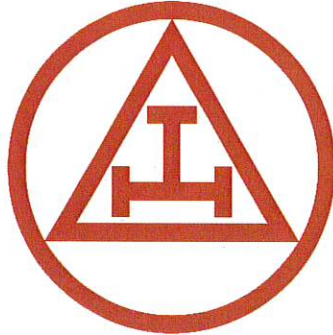


2026 GRAND YORK RITE SESSION



GRAND CHAPTER BUSINESS

MAY 1, 2026

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2026

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2025-2026 GRAND CHAPTER GRAND LINE

Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III (7) (Karen)	ME Grand High Priest
Joe R. Bush (49) (Lorna)	RE Grand King
Jack J. Bell (162) (Linda)	RE Grand Scribe
Matthew R. Astin (4) (Sarah)	RE Grand Treasurer
Mark A. Bradley (84) (Gay)	RE Grand Secretary
Timothy K. Starling (7) (Megan)	EG Chaplain
Thomas J. Chapman (66) (Clemencia)	EG Captain of the Host
Johnie M. Garmon (24) (Eva)	EG Principal Sojourner
John E. Finch, Jr. (13) (Elizabeth)	EG Royal Arch Captain
Matthew Sanford (9) (Shannon)	EG Master of the 3 rd Veil
Brandon P. Simmons (150) (Heather)	EG Master of the 2 nd Veil
Michael J. Etheridge (84) (Carla)	EG Master of the 1 st Veil
Ditmar W. Chavez (7) (Bobbie)	EG Sentinel

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS

It is with a deep sense of honor and a deep feeling of humility that I was elected on the 203rd annual convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia to the position of Grand High Priest on Friday, May 2, 2025. I was then honored to be installed as the 156th Grand High Priest by Most Excellent Companion William F. Shepard as the installing Grand High Priest; Most Excellent John Henry Johnson as the installing Grand Captain of the Host; and Most Excellent Companion Bobby B. Simmons as the installing Grand Chaplain. I cannot thank these esteemed Companions enough for the honor they have given me as the installing team, and most importantly, as dear friends.

I thank the GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF HEAVEN AND EARTH for the Blessing and the Guidance he has given me with this opportunity to preside over the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Great State of Georgia this past year. I thank my wife Karen, who has supported me on this journey. She is my rock, my love and my partner through life. I thank Ms. Marla Horton, of the Georgia York Rite Office, for the assistance she has gladly provided when I needed it. I cannot thank enough a man, a Mason whom I look up to. He has whispered wise counsel and guidance during this journey. He is a mentor and a dear friend, Most Worshipful Mark A. Bradley.

I thank my fellow Grand Chapter Officers. I am so very proud to be counted among these fine men and Masons. You, my Friends, BELIEVE in what you are doing for Freemasonry in general and Royal Arch Masonry in particular. I have watched your dedication to the Craft over these many years that I have had the honor to serve with each of you. And I can say is: well done, good and faithful servants. As long as the good LORD provides me with life, I am here for each of you. I will have your backs. In May of 2018, a man I highly respect, Most Worshipful Bobby Simmons, nominated me into the position of Grand Master of the First Veil. Thank you, sir. I want to thank my traveling Companion, Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez. I enjoyed our travels all over Georgia and the Southeastern United States. Thank you, my Friend. I have had the honor of traveling this great State of Georgia. I have traveled from the mountains in the North, to the marshes in the South, from the Savannah River and Great Atlantic Ocean in the East., and to the "West Coast of Georgia" along the Chattahoochee River. I have seen beautiful Masonic edifices, I have been in beautiful

Lodge and Chapter rooms, temples to Freemasonry, places of quiet contemplation, and halls of laughter and good fellowship. Places we can all be proud of.

But I submit to you, the most important elements I have come in contact with, the most important Jewels we have in Royal Arch Masonry. Are the living monuments, the Companions of this great jurisdiction. It is YOU, the Companions of Georgia. So, I thank YOU, for allowing me to serve YOU, these past twelve months. I thank YOU for your dedication and love of Royal Arch Masonry. I thank YOU for keeping the flame of our dear Craft alive.

THEME

My theme for the year (2025-2026) is: BELIEVE.

This simple yet profound term resonates in our souls, challenging us to look within, seeking faith in something greater than ourselves, in our shared journey as ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

First, and foremost, BELIEVE in GOD - THE SUPREME HIGH PRIEST OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. In these uncertain times, when the weight of the world often presses down on our shoulders, we must turn our gaze upwards. Believing in God is to embrace a force that nurtures hope in the darkest hours and offers a light that guides us on our most daunting paths. It's in the stillness of prayer, in the rustle of leaves outside, in that brief moment of serenity after chaos, that we find reassurance.

When we believe, we cultivate a relationship rooted in trust and love. We open our hearts to the possibility of grace, allowing our faith to fuel our actions—actions that can inspire and uplift others. In every challenge we face, let us remember, we are not alone. We are swept forward by a divine belief that propels us into greatness, basking in the wisdom of the ages, navigating with a compass only faith provides.

Next, BELIEVE in our CRAFT—The Act of Union of 1813 of the United Grand Lodge of England states: “Pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.” Thus, BELIEVE in the craft not just in the specifics of the Act of Union that established Royal Arch Masonry, but in the broad, inclusive sense. Together, as one collective spirit, we are bound not merely by our written tenets and code but by a common aspiration to foster connection across the vast seas of humanity. Brotherhood lives not only in moments of celebration but also in our shared struggles and triumphs.

Let us celebrate the CRAFT we forge through kindness, compassion, and solidarity. Letting each other know that, against adversities of the external kind, we support each other. To connect and uplift one another, to believe that together, we can thrive, even when the road is rough. The bonds we share find strength in mutual belief, and that belief creates a tapestry of hope and purpose. When we believe in our shared cause, the possible becomes tangible, and dreams shift into reality. Let us take to heart scripture from our sacred book: “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” Lastly, I urge you to BELIEVE in YOURSELVES. Each of us has within a reservoir of potential waiting to be unleashed. Far too often, we tend to doubt our abilities, focusing on shortcomings instead of our unique gifts. But just as a pearl is formed from grit, we too must understand that adversity shapes us into who we are meant to be.

BELIEVE that your voice matters, that your vision can spark change, and that one bold step forward has the power to inspire legions. You carry the courage, ambition, and

creativity to leave an indelible mark upon this world—a world waiting deeply for your contributions. Your journey is singular, but your impact can be universal. As we weave together the threads of belief in GOD, in the CRAFT, and in OURSELVES, we create a tapestry that can withstand life's challenges. When you stand before the mirror, embrace every facet of who you are; believe that through faith and community, you are part of something grander.

