



THE KENTUCKY KEYSTONE

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY
ROYAL ARCH MASONS



VOLUME 31

NUMBER 4

JANUARY 2020

Message from the Grand High Priest



Greetings Companions.

It's a new year, a new decade and new beginnings. It is the 20's; hopefully not like the 1920's, the collapse of Wall Street, prohibition and the undesirable things prohibition brought with

it.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas, spending time with family and friends, good food and the real meaning of Christmas and yes, its Merry Christmas not Happy Holidays.

As I have written in past letters Royal Arch Masonry is alive and well. We have several York Rite Festivals coming up. First coming up is Paintsville January 17 and 18 for Chapter and Council degrees. Then, we have Glasgow February 1, 2020 and if there is any degree work coming up that I do not have listed please let me know as I want to attend as many as I can.

By now the news of the passing of PGM Rick Nation has made the rounds and I want to offer his family and wife Karen our heartfelt condolence.

(continued next column)

Now that the Holidays are over, I intend to start visiting again starting with Lexington on January 9th then on to Pikeville, Paintsville, Somerset and then Monticello. All subject to the weather; rain I can handle, snow is a no go.

Don't forget that the Grand Lodge Education meetings (video) format will be held on January 25, 2020, check with DDGM about location and time.

Fraternally,

Rick Sears
MEGHP

*If you Love Masonry you will want to come
If you Love Masonry you will need to come
If you Love Masonry you will com*

ON LEADERSHIP

"The supreme quality of leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office."

*General Dwight. D. Eisenhower
34th President of the United States*

PMIGM Tom Wheeler is currently receiving treatment at the Highlandsprings of Fort Thomas Rehab facility following some serious medical issues.

Send cards to:
Thomas Wheeler
Highland Springs Rehab
960 Highland Ave
Ft Thomas, KY 41075



Please keep Companion Tom in your prayers.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

From the Grand Secretary's Desk



Companions and
Sir Knights

Greetings,

Noel and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We look forward to serving you throughout the coming year.

Fraternally,

James King Jr.
Grand Secretary/Recorder

You can reach the Grand York Rite office at 859-209-4120.

We want to extend our best wishes to Jim for a speedy recovery from knee replacement surgery.

Happy New Year



From the Editor

Greetings, Companions!

I hope all of you had a good Christmas and that your New Year is going well. The York Rite is starting out with somewhat of a mixed bag; the good news is we have efforts coming to fruition in Maysville to re-constitute the Council and Commandery there. They will be receiving their dispensations on the 15th of this month and will confer the Council degrees that evening. They're starting at 6:30 for those who would like to attend the ceremonies.

We extend our condolences to the families of Past Grand Commander Emery DeWitt and Past Grand Master Rick Nation. Both men had a major impact on the people around them and will be missed.

Remember PMIGM Tom Wheeler in your prayers; he has had some serious health issues and has been in the hospital. Last information was that he is in the Highlandsprings Nursing facility for rehabilitation and therapy. His address is on the previous page if you'd like to send him a card. Remember our Grand Secretary/Recorder as well as he recovers from knee replacement surgery. You can send him a card at the Grand York Rite office.

I want to continue to thank those who send pictures and information for the Keystone. I **know** how difficult it is to put something together for publication, so I doubly appreciate those who take the time to write something with the pictures. *Especially who the people are!*

And I so much appreciate all the pictures of Christmas Observances this month. It's good to see so many of our Commanderies involved in this very special event. Williamsburg did and had almost 100 people present but I didn't get pictures.

I saw something the other day, probably on Facebook, that is fitting for most of us as we begin to deal with the reality of keeping the resolutions we made – "In the new year, may your troubles last as long as your resolutions." May we all do better in keeping those resolutions, and may our troubles indeed be as brief as that unknown well-wisher's blessing!

Fraternally,

Randall Partin, Editor

New Year's Message from the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky



IF WE COULD DO THINGS OVER AGAIN

How many times have you pondered over the question, "What would I do if I could do things over again?" Have you ever heard someone say, "If I could only have a second chance at life, I would do things differently?" Maybe you have said or thought those words yourself.

