

Tarrant County York Rite



The Keystone

2020 December 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 December 2020 Edition
Tarrant County York Rite Association Newsletter**

News and Upcoming Schedule

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

Calendar on Page 2

News: Annual Tarrant County York Rite Festival honoring Loyd Addy and Gary Blair's Cornerstone and Cryptic Triangle award is Postponed until 2021.

Grand Masters Jewel Auction – Page 3

President's Message – Page 4

Knights Templar News – Pages 5 and 6

Grand Chapter / Grand Council – Grand Sessions Information in Waco, Dec 11 and 12 – Page 7

News!!!! – TMRC News – Pages 8 and 9

January 14th - 16th, 2021 - Grand Lodge Annual Communication. FYI - Pre-registration is now closed.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS –December 2020 / January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 29	Nov 30 Arlington Royal and Select Masters Degree 7:00 pm	Dec 1 Southside 7:00 pm Texas is dark	Dec 2 Tarrant York Rite is dark.	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5 Tarrant County York Rite Festival Cancelled
Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9 Goodnight-Loving Chapter and Council 7 PM	Dec 10	Dec 11 and Dec 12 Grand Chapter and Grand Council in Waco – Business Only.	
Dec 13	Dec 14 Riverside 7:00 PM Arlington Stated and PM degree 6:45 PM	Dec 15	Dec 16 York Rite Ridglea 7:30 PM	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19
Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25 Christmas Day	Dec 26
Dec 27	Dec 28 Stephenville York Rite 7:00 pm	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31 Last day of 2020	Jan 1 New Years Day 2021	Jan 2 TMRC Pecan Grove Meeting 9 am
Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5 Southside and Texas 7:00 pm	Jan 6 Tarrant Chapter and Council 6:30 pm	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9
Jan 10	Jan 11 Riverside 7:00 PM Arlington Stated and PM degree 6:45 PM	Jan 12	Jan 13 Goodnight-Loving Chapter and Council 7 P3	Jan 14, Jan 15, Jan 16 Grand Lodge of Texas – Waco		
Jan 17	Jan 18 N.E. Tarrant 7:00 PM	Jan 19	Jan 20 York Rite Ridglea 7:30 PM	Jan 21	Jan 22	Jan 23
Jan 24	Jan 25 Stephenville York Rite 7:00 pm	Jan 26 Tarrant County York Rite Association Meeting 6:45 pm	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30
Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2 Southside and Texas 7:00 pm	Feb 3 Tarrant Chapter and Council 6:30 pm	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6 TMRC Pecan Grove Meeting 9 am

Auction for the Grand Master's Fund Founder's Jewel No. 1



Companions,

The auction for the Grand Master's Fund Founder's Jewel No. 1 is now online!
All proceeds from this auction will be donated to the No Mason Left Behind Fund.

The auction will continue until the Grand Assembly session in Waco in December.
The winning bid will be announced by the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

The winning auction will receive Founder's Jewel, No. 1 of 27. The winner will also receive a beautiful and unique lapel pin. The highest bid is currently \$1,250!

Please visit http://www.yorkritetexas.org/council/gmfj_auction2.html for more information, or email us at gmfund@yorkritetexas.org to place a bid.

Message from our President of the TCYRA, Billy Hamilton

Companions,

I hope that each of you had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday, and that you and your loved ones are doing well!

I wish I could impart only positive news, but such are not the times in which we currently live. As many of you have already read through emails and social media, the December 5th York Rite Festival at Arlington has been postponed.

After several messages of concern from local Companions, the elected officers of the Tarrant County York Rite Association came to a consensus and made this recommendation to local leadership.

Due to the current situation and proximity of the date to the Christmas holiday, I have also decided per Article IV, Section A.2 that our December 29th regular meeting will be cancelled.

I hope that all the Companions of the Association understand that these decisions were not made lightly. We are all eager to resume our Masonic labors and get back to the business of welcoming new Companions. My own Chapter and Council has multiple candidates waiting to receive the degrees, one of which is my son. However, we felt it prudent to acknowledge that the COVID-19 virus is currently at its most widespread and dangerous apex to date. We hope that the number of infections will subside soon, and we can revisit and discuss the feasibility of setting a new date for the festival at the annual meeting of the Association on January 26, 2021.

