

Tarrant County York Rite The Keystone



2020 May Edition - www.tarrant.yorkritetexas.org and <http://64th.org>



Billy Hamilton
President, TCYRA



Ernest Runyon
1st Vice Pres., TCYRA



E. and I. Neal Addy
2nd Vice Pres., TCYRA



Robert Cagley
Treasurer, TCYRA



Hobie Henderson
Secretary, TCYRA

**Welcome to the May 2020 Edition
Tarrant County York Rite Association Newsletter**

News and Upcoming Schedule

Check out the awesome new website <http://Tarrant.yorkritetexas.org>.

Does it ever look sweet? Great job by **Billy Hamilton** and **R. I. Gabriel Jagush**.

Continue to pray for our World, Country, State and counties and all citizens:

Grand Master's Proclamation on page 2 is attached, from Most Worshipful Paul Underwood.

**Blue Lodges may conduct Stated Meetings and limited Called Meetings for Lodge of Sorrow and Installations
Strict Rules are to be enforced.**

Calendar on Page 3

Fort Worth Festival Details Page 4

Grand Master of the Grand Council Proclamation Page 5

Grand Commander General Order Number 2 – Grand Session Teleconference – Page 6

Most Excellent David Baskin has scheduled virtual Rallies on May 2nd, May 16th and May 30th

We are asking the members to register so we can reach out to as many as possible.

May 2nd 10:00 AM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grand-royal-arch-chapter-of-texas-virtual-rally-tickets-103321840406>

May 16th 10:00 AM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grand-royal-arch-chapter-of-texas-virtual-rally-tickets-103322885532>

May 30th 10:00 AM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grand-royal-arch-chapter-of-texas-virtual-rally-tickets-103322897568>

The Grand Lodge of Texas

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Message from the Grand Master

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Grand Master's Proclamation

On April 27, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued new orders to open the State of Texas through the "Open Texas" plan. The Governor's Report to Open Texas can be found at

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>.

This plan is both a road map and guideline as to how various businesses and entities are to re-open. In light of this action, Texas Masonic Lodges are authorized to resume some activities by closely adhering to the following directives:

1. Commencing May 25, 2020, Lodges may hold stated meetings for the primary purpose of election of Lodge officers for the ensuing year. In addition, Lodges can conduct regular business appropriate to a stated meeting.
2. Lodges may not have called meetings until further proclamation from the Grand Master, other than one Lodge of Sorrow, or a called meeting for the purpose of installing officers.
3. No degrees will be conducted until further proclamation from the Grand Master.
4. No meals will be cooked or consumed at stated or called meetings at this time.
5. Strict social distancing rules as established in Governor Abbott's "Open Texas" will be followed, including the following:
 - (a) All Masons MUST keep a six-foot distance from other Masons.
 - (b) Masons are strongly urged, but are not required, to wear face masks;
 - (c) Lodges are encouraged to have hand sanitizer available at numerous places in the Lodge building;
 - (d) To maintain proper social distancing, Masons should not shake hands;
 - (e) Masons are encouraged to only attend their own Lodges, and not to visit other Lodges at this time;
6. Lodges that meet quarterly may hold a stated meeting on or after May 25, 2020, and prior to June 24, 2020, for the purpose of electing Lodge officers and other business appropriate to a stated meeting.
7. Most importantly, all Texas Masons are strongly encouraged NOT to attend Lodge if they have any signs of illness or do not feel comfortable in attending. Masons must self-screen for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 before attending any Lodge meeting. Those individuals considered to be "at-risk", including those who are 65 or older, and especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; weakened immune system or other risk factors are encouraged not to attend Lodge. You are the sole decision-maker as to whether you should attend Lodge. There is nothing more important at this time than the health and well-being of our Texas Masons.

Further Proclamations will be issued when it is deemed both safe and prudent to do so while, at the same time, adhering to the directives of the State of Texas on re-opening.