I suppose every one of us have had those moments of hind sight and /or regret. We wish we had said or done things differently. But we always find out too late that time moves on and we can't go back and change things or do things over.

We might speak words in anger that can never be retrieved. Our actions whether good or bad sometimes are never forgotten.

But what if we could go back? What if we could take back those unkind words or change those acts of stupidity or uncaring?

Would we make the world a better place? Most Assuredly!!! Maybe we would not be so quick to judge others or condemn those less fortunate than us. Who knows, we might be more thoughtful and kind to those less fortunate.

We might attend church more often if we could do things over again. We might not overeat, but instead, consider our health, if we could do things over again. Oh, there are so many things we might do.

We might not start smoking or drink less alcohol. We might decide to enjoy more sunrises and sunsets and spend more quality time with our family and children. We might spend more time communing with God....

Oh, If I could just do things over again!

(continued next column)

Unfortunately, we can't go back and we can't take back those unkind words we have spoken. But we can start afresh with our life.

For some, starting afresh might mean a new lifestyle. For others it might mean something as simple as giving up an old habit. "Whatever it takes," is a good way to look at starting afresh. The rewards we will receive are without price. Why, people might even start to like us. Don't laugh, it could happen!

So, as we look to the new year before us, don't worry about changing your past. Change your present and your future. Just remember always: "God Loves You"

Happy New Year.

Don Powell, PGHP

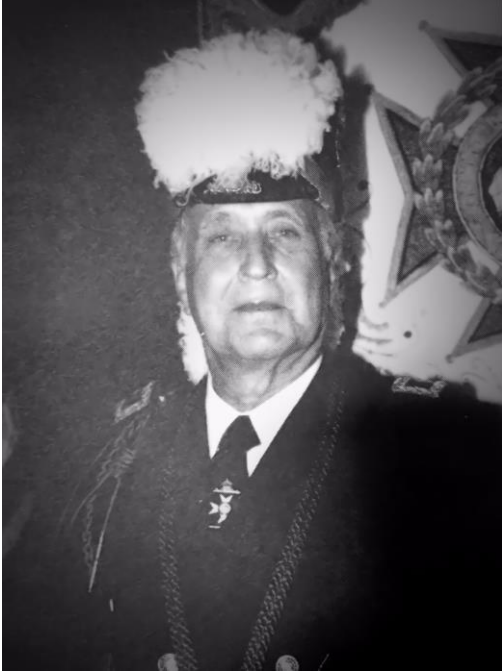
Grand Chaplain

Grand Chapter of Kentucky, RAM



Past Grand Commander Larry Carte presenting Mike McQueary, left and Jeremy Puckett, right, Past Commanders of Somerset Commandery, with the Holy Land Pilgrimage Plaque in appreciation for Somerset's contribution to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund.





Sir Knight Emery J. DeWitt

February 14, 1938 – December 20, 2019

Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky
2002-2003

Sir Knight Emery was raised a Master Mason in 1972 and affiliated with Bigham Lodge No. 256 in 1976, where he served as Master in 1992, and with Shady Grove Lodge No. 559 in 1990, serving there as Master in 1995. He also served Bingham as Master in 2010 and 2011, and Shady Grove as Chaplain from 2009-2012.

He became a member of the Princeton York Rite bodies early in his Masonic career, serving as Illustrious Master of Princeton Council 43 in 1995, High Priest of Clay Chapter No. 28 in 1996, and Commander of Princeton Commandery No. 35. He was elected to the Grand Commandery line in 1999, advancing to the office of Grand Commander in September, 2002. He was also a member of Shady Grove No. 505, Order of Eastern Star, the Scottish Rite, and the Shrine.

