

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF TEXAS

# THROUGH THE VEILS



WELCOME TO "THROUGH THE VEILS" MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas takes pride in introducing this new format of editorial publication! We hope this supplement will provide interesting features while being used as monthly communications from your Most Excellent Grand High Priest and his officers. In the coming editions, you can expect content on state-wide fundraisers, TMRC updates, events, and programs to be highlighted for easy access to all of the Companions and all of our constituent Chapters. As the title suggests, this will promote all aspects of York Rite Masonry, but more especially the Grand Royal Arch Chapter. We hope you enjoy!

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## CONTACT / SUBMISSIONS

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 Editor  
 817-219-2916  
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# MOST EXCELLENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Companions,

As we look towards a new year, it is a time for reflection and appreciation of the unity and fellowship that defines our beloved York Rite. This first edition of our newsletter is dedicated to celebrating these core values that bind us together, strengthen our bonds, and enhance our collective journey as Masons.

*Unity.* Unity is the cornerstone of our Masonic journey. The York Rite teaches us that, regardless of our individual backgrounds, beliefs, or experiences, we come together under the common banner of brotherhood. Our shared commitment to the principles of charity, integrity, and truth creates a strong foundation upon which we build our relationships. As we gather in our Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies, let us remember the words of our forebears: "In union, there is strength." It is through our collaborative efforts that we can achieve great things, from charitable endeavors to community service initiatives. By standing together, we can overcome challenges and create a lasting impact on our communities.

*Fellowship.* Fellowship is the lifeblood of the York Rite experience. Our bonds of friendship are forged in the meetings we attend, the rituals we perform, and the events we share. It is in these moments of camaraderie that we find support, encouragement, and joy. As we conclude the holiday season, we encourage all members to participate in local activities that foster fellowship. Whether it's a community service project, a social gathering, or a special event, let us come together to celebrate our shared values and strengthen our connections.

Life often feels like a vast ocean, with its unpredictable waves and shifting tides. At times, we find ourselves in the same boat, navigating challenges that test our resilience and determination. In these moments, it's crucial to remember that we are not alone. Each of us holds an oar, and together we can steer through the stormy seas. When we pick up the oar, we commit to the shared journey ahead. It's a reminder that our individual efforts are vital; every stroke counts. With every push against the water, we not only propel ourselves forward but also support those beside us. Teamwork becomes our lifeline, as we synchronize our movements, drawing strength from one another.

As we move forward into the new year, we encourage each of you to reach out to a fellow companion or brother you haven't connected with in a while. Whether it's a phone call, a coffee, or an invitation to a meeting, your outreach can rekindle the spirit of unity and strengthen our fellowship.

In closing, let us carry the torch of unity and fellowship brightly in our hearts and actions. As we continue our journey together. Let us remember the power of our bonds and the impact we can have as a united body of brothers. Thank you for your dedication to our principles and for your commitment to each other. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant York Rite.

Fraternally,



# 2025 GRAND OFFICERS



**Right Excellent**  
Deputy Grand High Priest  
Larry Tucker



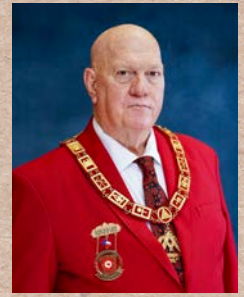
**Right Excellent**  
Grand King  
Bob Brunk



**Right Excellent**  
Grand Scribe  
Ric Jernigan



**Right Excellent**  
Grand Treasurer  
John Hughes



**Right Excellent**  
Grand Secretary  
Jackie Matthews



**Excellent**  
Grand Chaplain  
Brian Dodson



**Excellent**  
Grand Orator  
Chance Chapman



**Excellent**  
Grand Marshal  
Jim Rumsey



**Excellent Grand**  
Captain of the Host  
Hunter Schappaugh



**Excellent Grand**  
Principal Sojourner  
Justin Winch



**Excellent Grand**  
Royal Arch Captain  
Joe Jones



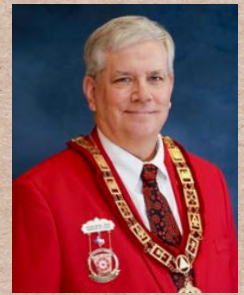
**Excellent Grand**  
Master of the 3rd Veil  
Moe Rahmeh