So, "BELIEVE". Believe in divine purpose. Believe in the ties that bind us and Believe in the boundless potential that lies within each and every one of us. Together, let us carry this ember of belief forward, lighting the way for both ourselves and the generations that follow.

Let me leave you with this charge: Walk Uprightly in your Several Stations before God and Man, be a man of Integrity, of good Character. A man of Honesty and of Truth. A man of Honor and of Duty. A man of Compassion and of Kindness. And a Man of Love and of Humility. For what does the LORD require of us, but to Act Justly, to Love Mercy and to walk Humbly with our God...BELIEVE....

GRAND CHAPTER VISITATIONS – OUTSIDE OF GEORGIA

Grand York Rite Sessions of Florida: From May 18 – 21, 2025 I attended the Grand York Rite Sessions of Florida. It was a worthwhile visitation. I and our Grand Sentinel were welcomed and treated with fraternal courtesy. A program that was presented has potential benefit to our Grand Chapter in Georgia. The program is their "Signet" program. It is very similar to the Scottish Rite's Double Headed Eagle Award. It is a program to encourage member retainment. Like the Double Headed Eagle program, a participant receives a neck jewel where added elements can be earned by achieving higher levels of points. Points are earned by attending local Royal Arch Chapter meetings, District Conventions, volunteer opportunities, etc. I believe that this is a program that has merit.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky: From September 16 – 17, 2025 in Lexington, Kentucky, I represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky. I reconnected with wonderful Companions from Kentucky. Specifically, I reconnected with Most Excellent William (Bill) Riggs, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky and the Secretary of the Royal Arch Research Assistance charity. I also connected with Most Excellent Gregory Raque, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky. It was a wonderful experience. I was also honored be being granted an Honorary Membership of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kentucky.

Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England: On November 12, 2025, London, England, I, along with Excellent Companion Brandon (Brad) P. Simmons, Grand Master of the Second Veil, represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the annual Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England. We were welcomed and treated extremely well. We were one of two outside contingents. The other being the Grand First Principle of Hungary, Most Excellent Companion Matthew Seamus Conlan.

We were announced and then processed into the Grand Chapter Assembly (held in the Grand Lodge Room at Freemasons Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London, England). I had the honor of leading the contingent in. The companions applauded as we

processed in and we were led to seats on the dais. The Pro Grand First Principle, once again, recognized us during the business of the convocation.

Upon conclusion of the convocation we were led into the Grand Masters study, where we were offered refreshment (white wine or sherry) and we met and had conversation with the Pro Grand First Principle, Most Excellent Companion Jonathan Spence, DL (Deputy Lieutenant), Second Grand Principle, Right Excellent and Sir David Wootton, and Third Grand Principle, Right Excellent Gareth Jones, OBE. After a time, we were led to a reception of the Grand Superintendents, where we met several of the Provencal Officers.

Finally, we went to a luncheon/festive board where I had the distinct honor of sitting to the right of the Pro Grand First Principle. Both the Second and Third Grand Principles and other Distinguished Masons were at my table. During the course of dinner we, the outside jurisdiction dignitaries, were called upon to “take” wine with the Pro Grand First Principle. Truly, a once in a lifetime experience.

This allocution was turned into the Grand Secretary by March 1, 2026, so the MEGHP Address Committee had sufficient time to review. After this date I plan to attend the following Grand Chapter Convocations:

- Alabama Grand York Rite Sessions: February 27 – 28th, 2026, to be held at Prattville, Alabama.
- South Carolin York Rite Sessions: March 8 – 10th, 2026, to be held at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- North Carolina York Rite Session: March 15 – 17th, 2026, to be held at Clemmons, North Carolina
- Tennessee York Rite Session: March 22 – 23rd, 2026, to be held at Nashville, Tennessee.

GEORGIA ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER VISITATION

Waycross Chapter No. 9: On May 24, 2025, I visited Waycross Chapter No. 9, Royal Arch Masons, where they performed the Degrees of the Royal Arch. They exultated nine (9) new Royal Arch Masons. Excellent work. The team from Ellijay (and northern Georgia) performed the Mark Master Mason Degree. The members of Waycross Chapter No. 9 with assistance from members of Tifton Chapter No. 47 performed the Pass Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Degrees. Excellent work.

Jesup Chapter No. 70: On June 9, 2025, I was received by the Companions of Jesup Chapter No. 70 in Ludowici, Georgia.

Fort Benning Chapter No. 73: On July 7, 2025, I visited and was received at Fort Benning Chapter No. 73, Royal Arch Masons in Columbus, Georgia.

Dave H. Keever Chapter No. 49: On July 8, 2025, I visited and was received by the Companions of Dave H. Keever Chapter No. 49, Royal Arch Masons.

Alpharetta Chapter No. 162/ Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155/Roswell Chapter No. 155: On July 16, 2025, I visited Alpharetta Chapter No. 162 together with Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155, and Roswell Chapter No. 74 at Alpharetta Lodge Building, 194 Milton Avenue, Alpharetta, Georgia. There were four other Grand Officers present. Excellent Companion Michael Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, and Right Excellent Joe Bush, Grand King.

Lakewood Chapter No. 27: On July 24, 2025, I visited Lakewood Chapter No. 27, in Lovejoy, Georgia. Most Excellent Joe Turner and his Lady Cheryle had our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, and myself to their home prior to the meeting for dinner. We shared this refreshment with several members and their ladies of Lakewood Chapter No, 27. It was a wonderful time.

Tifton Chapter No. 47: On August 14, 2025, I visited Tifton Chapter No. 47, in Tifton, Georgia. It was a great meeting and wonderful fellowship. I was presented with an honorary membership to the Chapter. So very honored and touched by this kind gesture.

Chickamauga Chapter No. 99: On September 8, 2025, I had the pleasure of participating in Chickamauga Chapter No. 99 Royal Arch Masons and Wagner Council No. 24, Royal & Select Masters Family night. Along with Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia we brought greetings from our York Right organizations. We also bore witness to the presentation of the Grand Master of Royal & Select Master's apron of Most Illustrious Harry Copeland, Most Illustrious Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia for the Year 1969 – 1970, by his family. Excellent Companion Tracy Wright gave a enlightening presentation on history of York Rite Masonry in the Chickamauga area during the early 1920s. It was a great York Rite night.

