually singles out Masons who have made significant contributions, not only to the York Rite, but to Freemasonry in general for special recognition. This is called the Gold Honor Award.

This year, five Arkansas Masons were so honored: (Front row, L-R) Hal Sutherland, James Rochelle, Christopher George and Jim Rorie. Brad Leggitt was also selected, but unavailable for the photo.

Presenting the honors at the Spring Reunion of the Little Rock Scottish Rite: (Back row, L-R) T.J. Henwood, Past Governor & Asct. Regent; Tom Liles, Governor of AR College 2018-19; and Dick Browning, Grand Governor in Arkansas.

Photo credit: John Baker

## Diversity

Diversity is a word we hear a lot lately. Usually this is in reference to diversity of culture or background. And, sometimes it's a word used to demean those who do not embrace alternative cultures or lifestyles.

But that's not the diversity I want to talk about. I'm talking about diversity of thought and experience; especially, Masonic experience, specifically the York Rite.

Whenever I have the opportunity to discuss what I find attractive about Freemasonry, I usually get around to the concept that being a Mason is a unique experience for each individual member. So, any publication about any aspect of Freemasonry should be diverse. But, sadly that has not been the case for the "Arkansas Royal Arch" lately.

I guess I took a long way around to ask, again, for each one reading this to help me make "The Arkansas Royal Arch" reflect *all* of our experiences in the York Rite, not just mine.

When your Chapter or Council has any event, degree work or not, let me know about it! You can send a short description of what happened, and hopefully some pictures. I prefer that you send via e-mail, but you can text if that's the only way you can send your information.

My greatest goal for this publication is that it represents the diversity of Arkansas' Chapters and Councils. With your help, that can become reality.

Sincerely and fraternally,



T.J. Henwood  
Your Editor