Paul D. Underwood
Grand Master, 2020



UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS – May, June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 25, Blue Lodge Stated Meetings open. Calendar is tentative. Elections scheduled for June for Lodge, Chapter, Council						
May 3 St James the lesser St Philip Day	May 4	May 5  CINCO DE MAYO	May 6  National NURSES DAY	May 7  <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	May 8  MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY	May 9
May 10 Mothers Day	May 11  bag B'Omer	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15  NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CHIP DAY	May 16 Armed Forces Day. Grand Chapter Virtual Rally
May 17	May 18	May 19  <i>Lailatul Qadr</i>	May 20  National Rescue Dog Day	May 21  Ascension	May 22	May 23  Ramadan Ends
May 24 Nat'l Brother Day	May 25  MEMORIAL DAY	Grand Master's Edict On May 25, Lodges may be open for Stated Meetings, and for called meetings limited to Lodge of Sorrow or Lodge Installations. No meals. <i>Strict Social Distancing Rules Apply.</i>		May 28  Shavuot Starts	May 29  NATIONAL BISCUIT DAY	May 30 Grand Chapter Virtual Rally
May 31  Pentecost	June 1	June 2 Southside and Texas 7:00 pm	June 3 Weatherford Commandery 7:30 PM Tarrant 7:00 PM	June 4 Southside and Worth Commandery 7:00 PM	June 5  <i>National Doughnut Day</i>	June 6 TMRC Pecan Grove 9 am D-Day Anniversary
June 7 Trinity Sunday	June 8 Riverside 7:00 PM Arlington 6:45 PM	June 9	June 10 Goodnight-Loving 7:00 PM	June 11 Feast of Corpus Christi	June 12	June 13
June 14  <i>Flag Day</i>	June 15 NE Tarrant at Estelle Lodge 7pm 7 pm Stephenville 6:45 pm Arlington Commandery	June 16 Denton Commandery 7:00 PM	June 17 York Rite Ridglea 7:30 PM	June 18 Cleburne Commandery 7:00 PM	June 19 Grand Commandery Teleconference June 19 – 7pm Details Page 5	June 20  <i>Summer Solstice</i>
June 21	June 22 Stephenville York Rite 7 pm	June 23	June 24 St John the Baptist Day	June 25  NATIONAL HANDSHAKE DAY Cancelled	June 26	June 27  National Ice Cream Cake Day
June 28	June 29 Feast of St. Peter Day	June 30 TCYRA Assoc Meeting 6:45 PM	Jul 1 Weatherford Commandery+ Tarrant YR	Jul 2 Southside/Worth Commandery 7:00 PM	Jul 3	Jul 4 TMRC Pecan Grove 9 am



TRINITY YORK RITE COLLEGE #154 REGULAR MEETING
TARRANT COUNTY YORK RITE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Tentative meeting Tuesday June 30th at 6:45

**FORT WORTH TEMPLE
 1100 HENDERSON STREET
 FORT WORTH TEXAS**



**President
 Billy Hamilton**



**Pre-Eminent Governor
 Wayne Roberson**

2020 FORT WORTH FESTIVAL DATES AND DETAILS ANNOUNCED at the JANUARY 28 meeting.

FRIDAY – AUGUST 28, 2020 and SATURDAY – AUGUST 29, 2020

2020 Festival Degree teams are as follows:

- MARK MASTERS → Texas Chapter**
- PAST MASTERS → Southside Chapter**
- MOST EXCELLENT MASTERS → Arlington Chapter**
- ROYAL ARCH DEGREE → Ridglea Chapter**
- ROYAL MASTERS DEGREE → Tarrant Council**
- SELECT MASTERS DEGREE → Riverside Council**
- ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER OF THE RED CROSS → Worth Commandery**
- ORDER OF MALTA → Southside Commandery**
- ORDER OF THE TEMPLE → Arlington Commandery**

Grand Council
of
Royal and Select Masters
of
Texas

DON PAUL PAYTON
M. I. GRAND MASTER 2020



April 29, 2020

Dear Companions:

Governor Abbott has announced guidelines to reopen the Great State of Texas. The safety of our Companions and their families is the most important factor for us to consider as we move forward to re-authorize Cryptic Masonry to be practiced in this Grand Jurisdiction. We are all anxious to get back to the quarries and attend assemblies, degrees, and to fellowship with our Companions. However, the seriousness of this situation requires that we move forward in phases for the safety and sanity of our Companions and their families.