Mt. Zion Chapter No. 16: On September 22, 2025, had the pleasure, along with Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel, visited Mt. Zion Chapter No. 16 at the Atlanta Masonic Center. Met for a great repast and fellowship at the Mellow Mushroom restaurant, prior to the convocation. The High Priest, Excellent Companion Joe Bradley, provided an excellent presentation on the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees. Most Illustrious Ryan Nealy presented the hidden secrets (grips and words) of these two degrees. There were three additional Grand Line Officers, besides our Grand Sentinel, present: R.E. Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, E. Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, and E. Michael Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. There were three District Grand Deputies present, as well: E. Eric Tress, E. Philip Spake, and E. Mitchell Trip. I was kindly presented the Chapter's Penney. Great night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Wilford H. Hall No. 80: On November 17, 2025, I had the pleasure of visiting the Companions of Wilford H. Hall No. 80, Royal Arch Masons located in Dalton, Georgia. I was accompanied by Right Excellent Joe Bush, Grand King. I was well received and I spoke on the new programs that the Grand Chapter is instituting, such as the "Poker Chop" program, and Golden Keystone Award. I also spoke on Royal Arch Research Assistance program. Finally, I delivered my talk on "Believe". Great evening of Royal Arch Masonry.

Oliver Chapter No. 25 – One hundred & Seventy Fifth Anniversary Celebration: On November 18, 2025 I attended the 175th Anniversary of Oliver Chapter No. 25, located in Elberton, Georgia. It was well attended and a wonderful celebration of the Journey that the Companions through the many years have taken in establishing Royal Arch Masonry in Northeast Georgia. I gave the keynote speech and spoke on how longevity is an indication of something good and special. And that the Companions of Oliver Chapter No. 25, over the many Years, believed in the Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth, the Craft and in Themselves. I was

honored to be accompanied by Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe and Excellent Companion (Most Worshipful) Johnie Garmon. Grand Principle Sojourner. I was extremely moved and honored when the Chapter presented me with a beautiful wooden Keystone that commemorated this August event.

Ellijay Chapter No. 150: On November 22, 2025, I attended the open convocation of Ellijay Chapter No. 150, Royal Arch Masons in Ellijay, Georgia. I had the honor of installing the officers for the 2025-2026 year. I was assisted by Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Mark A. Bradley, who served as the Grand Captain of the Host, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez as the Grand Chaplain. I also was honored to present 50 Year Royal Arch Award to Most Illustrious Floyd E.

Edmondson and Companion David J. Pierce. Additionally, I bestowed the Distinguished Golden Keystone Award for his exemplary service to Royal Arch Masonry and his service as the Sunshine Chairman. A duty he performs with kindness and a sympathetic ear to those of our Craft that are going through difficult or joyous times. Grand Chapter officers that attended were Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Most Excellent Mark A. Bradley, Grand Secretary, and Excellent Brandon Simmons, Grand Master of the Second Veil. We were honored to have three past Grand High Priests in attendance: Most Excellent James T. (Tim) Ingram (2010), Most Excellent Mark A. Bradley (2017) and Most Excellent Stephen C. Higgins (2018). We were also honored to have two past Grand Masters in attendance Most Worshipful Edgar M. Land (2014) and Most Worshipful Mark A. Bradley (2025).

Constantine Chapter No. 4: Along with our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, I had the honor of visiting Constantine Chapter No. 4 at the Grand Chapter building in Macon. I opened the convocation in ample form. I recognized all of the other Grand Chapter Officers that were in attendance: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Right Excellent Matthew Astin, Grand Treasurer, Excellent Matthew Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Grand Sentinel. I was honored to install the Officers for the ensuing year. I was assisted by Right Excellent Jack Bell who acted as the Grand Captain of the Host, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez who acted as Grand Chaplain. I closed the Chapter in due form. It was a great night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Tifton Chapter No. 47: Was honored to be invited to install the Officers of Tifton Chapter No. 47 on the evening of December 11, 2025. I was assisted by Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Grand Sentinel as Grand Captain of the Host, and Most Excellent Bobby Simmons as Chaplain. It was a privilege to install Excellent Companion David Simmons as High Priest for 2025. As a past Illustrious Master of a Council, I was asked to install the Officers of Tifton Council No. 58. I was assisted by Most Worshipful Bobby Simmons as Chaplain and Right Eminent Ditmar Chavez as Marshal. Illustrious Companion David Simmons was installed into the Oriental Chair. A great night of York Rite Masonry.

Rome Chapter No. 26: Was honored to be invited to install the Officers of Rome Chapter No. 26, Royal Arch Masons on December 15, 2026. Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe acted as the Grand Captain of the Host. I had the privilege to assist in the presentation of a Past High Priest's apron to outgoing High Priest,

Excellent Companion John A. Mull. Our District Grand Deputies, Excellent Companion Mitchell Trip, Assistant Chairman of the District Grand Deputies, and Excellent Companion Phillip Spake were in attendance. Had the pleasure to sit in Chapter and Council with Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia. Great York Rite night.

Taylor Chapter No. 48: I attended the regular convocation of Taylor Chapter No. 48, Royal Arch Masons on Monday, January 12, 2026, in Buford, Georgia. I commended the Excellent High Priest and all the Companions on their effort in opening the Chapter in full form. The convocation evolved into a town meeting, of sorts, and was wonderful. I was honored to be accompanied at this convocation from the following dignitaries: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, Most Excellent Companion Steven Higgens, Past Grand High Priest and Ambassador to Georgia from the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, and Worshipful Wiley Q. Forrester, Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia. Excellent Companion Jay Finch spoke on Royal Arch Research Assistance and along with me, presented a \$500.00 level recognition to the Excellent High Priest on behalf of the Chapter. Excellent High Priest suggested that the Grand Chapter consider recognition (possibly the Golden Keystone Award) possibility for all Companions, not just the new members. Wonderful evening of Royal Arch Masonry.

