

Tarrant County York Rite The Keystone



2023 February Edition - www.tarrant.yorkritetexas.org and <http://64th.org>



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E.∴. Hobie Henderson
Secretary, TCYRA

Welcome to the February 2023 Edition
Tarrant County York Rite Association Newsletter

Degrees and Events Schedule

February 6 – Arlington Chapter Mark Master’s Degree – Eat at 6 pm

February 8 – Worth Commandery Red Cross and Malta Orders – at 6 pm

February 8-12 – Masonic Week in Washington DC

February 9-11 – Shriners International Marketing Conference in Grapevine

February 15 – Pecan Grove Chapter Mark Master’s Degree – 6:30 pm

February 18 – York Rite Conference in Corpus Christie – 9 am registration

February 24-25 – San Antonio York Rite School of Instruction, Alzafar Shrine Temple

February 25 – York Rite Conference in McKinney – 8 am registration

February 25 – York Rite Conference in Arlington Lodge – 1 pm registration

February 27 – Arlington Chapter Past Master’s Degreee – Eat at 6 pm

March 1 – Tarrant Council Degrees – Eat at 6 pm, Degrees at 7 pm

March 4 – Lubbock York Rite School of Instruction, Lubbock Masonic Lodge, 8 am

March 11 – Jerusalem Chapter/Council Festival in Anderson Texas – Registration at 8 am

March 17 – Grand Master M.∴. W.∴. G. Clay Smith – Banquet/Official Visit at 6 pm Fort Worth Temple

March 18 – Sweet Home Lodge – Official Visit R.∴. W.∴. Jim Huckabay DDGM 64C – 1:30 pm

March 18 – Grand Master M.∴. W.∴. G. Clay Smith - Conference at 10 am Fort Worth Temple

March 18 – York Rite Conference in Nederland – 8 am registration

March 18 – York Rite Conference in Houston – 1:30 pm registration

March 4 – McKinney York Rite School of Instruction, McKinney Masonic Lodge, 8 am

March 24-25 – Tarrant County York Rite Festival at the Fort Worth Temple – Registration 6 pm Friday

March 27 – 64th MWSA Meeting in Mansfield Lodge. Eat at 6 pm

Grand Lodge elected and local appointed officers –Grand Master **G. Clay Smith** on page 3

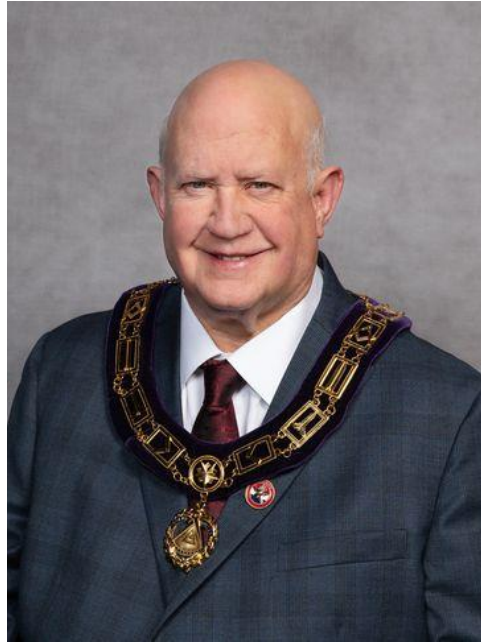
Grand Commander **Ric Jernigan**’s message on pages 5 and 6 and **Chris Livingston**’s oration on pages 7-9