Therefore, it is my order that stated assemblies of constituent Councils may resume beginning on May 25, 2020 for the dispatch of business only. Called assemblies may be held only for the annual installation of officers. Councils which have their stated assemblies that fall outside of this time frame may request dispensation to have a called meeting for the purpose of holding officer elections. No other called assemblies may be held and no degrees conferred (including festivals) until July 1, 2020. Degrees may not be conferred at stated assemblies until July 1, 2020. All Thrice Illustrious Masters, Companions, and Councils are required to follow the social distancing guidelines outlined by the Governor of Texas, and local authorities.

Companions are discouraged from visiting Councils in which they are not a member until July 1, 2020. Any Companion who does not feel comfortable attending Cryptic events and functions at this time should not be made to do so, and Companions and Councils should not make an issue out of absences. I do encourage all Companions to reach out to those affected and those not comfortable attending assemblies and practice the noble tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Like you, I am eager to move forward and have experienced frustrations. This situation has been a burden on all of us, emotionally, mentally, and perhaps financially. We will get through this. There is light at the end of the tunnel. A structured approach will get us there. I am going to borrow a line from our Brothers in the Scottish Rite, we will have order out of this chaos.

It is an honor to serve the Companions of Texas. I appreciate all you are doing for your families, your communities, and for Freemasonry. May the Supreme Grand Artificer watch over you all and your families. I look forward to coming together in fellowship again soon.

Fraternally,

Don Paul Payton
Most Illustrious Grand Master
Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas

5985 Old Brock Road, Weatherford, TX 76087
Cell: 817-629-8554, Email: dp.teskeys@gmail.com
Website: www.txyorkrite.org

GRAND CONCLAVE & COVID - 19 UPDATE

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3, SERIES 2019-2020

APRIL 27, 2020

To the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas:

This General Order, like that of General Order No. 2, is an Emergency Order.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and with guidance from the Grand Lodge of Texas and the Grand Encampment of the U.S.A., we have had to make the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Annual Conclave. With the understanding of the guidelines that have been sent us to operate, we cannot meet as we normally do. With an affirmative vote of the Grand Commandery Officers, I have decided that we will meet using teleconferencing. This event will take place on Friday, the 19th of June 2020, at 7:00 pm until we conclude.

Please reserve the date and time if you plan to attend via teleconference. This will require the use of a computer or tablet with the appropriate software, or a phone for audio only access. Details for how to access the teleconference will be sent soon. For the purpose of conducting business, registration will still be required. The registration team is working on those details and will send a notice soon.

The business that we will need to conduct will include:

1. Grand Commander's Report
2. Grand Recorder's Report
3. Grand Treasurer's Report
4. Jurisprudence Report
5. Finance Report and Annual Budget
6. Resolutions
7. Election of Officers
8. Installation of Officers



We are having to do all of this because of the pandemic, but we need to perform these duties. I hope all of you will understand that this has been difficult for all of us, so it is going to require unusual things to happen. The main thing is that we need to conclude the business of the Grand Commandery this year. We have been locked down on our Stated Conclaves and Called Commandery Meetings. I am going to give permission for the Commanderies to do business by the use of teleconferencing only. I know that this will be a hardship for some Commanderies, but the Commanderies still need to pay their bills and take care of business. At this time, we cannot go on with business as usual.

Remember, the 2020 Annual Grand Conclave will be held on June 19th, 2020 at 7:00PM via teleconference. Details to follow.

I pray to God that everyone is staying safe during these trying times.

Thank you for your understanding and patience and God bless you all.

