



The Kentucky Keystone



Michael R. Grigsby, Editor – 854 Todd Road, Nancy, KY 42544 –Kentucky.Keystone@gmail.com

Volume 27 Number 1

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

October 2015



ME Companion Steward F. Strickland Grand High Priest Message

Dear Companions of the Royal Arch Chapters of Kentucky:

I extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your confidence and the support you have given me as I have advanced through the Grand Line. I will try to be a Grand High Priest who is worthy of your dedication and service, which you have given to the fraternity.

Most of our plans are made with the best of intentions. So it is with my plans for this next Capitular year. I want to focus on strengthening our constituent Chapters. Too often we try to build from the top – down. Any building project, of course, requires architects and supervisors. But the actual building begins from the foundation and works upward and is completed by the contractors and laborers. I have no specific, detailed agenda or program to force upon you because I do not feel that is my chief responsibility as your Grand High Priest.

Each of you, and your Chapters have strengths that we can build upon as well as weaknesses that need to be addressed. Agendas and programs, even though identifying some common areas for improvement across the board, simply may not be the best fit for every chapter. Therefore, as I travel this year, I would like to hear from you. What are your concerns and how can I help you?

I have sought to put into place an Inspection Staff that will keep me and the other Grand Officers well informed of the needs at the local level. Equipped with that knowledge, we should be better enabled to strengthen our Grand Chapter from the Bottom-Up. Talk to the Deputies and Veilsmen in your areas. Ask them questions and even depend upon them to assist you in your Chapter's work and life. That is what they are in position to do.

As far as common areas of improvement, the basics of our ritual, in the opening and closing of the chapters, as well as in the degrees, seems to be a perennial problem. We see sloppy work and poor proficiency. We must work to correct that. Every Royal Arch Mason needs to Read and study the Ritual, including the fine print, which instructs in protocol and floor-work.

Also, having a planned program at every Chapter meeting will be stressed. A sample agenda will be given to each High Priest. The Deputies have this information in a concise booklet for each High Priest. Be sure that you receive it, read it and use it. The information contained therein will help us get away from our lazy habit of just opening, reading the minutes, and then closing.

To assist in this, my monthly Keystone article will be, in itself, an educational piece. By directing that my article be read and discussed in the Chapter meetings, I will authorize it to count for an educational session on your annual inspection. Note, however, that it must be read aloud, and in its entirety, and discussed, to be so counted.



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We also need to redouble our efforts at mentoring and personally guiding our new Companions to become active, working members. This is not a new issue, though we have had difficulty with its implementation. And last, I want us to work on “Connecting” better with our Symbolic Lodges. Many Master Masons have little or no idea about the Chapter or the York Rite. We need to be active in seeking out those Good men who can benefit our Chapters as well as benefit from them.

Again, thank you for this honor and for the confidence you have placed in me. I will try to live up to the expectations of this office, to the best of my skill and abilities.

Fraternally,

Stewart F. Strickland

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016

October Education Talk

The Importance of Royal Arch Masonry

(This material based on and/or taken from a pamphlet by Wm. F. Kuhn, published by the General Grand Chapter)

The central principle around which Masonry revolves is the recovery of the “Lost Word.” Search for that word is, of course, symbolic for the pinnacle of the Masonic search for Knowledge. Since that is the case, Royal Arch Masonry is extremely important in our quest for Masonic Light. It is the degree in which we discover how the “lost word” was found, recovered and put back into use among Masons. Albert Mackey wrote: “No event in the history of Speculative Freemasonry had so important an influence upon its development as a system of symbolism as the invention of the Royal Arch Degree and its introduction into the Masonic Ritual.”

In some of the earliest Masonic Rituals, the true word was communicated in the Master Mason’s Degree before the legend of Hiram ever became a part of it. When the legend of Hiram became a part of the Masonic Ritual, the loss of the word followed. However, according to one Masonic historian, the Master’s Word was never really lost, but rather it was transferred to the Royal Arch, which was then a part of the Symbolic Lodge Degrees.

If the word was indeed lost, then there must be a means by which to recover it, in order to bring closure as well as a culmination to the Masonic Degrees. The Royal Arch provides that means, thereby, becoming a very important, and an indispensable part of Freemasonry.

In the Articles of Union of the two Grand Lodges of England in 1813, there is a declaration as to what constitutes “Ancient Craft Masonry.” That article stated, “Ancient Craft masonry shall consist of the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason, together with the Holy Royal Arch.”

The Royal Arch is every bit as legitimate a degree as any of those included in Ancient Craft Masonry. “When one becomes a Master Mason, he has attained to the “highest and most honorable” degree and all of the rest of the “higher” degrees and orders do not add to his Masonic Stature.

However, according to William Kuhn, Past General Grand High Priest, “the Royal Arch remains a part of the Master’s degree—the summit of its excellency.” It is the privilege and should be the duty of all Master Masons to complete the Masonic story, told in allegory and revealed in symbolism, by receiving the Royal Arch.



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To all of the Companions who read this, (and I encourage its reading in open chapter,) share this information with the members of your Symbolic Lodges who have not yet petitioned for the Royal Arch. We do not put forth the importance of the Royal Arch only because we seek to increase our numbers. We owe it to our Brethren that they have every opportunity to discover the “lost word,” and thus complete their Masonic journeys.

(Reading and discussing this in open Chapter counts as an educational meeting on your annual inspection. Please record such in your minutes.)

Grand High Priest Itinerary

- 3-Scottish Rite Statewide Reunion, Madisonville
- 6-Plain City Lodge 449, Paducah
- 7-8 - Grand Chapter of Ohio
- 10- Grand High Priest Reception, Bardstown
- 12 - Lindsey Chapter 6r, Mayfield
- 13 - Clay Chapter 28 , Princeton
- 15 - West Ky Scottish Rite, Madisonville
- 19-20 - Grand Lodge of Kentucky, Louisville
- 22 - West Ky Scottish Rite Club
- 27 - Paducah Chapter 30

November (Subject to Change)

- 7 - Bullitt Chapter 44, Shepherdsville
- 8 - Oriental Chapter 14, Hopkinsville
- 10 - Western Star Chapter 20, Hardinsburg
- 14 - West KY York Rite College, Madisonville
Red Cross of Constantine, Elizabethtown
- 16 - Lawrenceburg Chapter 138, PHP
Night/Oyster Stew
- 19 - Rowan Chapter 31, Bardstown
- 20 - Scottish Rite Honors Weekend, Louisville
- 24 - Madisonville Chapter 123

You're invited to a Reception Honoring Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Stewart F. Strickland

**Saturday, October 10, 2015
At 5:00 PM**

**Duvall Lodge #6
222 ½ North Third Street
Bardstown Kentucky 40004-1528**

**Duvall Lodge is located downtown
Bardstown, just north of the old
Courthouse on Third Street.**

For Tickets Contact:

Bill Riggs - 502-432-5443

One Day York Rite Festival October 24, 2015

*Ryan Commandery No. 17 - 400 N. 4th Street,
Danville, KY*

*Degrees to begin at 8:00 am ALL Degrees and
Orders will be conferred.*

Contact

James H. King, PGHP

Phone: 859-209-4120