We will eventually move past this pandemic and return to normal operations, but right now we must await the time with patience.

I hope that you will each join me in continuing to offer prayers that the Grand Artificer of the Universe will watch over our fellow Companions, our families, and ourselves, and that He will see fit that this scourge shall pass quickly from our midst. May He comfort the sick and afflicted, and counsel those that have known grief in these times. With His guidance, we will resume our labors in due time, and once again enjoy fellowship with our Companions without restriction as we have in times past. All these things we ask in His name. Amen.

GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Jeffrey N. Nelson, *Most Eminent Grand Master*
3112 Tyler Parkway
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Lawrence Eugene Tucker, *Right Eminent Grand Recorder*
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
Bellaire, Texas 77401

GENERAL ORDER NO. 14

REOPENING TEMPLARY 2021

November 1, 2020

To all Grand Commanderies and Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding Allegiance to, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

GREETINGS:

Your Grand Encampment Officers acted early and decisively to address the COVID 19 pandemic. However, with the passage of time, it is now evident that the pandemic is not subsiding. We have met regularly to reassess the situation and have made the decision to commence the process of reopening our Asylums utilizing virtual meeting technology, implementing phased opening criteria, and adhering to strict safety protocols. Sir Knights, as we begin the process of reopening our Asylums, we face many unique challenges. Most significant of these is the demographic make-up of our membership. "Vulnerable Individuals" is a key concept in the Federal Guidelines and the term is referenced many times when implementing the different phases of the recovery process. The criteria that are used when determining a Vulnerable Individual include:

1. Elderly individuals (age 65 and over); and
2. Individuals with serious, underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

As you are doubtless aware, we have a very significant number of Sir Knights and our Ladies who fall into either or both categories. In the Grand Encampment, the average age of our members is 67.4 years. Many of our Sir Knights and Ladies are considered extremely vulnerable.

Each of our Sir Knights is asked to honestly assess his individual risk factors and make an informed decision about his participation in upcoming Commandery events. There are a number of options that will be implemented as we resume our activities, including social distancing, sanitizing, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocols. We will, at all times, comply with applicable recommendations and requirements from public health authorities. How and under what conditions your Sir Knights participate in our activities will be entirely up to each individual.

Under no circumstances should a Sir Knight feel pressured to participate in any Commandery activity at any level. On the contrary, he is urged to not participate in any activity which he feels may compromise his health OR that of a family member or anyone else with whom he may come into regular contact. If a Sir Knight does not feel comfortable attending a Commandery function, he is requested to stay home with our complete understanding.

We all look forward to getting back together and resuming the practice of Christian Knighthood. The reopening process will no doubt be fraught, and I fully expect that, due to changing conditions in your State or locality, it may be necessary to pause reopening or even to close down again. Thus, we have designed our reopening plans in such a way that, as long as you comply with Federal, State, Masonic, and local protocols, you will be able to proceed as prudence dictates. Honestly assess your risks and vulnerabilities and then make your own determination as to how your Commanderies participate in each phase of the reopening process. A return to "normalcy" may take us into the next Triennium; we will not rush this process, as health and safety must always be paramount in our decisions.

The attached *Reopening Templary 2021 Safety Protocols, Virtual Meeting Guidelines, and Phased-Opening Criteria* are incorporated into, and form an integral part of, this General Order as if fully set forth herein.

This supersedes General Order No. 12 of the fourth day of May, last, in its entirety. The preceding sentence notwithstanding, I authorize the Grand Commander or his designee to convene the Stated and any Special Conclave of his Grand Commandery by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Grand Commandery and the Stated or Special Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 37 through 39 of the Grand Encampment Constitution. If the Conclave is convened in person, facilities shall be available to accommodate remote attendance by teleconference or webcast.

In addition, I do hereby waive the requirement of Section 65 (a) of the Constitution, and authorize the Commander of a Constituent Commandery within each Grand Commandery to convene a Stated or Special Conclave by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Constituent Commandery and the Stated or Special Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 65 and 66 of the Grand Encampment Constitution. Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies enjoy the same discretion.