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS – February and March 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Feb 5 | Feb 6 Arlington Chapter Mark Master's Degree | Feb 7 Texas and Southside Chapter and Council Meetings Eat 6 pm Mtg 7 pm | Feb 8 Goodnight-Loving 7 pm | Feb 9 | Feb 10 Grand Prairie Chapter/ Council 7 pm | Feb 11 |
| | | | Feb 8 through Feb 12 Masonic Week in Washington DC (sponsor – Grand Council AMD) | | | |
| | | | Feb 9 through Feb 11 Shriners Membership and Marketing Conference in Grapevine | | | |
| Feb 12 | Feb 13 Arlington Chapter/Council Meal 6pm | Feb 14 | Feb 15 Ridglea Chapter/ Council Eat 6:30 pm | Feb 16 | Feb 17 | Feb 18 Sweet Home Lodge 1:30 pm |
| | | | TMRC Pecan Grove Mark Degree 6:30pm | | | |
| Feb 19 | Feb 20 Arlington and Stephenville Commanderies | Feb 21 7:30 pm Denton Commandery Dinner 6:30 pm | Feb 22 | Feb 23 | Feb 24 | Feb 25 York Rite Conference @ Arlington 1:30 to 4 pm |
| Feb 26 | Feb 27 Stephenville Chapter/Council Eat 6pm mtg 7pm | Feb 28 | Mar 1 Tarrant Royal Council Degrees Eat 6pm | Mar 2 Southside and Worth Commanderies | Mar 3 | Mar 4 TMRC Pecan Grove 9 am |
| | Arlington Past Master's Degree Eat 6pm | | | March 2 through 5 Louisiana Grand Chapter/Council/Commandery | | |
| Mar 5 | Mar 6 | Mar 7 Texas and Southside Chapter and Council Meetings Eat 6 pm Mtg 7 pm | Mar 8 Goodnight-Loving 7 pm | Mar 9 | Mar 10 Grand Prairie Chapter/ Council 7 pm | Mar 11 |
| Mar 12 | Mar 13 Arlington Chapter/Council Meal 6pm | Mar 14 | Mar 15 Ridglea Chapter/ Council Eat 6:30 pm | Mar 16 | Mar 17 | Mar 18 Sweet Home Lodge 1:30pm |
| | | | | | | Grand Master Conference 10 am – 12 Fort Worth Temple |
| Mar 19 | Mar 20 Arlington and Stephenville Commanderies | Mar 21 7:30 pm Denton Commandery Dinner 6:30 pm | Mar 22 | Mar 23 | Mar 24 - Mar 25 Tarrant County Festival Fort Worth | |
| Mar 26 | Mar 27 Stephenville Chapter/Council Eat 6pm mtg 7pm | Mar 28 | Mar 29 | Mar 30 | Mar 31 | Apr 1 TMRC Pecan Grove 9 am |

Grand Master of Masons in Texas

Most Worshipful **G. Clay Smith**



**The newly elected Brethren to serve the Masons of Texas in Grand Lodge
And --- local brethren who were appointed to serve the Masons of Texas in Grand Lodge**

GM: **G. Clay Smith**
DGM: **H. Bart Henderson**
GSW: **Raborn Reader, Jr.**
GJW: **Jim Rumsey**
G Treasurer: **Rick Townsend**
G Secretary: **Justin Duty**
CoW: **Cody Stewart**
Library & Museum: **Paul Underwood**
Home & School: **John Denson**

64th district

DDGM 64-A: **Rex Sallade**, 64-B: **Jon Wych**, 64-C: **Jim Huckabay**, 64-D: **Rick Evans**

DI 64-A: **Rhit Moore**, 64-B: **Wil Pimentel**, 64-C: **Don Webb**, 64-D: **Zachary Haston**, At Large: **Sam Holden**

Other local appointed brethren:

Grand Chaplain: **Clarence Laney**

Grand Marshal: **J.W. Irick**

Grand JD: **Ricky Cox**

Grand SS: **Lewis Eldridge**

Grand JS: **Jeffrey Haven**

Grand Musician: **Michael Cote**

Tarrant County York Rite Festival

Fri March 24 – Sat March 25



Scheduled Degree Teams:

Mark Master – Texas
Past Master – Goodnight Loving
Most Excellent Masters – Southside
Royal Arch – Arlington
Royal Masters – Ridglea
Select Masters – Tarrant

