



The Kentucky Keystone

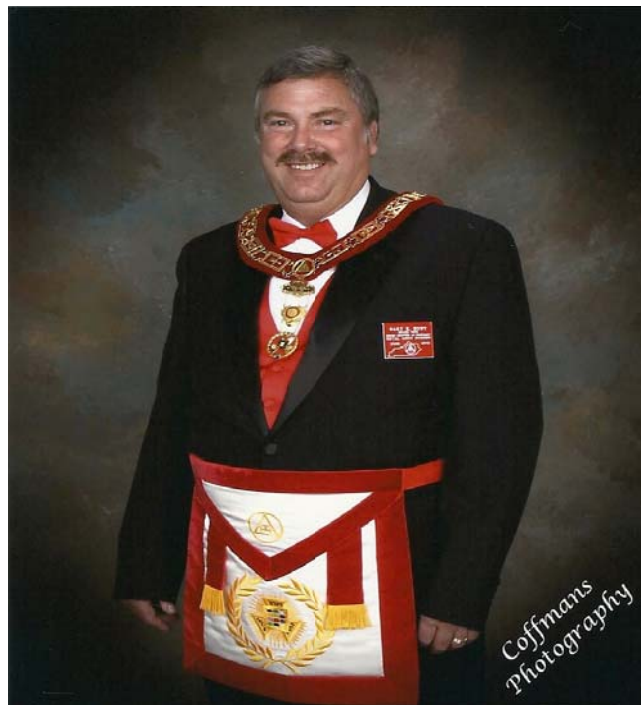


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ME Companion Gary Hunt Grand High Priest Message

Companions,

As spring is just around the corner, we welcome the beginning of a new season of growth. This growth is not only just in nature, but in our York Rite Bodies. In light of this, I am proud to report the success of the two one day festivals held on February 26, 2011.

Two of our Bodies stepped forward and with assistance from Sir Knights/Companions from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Somerset Commandery welcomed 43 new Companions and Sir Knights, with 17 of them being members of the local Somerset Bodies, this combined with Louisville DeMolay having 21 making a total of 64 Companions and Sir Knights on this one day.

This great success has been the result of many months by members from across the state; I wish to thank the Sir Knights and Companions of Somerset York Rite Bodies for their renewed interest and hard work which has led to the success of their festival. Sir Knight/Companion Michael Grigsby has dedicated many hours in coordination of this festival, being the first one in Somerset in recent memory, and I wish to recognize his dedication to rebuild membership there at Somerset. Also SK/Companions John Huff, Dee Coates, Steve Bray, Richard Lovitt, Bruce New and Jim Brock are to be recognized as contributing to the success of this festival.

I would like to extend my thanks as well to Sir Knight Randall Partin, Division Commander Division No. VIII, along with Sir Knight George Brooks, Deputy Grand Commander; and from Ryan Commandery, Sir Knight James King, P.G.C., current Grand King of Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons as well as Companion Tim Owens, Deputy Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters and Companion Jimmy Jones, Grand Principle Conductor of the Work of Royal and Select Masters, Companion Wendell R. Curtis, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Chapter R.A.M. made this a tremendous success. It is impossible for me to mention everyone that contributed to the work that day in Somerset, as well as the many Sir Knights and Companions who made the Louisville Festival a success as well.

These two festivals have shown what I have believed all along, no matter what the adversity, we united together can overcome an obstacle. When our bodies and members from across the state work as one, there is nothing we can not accomplish, including restoring membership and advancing our Order to ensure it continues for all future generations. I am proud to serve as Grand High Priest at this point in history, representing some of the greatest men the world of Capitulat

Masonry has ever known. I attended the Somerset Festival, and participated in work, as well. I am overwhelmed and impressed by the renewed interest and the young men that are coming to our Order. The state of the world today and the individual brother's view of it greatly affect the range of opportunities for self improvement. We are offering what these young men are seeking. We can provide them with the guidance and fellowship that will last a lifetime.

In the past it was believed that experience and observation gave rise to knowledge. Experience acts upon the mind and provides our ideas and understanding of the world around us. When compared to the new membership, we should view them as blank slates, while they have a basic understanding of our Order, and are willing to partake in our labors, we should welcome, guide and direct them in seeking further light.

I am in hopes that the bodies that these new Sir Knights/Companions have joined, will take them in as students of our Order, teach them and get them involved. I have seen these men have an interest in Capitular Masonry, and we are entrusted to guide them and teach them, that they are one the one true path. This renewed interest when properly nurtured will result in an undying dedication to the advancement of our order for years to come. They are our future; they are the life blood of our order, which will preserve it for future generations.

There is no doubt to me that Capitular Masonry has a great deal to offer these new members, but also has a great deal to offer our older members as well. The experiences and knowledge of our older members should be shared with the young. I urge each of your bodies to institute a mentorship with these young men, teach and guide them, and they will be productive members of our Order and of society as well. This should be the goal of everyone in every Chapter, Council and Commandery across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. To aid in this task, I recommended that The New Member Handbook be used to assist these new men in their path. The New Member handbook available online at www.yorkriteky.org under the section of Downloadable Forms. The friendship and fellowship this will generate will serve everyone. The bonds that can be formed will be lifelong and serve to enrich everyone's life, both now in the future. Do not let the opportunity to have a positive influence on a young member slip past you, it is one of the most rewarding experiences you can

ever have by passing on your Masonic knowledge to an young member that you see grow.

Our vision for our members is to provide them with a great moral reference to make the right decision. It is about the teachings from the Holy Bible, sharing our experiences and advancing the knowledge of our members, all of our members, young and old. Recent history has revealed that Masonry very much influenced the development of our system of government and our nation. We should be energized by belonging to an organization that is so deeply engrained in our nation's history. This renewed energy and vision should drive everyone forward.

The way forward in advancing our order, has not changed, it is about uniting each other in to a caring, peaceful and harmonic brotherhood that supports the development of the thought, charity, kindness and intellectual levels of all members to ensure sustainable families, friendships and as well as moral philosophical system that allows scriptural growth as guided in Holy Bible, always giving reverence to the Almighty God, that we serve and adore. We are guided to seek wisdom from the scriptures. Since all wisdom comes from God, who gives it to those who ask. Wisdom serves to guide us in all our pursuits, let us be reminded of the guidance found in 119 Psalms, 105, "Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Fraternally,

Gary K. Hunt

M.E. Grand High Priest



Grand High Priest Itinerary

(Weather Permitting)

- March 3 - Taylor Chapter #90
- March 8 - Cynthiana Chapter #17
- March 10 - Pittman Lodge #124
- March 11-12 East Central Regional Conference/
Grand Rapids, Michigan
- March 17 - Rowan Chapter # 31
- March 19 - One Day Festival- Pikeville
- March 21 - Carroll Chapter # 55
- March 22 - Scottsville Chapter # 171
- March 24 - Marion Commandery #24
- March 31- Order of Amaranth / Louisville KY