Winder Chapter No. 84: I attended the regular convocation of Winder Chapter No. 84 on Monday, January 19, 2026. Of note, the Chapter opened in full form and they voted on two candidates. This is a thriving Chapter and is composed of dedicated Royal Arch Masons. I was very honored to have had Most Worshipful/Most Excellent C. Danny Wolfford escort me into the Chapter and introduce me to the Companions. The following Grand Chapter Officers were in attendance: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Excellent Companion Michael Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil; and Excellent Companion Bill Garrison, District Grand Deputy. It was a wonderful night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Alpharetta Chapter No. 162/ Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155/Roswell Chapter No. 155: On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, I attended the regular convocation of Alpharetta Chapter No. 62 and Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 155, where they held a School of Instruction. This was taught by Right Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. It focused on Opening a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, receiving the Grand High Priest, and Balloting. It was well done. Honored to have the following Grand Chapter Officers in attendance: Right Excellent Companion Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, and Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. Great night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Keystone Chapter No. K01: On Tuesday evening, February 3, 2026, I attended Keystone Chapter No. K01 of Athens, Georgia. The convocation was well attended as the Companions exalted seven (7) new Royal Arch Masons. The Chapter performed the Royal Arch Degree and the work was outstanding. In attendance with

me was Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Companion Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil; and Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel. I had the honor of presenting the Distinguished Golden Keystone Award to Most Excellent Companion (and Most Worshipful Brother) Edwards Jennings for his outstanding service to Freemasonry in general, and Royal Arch Masonry in particular. Keystone Chapter No. K01 has experienced and incredible transformation in just over the last six months. They were on the verge of turning in the Chapter, but with hard work and a never give-up attitude they have become a very healthy Chapter – performing their own Degrees, opening in full form, and enjoying many Companions at their Convocations. It was an outstanding night of Royal Arch Masonry.

Additional Chapters to be visited after March 1, 2026:

- Dallas Chapter No. 142 on April 7, 2026
- Augusta Chapter No. A01 on April 13, 2026
- Douglasville Chapter No. 50 on April 16, 2026

ROYAL ARCH DISTRICT CONVENTION VISITATION

8th ROYAL ARCH MASON CONVENTION: It was an honor and pleasure to have attended the 8th Royal Arch District Convention Table Chapter. This event was opened (Oliver Chapter No. 25, Royal Arch Masons/8th Royal Arch Masons District Convention, in due form, by the District Officers. I had the honor of installing the new District Officers. E.: Johnie Garmon served as Grand Captain of the Host and E.: Matthew Sanford served as Chaplain.

I was accompanied, with great joy, many of the Grand Chapter Officers: E.: Michael Ethridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, E.: Matthew Sanford, Grand Master of the Third Veil, E.: Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, E.: Johnie Garmon, Grand Principle Sojourner, R.: E.: Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, and R.: E.: Joe Bush, Grand King.

Presentations were made on RARA (by E.: Jay Finch), Mark Master Mason Program (by R.: E.: Jack Bell). I presented both Poker Chip and Golden Keystone programs. I also announced the RARA/Grand Chapter Cruise. Great fellowship was had by all.

SOUTH GEORGIA ROYAL ARCH CONVENTION: It was an honor and privilege to have attended the South Georgia Royal Arch Mason of Georgia Convention on July 12, 2025, in Ludowici, Georgia where Jesup Chapter No. 70, Royal Arch Masons hosted. The District Master being Excellent Companion James Arnold. This District Convention was well attended by all Chapters of the District and included four Past Grand High Priests. Great Royal Arch Masonry and fellowship was had by all.

4TH DISTRICT ROYAL ARCH CONVENTION: On October 11, 2025, I attended the 4th Royal Arch District Convention held at Greenville, Georgia. It was a homecoming, as this is my District. And in fact, I, at the time of opening the Chapter/District, was the District High Priest. It was a wonderful turn-out with over 20 Royal Arch Masons attending. Two important events occurred. 1. The district voted affirmatively to maintain the 4th District Royal Arch Convention (as there was a tabled motion to disband the District Convention); 2. I had the honor to present Excellent Companion Harold Culpepper with his 50-year apron/award. I also was honored with the following Grand Chapter Officers in attendance: Right Excellent Joe Bush, Grand King, Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Excellent Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W.

Chavez, Grand Sentinel. Additionally, we were graced to have Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia and Right Eminent Daniel C. Ricketts, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia.

2nd DISTRICT ROYAL ARCH MASON CONVENTION: On January 10, 2026, I attended the 123rd annual 2nd District Royal Arch Mason Convention, hosted by J. M. Rushing Chapter No. 23, in Thomasville, Georgia. It was well attended by both Tifton Chapter No. 47 and J. M. Rushing Chapter No. 23. Unfortunately, there was no Companion from Bainbridge Chapter No. 94 in attendance. It was well attended by Grand Chapter Officers. The following were in attendance: Right Excellent Jack Bell, Grand Scribe, Excellent Timothy K. Starling, Grand Chaplain, Excellent Johnnie Garmon, Grand Principle Sojourner, Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Excellent Matthew Sanford, Grand Master of the Third Veil, and Excellent Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel. I had the honor of installing the officers of the 2nd District for the ensuing year, and a great treat – installing Excellent John Flener as High Priest of the 2nd District for 2026. Excellent Companion Jay Finch spoke on RARA. I spoke on several programs such as the poker chip, Mark Master Mason, and Golden Keystone Award programs. I ended the convention with words on my theme – BELIEVE.

Additional Royal Arch of Georgia District Conventions to be visited after March 1, 2026:

- 7th District Royal Arch Convention, March 7, 2026, to be held at Marietta, Georgia
- 9th District Royal Arch Convention, March 14, 2026, to be held at Blairsville, Georgia
- Greater Atlanta District Royal Arch Convention, March 28, 2026, to be held at Atlanta, Georgia
- 10th District Royal Arch Convention, March 28, 2026, to be held at Milledgeville, Georgia

OTHER ACCTIVITES

DeMolay Masquerade Ball: I had the pleasure, along with my wife Karen, to attend the DeMolay Masquerade Ball on the evening of May 3, 2025. It was quite enjoyable and a great cause.

Georgia Priory No. 39, Knights of the York Cross of Honor: On June 7, 2025, at Benevolent Lodge No. 3, Milledgeville, Georgia I participated in the reception of Knights into the Georgia Priory No. 39, Knights of the York Cross of Honor. I presented the Royal Arch lecture.

Grand Chapter of Eastern Star: On June 12, 2025, I brought greetings from the Companions of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons to the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star in Macon, Georgia. My speech was an abbreviated talk on my them, BELIEVE. Presented the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron my coin. I was joined on the dias by the Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, the Right Eminent Daniel Ricketts, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia, and the Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia.