Red Cross – Arlington
Malta – Worth
Order of the Temple - Southside



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of TEXAS



*Knight Templar State News
February 2023*



Commander: SK Richard R Jernigan

Email: ricjernigan@gmail.com

Web site: <http://yorkritetexas.org/commandery>

Greetings Sir Knights, Two and half months until Grand Conclave in Grapevine, Texas! Have you gone online to register? Made your hotel reservation? Everything is filling up fast, get in as soon as you can. We have added some fun things this year. A First Time Attendee's function, a Social Hour with cash bar prior to the banquet and the cash bar will be in the room for your use during the banquet (please watch your alcohol intake). We will have live music during the social hour, and I understand the entertainment at the ladies' luncheon will be amazing. I want to attend it! And to top off the great weekend, we will install a new and much better Grand Commander, Sir Knight Chance Chapman (should tradition prevail).

I have travelled to many parts of this great state during the last 10 months. Everywhere we go I see God's hand. I see it in the men and women I meet, I see it in the trees, lakes and plains I drive past, I see it when a young Rainbow girl bends down to help a younger one, I see it in the work being done by you Sir Knights, and I see it when I simply stop and look around. God is everywhere. His signature is bold and bright, shining His light on everything. I see God using you to make the lives of others that much better. How is God using you? Do you realize just how much God uses you as an example to others? As a way to help others? God works through people to help other people. I am so proud of this fraternity and its members. You are making a difference. You are helping those that cannot help themselves. Because of you, the world is a better place.

As I drift off into the background in the next few months, I will treasure the times I spent with all of you. Because of you, I am a better person than I was last April. Anything we have accomplished this year is all due to you Sir Knights. You inspire, excite, and teach me more than anything we have done for you. God bless you and thank you. You are a bright light in Freemasonry.

Ritual teams, do not forget, opening and/or closing can be part of the ritual competition. Of course, it may not be, and this is all just a ruse.

I understand there are two new class D drill teams; Port Arthur and Fort Bend. That is awesome!

Commanders and Recorders, we desperately need to update the information on our website. We need meeting dates and times, mealtimes, current address, officer list etc. A lot of this comes from MMS, you really need to keep it up to date. If you do not know how to use it, you can be taught. Contact Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Sir Knight John Elkinton or Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Sir Knight Chance Chapman and they will be happy to help.

All new members of your Commandery are required by statute to be Life Sponsors of the Eye Foundation. Be sure to collect it and send it in quickly.

We received many compliments and some questions when we (the Grand Officers) were received at Grand Lodge wearing our new officer collars. For full transparency, each officer purchased the collar themselves and is donating it to the Grand Commandery of Texas. I authorized the wearing of the collars and will soon issue the Grand Commander's decision confirming that. You will see some legislation this year authorizing the wearing of these collars going forward. I trust this clarifies any questions that have come up in regard to these new collars.

When darkness comes and you find yourself alone, what thoughts come to your mind? What did I do today to make a positive difference? You did something and may not have even known about it. Ask God, how can I make a difference tomorrow? Our words, our actions, our overall demeanor all go into defining who we are, whether we are a positive influence or a negative one. It is easy to be negative. It is life changing to be positive. It changes your life and the lives of those around you. Be that positive glowing example of what a Christian Knight can be. Find the good in all things. Be positive, even while questioning a situation. We all want the same thing, to be good men, to live our lives by God's code, to support our families and show others the way to salvation. A Knight Templar is the guidepost for all Freemasonry. Lead the way. Become the 12th Apostle. A Knight Templar does not shirk from harsh duty nor yield to negative influences. He is the foundation of Freemasonry, the rock of stability upon which the entire Masonic Fraternity leans upon for support and guidance. You are the example.

God bless each of you and God bless the Grand Commandery of Texas

Richard R. Jernigan

Grand Commander 2022 – 2023

2022 Grand Oration

Christopher Livingston

Service and Truth.

We are assembled today in the auditorium of this Grand Building that serves as a memorial to our Brethren who answered the call of God and Country to serve and sacrifice for freedom and liberty and the American way of life. We dedicated this building to their sacrifice some 8 years after the date our Brother Franklin Roosevelt declared as a day that would live in infamy. We too often forget that this Building—this Temple—is dedicated to our departed brothers.