**Excellent Grand**  
Master of the 2nd Veil  
Justin Sanders



**Excellent Grand**  
Master of the 1st Veil  
Jay Hollowell II



**Excellent Grand**  
Senior Steward  
Michael Cote, Sr.



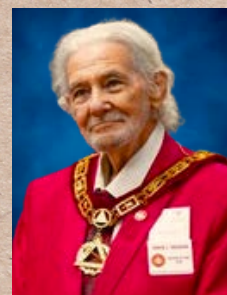
**Excellent Grand**  
Junior Steward  
Ricky Cox



**Excellent**  
Grand Organist  
Michael Cote II



**Excellent**  
Grand Photographer  
Joe Perrin



**Excellent**  
Grand Guard  
Davis Vaughn

# 2025 DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS



**District 1** R. E.: Larry Tidwell

**District 2** R. E.: Rex Worl

**District 3** R. E.: Ken Shifflett

**District 4** R. E.: Andy Hatcher

**District 5** R. E.: Michael Hepner

**District 6** R. E.: Everett Hinote

**District 7** R. E.: John Crosbie

**District 8** R. E.: Chad Gilmore

**District 9** R. E.: Miles Sheerin

**District 10** R. E.: David Griffin

**District 11** R. E.: Randall Rodgers

**District 12** R. E.: Brian Arnett

**District 13** R. E.: Jonathan Felger

**District 14** R. E.: Charles Kee

**District 15** R. E.: Anthony Mata

**District 16** R. E.: Carl Lunquist

**District 17** R. E.: Manuel Dominguez

**District 18** R. E.: Joe Long

**District 19** R. E.: Gabe Jagush

**District 20** R. E.: Jon Wych

**District 21** R. E.: Michael Daniel

**District 22** R. E.: Daniel Slaughter

**District 23** R. E.: James Beale

**District 24** R. E.: William Brewer

**District 25** R. E.: Eduardo Esquivel

**District 26** R. E.: Wes Robinson

**District 27** R. E.: Jeff Goolsby



# FROM THE GRAND ORATOR'S SCROLL

The word "*companion*" is derived from the French word "compagnon" which meant "one who shares bread with another." This word was derived from the Latin words of "com" meaning together and "panis" meaning bread. We, as Companions of the Royal Arch, are charged by the title we all carry as Royal Arch Masons to strengthen our fraternal bonds together. If we go "back to the basics" in this sense and have meals together, both within and without our Chapter meeting locations, we will surely exemplify the teachings of our beloved Capitular Masonry. I encourage every Royal Arch Mason to find ways to strengthen our fraternity.

## GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S FUND

For 2025, the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas will commission a "Grand High Priest's Fund" Jewel to the first 250 donors to the No Mason Left Behind Project. Capitular Masons in Texas and elsewhere can support this effort by purchasing a commemorative jewel which some may recognize as a twin to a previous Cryptic fundraiser. The price per jewel



in a beautiful red presentation case is **\$150.00** (plus an online fee and shipping) and benefits the *No Mason Left Behind* Project which can be purchased [online](#) and shipped to you! This project helps subsidize the living expenses of older Texas Masons and other residents at the Texas Masonic Retirement Community if they can otherwise not afford it. *No Mason Left Behind* makes a powerful difference in life for many of our Companions!

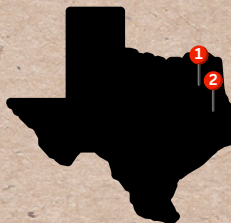
## DISTRICT BREAKDOWN

### DISTRICT 1

- Marshall
- Carthage
- Longview
- Henderson

### DISTRICT 2

- Palestine
- Cherokee
- Tyler
- Lufkin



## ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH



Source:  
Kirkcudbright History Society  
United Kingdom

### MAKING MARKS

As taught from the Mark Master Degree, the first in the Capitular Rite, ancient stonemasons would identify the stones they cut and squared with a unique marking in order to prove their craftsmanship and to acquire their payment. These were often called a "Banker's Mark." Historically, however, most stones would have multiple marks other than just the craftsman's personal identifying one.

Three notable markings are frequently seen on medieval stones, like the one seen here from Lauriston Castle in Edinburg, Scotland, built in the 16th Century. Alongside the Banker's Mark, Assembly Marks were Roman numerals chiseled into the stones to ensure their installation order was numerically accounted for and correct. In the above image, we can see this stone was the thirteenth within its' sequence. Lastly, "Quarry Marks" often identified the quarry the stone yielded from, the stones' composition, and sometimes were used to rate the stone quality. As seen in the example, "FT" likely are the initials of the quarry that it came from.

