



Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons
Of Arkansas

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Most Excellent Grand High Priest

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2022-2023

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Food for Thought

Companions:

I recently went with my lady Jackie to take our mothers out to dinner to celebrate Mother's Day. They both wanted to go to our local Chinese Restaurant. At the end of our meal I received the complimentary fortune cookie and my fortune was very interesting. It said "If you always do

what you have always done, you will always get what you have always gotten". This got me to thinking about both my personal and Masonic lives. Personally, I have always believed in God but felt that there was something missing. I realized what was missing was ME!

I had not been putting forth the effort I needed to make my relationship with God better. That was an easy remedy.

Continued on page 2

Grand High Priest - Thought

Continued from page 1

I then thought about my Masonic life. During the pandemic we have gotten into the habit of just staying home and not having to put much effort into going to lodge or Scottish Rite or York Rite. This has become the new normal. We need to break the cycle and get back out into the world of Masonry again. This was one reason I asked my officers this year to get out into the Blue Lodges and reinvigorate our Brethren and drum us up some business. I think we need to take this one step further. I would like to ask all our Companions to do the same thing. My officers can only visit just so many lodges during a year but all of our Companions working together can get to them all. Let us not settle for what has always been done, let's make a difference together. We cannot just settle for going to our local meetings and having dinner and opening and closing our Chapters and going home. That is only going to get us the same result. I believe our numbers will never truly increase until we, as York Rite Masons, make it happen. Sitting at home or in our own little Chapters will not get it done. So I am asking all or you to join me in getting out in our Blue Lodges and educating our Brothers about the York Rite. I am also asking you to still have your Family nights. The public only gets to see glimpses of Masonry and mostly when we perform a funeral. That is not the time for them to see the only glimpse they may ever get. When the public sees our Fraternity having fun versus such a solemn event they will be more inquisitive and more responsive to joining. So have some fun! Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to come out and have fun too!

The Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters of Arkansas Ronnie Frizzell and the Grand Commander of Knights Templars of Arkansas Charles Ferguson and myself did something that is another example of not doing what has always been done.

Continued on page 3

Grand High Priest - Thought

Continued from page 2

We issued a joint edict/order to reinstate members who had been suspended for non-payment or who had demitted allowing them to rejoin our ranks for their current local dues only. This has so far generated a number of Companions and Sir Knights coming back into the York Rite. If this had not been done we would have again have simply gotten what we had always gotten. Progress does not have to be measured by great numbers. Just a few additional members here and there can and will make a difference.

As we celebrate our Independence on the 4th of July we should reflect on the sacrifices our forefathers, many of whom were Masons, made to form this great Nation. What if they would have done what was always done? Where would we be today if we would continue to get what we had always gotten? They came together and formed a new Nation. They stood up and did not settle for what they had always gotten. They wanted more! We need to get our members to come back and participate by inspiring them in some sort of way. I need your thoughts and wisdom to accomplish this goal. The only bad idea is the one that is not communicated. We as Masons, Companions and Sir Knights should want more. Please continue to be present in your Blue Lodge and your Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies. You can make a difference!!!! Let me know what ideas you have to make US better. Call me, text me, email me, or better yet shake my hand and tell me your ideas. I don't have all the answers. I wish I did. I am very eager to sit down and discuss ways to make OUR York Rite better and I will not settle for what has always been done because I want more than what I have always gotten!!!!!!

Thank you Companions for allowing me to serve you and I look forward to your input....

Fraternally,

Randy Gillless, MEGHP

A “Golden” Opportunity in 2022

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

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Stay Cool - Stay Active

Companions,

My apologies for this article being short, but at the time of my writing it I am a little under the weather with Covid.

That being said, I hope you all are enjoying the summer so far and have been able to stay cool. I hope you are able to take advantage of the good weather and have some fun with your families and other companions. During these busy times, don't forget about your Masonic family. Summer is usually a time when attendance falls off and some Councils find it hard to have enough to open, so please try to make an extra effort to attend your stated meetings.

I hope you all have a fun and safe summer. Take advantage of any opportunity you may have to promote York Rite Masonry. I hope to see you soon.

Fraternally,

William R. "Ronnie" Frizzell

M.: I.: Grand Master

Editor Update: M.I. Companion Frizzell is recovering well from his bout with Covid. TJH

More from The Grand Sessions

The Order of the Secret Vault

After the conclusion of Grand Council business, when the Council had gone to refreshment on Friday afternoon, R.I. Companion Dick Browning was invested with the General Grand Council award known as, "The Order of the Secret Vault."

(The investiture is a public ceremony, so pictures may be shown. Ed.)



The Order was conferred by R.I. Companion John Logan, Regional Deputy Grand Master. Companion Browning joins a select group of AR Companions who have been so honored.



More from The Grand Sessions

The Order of High Priesthood

The Grand Chapter of AR was able to resume a long-standing tradition of conferring the Order of High Priesthood at the 2022 Grand Sessions.



Thirteen sitting or Past High Priests were anointed into the Order, including: Gregory Carman, David Boyer, Angelo Coppola, Michael Fields, Thomas Flowers, Michael Hampton, Darrell Maxwell, Brian Bryant, Lynn Hill, Colin Miller, Michael Minton, Luke Monday, and Wayne Smith.



Officers for the 2022 - 2023 Council year were elected and Installed, including M.E. Companion Michael Lockhart, PGHP as Excellent President.

York Rite Honors Day

The first Saturday of May each year is traditionally reserved for the conferrals of three honorary bodies in Arkansas: The Order of Sword & Trowel, the Knight York Cross of Honor, and the AR Past Commanders Assn.



The Order of Sword and Trowel

On May 7, 2022, eight sitting or Past Thrice Illustrious Masters were greeted into the Arkansas Council of the Order of the Sword & Trowel.

Knight York Cross of Honor

The KYCH is a very selective honorary body; admitting only those who have served as Worship Master, PHP, PTIM and PEC. In 2022, seven such Brothers, Companions, and Sir knights were so honored.



(Editor's note: The Past Commanders Assn. is reported in the July "AR Knightly News".)