This Building is not only a flame burning in remembrance; it is our northern star lighting our way as a repository of knowledge. A guide to Truth. A library and museum comprising artifacts and tomes to light our way down the rough and rugged road of life.

Service and Truth.

I am reminded on this occasion of an apocryphal story about Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson on a camping trip. After dinner and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night, and go to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes wakes and nudges his faithful friend.

"Watson, look up and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" Watson ponders for a minute.

"Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets."

"Astrologically, I observe that Venus is in Aquarius."

"Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three."

"Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant."

"Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

"What does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke: "Watson, you idiot. Someone has stolen our tent!"

Sometimes we get so obsessed with our own lives that we miss the obvious. But I pose a question for Sherlock Holmes. Has our tent been stolen or did the wind just blow it off stakes? What is the Truth? I was speaking with a 50-year Mason the other day, Larry. Larry was raised just after his lodge was chartered. He met the brother that brought him into his lodge over coffee at work. This brother would deliver goods to where Larry was working and they would strike up a conversation and get to know one another. Then one day Larry asked this brother about the Masonic ring he was wearing. One thing led to another and Larry became a Mason. A good Mason. But that was then, this is now.

It's 2023. The largest taxi service in the world is Uber. It doesn't own a single vehicle. The largest hotel service in the world is Airbnb. It doesn't own a single property. The biggest retailer? Amazon which has no storefronts but is estimated to reach \$729 billion in retail ecommerce sales worldwide in 2023. Your average petitioner found out about Masonry on the internet. He didn't meet a brother over coffee. Nobody in lodge knew him before he walked in the door.

It's 2023. Men are wandering in a world that tells them to seek immediate gratification. Take the easy road and think about yourself. They are learning about Freemasonry from podcasts, Facebook, Twitter, and TikTok; social media that didn't exist even fifteen years ago.

Now, if the inquirer went to some good sites—not the illuminati ones—and learned about some philosophy or history of Freemasonry, he might be impressed by our Order and want to join. One of the ideas that has become popular and made its rounds on Midnight Freemasons, the Laudable Pursuit, and Living Stones Magazine (these are real things, my brothers) comes from the 1949 book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* by Professor Joseph Campbell.

1949, incidentally, is the same year we dedicated this Memorial Temple.

Professor Campbell studied myths, ritual, and legends in cultures across the world and came up with this basic formula that he called the hero's journey or monomyth. It's been the basis of several films you've seen such as Star Wars and The Matrix. Some Masons have applied this to our three degrees and especially to this legend of Hiram Abiff. The application can make sense, but I think some of our brethren miss the tent so to speak.

Professor Campbell's hero's journey contained three main parts: (1) A Departure; (2) An Initiation; and (3) A Return. Now, he further breaks this down into seventeen subparts and I'm not going to go into those. It's not my point. I want to talk about the hero, Hiram Abiff. Here's where I think our brethren sometimes get it wrong—they get caught up in the stars.

The managing editor of *Midnight Freemasons* says the Hero's Journey means, "Think of Luke destroying the Death Star or Neo becoming the One. I think this is pretty self-explanatory to those who have gone through the third degree." Two things I want to point out about Hiram Abiff when we think about who our brothers are calling the Masonic Hero here.

First, TikTok has this thing called "Main Character Syndrome." It's a description of narcissistic behavior—the world revolves around you. Hiram Abiff is not Luke Skywalker or Neo. He's not even the main character in the building of King Solomon's Temple. In fact, he's not even the Secondary Character. He's the tertiary character, right. King Solomon, King Hiram of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff—a craftsman. The craftsman is our hero. The humble craftsman, and not either of the powerful monarchs, is our hero. The humble craftsman is the object of emulation in our Masonic journey.