He leaves his wife of 62 years, Barbara (Martin) DeWitt; two daughters, Lucinda (Cindy) Hagan (Ron) of Lone Oak, Kentucky, and Kelly DeWitt of Huntsville, Alabama; a brother, John DeWitt of Pensacola, Florida; sisters Rose Colussi, of East Washington, Pennsylvania, and Mary Evans, of Henderson Ky; 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Mabel (Knuth) DeWitt, brother, Arden DeWitt, and infant daughter Cynthia DeWitt.

Born and raised in Rib Lake, Wisconsin, Sir Knight Emery moved to Crittenden County in 1955. After graduating from Crittenden County High School in 1956, he joined the Army, traveling the world with his family until his retirement in 1979. Upon his retirement, he attended Murray State University where he earned Bachelors of Science (1980) and Arts (1981) and Masters of Science (1982). He served as an inspector for the Crittenden County Health Department, and later as a radiation health inspector for the state of Kentucky. He was active in the local community, serving on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity and the local library. He was a teacher, a story-teller, a clown, and a friend to all who knew him.

Services were held at 6:00 pm Thursday December 26, 2019 with Masonic Rites preceding at 5:30 pm. at Gilbert Funeral Home. Burial was Monday December 30, 2019 at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville KY.





Richard T. Nation

August 25, 1958 - December 27, 2019

Most Worshipful Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Kentucky
2013-2014

Brother Nation was raised to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason on February 2, 1980, in Shelby Lodge 662 in Waddy, KY. He served as Master of Shelby Lodge in 1983-1984 became Secretary in 1996. He served the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F. & A. M. as District Deputy Grand Master of District 19 in 2003-2004, as Chairman of the By Laws Committee in 2005-2006, as Grand Senior Deacon in 2007-2008, and as Chairman of the Keepers of the Work and Bluegrass Ritualist Committees in 2009-2010. He also served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Ritual 2007-2010. He was elected Grand Junior Warden on October 19, 2010, Grand Senior Warden on October 18, 2011, Deputy Grand Master on October 16, 2012, and was installed as Grand Master on October 22, 2013.

He joined the Shelbyville York Bodies in March 1980 and that same month became a member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Lexington, and of Oleika Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. He was honored with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) on November 16, 2013. He was inducted into the Royal Order of Scotland on September 10, 2011. He and Karen joined Rob Morris Chapter 114, O. E. S., on August 20, 2009.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Karen Susan Weis. He is the father of Brian Thomas (Stacy Rae), Richard Boscoe, and Quinton Ray Nation. He is the grandfather of Sophia Faith Nation, Lilyanne Grace Wieble, Aiden Thomas Manning, Ella Faye Nation, and Kara Raye Nation. He is the son of Mrs. Yvonne D. Nation and the late Ray Wilson Nation.

Rick owned and operated Nationwide Heating & Cooling for 35 years and helped his mother with Nation Used Cars. Before that, he was a part of the Nations Meat Shop. Rick was a member of Elk Creek Baptist Church in Taylorsville, KY. Rick was a pillar of the community and always was willing to help a brother in need. He and Karen enjoyed traveling and they made friends throughout the United States and Europe. Rick would always make sure to have supper ready when Karen got off work, and enjoyed grilling and cooking for her every night. Most of all, he loved spending time with his grandchildren.

All services were held at Shelby Christian Church in Shelbyville, KY. Visitation was Thursday, January 2nd with a Masonic Funeral at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services were Friday, January 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

(Information taken from Grand Lodge of Kentucky website and obituary)

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Dr. Mackey's 'Encyclopedia of Freemasonry' again provides us with our Educational segment this month. The following article also gives some additional insight into the discoveries of the Royal Arch Degree. - Editor

Book of the Law. The Holy Bible, which is always open in a Lodge as a symbol that its light should be diffused among the brethren. The passages on which it is opened differ in the different degrees.



Masonically, the Book of the Law is that sacred book which is believed by the Mason of any particular religion to contain the revealed will of God; although, technically, among the Jews the Torah, or Book of the Law, means only the Pentateuch or five books of Moses. Thus, to the Christian Mason the Book of the Law is the Old and New Testaments; to the Jew, the Old Testament; to the Mussulman, the Koran; to the Brahman, the Vedas; and to the Parsee, the Zendavesta.

