



Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter

HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF FLORIDA & U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, INC.
Prince Hall Affiliated

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15TH ANNUAL YORK RITE WORKSHOP PROCLAMATION

October 1, 2023

To the Honorable Jeffery G. Jones, 19th Most Worshipful Grand Master; All Florida Jurisdiction Department Heads; Deputy Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Peter J. Bruton; Grand King, Right Excellent Andre Reed; Grand Scribe, Right Excellent Craig E. Hall; Grand Treasurer, Right Excellent Jose "Tito" George; Grand Secretary, Right Excellent Canary Williams; Grand Chaplain, Right Excellent Rev. Ernest L. Powell; Grand CCFC, Right Excellent Jordin T. Chandler; All Past Most Excellent Grand High Priests; All Past Grand High Priests; All Appointed Grand Chapter Officers; All Excellent High Priests, Past High Priests, Kings, Scribes, Treasurers, Secretaries; All Local Appointed Officers, and All Companions.

But you are a chosen people, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2: 9

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter has worked to deliver you a York Rite Workshop built on a foundation of EXCELLENCE, housed in PERFECTION and guarded by LOVE. This year's **workshop**, just as in years past, will focus on the good **work**, true **work**, and square **work** of our Companions all across the Jurisdiction.

CALL TO ASSEMBLE

Now, by the prerogative of this office and in conformity with the Constitution and By-Laws governing the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Florida & U.S. Virgin Islands, Prince Hall Affiliated, I, Most Excellent Dr. Elton L. Lewis KYGCH KCT, Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry, do hereby proclaim the **15th Annual York Rite Workshop**, will convene for all Holy Royal Arch Masons on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 and conclude on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld 10100 International Dr., Orlando Florida 32821.

LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS

The host hotel for this event is the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld. The hotel can be reached at (407) 352-1100 to make your reservations. Book your rooms under the group name of "**York Rite Weekend**." The room rate is \$119.00 per night plus applicable taxes/fees for a standard single (king bed) or standard double (queen beds). Reservation cut-off date is December 1, 2023. *(After December 1, 2023 reservation requests are confirmed on guestroom and convention rate availability. If the rate is not available, the prevailing hotel rate will apply.)*

The Pass Key for Hotel Reservations:

The pass key for the 15th York Rite Workshop is below. Please click the hyperlink below to access the hotel reservation site:

[LINK TO DOUBLETREE BY HILTON - ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD - PASS KEY](#)

We are expecting a larger than normal attendance at this event, so make your reservations early. Please do not over book rooms. Reservations must be made with a major credit card. The Grand Chapter will not be responsible for cancellation charges or overbooked rooms.

Most Excellent

Dr. Elton L. Lewis K.Y.G.C.H.

Grand High Priest

Right Excellent

Peter J. Bruton K.Y.C.H.

Deputy Grand High Priest

Right Excellent

Andre Reed K.Y.C.H.

Grand King

Right Excellent

Craig E. Hall K.Y.C.H.

Grand Scribe

Right Excellent

Jose "Tito" George

Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent

Canary Williams

Grand Secretary

Right Excellent

Rev. Ernest L. Powell

Grand Chaplain

Right Excellent

Jordin T. Chandler

Grand Chair of Foreign

Correspondence

REGISTRATION

Registration is **\$100.00 from October 1st, 2023 through November 15, 2023**. Late Registration is **\$125.00 from November 16, 2023 through December 1, 2023**. Any registrations received by the Grand Secretary after December 1, 2023 will be considered on-site registration. On-site registration is \$175.00. Chapters must pre-register the following six (6) local Chapter officers: Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, and Royal Arch Captain. These officers must register whether in attendance or not.

All **Appointed Grand Chapter Officers** and Companions who serve as **Joshua or Court Director** for the Heroines of Jericho are expected to **register with their local Royal Arch Chapter**. This will be strictly enforced. Please understand that it should not be expected that the local HOJ Court will pay your registration for you.

This year's registration form can also be completed using the online registration form. A link to the online registration form can be found on the registration form attached below. ALL local Chapter Secretaries are asked to complete the online registration form to allow for accuracy of information being submitted. The QR Code for Zelle payments can also be found on the online registration form.