Southeastern York Rite Conference: From June 13-14, 2025, I attended the Southeastern York Rite Conference at the Sonesta Airport Hotel in Atlanta. My review of Georgia Royal Arch consisted of:

- Establishment of an Officer Manual

- The establishment of Code outlining a requirement of a Letter of Intent supplied to the Grand York Office by January 1st from all Companions wishing to run for Grand office.
- Our achievement of reaching a net increase in membership during the 2024/2025 Royal Arch Year. Due mainly to our Mark Master Mason Program.
- Announced the First ever RARA/Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia's Cruise to occur from February 8-16, 2026.

Additionally, I presented new membership programs of the Poker Chip – used as a conversation starter with potential candidates. And the Gold Keystone program to get new Royal Arch Masons ingrained into their local Chapters.

Imperial Shriners International: On June 29, 2025, at the Public Opening Session of the Imperial Shriners International, I had the honor of speaking and bringing greetings from the Companions and Sir Knights of the York Rite of Georgia to the Nobles, Ladies and guests present, and especially to Imperial Potentate Richard G. Burke and Lady Judy Burke. On the dais with me, representing the York Rite of Georgia, was Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, and Eminent Sir Knight Michael H. Sampsell, Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia.

Valley of Atlanta, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite: On July 3, 2025, I attended the Valley of Atlanta, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. A momentous occasion where Illustrious James D. Cole, 33°, Grand Commander of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite and Illustrious Walter F. Wheeler, 33°, Grand Commander of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite were both present. First ever meeting of both Grand Commanders in the Orient of Georgia. I, as the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia, along with Most Illustrious John C. Miller as the Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters were recognized.

DeMolay State Session: On July 11, 2025, I had the honor of bringing greetings from the Royal Arch Companions of Georgia to DeMolay State Session during their Honors night in Cochran, Georgia. It was a fun-filled evening.

Maggie Valley – York Rite of North Carolina Summer Session: On Sunday, July 13 to Tuesday, July 15, 2025, I attended the York Rite of North Carolina Summer Session at Maggie Valley, North Carolina. I, along with Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel, represented Georgia in this multi-jurisdictional event. The high point of the session was our visitation to the Masonic Marker in the midst of the Great Smokey Mountains.

Allied Masonic Degrees Georgia State Ingathering: On Saturday, July 19, 2025, I attended the Allied Masonic Degrees Georgia ingathering at Tyrian Lodge No. 111 in Warner Robins, Georgia. I had the honor of speaking on behalf of the York Rite of Georgia.

Alabama Knight Templar Gala: On Saturday evening, July 26, 2025, Karen and I attended the Alabama Knight Templar Gala, held at the Marriott Resort in Prattville, Alabama, for the support of the Holy Land Pilgrimage and the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. We were part of a strong Georgia contingent that included Excellent Companion (and Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia) Ditmar Chavez and his lady Bobby, Right Eminent Sir Knight Daniel Ricketts, Grand

Commander of Knights Templar in Georgia, and Lady Stephanie), Right Eminent Sir Knight Tyler Pledger, Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia and his Lady Erin, and Right Eminent Tommy Marshall, Past Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia, and Lady Brenda.

Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56, Knight of York Cross of Honor: On Thursday, July 29, 2025, I attended Cherokee Rose Priory No. 56 at the Atlanta Masonic Center for their investiture of new Knights of York Cross of Honor. I attended this with Excellent Companion Jonas Barlow, who was inducted.

Knight Templar Division III Inspection: On Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Tyrian Lodge No. 111 in Warner Robins, Georgia I had the honor to be the Inspecting Officer for Ivanhoe Commandery No. 10 for the School of Instruction. Inspected both the Commandery's Recorder & Treasurer books as well as their floor work/ritual work. Thank you, Grand Commander for giving me this great honor.

The York Rite Sovereign College of North America: I had the privilege of representing the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the sixty-eighth York Rite Sovereign College of North America's General Assembly held in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was a true honor to be present at the presenting of the Order of the Purple Cross to such dedicated and deserving Georgia York Rite Masons: Edward Barclay, OPC, Michael John Etheridge, OPC, Howard Lester Maddox, OPC, and Sherman Dwayne Rankin, OPC.

4th District Masonic Convention: On August 16, 2025, I attended the 4th District Masonic Convention at Greenville Lodge No. 321 in Greenville, Georgia. I was there in support of our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley, and in support of the 4th District Masonic Convention as a Past Master of that convention.

Biannual Session of the Supreme Council Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of Freemasonry: From August 16 – 19, 2025 I represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia at the Biannual Session of the Supreme Council of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of Freemasonry in Washington DC.

Blue Ridge Lodge No. 67: As part of my visit to the Rock Quarry Degrees, I was invited to participate in Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley's visit to Blue Ridge Lodge No. 67 on Friday, August 22, 2025. I was in attendance with our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Ditmar Chavez. The Grand Master asked if I would escort him into the Lodge and introduce him to the entire Lodge and all in attendance. A true honor.

Rock Quarry Degrees: On August 23, 2025, I, along with our Grand Sentinel, Excellent Ditmar Chavez, attended the Rock Quarry Degrees on top of a mountain near Morganton, Georgia. We enjoyed a nice lunch at around 3:00pm at "The Spring", then attended the Masonic opening and the Master Mason Degree in the Rock Quarry later that evening.

Orient of Georgia, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Knight Commander Court of Honor Investiture: I was honored to serve as the Grand Standard Bearer in the Investiture team for the Orient of Georgia, Scottish Rite's Investiture of Knight Commander Court of Honor recipients in Savannah, Georgia on September 5-6, 2025.

Georgia Court of Athelstan, No. 13: While attending the Georgia Court of Athelstan No. 13 on September 13, 2025, at the Grand Chapter Building in Macon, Georgia I was honored by being presented to the Court as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of

Royal Arch Masons of Georgia. A true honor. I was also installed as Worshipful Master for the year 2025-2026.

Scottish Rite, Valley of Atlanta – Feast of Tishri & York Rite Recognition: On October 2, 2025, I, along with six Grand Chapter Officers attended the Feast of Tishri of the Valley of Atlanta, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. I brought greetings and appreciation for the invitation and recognition from the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia. I spoke briefly on the meaning of Tishri to Royal Arch Masons. I was honored to have in attendance with me: Right Worshipful Joe Bush, Grand King; Right Worshipful Jack Bell, Grand Scribe; Excellent Johnnie Garmon, Grand Principal Sojourner; Excellent Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Excellent Brandon Simmons, Grand Master of the Second Veil; and Excellent Michael Etheridge, Grand Master of the First Veil. Great Night of both Rites of Freemasonry.