# UPCOMING CONVIVIUMS

REGIONAL WEEKENDS FOR UNITED FELLOWSHIP & QUARRY WORK!

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

## YORK RITE CONVIVIUM

**BEAUMONT, TEX**

January 3 & 4, 2025  
**"THE KICKOFF"**

Come join us for a two-day Convivium which will include a catered dinner and drinks at the Beaumont Shrine Building Friday, January 3rd! A night of fellowship and fun will take place with a York Rite Festival at Port Neches Chapter and Council occurring the next day on Saturday, January 4 just 25 minutes southwest. For further inquiries, please contact the event coordinator, [Aaron Girouard](mailto:Aaron.Girouard@yorkritetexas.org) at (409) 460-0005.



### JANUARY 3 - 4

Friday Night, we will assemble at the Beaumont Shrine Building for a 6pm social and a meal following. On Saturday, we will assist in a festival hosted by Port Neches Chapter and Council.. Registration for the festival will open at 7am with the degrees following.

### MARCH 28 - 29

Friday Night, the 28th, we will assemble at Hotel Turkey for fellowship in the most western town in Texas! On Saturday, the 29th, we will assist in a festival hosted by Floydada Chapter and Council. Registration for the festival will open at 8am with the degrees following at 9am.

WEST TEXAS

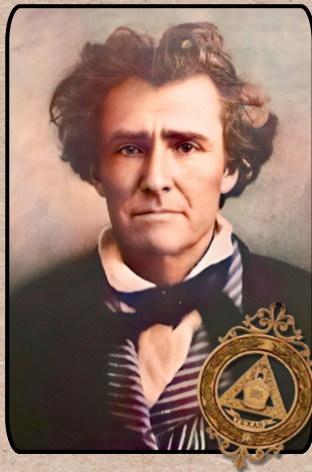
## YORK RITE CONVIVIUM

**TURKEY, TEX**

March 28 & 29, 2025  
**"THE ROUND-UP"**

Come join us for a two-day Convivium in quite possibly the most "Texas Town" - Turkey, TX! Headquartered at Hotel Turkey, we will celebrate in the home region of our Grand High Priest with an evening of Companionship together, with likely some "Bob Wills Music." The following day (March 29), we will join the quarry work of Floydada Chapter and Council at their lodge 45 minutes southwest, with registration opening at 8am. For further inquiries, please contact the event coordinator, [Chris Bates](mailto:Chris.Bates@yorkritetexas.org) at (806) 300-2870.





## PRESERVING OUR PASTS

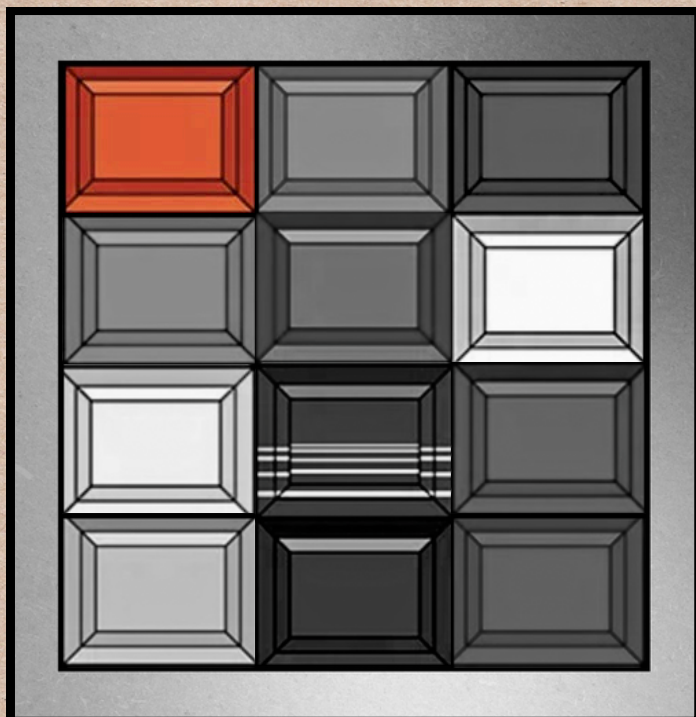
V.: E.: BARRY GILLESPIE, PGHP

Barry Gillespie (1802-1851) served as the **first** Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the **Republic of Texas** from 1841 to 1843. He became a Freemason in Lafayette Lodge No. 60 in Tennessee and later joined Matagorda Lodge. He served as the Most Excellent High Priest of Lone Star Chapter No. 3 in Austin, TX before the convention that formally established the Grand Chapter of the Republic of Texas. He later served as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Texas Masons in 1845. The photo seen here has been colorized to show what life might have looked like. He rests in Brenham, TX at [Prairie Lea Cemetery](#).