I was an Eagle Scout and one summer I worked at Camp Three Falls for the Summer. Troop 307, the Screaming Eagles! We had an adult volunteer, probably in his early 70s, who managed the woodworking merit badge station. Tall guy. Big. Probably played tight end in college. His son got in a car wreck that Summer and wound up in a coma, but Glen kept coming to volunteer. He led his life by this philosophy: God is first, Others are Second, and I am Third. He's my hero. I see Hiram Abiff in Glen. He's the third chair guy. He gives it all up for the team.

Some of you may remember those bracelets they were selling a couple years ago. "I am Second." Freemasonry's message is "I am Third." We are taught that from the very beginning. The Master charges us on our night of initiation that "There are three great duties which, as a Mason, you are charged to inculcate: to God, your neighbor, and yourself." Our Order gives you the order right up front. From the beginning we are taught God is first, Others are Second, and I am Third. I remember my mentor, David Dibrell, who taught me that the most important thing in Masonry was helping a brother up—mentoring your fellow brother. David would send you these handwritten cards out of the blue or whisper a kind word in your ear when you were feeling down. It's about lifting your brothers up. Especially when they are down or have made a mistake. Not just a mistake in ritual, but mistakes in life because even good brothers make mistakes in life. But Freemasonry is a bond that transcends the bounds of the lodgeroom, the state, and our country. It is a brotherhood for life and we need to remember that and assist our fallen brothers in the most tender manner like it says in Monitor. As it states in the Master Mason Handbook, "Master Masons must always practice Brotherly Love. If your brother should slip, offer your hand to him without judgement or harsh criticism, and remember that if tempted in the same way, you yourself may have fallen." We need to elect more David Dibrells to this Grand Lodge. My brethren, Freemasonry is not about me. I am a Third. So give it up for kids through Shriners and Scottish Rite. Give it up for your brothers. Give it up. And it's not about you and you aren't Luke or Neo. You're supposed to be Hiram. It's about Service.

Second, Hiram Abiff stands for the fact that there are absolute truths in life. The 47th Proposition of Euclid, also known as the Pythagorean Theorem, is one of the nine symbols of the Master Mason's degree. It demonstrates that an absolute truth can be established: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. The square can be proven.

Compare this with our modern, American relativism. Our petitioners are living in a world where everyone's truth is subjective. They are told everyone is entitled to have their own beliefs, and that those beliefs are equally valid. They are told there is no such thing as truth. My truth might be different from your truth because of my experiences. The tolerant person takes the neutral ground. Isn't this what we hear today in society?

What is lost on the advocates of relativism is that they actually take a position. They claim there is no such thing as absolute truth. They say if I tell you two plus two equals five, I'm entitled to that belief. These advocates say pointing out that the correct answer is four is intolerant. Balderdash! In 1856, our Grand Orator, P.W. Gray, speaking in the Baptist Church before the Craft resumed their labors in this Grand body remarked that Freemasonry's "foundation-stone is truth; its strength is the cement of brotherly love and harmony and its beauty, universal benevolence, relief and charity. In the dim obscurity of antiquity, we see the light of these virtues;" ... and although neither "wreck nor vestige of [King Solomon's Temple] can now be found... No such fate has befallen the moral Temple of Freemasonry. Founded on the imperishable principle of truth, it was destined to endure and preserve its proportions unimpaired."

Our hero is a protector of truth. A truth in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the Immortality of the Soul. We hear those absolute truths questioned today in our society, but not in our Freemasonry. Not by our heroes. Not by our Brothers who gave their lives to God and Country in World War II.

We stake our tents in this solid ground—Service and Truth. We stake our tents in this solid ground and dare the world to come.

I've talked about what we did in 74 years ago and what we did 167 years ago. Let's go back a little further. Much time has passed since George Washington served as Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 in Virginia. His spirit continues to look over us and every regular Texas lodge where his portrait hangs. At the first Presidential Inauguration, as George Washington was about to take the oath of office, he paused. Something was amiss. Chancellor Robert Livingston, who was to administer the oath of office agreed. Livingston, who was also the Grand Master of New York, called on the Master of St. John's Lodge to fetch a Bible. The inauguration proceeded in proper form and President Washington after taking the oath, said "so help me God" and kissed the open Bible. Washington and Livingston realized the truth that such a laudable undertaking could not begin without the aid of deity.