Orient of Georgia of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Coronation of the Inspector General Honorary 33°: On October 3-4, 2025, I attended the Orient of Georgia's Coronation of those Brothers of Georgia who received the Inspector General Honorary, 33 Degree. This was held in Atlanta. Friday night was a wonderful repast at the Petite Violet Restaurant, and the Coronation was held at the Atlanta Masonic Center. With a banquet at Yaarab Shrine Center. It was an honor to attend for all new Inspector General Honorary's, but most of all for Illustrious Brother William Block, 33° of Columbus, Georgia.

Deputy Grand Master's Boil: Lady Karen and I attended Right Worshipful William (Bill) F. Shepard's Boil (Roast) on the evening of October 11, 2025, in Brunswick, Georgia. It was a delightful evening, catching up with Brothers/Companions and their wives, as well as enjoying a very delicious Low Country Boil dinner. It was great to support R.W. Bill Shepard, a wonderful Man and Mason.

Saint Aldemar No. 3/Ft. Benning No. 73 Knights Templar Tactics Inspection: On October 20, 2025, I had the honor of participating in the joint Tactical Inspection of Saint Aldemar Commandery No. 3 and Fort Benning Commandery No. 73 as the Junior Warden. Our inspecting officer was Sir Knight John Flener, Grand Junior Warden. Additionally, the Grand Commander, Right Eminent Daniel C. Ricketts, was present. Both congratulated us on a job well done.

Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia: On October 27-29, 2025, I attended the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia. I represented the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia and was honored to be asked by the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Bradley, to provide the response for the in-state dignitaries. There is a wonderful sense of brotherhood between our Grand Lodge on the appendant bodies. It was an honor and a privilege to represent Royal Arch Masonry at my Grand Lodge.

Marietta Council No. 74, Royal & Select Masters Table Council: On Friday, November 14, 2025, I attend the table council of Marietta Council No. 74, Royal & Select Masters. Most Illustrious John C. Miller, Grand Master of Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, Right Eminent Daniel Ricketts, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia and Most Worshipful Mark A. Bradley, Past Grand Master of Masons of Georgia were also in attendance. We were recognized and the fellowship was great. Most Worshipful Bradley gave a talk on "Heros" and was well received.

Red Cross of Constantine Georgia Gathering: On Saturday, November 15, 2025, the Intendant Generals, M.W. Ben Polston, Intendant General, North Georgia, and M. W. Donald Combs, Intendant General, South Georgia held the annual gathering of Georgia Conclaves at Tyrian Lodge No. 111, Warner Robins, Georgia. All the Orders of the Red Cross of Constantine were conferred upon those Knight Companions/Candidates that were qualified. Muscogee Conclave (Columbus, Georgia) performed the College of Viceroy Order. I had the honor of performing the office of Most Eminent Viceroy for that conferral of the Order.

Rose Hill Lodge No. 484: I was honored to be asked to install the Officers of Rose Hill Lodge No. 484 on Sunday, December 14, 2025. Worshipful Brother Steve Smith, a member of my Chapter – Darley Chapter No. 7 – was installed as Worshipful Master. I was assisted by Worshipful Brother Phil Harris, who served as Marshal.

Scottish Rite, Valley of Savannah: On January 24, 2026, I represented and brought greetings from the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia to the members, ladies, families and guest of the Valley of Savannah Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite on the event of their Dedication of Monuments. Those monuments dedicated were the two guardian Sphinxes, Jachin and Boaz, paver garden, and gazebo. I was accompanied by Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Grand Sentinel. The Master of Ceremonies was Most Worshipful and Illustrious Brother Donald Combs, 33°, Personal Representative of the Valley of Savannah, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. Others that brought greetings were Most Worshipful Brother William Shepard, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of Georgia, Illustrious Brother Gene Cobb, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General of North Carolina and acting SGIG of Georgia, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Right Eminent Daniel C. Ricketts, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia, and Illustrious Brother Michael J. Broom, 33°, Deputy of the Supreme Council in South Carolina, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia/RARA Cruise: February 8 – 16, 2026 the first ever Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia held a cruise on the Sky Princess. The cruise toured Saint Thomas, Virgin Island, Saint Martin, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Grand Turk. The highlights of the cruise, in terms of Freemasonry, were the opening of Darley Chapter No. 7, Royal Arch Masons, while at sea. The Chapter was opened at 11:13 am at Latitude 25° 11' North; Longitude 75° 05' West at 160 feet above sea level. I want to thank the following Companions who attended: Right Excellent Daniel Ricketts, Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Georgia, who served as King, upon the high seas; Excellent Companion Wiley Gammon, who served as Secretary upon the high seas; Excellent Companion Jay Finch, Grand Royal Arch Captain, who served as Captain of the Host upon the high seas; Most Worshipful and Excellent Companion Johnnie Garmon, Grand Principal Sojourner, who served as Principal Sojourner upon the high seas; Excellent Matthew Sanford, Grand Master of the 3rd Veil, who served as Royal Arch Captain upon the high seas; Most Worshipful and Most Excellent Mark Bradley, Grand Secretary, who served as Master of the 3rd Veil upon the high seas; Most Illustrious Companion Judd Wolfe, Past Grand Illustrious Master of the Royal & Select Masters of Georgia, who served as the Master of the 2nd Veil upon the high seas; Excellent Dale Cliett, who served as Master of the 1st Veil upon

the high seas; and Right Eminent and Excellent Companion Ditmar Chavez, Grand Sentinel, who served as Sentinel upon the high seas. Additionally, while touring San Juan, Puerto Rico, our group visited the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Puerto Rico. Our hosts were Most Worshipful Brother Anibal Rosario Ruiz, Grand Master of Masons in Puerto Rico, Right Worshipful Brother Carlos M. Barreto, Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Puerto Rico and several other Brethren of Puerto Rico. The Grand Lodge building, very beautiful, boasts a York Rite Lodge Room, Scottish Rite Lodge Room, and the Grand Lodge room. Beautiful murals depicting the three Degrees of Freemasonry. It was truly a wonderful time of Masonic fellowship between two great jurisdictions. There were a total of fourteen couples (including eleven Royal Arch Masons) that attended the cruise. A contribution (yet to be determined) will be made to the Royal Arch Research Assistance program due to participation in this cruise. Great event for Royal Arch Masonry.