# EXPLORING EXODUS

## IDENTIFYING THE TWELVE STONES

In the Book of Exodus, we are introduced to Aaron's Breastplate, which is also known as the Breastplate of Judgement. Aaron wore this breastplate which had twelve stones on it representing the twelve tribes of Israel. It was meant to remind him of his obligations not only to God, but also to the people. This breastplate is the symbol used for Past High Priests, and it bears 12 precious stones that are not explained esoterically. Nearly every translation lists different stones, some of which have since been renamed. The **Masonic Heirloom Bible** will be the version used for the next 12 months!



### SARDIUS

Sardius, the first stone of the first row, comes from the Greek word *Sardios* meaning "stone." It is a precious stone that anciently was confused as a ruby due the similar color in raw form. In gemology, it is modernly called "Carnelian." When polished, it displays a translucent and fine-grained variety.

# ROYAL ARCH MEETING TIMES

- AS REPORTED TO THE EDITOR -



CHAPTER	CITY	TIME	CHAPTER	CITY	TIME
Alpha	Del Rio	3rd Thursday @ 7pm	Lone Star	Austin	2nd Tuesday @ 7pm
Amarillo	Amarillo	2nd Friday @ 6pm	Longview	Longview	1st Monday @ 7pm (odd)
Arlington	Arlington	2nd Monday @ 6:45pm	Love Field	Dallas	2nd Wednesday @ 7pm
Beaumont	Beaumont	2nd Tuesday @ 7pm	Lubbock	Lubbock	4th Thursday @ 7pm (even)
Beeville	Kenedy	1st Monday @ 7:30pm (odd)	Lufkin	Lufkin	2nd Tuesday @ 7pm
Big Country	Abilene	4th Thursday @ 6:30pm	Mabank	Mabank	4th Monday @ 7:30pm (odd)
Blue Bonnet	San Antonio	3rd Thursday @ 7pm	Marshall	Marshall	2nd Monday @ 7pm
Borger	Borger	3rd Monday @ 7:30pm (odd)	Midlothian	Midlothian	1st Monday @ 7pm
Brenham	Chappel Hill	3rd Thursday @ 7pm	Mt. Horeb	Mahomet	4th Saturday @ 3pm
Brownsville	Brownsville	2nd Thursday @ 7pm	North Houston	Houston	2nd Wednesday @ 7pm
C.O. Jones	Leander	2nd Thursday @ 7pm	Park Place	Houston	3rd Friday @ 7:30pm
Carthage	Carthage	4th Thursday @ 7pm	Port Lavaca	Port Lavaca	3rd Monday @ 7:30pm
Cherokee	Troup	3rd Monday @ 7pm	Port Neches	Port Neches	4th Monday @ 7pm
Cleburne	Rio Vista	4th Thursday @ 7pm	Quanah	Quanah	4th Monday @ 7:30pm
Columbia	West Columbia	1st Thursday @ 6:30pm	R.C. Buckner	Addison	1st Friday @ 7pm (odd)
Cooper	Jourdanton	2nd Tuesday @ 7pm	Richmond	Richmond	2nd Thursday @ 7:30pm (even)
Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi	2nd Wednesday @ 7pm	Rio Vista	Dayton	3rd Thursday @ 7pm (even)
Corsicana	Corsicana	2nd Monday @ 7:30pm (odd)	San Angelo	San Angelo	4th Tuesday @ 7:30pm
Pender-Laney	Denton	2nd Tuesday @ 7pm	San Antonio	San Antonio	1st Monday @ 7pm (even)
Dale E. Miller-Terrell	Kaufman	2nd Tuesday @ 7pm (odd)	San Felipe de Austin	Texas City	3rd Wednesday @ 7pm (odd)
Dallas	Dallas	1st Monday @ 7pm	San Jacinto	Huntsville	3rd Thursday @ 7pm (odd)
El Paso	El Paso	3rd Wednesday @ 7pm (odd)	San Marcos	Smithville	4th Tuesday @ 7:30pm
Ennis	Ennis	4th Thursday @ 7pm	Seagoville	Seagoville	1st Wednesday @ 7:30pm (odd)
Florence	Florence	1st Saturday @ 4pm (Full Moon or After)	Seguin	Seguin	4th Monday @ 7:30pm
Floydada	Floydada	5th Saturday @ 10am	Sherman	Sherman	4th Thursday @ 7pm (odd)
Garland	Garland	2nd Thursday @ 7pm	Southeast Texas	Kirbyville	3rd Thursday @ 7:30pm
George Washington	Richardson	1st Monday @ 7pm (odd)	Southside	Fort Worth	1st Tuesday @ 7pm (even)
Goodnight-Loving	Weatherford	3rd Monday @ 7pm (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.)	Stephenville	Stephenville	4th Monday @ 7pm
Goose Creek	Baytown	2nd Thursday @ 7:30pm	Sulphur Springs	Sulphur Springs	1st Monday @ 6:30pm (odd)
Grand Prairie	Grand Prairie	2nd Friday @ 7pm	Tarrant	Richland Hills	1st Wednesday @ 7pm
Greenville	Greenville	3rd Monday @ 6:30pm (odd)	Teague	Teague	4th Thursday @ 7pm
Haggai	McKinney	4th Tuesday @ 7:30 pm (odd)	Temple	Temple	2nd Tuesday @ 7:15pm
Helotes	Helotes	2nd Wednesday @ 7pm	Texas	Fort Worth	1st Tuesday @ 7pm
Henderson	Henderson	2nd Thursday @ 7pm (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.)	TMRC Pecan Grove	Arlington	First Saturday @ 9am
Hidalgo	Edinburg	1st Monday @ 7pm	Tyler	Tyler	4th Thursday @ 7pm
Hillsboro	Hillsboro	2nd Monday @ 7pm (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.)	W. T. Austin	Bryan	1st Tuesday @ 7pm (even)
Jerusalem	Anderson	1st Wednesday @ 7pm	Waco	Waco	2nd Wednesday @ 7pm (odd)
Kerrville	Kerrville	1st Monday @ 7pm	Washington	Houston	2nd Monday @ 7pm (odd)
Keystone	Midland	4th Monday @ 7:30pm	Wes Irvine	Conroe	4th Friday @ 7pm (odd)
Laredo	Laredo	1st Monday @ 7:30pm	Wichita Falls	Wichita Falls	4th Monday @ 7:30pm (odd)
Llano	Llano	3rd Monday @ 7pm (Feb, May, Aug, Nov)	Will N. Kidd	Houston	1st Wednesday @ 7pm
Lloyd L. Gibson	Houston	3rd Tuesday @ 7:30pm (even)	Zerubbabel	Normangee	2nd Wednesday 7pm



