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

Fall 2023

Published Quarterly

**Most Excellent Grand High Priest**

**Troy W. Cole**

2023-2024

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**Good Work...True  
Work...Square Work**

Greetings from the Grand Royal Arch  
Chapter of Arkansas:

It is my wish that you are enjoying this  
summer of 2023 (even though it has  
been really HOT). I hope and pray that  
the fall will cooler and wetter.

Last March the Grand High Priest, Most Illustrious Grand  
Master, and Right Eminent Grand Commander decided to  
provide programs that would bolster the membership of the  
Arkansas York Rite during the 2023-2024 York Rite year. It is  
our desire to provide a pathway for the York Rite in Arkansas  
to grow. To begin to achieve this goal, we three did agree to  
issue an Edict/General Order concerning increasing our

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## Grand High Priest - Work

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membership. The Joint Edict #1 stated that subordinate Chapters, Council and Commanderies in Arkansas will offer to an individual who has been suspended for non-payment of dues or has demitted out of the Arkansas York Rite Masonry the opportunity for reinstatement under this special program. Their membership in the York Rite will be approved after their petition is approved and the current dues are paid. Each subordinate body will follow their normal process for reinstatement without other fees.

In May 2023, the Grand High Priest issued the Edict #2. It stated that the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason in Arkansas will offer all Master Masons that are in good standing with his Lodge an opportunity to attend the first two Chapter degrees (Mark Master and Past Master) FREE. The two free Chapter degrees will be offered at three designated locations across Arkansas. Those who complete these degrees will be members of the Tiner Lodge of Mark and Past Masters which is located in Little Rock, AR. I know that those who complete the first two Chapter degrees will want to complete the last two Chapter degrees. Then can continue their degree work in a Chapter of their choice. Afterwards, they can complete the degrees of the Council and Orders of the Commandery.

The three Chapters designated to confer the Mark Master degree and Past Master degree are:

\*Hot Springs Chapter #47 conducted the two Free Chapter degrees on June 10, 2023 where five candidates received the first two Chapter degrees.

\*Jonesboro Chapter #79 conducted the two Free Chapter degrees on June 17, 2023 where eighteen candidates received the first two Chapter degrees.

\*Far West Chapter #1 conducted the two Free Chapter degrees on June 24, 2023

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where fourteen candidates received the first two Chapter degrees.

There was a total of 37 Masons who received the two free Chapter degrees of Mark Master and Past Master. These 37 candidates can now elect to complete the last two Chapter degrees and continue working on the degrees/orders of the Council and Commandery. I know there will be a significant number of these 37 Masons who will continue in the York Rite. I sincerely thank the three Chapters for hosting these degrees.

In a further effort to increase the membership in our York Rite, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas hosted a state wide Chapter Honor Festival. We honored M.:E.:General Grand High Priest Steven G. Tiner General Grand Chapter International on July 15, 2023. Union Chapter #2 hosted the festival in the Albert Pike Memorial Temple in Little Rock, AR. Attending Tiner's Honor Festival there were 28 candidates wanting to receive the Chapter degrees and over 50 Chapter Companions. Also, in attendance were the M.:E.:Grand High Priest, Most Illustrious Grand Master, Rt Eminent Grand Commander and our Grand Master, Christopher George. These candidates that completed all of Chapter degrees are now Royal Arch Masons. I know these 28 Royal Arch Masons will now want to complete their other Degrees/Orders in the York Rite Masonry. I sincerely thank Union Chapter #2 for hosting this festival.

Certainly, we will see a significant increase in membership in the York Rite Chapter this year. It will be reflected in an increase in membership in all three Arkansas York Rite bodies. But now that we have a substantial increase our membership, "what are we going to do with it"? Certainly, the local Chapters want to keep what Companions they now have.

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## Grand High Priest - Work

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But our thinking about our York Rite membership must change or we could be losing membership like we were a few years ago. We must do something. Here are just a few suggestions that could help keep and increase our Chapter membership: provide leadership in program development in our Chapters; install plans to improve our stated meeting to make them more interesting; each Chapter is urged to raise \$500 for our Chapter's RARA contribution perhaps by holding a fund raiser (for assistant contact the Grand Chapter's RARA committee-Companion Steven Gregory); Chapters should regularly reach out to our suspended Companions and let them know they are missed perhaps by conducting a Chapter calling time (for assistance contact the Chapter Membership Committee-Companions Ray Mathew and Billy Graves III); Chapters should have an Educational program in your stated meeting to help make it more interesting; and if you need addition support contact our own Grand Secretary who is also the R.:E.:General Grand Secretary Dick E. Browning General Grand Chapter International.

Many Companions have given so much for our great York Rite so far. We must keep the flame burning for the future Companions who will follow.

Fraternally,

Troy Cole, GHP



## Most Illustrious Grand Master

Jarrold R. Adkisson

2023-2024

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### Make a Difference

Companions:

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the services of others." This year I have asked each Companion/Council to set aside one day in the next calendar year to make a difference in the life of an individual or within the community in which they live. Great acts are made up of small deeds. As we serve others we are working on our own inner Temple; every act, every word, every gesture of genuine compassion nourishes our own hearts as well. What are you doing to make a world of difference to the lives of those around you?

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.



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## MIGM - Difference

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We had a successful statewide festival in August where we greeted 18 companions as R&S Masters. My sincere appreciation to Paul C Bush Council #80 for hosting the event. Paul C Bush #80 and Osiris #5 did an outstanding job on their degree work. We were also able to perform the SEM for the first time in a number of years. A special SEM degree lapel pin was given to all Companions who were in attendance.



I want to congratulate MI Companion Dr Joe P Rouse on being awarded the Colombian Medal at the recent Triennial Meeting in Branson. (See Page 7) The Columbian Medal is awarded to an outstanding Cryptic Mason in each region of the General Grand Council per Triennial. We all know how hard Dr Joe works for Cryptic Masonry and especially for CMMRF. We are all very proud that he received this very prestigious honor. Dr Joe was also re-elected to the CMMRF Board. Congratulations!!!

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



## From the Triennial



Dr. Joe Rouse, after receiving the Columbian Medal

## Arkansas' Delegation to Triennial



**Steven G. Tiner Homecoming Class  
July 15, 2023**



At the luncheon, Companion and Sir Knight Reuben Linder was presented with the KTEF Grand Master's Sword of Honor.

This represents a donation to KTEF of at least \$25,000!