INDICATED ACTIONS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE CRAFT

1. Investigate the Grand Chapter of Florida's Signet Program for possible use in Royal Arch Masonry of Georgia. It appears to be a great retention program.
2. Continue the Monthly (or go to quarterly) Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Newsletter. This program would have to be executed by either the current Grand High Priest or a Newsletter committee. Grand Secretary would not have the time to provide this.
3. Recommend that future Grand High Priests try to attend the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England. As this is part of the United Grand Lodge of England, which is the mother Lodge of Freemasonry, it provides exposure to the Grand Chapter of Georgia and insight for the individual attending.
4. There are those Companions that have had a lifelong dedication to Royal Arch Masonry. Whether working in the quarries at the local level, the State level, and/or the National level recognition for long term dedication should be given. During my visitations to other jurisdictions, I have seen different forms of lifetime achievement recognition. Thus, I recommend (and will put forth a bill) to establish a Georgia Royal Arch Lifetime Achievement award.
5. Recommend continuing with the Golden Keystone Award. Expand this so that any Georgia Royal Arch Mason may receive the recognition of this award once the requirements are met to receive the award.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST'S ADDRESS

To the Right Excellent Grand King, Grand Chapter Officers, Past Grand High Priests, and Companions of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia, the Committee on the Grand High Priest's Address is honored to make the following report:

We wish to acknowledge the unswerving support of our Grand High Priest by Lady Karen, the First Lady of Royal Arch Masonry. Her support, we are sure, made his journey more memorable.

We wish to join the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in thanking the Grand Secretary, Most Excellent Companion Mark Bradley and Marla Horton for their service, their hard work should never go unnoticed, their efforts make it easy for the rest of us.

We join the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in thanking the Grand Officers of this Grand Chapter for their support and service. We complement our Most Excellent Grand High Priest on his appointment of the two "appointed" Grand Officers...Excellent Companion Timothy K. Starling, Right Excellent Reverend Grand Chaplain, and Excellent Companion Ditmar W. Chavez, Excellent Grand Sentinel. These two great companions have added much to our Grand Chapter this year. We join the Most Excellent High Priest in his appreciation and acknowledgment of the unity the Grand Chapter Officers, our Grand Chapter is in good hands for many years to come. We commend the Most Excellent Grand High Priest in seeking advice and guidance from those who have traveled this way before, the Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests. We especially acknowledge Most Excellent Companion Bobby Blackman Simmons, for having faith in Most Excellent Companion Joseph f. Oelgoetz, III and nominating him for the office of Excellent Grand Master of the First Veil and starting him on this journey.

We acknowledge the travels of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest this year. Our Grand High Priest made many visits both in state and out of state, even across the ocean to England and we appreciate the distinguished way he has represented our Grand Chapter and the Royal Masons of Georgia in his journeys.

We applaud the theme of the Grand High Priest and the Grand Chapter this year; Believe. Believe in God, Believe in our Craft, and Believe in Ourselves.

We appreciate the support our Most Excellent Grand High Priest has provided to the Royal Arch Research Assistance program. Through his support and the efforts of Jay Finch, Thomas J. Chapman, and Johnie M. Garmon, we continue to be strong and leading supporters of this great work.

We acknowledge and agree with the recommendations of the Grand High Priest for the betterment of the craft.

Now as our Most Excellent Companion Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III lays down the gavel of the Grand Chapter, we are assured that his service to our great fraternity is not ended. Soon the time will come for him to rise again to deeds of even more exalted usefulness. Fraternaly Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; Hugh F. Watson; and John Henry Johnson

REPORT OF THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Officers and Companions of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Georgia:

We, your committee on Jurisprudence, report that no Bill to amend the Royal Arch Code was referred to the committee for consideration at this Annual Convocation.

One Resolution was submitted for consideration at this annual Grand Convocation.

The Committee found the resolution in proper form and not in conflict with any section of the code.

We are pleased to report that all decisions rendered by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and all dispensations issued from the office of the Grand Secretary were in strict accordance with the Royal Arch Masonic Code of Georgia.

We your committee wishes to thank the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Fraternaly Submitted: William F. Shepard, Chairman; C. Danny Wofford; and F. Andrew Lane Jr.

REPORT OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND EDICTS COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Bills, Resolutions and Edicts wishes to make the following report:

The Grand High Priest submitted a bill in October 2025, to add a new Section to Code Section 2.7 to provide for a Lifetime Achievement Award and how it is determined. Your Committee recommends this Bill be adopted.

Your Committee has reviewed one Resolution issued by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest: Issued March 5, 2026 to arrest the charter of Valdosta -Zerubbabel Chapter No. 107 at Valdosta. This was a necessary action and your Committee recommends its adoption.

Your Committee has reviewed two Edicts issued by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and recommend they be adopted:

Edict No. 1 issued May 12, 2025 to require a candidate for the degrees to be accompanied by at least one Recommender unless the degrees are conferred in the candidate's home chapter.

Edict No. 2 issued May 12, 2025 to allow District Grand Deputies to present Years of Service Awards to include FIFTY YEARS and higher awards.

If Approved, these Two Edicts will be added to the 2025 Grand Chapter Code in their appropriate Sections.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

REPORT OF CHARTER, BY-LAWS & DISPENSATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Charters, By-Laws and Dispensations wishes to make the following report:

Your Committee has received a rewrite of the bylaws of:

Waycross Chapter No. 9, Lakewood Chapter No. 27, Tifton Chapter No. 47, Douglasville Chapter No. 50 and Dallas Chapter No. 142.

Your Committee recommends approval as submitted and amended.

Your Committee is aware of ByLaw changes for Fort Benning Chapter No. 73 that were submitted to the Grand Secretary's Office in October and returned by him as not in proper format. THESE CHANGES NEED TO BE SUBMITTED IN FORMAT SOON IF YOU ARE USING THOSE CHANGES!

Your Committee has received a rewrite of the bylaws of Enotah Chapter No. 24. Your committee returned them for multiple corrections on January 25, 2026 and has heard nothing.

Your Committee received a rewrite of the bylaws of Taylor Chapter No. 48. Your Committee approved them on January 25, 2026 and then they submitted a revision again which is not approved and was returned for corrections on March 13, 2026.

This committee has reviewed all dispensations issued by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and they are of a routine nature and meet with our approval. Almost all were to receive and ballot at a regular convocation or meet on a different night. We congratulate our Most Excellent Grand High Priest on opening Darley Chapter No. 7 Royal Arch Masons on the High Seas in a boat on February 10, 2026. (Under Dispensation of Course!!!!) Several Grand Chapter officers attended this historic meeting.