The Book of the Law is an important symbol in the Royal Arch degree, concerning which there was a tradition among the Jews that the Book of the Law was lost during the captivity, and that it was among the treasures discovered during the building of the second Temple. The same opinion was entertained by the early Christian fathers, such, for instance, as Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Clemens Alexandrinus; "for," says Prideaux, "they (the Christian fathers) hold that all the Scriptures were lost and destroyed in the Babylonish captivity, and that Ezra restored them all again by Divine revelation." The truth of the tradition is very generally denied by biblical scholars, who attribute its origin to the fact that Ezra collected together the copies of the law, expurgated them of the errors which had crept into them during the captivity, and arranged a new and correct edition. But the truth or falsity of the legend does not affect the Masonic symbolism.

The Book of the Law is the will of God, which, lost to us in our darkness, must be recovered as precedent to our learning what is TRUTH. As captives to error, truth is lost to us; when freedom is restored, the first reward will be its discovery.

Upcoming Degree Work and Events

The following list is as provided by various Companions and Sir Knights across the Commonwealth. If your organization is planning to confer the degrees or orders, please let me know so that I can put it in the Keystone.

January 15, 2020 – Issuance of dispensations to Maysville Council and Commandery and conferral of the Council degrees. The ceremonies will begin with the opening of the Council at 6:30 pm.

- 1/17-18/2020 – Paintsville Winter Festival Chapter/Council Degrees*
- 2/1/2020 – Paintsville Commandery Orders*
- 2/1/2020 – Glasgow Chapter/Council Degrees*
- 2/15/2020 – Glasgow Commandery Orders*
- 7/11/2020- West Kentucky Festival – Paducah*

... never forget that everyone needs encouragement. And everyone who receives it - young or old, successful or less-than-successful, unknown or famous - is changed by it

John C Maxwell



Chapter Inspection Schedule (Corrected 11/14/19)

Area	Chapter	Location	Date	DDGHP
4	B W. R. Shelby No. 4	Danville	1/23/2020	Thomas Brown
1	Lindsey No 69	Mayfield	2/11/2020	Glenn D Barker
1	Paducah No. 30	Paducah	2/25/2020	Glenn D Barker
3	B Graham No. 80	Franklin	3/3/2020	David Puckett
5	B Shelbyville No 2	Shelbyville	3/5/2020	Joseph Giles
7	B Apperson No. 81	Ashland	3/5/2020	Paul Davis
5	A Bullitt No. 44	Shepherdsville	3/7/2020	John Johnson
2	Oriental No. 14	Princeton	3/10/2020	Miles Ward
3	A Jo Daviess No. 32	Owensboro	3/10/2020	James Reynolds
3	B Bowling Green No. 38	Bowling Green	3/10/2020	David Puckett
6	Cynthiana	Cynthiana	3/10/2020	Jeffery Smith
8	Ken-Tenn No. 148	Williamsburg	3/10/2020	Mark Gibson
5	B Carroll No. 55	Carrollton	3/16/2020	Joseph Giles
3	B Russellville No. 8	Russellville	3/17/2020	David Puckett
5	A King Solomon No. 5	Louisville	3/18/2020	John Johnson
6	Ft Thomas No. 177	Ft Thomas	3/19/2020	Jeffery Smith
5	B Frankfort No 3	Frankfort	3/19/2020	Joseph Giles
7	B Morehead No. 168	Morehead	3/21/2020	Paul Davis
5	A Iroquois No. 193	Louisville	3/25/2020	John Johnson
4	B Taylor No. 90	Campbellsville	4/2/2020	Thomas Brown
9	B Jackson No. 160	Jackson	4/2/2020	Anthony Skeans
4	A Daviess No. 29	Harrodsburg	4/6/2020	Bob Davis
7	A Richmond No. 16	Richmond	4/7/2020	Steve Talbott
4	A Hardin No. 195	Elizabethtown	4/9/2020	Bob Davis
9	A Jenkins No. 164	Jenkins	4/9/2020	Bobby Balthus
7	B Louisa No. 95	Louisa	4/13/2020	Paul Davis
9	A Pikeville No. 133	Pikeville	4/13/2020	Bobby Balthus
3	B Glasgow No.45	Glasgow	4/14/2020	David Puckett
7	A Irvine No. 42	Irvine	4/14/2020	Steve Talbott
8	Harlan No. 165	Harlan	4/14/2020	Mark Gibson
4	A Rowan No. 31	Bardstown	4/16/2020	Bob Davis
9	B Paintsville No. 131	Paintsville	4/16/2020	Anthony Skeans
5	B Lawrenceburg No. 138	Lawrenceburg	4/20/2020	Joseph Giles
8	Somerset No. 25	Somerset	4/23/2020	Mark Gibson
6	Temple No. 172	Newport	4/26/2020	Jeffery Smith
4	B Greensburg No. 36	Greensburg	4/27/2020	Thomas Brown
8	Monticello No. 152	Monticello	4/27/2020	Mark Gibson
3	B Scottsville No. 171	Scottsville	4/27/2020	David Puckett
3	A Western Star No 20	Hardinsburg	4/28/2020	James Reynolds
7	A Winchester No. 12	Winchester	4/28/2020	Steve Talbott
6	Covington No. 35	Covington	5/9/2020	Jeffery Smith
7	A Lexington No. 1	Lexington	5/14/2020	Steve Talbott
9	B Prestonsburg No. 182	Prestonsburg	5/14/2020	Anthony Skeans
6	Maysville No. 9	Maysville	5/20/2020	Jeffery Smith
4	B Edmonds No. 83	Lebanon	5/28/2020	Thomas Brown



Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A.



Please Support and Participate in the following Events and Programs

2019 DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

The Grand Encampment Department Conferences are open to all Knights.

EAST CENTRAL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE

March 13-14, 2020, HILTON FORT WAYNE
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Registration deadline February 15, 2020

Including the Leadership Training Program

Contact any Grand York Rite Officer for information on participating in the Leadership Training Program or contact the Editor. You must be pre-registered to attend.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation 52nd Annual Voluntary Campaign

The 52nd Annual Voluntary Campaign period will extend from *October 1, 2019 through April 3, 2020*. Please assist your Commandery to the best of your ability.

The 51st Annual Campaign, which ended May 15, 2019, raised a total of \$1,756,414.39. **Kentucky contributed \$30,200** (\$10,000 came from Kosair Charities.) Our top contributing Commanderies were **Louisville DeMolay, with \$5,350**, Mayfield, with \$1,345; Richmond with \$1250; Williamsburg with \$1,230; and Ryan with \$915. A big 'Thank You' to those Commanderies in Kentucky who contributed last year, and it appears that **every commandery** did. We would also like to commend and congratulate **Williamsburg Commandery for 100% Life Membership in the Eye Foundation**; Two others are getting close: **Louisville DeMolay at 96.9% and Newport at 95.5%**

Easter Pilgrimage to Washington DC

April 10 – 12, 2020

90th ANNUAL EAST COAST EASTER OBSERVANCE

The 90th Annual Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, will again be held on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on *Sunday, April 12, 2020*. We will leave Louisville on Friday morning, April 10, at 7:00 am, stop in Lexington at the Embassy Suites around 8:30, to pick up travelers, and arrive in the D C area for dinner. Saturday plans include a boat ride on the Potomac River. We will return on Sunday following the Sunrise Service.



