

York Rite ~ Joint Newsletter



Most Excellent Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons, Jurisdiction of N.C., P.H.A.
Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters, for the Jurisdiction of N.C.
Tarheel Grand Commandery, Order of Knights Templar, P.H.A., Jurisdiction of N.C.



Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Comp. Robert D. Hood, KYGCH
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master, IC Maurice D. Hamilton, KYGCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK William A. Cooke, KYGCH

Prince Hall Affiliated

Greetings all,

I pray that the Most High continues to shine his blessings on each of you and your families.

As we look back to our recent York Rite Convention we can agree that we have done great work within our communities and Jurisdiction. I applaud all of you on the work you have done and continue to do.

Our York Rite Convention was a glaring success and a testament to the leadership and guidance of the York Rite family. I would like to thank our leaders for allowing me to serve as Editor of all three newsletters last year and appointing me to serve again this year. I look forward to working with our membership throughout the upcoming year as I know we will have much to report.

During the convention I listened to our leaders give outstanding annual addresses which I will highlight in the upcoming newsletters. They were inspiring, symbolic and visionary. Their remarks reviewed our past work, examined our current state of affairs and outlined the work we still have yet to do. I pray you will enjoy their remarks as we move into the future.

If there are items you would like included in our newsletters please feel free to reach out to me directly at: damajocs@yahoo.com. Without our membership there is no newsletter so again I say thank you for doing the work and an extra thank you for sending in your events for us to highlight in the newsletter.

Yours in service,

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Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons
Jurisdiction of North Carolina, Prince Hall Affiliation
Companion Robert D. Hood, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Greetings Family:

Thank you for making the 13th Annual York Rite Convention a huge success! Companions from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Texas came together in one band of brotherly love. The inconvenience of the hotel, due to renovations, did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance, as smiles were visible throughout the convention.

As I reflect on the 2018 Grand Convocation, one word comes to my mind and that word is, "WOW". History was made as we welcomed, for the first time into the Grand Chapter, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest C. Ray Hall, from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina (A.F.&A.M.) I thank you for taking the leap to do the Master's Will, and agreeing to have mutual recognition between the Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons (PHA) and the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina (A.F.&A.M.). I am proud to say that we had good attendance, finances were satisfactory, there was good publicity across social media, old relationships were refined, and new relationships were fostered. Social success is the cornerstone of any lasting institution, and my heart rejoices to know that North Carolina is healthy, strong, and active!

As any leader will tell you, a Great Convocation does not happen without having a great team. I acknowledge the hard work exemplified by Right Excellent Grand King Clinton Hamm, Right Excellent Grand Scribe Damien Jack, Right Excellent Grand Secretary Richard Peeler, Right Excellent Grand Treasurer J. Michael Barnes, the District Grand Deputy High Priests, Grand Lecturer Antoine Lilly, and the Lecturer's Team. I am pleased to herald the sound, "Holy Royal Arch Masonry in North Carolina has Gained Momentum".



York Rite Masonry is likened to a wheelbarrow; it stands still unless someone pushes it. That kinetic force is the leadership of the three Grand York Rite Bodies collectively. I look forward to working with Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master Maurice Hamilton and Rite Eminent Grand Commander William Cooke. The trajectory for the Tar Heel State is looking prosperous.

3X3

Companion Robert D. Hood, KYGCH
Most Excellent Grand High Priest



Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters
Jurisdiction of North Carolina, Incorporated
Illustrious Companion Maurice D. Hamilton, KYGCH
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master

Greetings to all Royal & Select Masters of the Greatest Jurisdiction in all of Cryptic Masonry!

I would first like to say thank you to all of you for a successful 13th Annual North Carolina York Rite Convention and 24th Annual Grand Assembly that was held in on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at the North Raleigh Hilton, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Despite all that was going on with the renovations at the hotel, huge kudos goes out to the Convention Committee, my fellow heads of houses, and all of those who put in some outstanding work to make this year's convention one of the best ever!

