

T.J. Henwood, PGHP, Editor

P.O. Box 6681
501-413-8181

Sherwood, AR 72124-6681
chiknstik@gmail.com

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Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Randall P. Gilless

2022-2023

ghp@aryorkrite.org



We Get To!!!

Companions:

Well here we are another year has come and gone. My Lady Jackie and I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. We hope you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. Being around your Love Ones is extremely important. I wanted to

start by saying a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our Companions for allowing me to represent you this past year as Grand High Priest. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve you. I hope that I have not been a disappointment to any of you. I just wanted to make a difference. This job is more than leadership. It is listening to your concerns. It is trying to understand your point of view. It is about being fair to everyone

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It is rejoicing the good times and offering a shoulder in the bad times.

Unfortunately sometimes it is about making some tough choices and sticking to your morals. I am thankful that there were very few tough choices to make and for the most part this past year was truly about the joyous times we shared together. A lot of old friendships were strengthened and a lot of new friendships were cultivated. I was able to visit all 14 Chapters in our wonderful state this year and was thankful for the receptions you gave me. Even as we discussed some tough issues you were very kind and genuine towards me. I thank you one and all.

We all need to remember that Masonry is not mandatory. We don't have to attend our lodges, our York Rites or our Scottish Rites.....WE GET TO!!!!!! I say again "WE GET TO!!!!!!" As we approach our upcoming Grand Session I just wanted encourage each of you to attend. The more members we have the better a session it will be. As we discussed in your Chapter's our Grand Session is not about me or any of the officers in the Grand Line. It is yours! Remember we don't have to go to the session.....WE GET TO!!!!!! The Grand Line is here to serve you! We need you to support the Grand Session. Without the Grand Chapter you have no Chapters. Without the Grand Council you have no Councils! Without the Grand Commandery you have no Commanderies! I know all of you are smart and get the picture.

I saw during my visits this past year that all of you care about Masonry and most are willing to go the extra mile to make it special. I wish I had a golden wand to put a fire in all our brothers. Most chapters were in the same shape. About 10 – 15 percent of your members are active.

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Grand High Priest - We Get To!

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The others continue to pay their dues and remain at home. I have beat my head against the wall trying to think of ways to get our Companions off the couch and back in the active fold. I have been working with our Grand King to try a few things different next year. I don't want to give anything away just yet but I really feel some exciting things are going to happen next year. Through visiting with some other states we gained a couple of new ideas to throw at you all next year. So I encourage all of you to buckle up and get ready for an exciting ride.

Let's get back to my point for a moment. We live in such a great country that we don't have to do anything we don't want to do. We should all feel extremely grateful that WE GET TO!!!! We get to vote to affect change in our lives. We get the opportunity to receive an education. We get the opportunity to be able to work to support our families. We get to have organizations in our lives such as our fraternity that makes a difference in the world. We get to have families and friends. We get to make our own choices in life. We get to go anywhere in our country freely and without hindrance. Most importantly we don't HAVE to believe in the Supreme Architect of the Universe.....WE GET TO!!!!

All of our brethren in Masonry need to wake up and reinvigorate themselves to come back to their lodges, chapters, councils, commanderies and appendant bodies. We need to remember what induced us to join in the beginning and remember that our fraternity may not survive without us. We need to get our lives back on track and remember what is truly important to us. Our economic times are changing and we need to prepare for the fact that we truly need each other and for more than just friendship and brotherly love. We need to come together for each other and support each other just like our forefathers did before us. We don't need to complain about our circumstances but rather we need to fall back on our obligations we have made to each other. I for one do not feel that helping my fellow brother is a burden. If you are anything like me you really then you truly understand that we don't have to be a Masons.....WE GET TO!!!!!!

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you this past year. It was truly an honor and a privilege to be part of such a wonderful organization.

Fraternally,

Randy Gillless, MEGHP



**A “Golden” Opportunity
Through Grand Sessions in 2023**

**Any Companion/Sir Knight Suspended for Non-Payment
Will be Reinstated for only the 2022 Dues
Of His Local Bodies**

Immediately upon being installed into their respective offices, the heads of the Grand York Rite in Arkansas issued Edict No. 1 for the Grand Chapter and Council, and General Order No. 1 in the Grand Commandery:

Every Chapter, Council, and Commandery is directed to waive all the usual reinstatement fees, requiring only the current year’s dues (2022) to reinstate any Companion or Sir Knight who has been suspended for non-payment.