Registrations should be mailed directly to the **Grand Secretary, Right Excellent Canary Williams, at P.O. Box 16303, Pensacola, FL 32507**. Attached below is the registration form. Make all checks and money orders payable to the "M.E.U.G.C." If you send a check there will be a \$40 fee on any returned check plus bank fees. Individuals or Chapters can also register using Zelle by sending funds using the email address meugc.grtreasurer@gmail.com.

There will be a celebratory testimonial honoring our very own Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Byron L. Willis, on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 7:30pm. **Those who are not members of Union Grand Commandery, Magnanimous Order of Knight Templar Masons and/or registered for their workshop and would like to attend the testimonial banquet will need to designate this on the registration form and submit an additional \$40.00 along with your registration.**

ATTIRE

For the Statewide Exaltation and the Workshop on Saturday, all Companions are to dress in full Royal Arch dress, to include black suit, white dress shirt, black shoes, black socks, red tie, crown, apron, gloves, and appropriate collar. All elected and appointed Grand Chapter Officers are to dress in full ritualistic regalia. Please see the attached agenda for more detailed information with regard to the attire for each event. *In lieu of full Royal Arch dress Companions are authorized to wear the approved Grand Chapter oxford of any color, black slacks, black shoes, black socks, crown, apron, gloves, and appropriate collar.*

OCCASIONAL CHAPTER OPENING

The officers and members of Anthony T. Stafford Chapter #10 will perform the Workshop opening in due and ritualistic form.

COLLEGE OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

The College of Royal Arch Masonry will convene during this workshop. Our Dean, Dr. George Lockhart, and the administrators are anxious to continue the rich tradition of this great institution! Dr. Lockhart will provide a list of courses offered along with the instructors of each course by December 1, 2023. All who have not previously enrolled in the College of Royal Arch Masonry will have the opportunity to do so at the York Rite Workshop.

JEWEL CONTEST

The Jewel Contest will take place during our session on Saturday, January 6, 2024. The Jewel Contest is conducted to serve mainly as a learning tool and to provide uniformity throughout the jurisdiction in the performance of ritualistic ceremonies. The focus of this year's Jewel Contest will be performing the ritualistic last rites given to a Companion upon his demise. All rules and regulations for the Jewel Contest will be attached to the Proclamation. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place winners.

STATEWIDE DEGREE CONFERRAL

The statewide conferral of the Most Excellent Master degree will take place on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 8:00pm. Candidates must meet at the appropriate meeting room by 7:30pm. All candidates will participate in Capitular education courses from Thursday January 4, 2024 through Friday January 5, 2024. Candidates are required to be present for a mandatory proficiency test on Friday, January 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm. Candidates not present for proficiency will not be permitted to participate in the statewide exaltation.

The statewide exaltation will be conducted on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 6:00am. All Candidates are required to register at the regular rate of \$100.00, which can be submitted along with the local chapter registration.

HRAM & HOJ JOINT LUNCHEON

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter HRAM and the Most Ancient Union Grand Court HOJ will have a joint luncheon, "Honoring Our Heroes and Companions of Distinction," on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at noon. There will be several presentations made during this event including awards and recognitions for Companions and Chapters around the Jurisdiction.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

HAGGAI AWARD: For all companions exalted over the last 12 months and working towards the Haggai Award, you will need to submit the award tracking form prior to December 1, 2023. The tracking form can be found attached below. The Haggai Award is our designated new member retention program.

COMPANION OF THE YEAR AWARD: We will award one deserving Companion the "Charles T. Maxwell Companion of the Year" Award. The recipient of this award will be afforded free registration to all HRAM events for the year that they hold the award and will be exempted from Grand Chapter head taxes for the year that they receive the award.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS: We will award one Chapter of the Year Award for a small chapter (20 Companions or less) and a large chapter (20+ Companions) to deserving chapters. The rubric for Chapter of the Year can be found in each local Chapter's Google Drive folder. Those Chapters who believe they are eligible for Chapter of the Year (either small or large) should submit their completed rubrics prior to the Grand Secretary no later than December 1, 2023.

GRAND CHAPTER BOOK OF MARKS

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter has adopted an Official Book of Marks for Companions of the Jurisdiction to have their official mark left in perpetuity amongst the archives. Every Companion in attendance can have their mark placed in the Grand Chapter Book of Marks on a first-come-first-serve basis at a cost of \$20.00.

