



The Kentucky Keystone



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Volume 27 Number 2

Published Monthly by the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons

November 2015



ME Companion Stewart F. Strickland Grand High Priest Message

Dear Companions of the Royal Arch Chapters of Kentucky:

The capitular year is off a “start.” Whether it is a good start, we may soon know. Of course, “good” is a relative term. To do what is good for the fraternity may mean that a few may not fare so well, that is, if they are standing in the way of progress. Many Deputies are already hard at work while others are not yet out of the gate. A few chapters that struggled last year are already doing much better while others continue to fail.

If you are not doing the job I expect, you will likely hear from me. If you are a Chapter that appears to “just not care,” you will likely hear from me. Continue to utilize the Leader’s Handbook that you received from your Deputy.

Make sure that you open your Chapter every month. Don’t just say that “the members won’t attend,” or “I can’t do anything about them.” Call them, remind them of their obligations, and summon them if necessary to make sure that your Chapter opens a constitutional number of times. ***Read the education lesson in the Keystone.***

Speak about Capitular Masonry every time you visit your Symbolic Lodge. Plan to attend the educational meeting for your Area coming up after the first of the year. Just doing a few simple things can make a big difference for your Chapter. Too many have simply given up and watched their Chapters sink when a little effort would have righted the ship. And always remember that your Grand Officers are here to help. That is what we want to do. We want to see Capitular Masonry in Kentucky thrive, not just survive.

With that said, I wish for each of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Thankful is something we are all obligated to be, but are seldom guilty of, at least not in abundance. Celebrate with your family, your friends, your church, and your companions.

Be sure that, together, you voice your thankfulness to the Great Creator, the giver of all good gifts and graces, and if it is within your ability, give something to those who are less fortunate, that they may share in your bounty. Do it all in the name of Him, from whom all earthly blessings flow.

Fraternally,

Stewart F. Strickland

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016



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November Education Talk

“The LORD”

The language of ancient Israel was written without vowels. God’s covenant name consisted of four (4) consonants, YHWH (or YHVH). Most of us have become more familiar with the German derivation of the Roman lettering, which pronunciation was passed down verbally and which pronunciation we use in the Royal Arch Degree.

Even today, there are differences of opinion as to its proper pronunciation. The consensus among scholars is that it should be pronounced “YAH’ weh.” After the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C., devout Jews avoided saying the name of God aloud for fear of violating the third Commandment, “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7).

When reading the scripture, as they would come to the Name of God, they either paused in silence or substituted another Hebrew term, *Adonai* (pronounced: ad oh NIGH’), meaning “the Lord,” or “my Lord.” The custom was followed when the Hebrew text was translated into other languages, beginning with Greek during the third century B.C. Later, vowels were added to the Hebrew text in the fifth century A.D. The vowels from *Adonai* were used with the four Hebrew consonants of God’s name to give it a pronunciation among non-Hebrew people. Then when transliterated, the Hebrew name yielded a hybrid appellation.

When William Tyndale published the first English Bible in 1530 (well before the King James was translated), he used that hybrid. In most English bibles, though, the name is printed as “The LORD” (Hebrew *Adonai*), in all capital letters.

As you read your English Bible, you will notice instances where “the Lord” is rendered with lowercase letters and at other times, all capitals (LORD). When you read it as lowercase letters, it is referring to the Lord, or a Lord (such as a great landowner, king, earthly potentate, or even husband, as Sarah called Abraham “Lord”, etc.), translated from the Hebrew “Adonai.” When you see it written in all capitals, it is making reference to the covenant name of God, translating from the Hebrew, the actual, ineffable, Name of God.

The name of God, transliterated from the four Hebrew consonants is commonly known as the *Tetragrammaton*, which simply means “having four letters,” as derived from its Latin origins.

The Scriptures tell us that God appeared to Abraham and others as *God Almighty* or *The Lord of Hosts* (El Shaddai), or as the *Most High God*, but by His name, Yahweh, he was not known. God’s name was first revealed to Moses at the Burning Bush (Exodus 3). From that point, God distinguished himself as the ONLY God and that there were no other gods. This revelation negated the Henotheism of earlier times. The way God spoke his name to Moses, we may never know exactly.