If this applies to you, please consider this one-time opportunity to get back into the York Rite. This opportunity will expire at the end of 2022.

Keep in mind, that under normal circumstances, the Digests require the bodies to collect the back dues owed, and the current year’s dues, if a man has been suspended less than one year. After the first year, the amount required for reinstatement is usually the same, but can be all of the back dues not paid. So, you can see what a great opportunity this is.

Companions, do you know of a brother who is in this situation? Reach out to him today, and make him aware of this chance to “get right” with the York Rite.

See your local Secretary/Recorder for the specifics of this directive.

Most Illustrious Grand Master

William Ronald Frizzell

2022-2023

igm@aryorkrite.org



Looking Forward

Companions,

In my last article, I shared what a treasure we have in our more experienced brothers. Their knowledge and more importantly experiences are a gold mine for a younger brother seeking more light. The flip side is, I hope our “older” brothers will take the initiative, take the time, be available, and share their experiences and knowledge with our younger brothers. As Master Masons we have an obligation to respectfully whisper good council and aid in reformation when a brother has stumbled. We also have an obligation to aid a brother in his search for Masonic light. Our future is dependent on our younger brothers and we have a responsibility to properly educate, instruct, and assist them however we can.

Changing gears, I want to discuss something that is very important to York Rite Masonry in Arkansas, YOUR Grand York Rite Session which will be next March. This session is the most important meeting the York Rite holds. The meeting is a constitutional requirement and without it York Rite Masonry in Arkansas will cease to exist. During the session, YOUR representatives make the important decisions, discuss issues, and shape the future of the Rite. It is also a great opportunity to take part in great fellowship, make new acquaintances, and renew old friendships.

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MIGM - Forward

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The session is not just for Chapter, Council, and Commandery leadership. It is YOURS and for YOU as a York Rite Mason. All York Rite Masons are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Your support is vita, especially to the growth of York Rite in Arkansas. I guarantee you, if you attend, you will be glad you did. Now is a good time to start making plans to attend. To be honest our past sessions have not been well attended and this needs to change. At a minimum YOUR York Rite body has an obligation under our laws to attend the session. YOUR officers in their charge at installation have taken an obligation to attend. I hope YOUR representatives and YOU will join in and make our session next March a huge success.

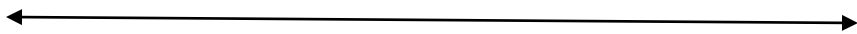
Now a word about the 800 pound gorilla in the room, the cost. The session is not cheap. We have worked with the hotel to get the best deals possible. Even with out best efforts, the session is expensive. For example: the meeting room runs about \$2500 a day; we have to guarantee a certain number of rooms which we pay for if they are not used; we have to guarantee so many plates for each meal; breakfast cost is \$21 a plate plus taxes and hospitality fee; meals are expensive. I can go on and on but I hope this shows you if we are going to have a session it won't be cheap. As I said earlier, this is everyone's session and everyone should be willing to help with the cost. The MEGHP, Grand Commander, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and myself have been discussing options on how to address cost. As of this writing no final decisions have been made but I am sure we will do our best to keep cost down and minimize the impact to the attendees. We need you to do your best and attend.

May the Good Lord bless each and every one of you during this Holiday season and it is my prayer you have a Happy New Year.

Fraternally,
William R. "Ronnie" Frizzell
M.: I.: Grand Master



**NW AR Work
Far West Chapter & Paul Bush Council**



Iris 151 Mark & Past



Winter 2023

AR - 7

Grand York Rite Sessions - 2023

March 9, 10, & 11, 2023

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

Tentative Schedules - Subject to Change

Thursday, March 9:

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Registration & Committee Meetings
2:00 pm Knight Masons - AR, Jack Sharp, & Harvey Mize Councils
3:00 pm AMD - Gilchrist, Carson Scott & F.J. Scully 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 10:

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 12:

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