In closing, I ask for your continued prayers of intercession for me as I go to the Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth in intercession for you. Let "Holiness to the Lord" be engraved upon all your thoughts, words and actions.

This communication is to be read in its entirety during each meeting before the York Rite Workshop and a copy made available to each member via email or regular mail.



UNDER THE LIVING ARCH I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter to be affixed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. L. Lewis".

Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis, KYGCH KCT
Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry

ATTEST,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Canary Williams".

Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Grand Secretary





Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter

Holy Royal Arch Masons State of Florida & U.S.V.I. & Jurisdictions, Inc.

Prince Hall Affiliated

Most Excellent Dr. Elton L. Lewis, K.Y.G.C.H. – Grand High Priest

15th ANNUAL YORK RITE WORKSHOP AGENDA

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	
Wed. Jan 3	5:00 PM	Registration	Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Wed. Jan. 3	7:30 PM	Candidates Meet & Prep for Degree Conferral ATTIRE: Full Masonic Dress	Rt. Ex. Craig E. Hall HRAM Candidate Education Team
Wed. Jan. 3	8:00 PM	Most Excellent Master Degree ATTIRE: Full HRAM Masonic Dress	Statewide Degree Team
Thu. Jan. 4	8:00 AM	Capitular Education Courses	HRAM Candidate Education Team
Thu. Jan. 4	12:00 PM	Lunch (On Your Own)	
Thu. Jan. 4	2:00 PM	Capitular Education Courses	HRAM Candidate Education Team
Fri. Jan. 5	8:00 AM	Capitular Education Courses	HRAM Candidate Education Team
Fri. Jan. 5	12:00 PM	Lunch (On Your Own)	
Fri. Jan. 5	2:00 PM	Capitular Education Courses	HRAM Candidate Education Team
Fri. Jan. 5	2:00 PM	Registration	Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Fri. Jan. 5	7:00 PM	Joint York Rite Hospitality	ALL YORK RITE HOUSES
Sat. Jan. 6	4:30 AM	Candidates Meet & Prep for Degree Conferral ATTIRE: Full Masonic Dress	Statewide Exaltation Team
Sat. Jan. 6	7:00 AM	Registration	
Sat. Jan. 6	7:45 AM	Occasional Chapter Opening ATTIRE: Full HRAM Masonic Dress OR Approved HRAM Oxford	Anthony T. Stafford Chapter #10
Sat. Jan. 6	8:15 AM	Reception of Grand Cabinet	Rt. Ex. Peter J. Bruton
Sat. Jan. 6	8:30 AM	Reception of Grand High Priest	Rt. Ex. Peter J. Bruton
Sat. Jan. 6	8:35 PM	Reception of Dept. Heads/Visiting Dignitaries/Guests	Most. Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis
Sat. Jan. 6	8:40 AM	Reception of MW Grand Master & Cabinet	Most. Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis
Sat. Jan. 6	8:45 AM	Devotion	Rt. Ex. Rev. Ernest L. Powell
Sat. Jan. 6	8:55 AM	Welcome	DDGHP Jimmy Stewart – Dist 2
Sat. Jan. 6	9:00 AM	College of Royal Arch Masonry – Course 1	Comp. Dr. George Lockhart
Sat. Jan. 6	10:30 AM	College of Royal Arch Masonry – Course 2	Comp. Dr. George Lockhart
MEUGC MAUGC Joint Luncheon			
“Honoring our Heroes and Companions of Distinction”			
12:00pm-2:00pm			
Sat. Jan. 6	2:00 PM	Jewel Contest	DDGHP Elton Jonas-Hampson – Dist. 12
Sat. Jan. 6	3:00 PM	Consecration Ceremony	Rt. Ex. Ernest L. Powell, Gr. Chaplain
Sat. Jan. 7	3:15 PM	Presentation of Candidate Membership Packets	Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Sat. Jan. 7	3:30 PM	Final Remarks	Visiting Dignitaries PMEGHPs Department Heads Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis Hon. Jeffery G. Jones
Sat. Jan. 7	4:00 PM	Official Closing of York Rite Workshop	Grand Elected and Appointed Officers
Sat. Jan. 7	7:30 PM	Testimonial Honoring Right Eminent Grand Commander Byron L. Willis KYGCH	Union Grand Commandery #22

