



Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons
Of Arkansas

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Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Harllen Joe Dixon
2024-2025
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More Work

Companions:

It's been a busy and productive year so far. I appreciate everyone's efforts to keep Chapters open and increase membership.

There was a Chapter Festival June 8th with several candidates at El Dorado. Companions traveled from several places across our great state to make it a success. EL Dorado has four new members and is excited in doing and participating in all the Chapter Degrees.

Continued on page 2

Grand High Priest - Work

Continued from page 1

Please remember and “MARK” your calendar for the “Mark Master” degree (pun intended) and all the other chapter degrees that will be done on July 13th at Union Chapter #2 in Little Rock. Registration will be at 8:00 AM with Degrees starting at 9:00 AM.

If you can, make a donation to our Chapter charity, R A R A. Please get the money to our chairmen, ME Companion Steven Gregory, PGHP.

Companions please continue to support our Chapters across the state.

Thank you companions for all you do, I look forward to future events, including fundraisers and Festivals.

In memory of Companion Ken Lucus, long-time Secretary at Union Chapter. He often quoted the following;

*‘May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand’*

Fraternally,

Harllen Joe Dixon
Grand High Priest 2024-25

In Memoriam

Royce H. Taylor

February 26, 1933 - May 15, 2024



Most Excellent Companion Taylor was a Past Grand High Priest and Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, and Past Grand Commander(H) of Arkansas. He served many years as Grand Secretary/Recorder, and Was Grand Secretary/Recorder Emeritus.

**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



Our Fraternity

Fellow Companions,:

Friendship, Morality and Brotherly love; these are the three main attributes of our fraternity.

Friendship: coming together under one roof and having a common bond, sharing good fellowship together and enjoying each other's company.

Morality: knowing the difference between right and wrong, treating everyone as you would have them treat you, whispering good counsel to a fellow companion when needed.

Brotherly love: being there for another Companion when needed at the lowest moment of their lives, lifting them up, calling them, seeing if they need anything. Your fellow companions and their families are the responsibility of all companions within our councils.

If you haven't seen a companion for a while, call them, stop by and visit with them, see how they are doing, let them know that they are missed and that you care about them. Let them know if they need anything that you will be there for them.

These are the greatest attributes of our fraternity, as we learn in Craft Masonry.

Continued on page 6

MIGM - Fraternity

From page 5

That all of us meet upon the level of equality; meaning no one is any better than any one else. We are the same, We are equal, we are all Master Masons and God is in the center of our lives, and that everything we say and do will be pleasing unto him.

If you know any Companions that have been suspended for non-payment, please reach out to them and find out the reason and is it a problem that you can fix. Encourage them and tell them how much they are needed, wanted and appreciated. It takes all of us to promote and grow a great fraternity, especially our York Rite bodies.

Don't forget our statewide festival on August 24, 2024. Try to encourage as many members as possible to attend. All of the Degrees of Cryptic Masonry will be conferred in the grand auditorium of the Albert Pike Temple! It's going to be a fantastic day!

Most importantly, I want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable summer with your loved ones. God bless you all.

Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Let's all Build for the Future.

Sheldon A. Gately
Most Illustrious Grand Master
2024 - 2025

Eldorado is Alive!

Mike Gathright

On Saturday, June 8, the members of El Dorado Chapter #114 held a chapter festival for the purpose of inducting 5 new members. This may seem ordinary or commonplace but this particular festival was significant for a number of reasons. For many years we, the members of Eldorado 114, have struggled to maintain a presence in Arkansas representing the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas. This has been an issue for all of the Arkansas chapters since Covid and for some even farther back than that. Having served as Excellent High Priest for El Dorado for the past 2 years I approached our Chapter with a challenge and this past weekend we have in part accomplished some of that challenge. We struggled for many years just to open the Chapter and saw many dark meeting nights. When I was elected as High Priest, I made a vow to myself that I would do everything possible to increase our membership and give our Chapter the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of being a Royal Arch Mason. I will say that the struggle has been hard and I could not have accomplished this feat without the help of the Companions of El Dorado 114. These Companions were a source of encouragement and increased my drive to make things happen. We finally approached a number of new Master Masons and explained to them the work and significance of Chapter membership. Along the way there were numerous other members and Grand Line officers that were ready and willing to help us on this journey. We had some setbacks and challenges but with perseverance we were able to get to where we are now. If I were to try to



Royce Taylor Class, L-R: Jorie Moore, Robert Hodge, Kelly Kyseth, Michael Fife, Lauren Rickenbacher.

list all of the names of the encouragers and Companions willing to help I am sure I would leave someone out, so let me just say thank you to all of you that have helped along the way, you have proved what being a Companion is.

Continued on page 8

Eldorado

From page 7

Also, during this time, our Fraternity mourned the loss of one of the great men of the Grand Chapter of Arkansas, Companion Royce Taylor. For me to list the accolades of this man would take several pages. Any of you that knew

Companion Royce knew that he was always ready for a challenge and more that willing to assist in any way. He was a mentor to me even though I didn't see him often enough. I shall forever be indebted to him for his guidance. When I learned of his passing the process of putting this Festival together had already begun. I had been working with our DDGHP Steven Gregory and I discussed with him my thoughts on using this festival to honor and memorialize ME Companion Royce. RW Companion Steve said he would discuss this with current MEGHP Joe Dixon and so it was. We were given the ok to proceed and to conduct the Festival in memory of Companion Royce.

To all of the Grand Line officers and past Grand Line officers in attendance thank you for your guidance and patience. To all who attended, thank you for supporting and encouraging us. A special thanks to RW DDGHP Steve Gregory, words cannot describe the gratitude I have for your encouragement and help through this process. In the times when I was ready to give up you encouraged me to push on. I am forever grateful. MEGHP Companion Joe Dixon summed it up best,



“When each of became Masons we became Brothers, but when we became Royal Arch members, we became Companions. We have elevated that love and bond a step higher.”

My Companions again I say THANK YOU.