In His Name,

Clarence J. Laney cjvision2020@zoho.com
Grand Commander Knights Templar of Texas

Grand Prelate's Message Easter Message 2020

Let us rejoice as we serve a risen King! We are blessed that Jesus arose so that we could live a purposeful life here on this earth, and have everlasting life in heaven with Him for all eternity. As we celebrate this Easter Sunday, let's remember that the death of Jesus was not in vain, but on the third day, He burst the bands of death, triumphed over the grave, and ascended with transcendent majesty into heaven. Saying "**He is risen**" allows us to share this incredible truth with each other in our asylums.

The resurrection of Christ offers hope for salvation and for our own rebirth and eternal life. Easter is indeed a glorious day and as we celebrate this joyous time with our fellow Sir Knights and family, let's not forget that we celebrate His ultimate sacrifice each and every day by incorporating it in our daily lives. We do this through the power of the Holy Spirit which lives inside each of us. We have the ability to activate this power in three ways:

First, **we believe**. When we allow Jesus Christ to come into our life as our Lord and Savior, we accomplish deliverance, forgiveness and being made complete with God. Resurrection life is available to all, but we receive it by faith. Sincere Knights will examine both the words and the life of Jesus and incorporate this into their lives daily.

Secondly, **we speak**. When we believe the power of resurrection resides within us, we begin to activate it through our words. The power of God is in these faith-filled words is seen through kindness and compassion. This power allows us to speak God's words through our spirit and from our mouth. We are called to find ways of including the positive message of resurrection power in our daily lives. We are blessed to share the Good News to others in our daily lives. Let us spread the word and let it become part of the hearts of everyone we meet.

Finally, **we act**. We do this by applying the actions of Jesus and incorporating God's power to every situation in our lives. Through these actions, we introduce the influence of the resurrection. We embrace a daily recognition of the life of God dwelling inside us through the power of the Holy Spirit. This gives us the privilege to wake up every morning and declare, "The resurrection life of the Holy Spirit is living in me today".

So go forth sir Knights and apply the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus and God's power to every situation in our lives. We are so blessed to know that God always honors the man, woman or child who seek him. Know that when the acceptance becomes real and there is a true belief that Jesus lives, then His resurrection power becomes real in our hearts. When we experience this we will be forever changed, and forever filled with His Holy Spirit. That's the true power of His resurrection.

This message was prepared by
Sir Knight Justin Winch,
Grand Prelate 2019-2020.



Grand Prelate's Message Ascension Message 2020

Lonely, But Never Alone

The remaining 11 disciples went to Galilee following the message Jesus had given them through Mary Magdalene. The message was to meet him on a mountain in Galilee.

When they arrived on the mountain, they found Jesus and worshiped him. They knew He was the Son of God, but some of the apostles still had questions. How could it be possible that this man who they had followed for the past three years stood before them? Some of the disciples still had doubts.

Jesus answered them saying: "All power in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." Jesus empowered the disciples to spread the word. "Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age." He knew his words would give them comfort during times when they felt lonely or discouraged.

The disciples were sent to change the world. They were given the massive task of spreading the word. The Lord said, "Know that I am with you, always." The disciples were not the only ones who felt alone after the Lord left them and Ascended to the Father. The feeling of being deserted, alone in life, are very human and very real. Throughout our lives, from the youngest child to the oldest adult, we will sometimes feel alone in the world. Fears, struggles and anxiety affect us all throughout life.

Jesus also knows what it is like to be alone. Jesus, who felt the hurt and loss of his Father's presence cried out, "My God, My God, Why has thou forsaken me?" He experienced the human feeling of loneliness. Now no one who cries out to Jesus will ever be truly alone. "Lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world." I believe there aren't any more reassuring words of Scripture than those. We are not alone. Jesus is with us. In fact the name he is given in this same Gospel is Emmanuel, God with Us. He will never desert us or leave us alone.

When He ascended into heaven, it was not to leave us. He returned to prepare a place for us. He entered into heaven so we could experience his presence in our hearts and souls and bring his existence to the world. He desires to have us near him, always. This is why we are never alone in spirit.