No ritual shall be performed and no Orders be conferred during any such telephonic or webcast Conclave.

This General Order shall be read at the first Conclave of each Constituent or Subordinate Commandery following its receipt.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America at Bismarck, North Dakota, this first day of November 2020, A.O. 902.



Courteously,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey N. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Grand Master

Attest:

Safety Protocols for General Order 14 is listed at this website.
<https://www.knightstemplar.org/downloads/GO14guidelines.pdf>

**GRAND CHAPTER / GRAND COUNCIL
GRAND SESSIONS INFORMATION**

Most Excellent Grand High Priest David M. Baskin and **Most Illustrious Grand Master Don Paul Payton** would like to let you know that unfortunately due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Grand Sessions will be greatly scaled down and only the required business will be held with social distancing and masks required this year.

The **Grand Convocation** of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas and the **Grand Assembly** of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas will both be held **Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th, 2020**. With Grand Chapter being at **8:00 AM** and Grand Council being at **1:00 PM** each day in the Main Auditorium, Masonic Grand Lodge Memorial Temple, 7156 Columbus Ave., Waco, TX.

There will be none of the usual meetings or gatherings on Thursday and Friday this year, including all of the following: York Rite Colleges of TX, Texas York Rite College No. 14, Texas Priory No. 23, K.Y.C.H., Divine & Memorial Services, Annual York Rite Banquet, Ladies Luncheon, Order of the Silver Trowel and Order of High Priesthood.

Visitors, family and friends will be allowed in on Friday morning for the Grand Oration and for the Installation Ceremonies during both Grand Sessions on Saturday.

Please call the hotels directly for reservations: Sleep Inn & Suites Hewitt, 254-420-3200 (\$95.49+tax) or Ramada Hewitt 254-732-9823 (\$95.00+tax). Mention "Grand Chapter". These hotels are both at the Sun Valley Exit 328, IH-35 South, Hewitt, TX.

Remember to bring your **Current Dues Cards** and your **Proxy Forms**.

Registration Fee of \$10.00 (cash or checks only)

Thursday 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Texas Masonic Retirement Center

Your life. Even better.

The Keystone, your new choice for luxury high-rise living, is now open! NO DEPOSIT required!

One-bedroom and two-bedroom floor plans with designer finishes and sophisticated layouts offer the luxury and comfort of your retirement dreams.

A sparkling fountain flows gently into a meandering stream running the length of the new building and the existing Royal Arch high-rise. Bordered by native gardens and walking paths, the stream wanders through a new roofed patio gathering area.

Spacious balconies offer views of this new park along with sweeping vistas of our surrounding 100 acres of grassland, wildflowers, and a century-old pecan orchard.

You'll enjoy quiet country living or fill your days with countless activities with Masonic friends, knowing we respect your privacy and honor your independence.

From luxury apartments and duplexes to cheerful efficiency spaces, you'll find options to fit your lifestyle and **payment plans to fit your budget.**

You'll also have access to all our activities and services, regardless of your choice of living arrangements.

Admission & Eligibility

We're delighted you're thinking about moving to Texas Masonic Retirement Center!

We offer you the finest accommodations and amenities, with payment options to fit any lifestyle.

We hope you'll take time to check out our **apartments and duplexes**, **nursing care area**, **payment options**, and **photo tour**.

For eligibility information, select the option below that best describes your situation

I am a Texas Mason

I am the widow of a Texas Mason

I am a family member of a Texas Mason

I am an adult child or friend of a Texas Mason

I am a member of the Texas Order of the Eastern Star

Delicious Choice of Chef-inspired Meals

Enjoy delicious dining with a variety of selections for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. These homemade, hot, and healthy meals are served in our bright and sunny dining area in the Historic Main Building. You are always offered the option of lighter fare including soup, salad, and sandwiches. Snacks are provided on request.

Meals are brought to your table by our experienced wait staff. Enjoying meals with others and no worries about cooking or cleaning up are appealing amenities of living at TMRC.



James Kirkpatrick, Editor

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