## THE TEXAS SHEKEL



These custom brazen shekels bear the seal of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, with an ornate keystone on the reverse. Within the keystone is a flatten surface suitable for engraving. Whether for a coin collector, a new Mark Master, or simply a gift to a Companion, these shekels hold important symbolism and Biblical references suitable for any Capitular Mason!

The price per shekel is \$5.00 and is an excellent way for Mark Master Masons to cherish their mark and take pride in their Grand Royal Arch Chapter! To date, we have sold nearly 400 which has forced a re-order thanks to your generous support. **Online purchases are coming soon!**

## COUNTERPART CORNER



**Congratulations to Most Illustrious Russell C. Brown on his election and installation as the 120th Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas since rehabilitation!**

## COMMITTEE COLUMN

- GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEES -



### BYLAWS

This committee examines, considers, and reports conclusions on the proper form and legality on all By-Laws and Amendments of subordinate chapters. This allows the Grand Royal Arch Chapter to make certain all constituent chapters are within legal compliance when determining their own governing rules. This termed committee has five seats with one that rolls off every year. The current Chairman is Companion Chris Bates.



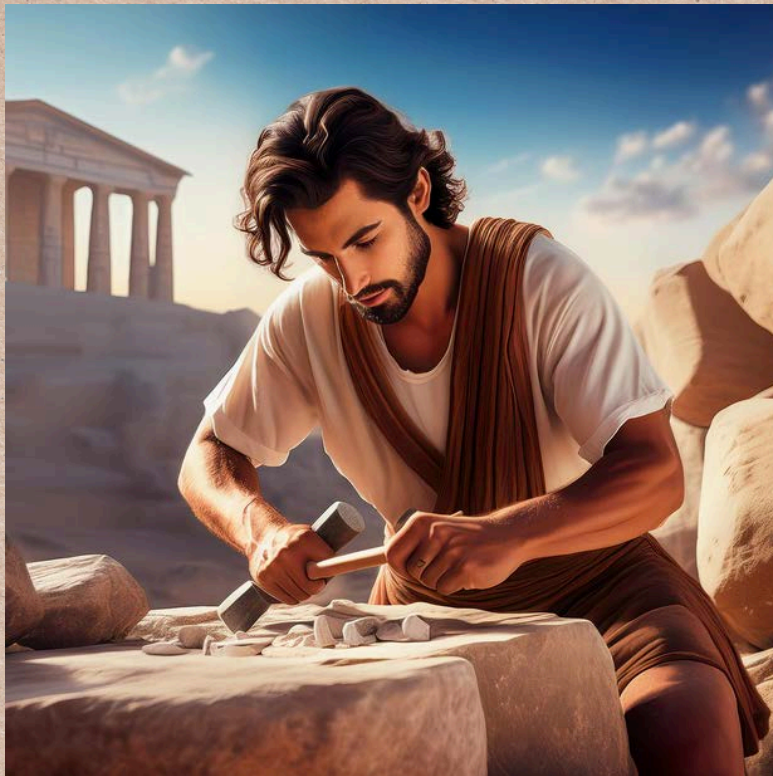
### CREDENTIALS

This committee receives and examines the credentials of any Companion who wishes to attend the Grand Annual Convocation. Additionally, they are tasked to maintain an accurate listing of all current and past Grand Officers, Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions, also with the proper chapter name and number. Furthermore, they require each proxy from a chapter to have a written commission certifying his election as such by said chapter in order to represent their ballots at the Grand Annual Convocation. Lastly, they must present a partial report at the earliest convenience of the opening of every Grand Session to confirm quorum and announce the amount of votes present. This committee is not a termed committee and is selected fully every year by the Grand High Priest. It has five seats. The current Chairman is Nelson Dunn.

“IF WE HAVE NO PEACE, IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WE BELONG TOGETHER ”

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA -

# AN EYE ON AI



With the rising cultural influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), this artistic digital image was generated after entering certain keywords in order to form a visualization of our ancient craft. The words used were:

- Ancient Time**
- Young Man**
- Stonemason**
- Rock Quarry**
- Israel**
- Wooden Mallet**
- Iron Chisel**
- Temple in Background**
- Desert**
- Garments**

The generated AI caption of the photo reads, "A young stonemason in ancient Israel skillfully utilizes a mallet and chisel to intricately carve stone within a quarry, playing a significant role in the construction of a magnificent temple located in the arid desert landscape."

## GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER'S PORTFOLIO



[Texas Grand Chapter Photo Gallery](#)



# TEXAS MASONIC RETIREMENT COMMUNITY UPDATES!



## Stop By Booth at Grand Lodge Texas Masonic Retirement Community

Check out luxury high-rise apartments, cottage duplexes, and cozy units at Texas Masonic Retirement Community to fit every lifestyle and budget. Drop by our booth at Grand Lodge for brochures or to ask questions. Or, visit [YourTMRC.org](http://YourTMRC.org) for prices, amenities, eligibility, and more. We welcome your call to (817) 275-2893 to schedule a visit and tour today!

## UPCOMING GHP TRAVELS



### JANUARY

3 // Southeast Texas Convivium (Beaumont, TX)

4 // Port Neches Festival (Port Neches, TX)

16-17-18 // Grand Annual Communication (Waco, TX)

21 // Texas Chapter Mark Master Degree (Fort Worth, TX)



### FEBRUARY

5 // Official Visit to Tarrant Chapter w/ Degrees (Richland Hills, TX)

21-22 // Annual Central & South Texas York Rite Festival (San Antonio, TX)



## EDITOR'S NOTE

COMPANION MICHAEL COTE II  
ASSISTANT STATE COORDINATOR & E.: GRAND ORGANIST

Companions,

It is a great honor to have been selected to bring you a monthly communications platform! I hope this publication will serve each of you and your Chapters with clear, interesting, fun, and accurate information to boost transparent communication. This multi-page publication will be digital and remain colorful, full of fun information, produce high-quality images, and may be used within your stated meetings as monthly communications, while also suitable for printing and emailing. I want to thank Most Excellent Payton for his confidence, and I look forward to serving in various roles this year.

You will find my contact information on Page 1, and I urge you to please reach out for feedback, guest content, updates, shoutouts, and comments! I would love to hear from you. *This newsletter is for you!*