In this time of the corona pandemic, a time of social distancing, loneliness, isolation and loss, let us remember His words. "Lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world." He is forever present. We are never alone. Call to the Lord our God and he WILL comfort you.

This message was prepared by

Sir Knight Justin Winch,
Grand Prelate 2019-2020.

Worth Commandery Prelate's Message – THE STONE

Worth Commandery No. 19

Easter, April 12, 2020

I'd like to talk about a stone. Not just any stone. This particular stone was ponderous and heavy. It was exceedingly difficult to move. It was put in place as an obstacle to discourage those wishing to pass. It was a barrier to keep loved ones away from the departed. It was a partition between the living and the dead, a symbol of death and despair.

Very early one morning long ago three women approached that stone. They knew well that it was in their path. They knew that it was much too heavy for them to move. They were fearful that they may not be able to pass. And yet driven by utter devotion, love, and affection to He who lay beyond it they set out with the hope of somehow passing it none the less.

"Who shall roll us away the stone from the sepulcher?" they asked as they made their lonely journey.

Upon arrival they were amazed to find that their fears were unfounded. Someone had indeed come and rolled the stone away! The entrance had been prepared for them. The separation between despair and hope was lifted. The partition between the living and the dead was removed forever.

Today we celebrate the glorious conclusion to that hallowed sacrifice which led to the removal of that stone. Because of that sacrifice the veil between man and our Heavenly Father has been lifted forever. Because of that sacrifice man's soul has been released from eternal death and sanctified to enter the glorious Kingdom of Heaven. The stone is rolled away! He is risen! All one has to do is follow Him out of that tomb and live according to His Word.

On this particular day we should each examine ourselves and ask the question, do I have my own stone blocking me from a daily personal walk with Him? Matthew 7:21 tells us, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Perhaps our personal stone is one of doubt or lack of faith. Perhaps it is the stone of pride and the belief that we need no one, but ourselves. Perhaps it is one of greed and the pursuit of earthly desires or ambitions. Perhaps it is simple lethargy and lack of commitment.

"Who shall roll us away the stone?" The stone is rolled away. He is risen! The removal of that stone was accomplished through the release of our Lord from the bonds of death. On this day over two thousand years ago He arose from that tomb and removed all the barriers keeping us from Him except those we place ourselves. All we need do is accept that truth, dedicate our thoughts and actions to Him, and follow Him out of that tomb.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." - (Rev. 22:14)

He is risen.



Sir Knight Neal Addy, Prelate, Worth Commandery #19

Human Interest Story

Margaret Mead



Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said."

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.

- Ira Byock.

Texas Masonic Retirement Center News

With gratitude and quiet celebration, we mark (Thursday, April 23) as the first day with absolutely zero COVID-19 positive tests on the campus of Texas Masonic Retirement Center. One person, although feeling healthy, had tested positive—so far. Learn more at <https://yourtmrc.org/information-updates-regarding-covid-19/>



Updates from Gary Blair, Superintendent, Texas Masonic Retirement Center As of April 23, 2020

New Milestone – No COVID-19 Positive Tests on TMRC Campus Today

Today we reached another milestone as we put additional distance between COVID-19 and our staff and residents. We are grateful to announce that we no longer have any person on our campus with a positive test for COVID-19.

Until today, we continued to closely monitor and support the one resident in the independent living area who, although feeling completely healthy, had continued to test positive. We are happy for this person and cautiously celebrate today.

We also give a virtual hug to every resident, every employee, and every person who has stood with us as we practice strict social distancing, hand washing, disinfecting regimens, and phone or online fellowship. As we've said before, we MUST continue to protect ourselves. We cannot let down our guard with this insidious virus.

Commendation from City of Arlington & Tarrant County Public Health TMRC Named “Model to Follow” for COVID-19 Response April 6, 2020

James Kirkpatrick, Editor

May the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with and bless you.