Your Committee notes with sadness that William J. Penn, Jr. Chapter No. 15 at Albany was consolidated with Tifton Chapter No. 47 at Tifton on June 4, 2025. We also note that Adoniram Chapter No. 41 at Cedartown was consolidated with Rome Chapter No. 26 at Rome on November 11, 2025.

Your Committee also notes with sadness that the Charter of Valdosta – Zerubbabel Chapter No. 107 at Valdosta was arrested for cause on March 5, 2026 and the current members issued demits that they may affiliate with a chapter of their choosing.

This Committee notes that dispensation No. 19 was issued on April 8, 2025 to form a new chapter in McCaysville, Georgia. Your committee has reviewed the Bylaws of this chapter and returned them for further corrections on January 25, 2026. Your Committee recommends that a charter be granted for McCay Chapter No. 114 (the old chapter number) but the ByLaws have to be fixed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Pickens No. 28 80 years, Silver Shoals No. 14 moved from Pleasant to Cumming 75 years ago. Moon Chapter No. 142 was changed to Dallas 142 65 years ago

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Stephen C. Higgins;
T. Matthew Sanford

REPORT OF CODE REVISION COMMITTEE

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your committee on Code Revision wishes to make the following report:

The May 2, 2025 Royal Arch Mason Code is available from the Grand Secretary's office.

The 2025 code is placed on the Grand York Rite website as a PDF file and SHOULD BE updated annually after each Grand Convocation session so that a current copy is always available for use by any member.

The Code will be reprinted every third year with all amendments and changes.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman; Ryan C. Nealey;
and William T. White

REPORT OF FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Officers, and Members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Georgia:

Your Foreign Correspondent wishes to make the following report:

I have received no out of state or foreign proceedings for review. I do not know if any Grand Jurisdictions even send proceedings to other states anymore and most states do not put them online.

I do receive the General Grand Chapter Newsletters and a couple of states newsletters and I note with interest activities going on in other states. I also get the Royal Arch Mason magazine and find items of interest included in those pages.

No requests for recognition from other Grand Chapters have been received to my knowledge.

Respectfully Submitted: Joe E. Turner, Chairman

2026-2027 GRAND CHAPTER GRAND LINE

Joe R. Bush (49) (Lorna)

ME Grand High Priest

Jack J. Bell (162) (Linda)

RE Grand King

Thomas J. Chapman (66) (Clemencia)

RE Grand Scribe

Matthew R. Astin (4) (Sarah)
Mark A. Bradley (84) (Gay)
Beau M. Davis (49) (Becky)
Johnie M. Garmon (24) (Eva)
John E. Finch, Jr. (13) (Elizabeth)
Matthew Sanford (9) (Shannon)
Brandon P. Simmons (150) (Heather)
Michael J. Etheridge (84) (Carla)

RE Grand Treasurer
RE Grand Secretary
EG Chaplain
EG Captain of the Host
EG Principal Sojourner
EG Royal Arch Captain
EG Master of the 3rd Veil
EG Master of the 2nd Veil
EG Master of the 1st Veil
EG Sentinel

Thomas R. Conn (49) (Leng)

2026-27 CHAPTER DISTRICT GRAND DEPUTIES

Chair Mitch Tripp (26)
District. 1: Brandon Jones (70)
District. 2/3: Howard L Maddox (47)
District. 4: Robert M Grant (11/73)
District 4: Baron L. Conklin (73)
District 5: Robert Soderstrom (155)
District 5: Anthony C. Williams (16)
District 6: Samuel K Lowder (27)
District 7: Jerry M Hardigree (80)
District 7: Phillip J. Spake (142)
District 7: Lyle Thomas Chadwick (13)
District 8: Craig S Faulkner (25)
District 8: Jeffrey Anderson (41)
District 9: David M. Wellman (135)
District 9: William Garrison (48)
District 9: Michael Ray Sosbee (21)
District 9: Danny Russell (150/ 114)
District 10: Michael W Shaefer (78)
District 11: J. Rusty Bennett (9)
District 12: Sherman D. Rankin (18)

2026-2027 GRAND CHAPTER COMMITTEE ASIGNMENTS

Custodians of the Work: North: Tyler W. Pledger and Peter Bard

South: Matthew Sanford and Joey E. Jackson

Assistant Custodian: Mike Etheridge

MEGHP Address: William F. Shepard, Chair; Hugh F. Watson; John H. Johnson

Finance: Jack J. Bell, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Matthew R. Astin

Memorial: Donald C. Combs, Beau M. Davis, James W. Bard

Jurisprudence: William F. Shepard, Chair; C. Danny Wofford; Daniel C. Ricketts

Charters/By-Laws/Dispensations: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Stephen C. Higgins;
Matthew Sanford

Foreign Correspondent: Joe E. Turner

Credentials: Matthew R. Astin, Chair; David Simmons; Tommy Kimbrell;
Dennis C. Simpson; Mark A. Bradley

Auditing: Mike Taylor; Lloyd R. Lane; James D. Arnold

R. A. R. A.: John E. Finch, Chair; Thomas J. Chapman, Johnnie M. Garmon

Building Trustees: Mark A. Bradley, Chair; Michael H. Wilson; William F. Shepard; Jack J. Bell; Matthew Sanford; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Entertainment: Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Judd Wolfe
Educational/Historical: C. Danny Wofford, Chair; Joe E. Turner; Timothy K. Starling; Jimmy Densmore; Matthew Sanford
Long Range Planning: Tyler W. Pledger, Chair; James W. Bard; Michael Hamlin
Public Relations: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Rick Hallwood
Membership: Tyler Pledger Chair; James Bard; Brandon P. Simmons
Perpetual Memberships: Benjamin W. Polston, II, Chair; Mark A. Bradley; Michael H. Wilson; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III; Matthew R. Astin
Code Revision: Joe E. Turner, Chair; Ryan C. Nealey; William White
Masonic Messenger Supplement: John T. Flener, Jr., Chair; John E. Finch
Web Master: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Richard T. Peterson; Joseph F. Oelgoetz, III
Grand Master Y.R. Festival: John T. Flener, Jr, Chair; Daniel C. Ricketts; Peter Bard; Joey E. Jackson; Matt Sanford
Photographer: Thomas J. Chapman, Chair; Bayardo Reyes; Robert W. Tidwell
Parliamentarian: Johnie M. Garmon
Fundraising: John T. Flener, Jr, Chair; Jack J. Bell
Sunshine: Floyd Edmondson