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Spring 2024

Published Quarterly



Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Harllen Joe Dixon
2024-2025
ghp@aryorkrite.org



Good Work, True Work Square Work

Companions:

I would like to thank all of my companions for allowing me to serve This Great Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry in Arkansas as your Most Excellent Grand High Priest. A special thank you to my wife Jennifer who has helped and supported me in my Masonic travels. We just celebrated our 25th

wedding anniversary.

I would like to thank all of the living Past Grand High Priests who have served our Grand Chapter before me. Several of you have helped me prepare for this year and have offered your continued support and I am extremely grateful.

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Grand High Priest - Work

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Thanks to Michael Lockhart who appointed me to District Deputy Grand High Priest in 2016. I often remind companion Lockhart that he started my 9 year Journey through the Grand Chapter.

I appreciate all of the efforts our companion T J Henwood has done from Nominating, Installing, mentoring and serving as our editor and Treasurer. Please keep T J lifted up in your devotions.

Companions, Whether you are appointed or elected this year, I THANK YOU for your willingness to serve.

I have enjoyed traveling to other chapters across the state. I was fortunate to be able to attend the Triennial of our General Grand Chapter last August. I plan on traveling to ALL 13 of our Chapters across the state this year as your Grand High Priest. I would like to challenge you, to put your best efforts into all of our rituals, from opening to closing and the rituals of the degrees.

This year's theme is

“GOOD WORK , TRUE WORK , SQUARE WORK “

Companions I look forward to serving as your Grand High Priest. I am humbled by your trust and support,

Fraternally,

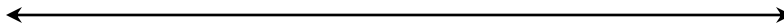
Harllen Joe Dixon
Grand High Priest 2024-25

The Hudson Square and Compasses



The Hudson Square & Compasses is a beautiful set, crafted of solid gold, donated by Companion Hudson to the Grand Chapter of Arkansas. For over 60 years it has been presented to the Chapter having the most

Exaltations in the preceding year; giving that Chapter the privilege of displaying it on their Altar during the succeeding year. This year, the award went to Far West Chapter, No.1.



The Fay Hempstead Award



Named in honor of one of Arkansas' most honored Companions and Masons, Fay Hempstead, one of the three Poet Laureates of freemasonry, the award honors an Arkansas York Rite Mason who has made significant contributions to the York Rite, and Freemasonry. The 2024 award was given to Companion and Sir Knight Dick E. Browning.

**The “Golden” Opportunity Continues
In 2024**

Any Companion/Sir Knight Suspended for Non-Payment

Will be Reinstated for only the 2024 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 (2024) to reinstate any Companion or Sir Knight who has been suspended for non-payment. Further, if you are behind in dues payment (but not officially suspended) you are considered paid in full, simply by paying 2024 dues.

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 the 2024 York Rite year..

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

Sheldon A. Gately

2024-2025

igm@aryorkrite.org



Building on the Past

Companions,

I want to start off by saying how much I appreciate all of you and what an honor it is to serve this year as your Grandmaster for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Arkansas. Let us pray for a good and prosperous year.

We are going to continue with our membership drive that we started in 2022. I would like us to try and get those members that have since been SNPD back and promote your York Rite Masonry within your blue lodges.

The Grand Council will be hosting a statewide festival on August 24, 2024 in the Scottish Rite Temple auditorium. We will be conferring the Super Excellent Master degree in full form. So, definitely talk to those new and current members that have never seen this degree and promote it. Let us try and have a big turnout to support this event.

Our fundraising project is CMMRF. We need to host some fundraising events within your council this year and support this noble and important association.

Let's all Build for the Future.

Sheldon A. Gately
Most Illustrious Grand Master

In Memoriam

Levert “Lee” Stringfellow Past Most Illustrious Grand Master



Oct. 18, 1946 - Feb. 8, 2024

Most Illustrious Stringfellow served as Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Arkansas in 2012.

Grand Council Awards

Several Councils were recognized for their contributions to CMMRA, including: Paul Bush No. 80; English No. 14; and N-Central No. 82.



Occidental No. 1 received the traveling Bible in recognition of the most Greetings in 20203.



General Grand Chapter Bronze Medal

The 2023 recipient of the Bronze Medal. Comp Paul Wilson congratulated by RE Comp. Michael Watts, with lady Anita looking on.



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Honoring Our Ladies



Two of Arkansas' premier Ladies of the York Rite were recognized in 2024 as "Grand Ladies of York". Paula Henwood (above-left) and Louise Ferguson (right) received the award, presented by the General Grand Chapter to ladies of Grand Officers.

Mrs. Vera Liles was recognized with the general Grand Chapter "Sweetheart" Award. Shown with R.E. Michael Watts, Dep. GGHP (left) and Tom Liles (right).



Other Awards

Companion and Sir Knight Randy Gilless received the Knight Templar Cross of Honor.