Tradition says that the word was only in possession of the High Priest, who once each year entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, and while in there, the name was pronounced, but in such a manner that the people outside did not hear it. When we speak of it in the Royal Arch Chapter, we speak it softly, and are within the Chapter, which represents that Most Holy Place, thereby keeping the profane from hearing.



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As you, if you are a Royal Arch Mason knows, the name of God is held in high esteem by us, and many of our ceremonies are built around

His name. Masonry is a search for light and Royal Arch Masonry is a search for God (in masonry this is one in the same). Therefore, it is understandable that we should desire to know His true name and its perfect pronunciation. We will continue to do the best we can with the information we have, and use the rituals that are ours.

However, we should not get into a twist when we do not comprehend its true pronunciation, its correct spelling, or other similar matters that often occupy our minds. There are some things God keeps from us, for now. We simply need to be faithful and true, and ever revere the one whose name it is. Then, when we shall have passed through the veils of this earthly Tabernacle, to see our Lord face to face, we will have no doubt as to His name, for we will have ever had it written upon our hearts.

(Reading and discussing this in open Chapter counts as an educational meeting on your annual inspection to include all pages of the Keystone Please record such in your minutes.)

Grand High Priest Itinerary

November 2015 (Subject to Change)

- 3- Plain City Lodge 449
- 7- Bullitt Chapter 44
- 10- Western Star Chapter 14
- 12- Grahamville Lodge 707
- 14- West Ky York Rite College, Madisonville
- 14- St. Bernard Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine
- 16- Lawrenceburg Chapter 138 Past High Priest Night and Oyster Stew Supper
- 17- Plain City Lodge 449
- 19- Rowan Chapter 31
- 21- Scottish Rite Honors, Louisville
- 24- Madisonville Chapter 123
- 26- Spending THANKSGIVING with Family

December 2015

- 1- Plain City Lodge 449
- 5- North Ballard Lodge 537
- 8- Clay Chapter #28
- 13- Paducah Commandery Christmas Observance
- 14- Mayfield York Rite
- 15- Plain City Lodge 449
- 17- West Kentucky Scottish Rite
- 21- Antioch Lodge 332
- 22- Paducah York Rite
- 25- Spend CHRISTMAS with Family

Submissions to Keystone

The Kentucky Keystone is the official publication of the Grand of Kentucky. It is monthly and its purpose is to inform the members of the activities and communication from the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, and on the activities of the Chapters throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Contribution of material, including text and photographs, is earnestly solicited from all corners of the Order. Send proposed material to the Editor: Submissions should be in the hands of the editor not later than the 15th each month prior to publication for the following month.. I will work to accommodate your needs, but the need for prompt delivery must take precedence over all other considerations.

Editor

please visit our website at

<http://yorkriteky.org/>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Grand Chapter of Kentucky Royal Arch Mason

First Area Meeting of 2016 is set to be held at:

Franklin Lodge No. 28
400 N. 4th Street
Danville, KY 40422

On January 9, 2016 at 1:00 pm (EST)
(enter through the Smith Street side door)

There will be a Secretary training session at this meeting.

Glasgow York Rite will be holding Festivals

Chapter festival

To be held on January 16, 2016 9:00 am (CST)

Council and Commandery Festival

To be held on February 6, 2016 9:00 am (CST)

2nd Annual Paintsville York Rite Festival

Chapter degrees will begin on January **15th** at **6:00 pm(EST)**, remaining **Chapter** degrees and **Council** on **January 16th** starting with **Breakfast at 8:00 am (EST)** and conferral of **degrees at 9:00 am(EST)** with lunch included.

Then we will meet on **January 30th** to confer the **Commandry Orders**, **Breakfast at 8:00 am(EST)**, **Orders at 9:00 am(EST)** and lunch will be included again.

For more information, contact Tony Skeans at 606-791-2902, Chris Griffith at 606-792-6568, Lee Vanhooose at 606-369-7280, or Moose Vanhooose at 606-371-2898.