PAINTSVILLE WINTER FESTIVAL

Chapter and Council

Friday, January 17, 2020 - 6:00 PM
Saturday, January 18, 2020 - 9:00 AM

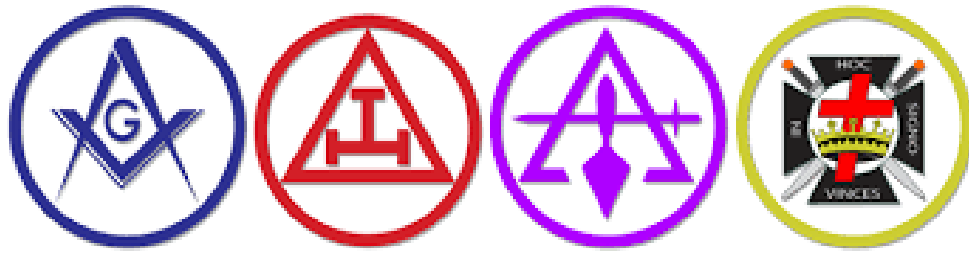
Commandery

Saturday, February 1, 2020 – 9:00 AM

Contact Anthony Skeans for additional information
anthonyskeans@gmail.com



Continue the York Rite Journey



GLASGOW YORK RITE FESTIVAL

Chapter and Council

Saturday, February 1, 2020
9:00 AM CST

Commandery

Saturday, February 15, 2020
9:00 AM CST

Contact Herb Hess for additional information
kj4cmg@gmail.com
270-427-8645



Continue the York Rite Journey

Continuing the York Rite Journey



It was a pleasure to be back in Richmond for the conferral of the Orders on December 28. We are pleased to welcome two new Sir Knights, Benjamin Joynt, center left, from Winchester, and Daniel Cotton, center right, from Richmond. Richmond hospitality is hard to beat and it was a privilege to work again with Division Commander David Jones, VEDGC William Jackson, and REPGC Larry Carte, along with the rest of the crew.



Sir Knights from Ryan Commandery honor guard for the Christmas parade in Junction City KY. Front Center, Wayne Clemens; back l-r, Jim King, Phillip Russell, Kevil Chinn, Mike Dean, Doug Lamb. *Submitted by Jim King*



(photo Matthew Kirby)

If every Commandery gave \$100 per year to the Holy Land Pilgrimage fund, the Grand Commandery of Kentucky could, in conjunction with other fund-raising activities, send a Christian Minister to the Holy Land every year.



Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee



While in Richmond for the conferral of the Orders, Past Grand Commander Larry Carte presented a plaque to Sir Knight David Emmitt, Commander of Richmond Commandery No. 19, in acknowledgement of Richmond Commandery's donation to the Holy Land Pilgrimage fund.

Any Commandery, business or organization making a donation of \$100 to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund will receive one of the pictured plaques. Every year thereafter, the Commandery will receive a placard imprinted with the year the donation was made. Our thanks for their support of this most important philanthropy of the Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment.





SK Larry & SK Barry Eastham were presented with certificates of recognition for their service to Ashland Commandery at their Christmas Observance. (photo Greg Raque)



New officers of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Louisville # 457. Front row, l-r Ray Carman, Randolph Starks, Jack Boeschel, Bill Brown, Clay Ackiss. Back row, l-r, Joe Giles, Mike Miller, Tim Sanders, Bill Riggs. (Submitted by Joe Giles)

Christmas Observances



Mayfield



Owensboro

(photos Bruce Outlaw)



Cynthiana



DeMolay



Frankfort

(photos Joe Giles)



Winchester

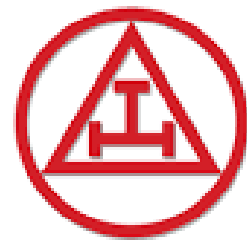
Greg Raque, Doug Johnson, Louis Prater, Bill Riggs, John Walker, Don Gaskell, Steve Talbott, Bill Standafer, Don Powell



Ashland

(photos Greg Raque)

The York Rite at Work Chapter Dinner







Chapter Dinner photos – George Arnold



Division Commander's School of Instruction, December 14, 2020, in Bardstown (photo Joe Giles)



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Continue the York Rite Journey

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KENTUCKY
KEYSTONE****Articles**

Send articles in electronic format to the Editor at r_partin@att.net. We reserve the right to determine suitability for publication, to exclude content at the discretion of the Editor, and to perform reasonable edits to any article submitted to better suit the purposes of the Kentucky Keystone.

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