Service and Truth.

The years change and accumulate, but the themes of Freemasonry today Washington would know. For we are not this story's author—an author who fills time and eternity with His purpose. And His purpose is achieved in our duty: to God, to our Neighbors, and, then, to ourselves. Never tiring, never yielding, never finishing, we renew that purpose today: to make our Lodges better; to make Grand Lodge better, to make Freemasonry better, to make Texas better; to make America better.

We accomplish that task by remembering our values, remembering our hero. Just like our forefathers, we have to stake ourselves in the firm foundation of the principles of Freemasonry. Our work continues. The story goes on. And the angels still ride in our whirlwind of life, while God directs us through the storm.

Service and Truth my brethren. Ingrain in your daily life that God is first, others are second, and I am third. Search for the Truth in this ever increasingly complex and confusing digital world. Sometimes we have to peek around the canvas of the tent, sometimes we have to set the tent aside to gaze at the stars, but the message is always the same—be Hiram!



Texas Masonic Retirement Community

Of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas

Thank you to Southside Polytechnic Chapter #378/Council #315 for your generous donation to the No Mason Left Behind Project!

Most Excellent High Priest **Chris Overby** (rt) recently accepted a recognition award from **Gary Blair**, Superintendent, [Texas Masonic Retirement Community](https://yourtmrc.org). Learn more about this vital project to help older Masons and their loved ones at <https://yourtmrc.org/donate/>



Spring weather in January? Makes you think about getting out and moving about--or moving out to a better lifestyle! Check out monthly all-inclusive rates today at the [Texas Masonic Retirement Community of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas](https://yourtmrc.org)

NO DEPOSIT! See rates at <http://yourtmrc.org>



Living Arrangements & Payment Options For Your Lifestyle Luxury High-Rise, Cottage Duplexes, or Cozy Apartments

We're delighted you're thinking about moving to Texas Masonic Retirement Community! You'll enjoy the finest accommodations with pricing and payment options to fit your lifestyle.

Please review our [eligibility requirements](#) to learn about qualifying to live at the Texas Masonic Retirement Community of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas To schedule a tour, contact us at **817-275-2893** or send an email to info@YourTMRC.org.



Shriners International Education Foundation presents:

3rd Annual MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING Conference

| February 9 – 11 | Grapevine, Texas



Don't Miss the 2023 Membership & Marketing Conference!

Ready to saddle up for some idea sharing, education and good ole' fellowship in Grapevine Texas? Open to all Nobles and all Masonic Bodies.

ENROLL NOW! >

Shriners International (Headquarters in Tampa, Florida) are hosting a Membership and Marketing Conference on Feb. 9-11, in **Grapevine, Texas**. This event can be beneficial to all members of Masonic and Ladies' organizations and covers topics related to membership recruitment and retention as well as marketing, communications, branding and public relations. The conference is centered around fun, fellowship and education with an optional excursion to Billy Bob's (including a private bull-riding show), located in the Stockyards in Fort Worth.

Here is link to more information: <https://www.shrinersinternational.org/en/news-and-events/events/2023/membership-and-marketing-conf-2023>

Here is the tentative schedule of events: [https://shrinersdigital.merlinone.net/soda/GetObject?ikey=737F1A2F3B5B64EB0625E588B2FBC98388692DAC301DA6FA28F4D5D59C86D598&user=aseaman&mode=inline¬e=MX+drag+and+drop&target=MM Conference Schedule 2023.PDF](https://shrinersdigital.merlinone.net/soda/GetObject?ikey=737F1A2F3B5B64EB0625E588B2FBC98388692DAC301DA6FA28F4D5D59C86D598&user=aseaman&mode=inline¬e=MX+drag+and+drop&target=MM+Conference+Schedule+2023.PDF)

Link to enroll: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-membership-marketing-conference-and-virtual-series-tickets-425845775177>

James Kirkpatrick, Editor

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