It was truly a monumental and historic convention! If I could sum it up in one word that would be "AMAZING!" We had a very well attended Grand Assembly where we were able to take care of all of our business in a professional manner, ensuring the financial and fiscal stability of the Grand Council. We welcomed our counterparts from the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of North Carolina (A.F.&A.M.) I am pleased to announce that we, the Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters Jurisdiction of North Carolina Incorporated, voted unanimously to accept the invitation for Mutual Recognition with Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of North Carolina (A.F.&A.M.).

We also welcomed all of visiting Jurisdictions and showed Hospitality "Carolina Style"! That Carolina Style Hospitality was on full display as you, the Illustrious Companions, welcomed all of our Cryptic PHamily for all over these United States, who came to bear witness of all of the awesome works of you, the Illustrious Companions of this Great Jurisdiction! For all of the hard work and true dedication you put into making this past 2017 Cryptic Year a huge success, I say thank you!

I would also like to thank each of you for putting your faith and trust in me yet again, by re-electing me as your Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master for the 2018 Cryptic Year! It is truly an honor and I am deeply humbled by the amazing opportunity to serve this great jurisdiction once again. I am again looking forward to working with the greatest cadre' of officers in all of the Cryptic Rite! With Grand Illustrious Deputy Master Alford L. Mack, KYCH, Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Works Clemuel D. Grandy, KYGCH, Grand Illustrious Recorder Ron Hartsfield, KYCH, and our New Grand Illustrious Treasurer, Joe Nelson, and all the elected and appointed Grand Council Officers at the helm, and you the greatest Illustrious Companions in all of Cryptic Masonry, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish and we will do nothing but soar to higher heights!

Thank you again for all that you do for not only Cryptic Masonry, but for all of Prince Hall Masonry. United together as one PHamily, if it be the Lord's will, we will continue to grow this great jurisdiction of ours and be that beacon of Light for the entire world not only to see, but emulate!

"ISH SODI"!

Yours in Humble Service,

Maurice D. Hamilton

PTIM Maurice D. Hamilton, KYGCH
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master
Prince Hall Grand Council Royal & Select Masters
Jurisdiction of North Carolina, Incorporated





Tarheel Grand Commandery Order of Knights Templar
Jurisdiction of North Carolina PHA
Sir Knight William A. Cooke, KYGCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory!

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in excellent spirits under the banner of our Supreme Grand Commander.

I would to thank you for the honor of electing me to the office of Right Eminent Grand Commander at our 64th Grand Conclave in Raleigh NC. I am humbled and proud that you have placed your confidence in me personally and plan to do all in my power to serve you with honor and integrity.

As I follow in the footsteps of those dedicated Sir Knights who have led this magnanimous order before me, I make but one promise and that is to do my best to fulfill the many requirements of the office of Right Eminent Grand Commander and with the assistance of each one of you; from the newly dubbed Sir Knight to our most senior members we can and will take our Grand Commandery to the next level of distinction. If you have any ideas, suggestions or task you would like to work on, please do not hesitate share them with me. We welcome your unique talents, insight and advice and need more active Sir Knights across the jurisdiction. One person can make a difference! Your help and assistance is crucial and if offered will make that difference.

In closing I would like to remind you we are not a secret society. Be proud to be a Mason and more especially a Knights Templar. Spread the word to others about what being a Knights Templar means to you. Lastly remember, Templarism is a Christian Order and the regularity of your own behavior will serve as the best example for the conduct of others less informed.



Yours in Knightly Courtesy,

Sir Knight William A. Cooke, KYGCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Tarheel Grand Commandery
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Mutual Recognition between the North Carolina Prince Hall York Rite PH Family and the North Carolina York Rite of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

On February 8th – 10th, 2018 during the 13th Annual North Carolina Prince Hall York Rite Convention, all three Prince Hall York Rite bodies, (Most Excellent Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons, Jurisdiction of North Carolina, Incorporated, Prince Hall Grand Council Royal & Select Masters, Jurisdiction of North Carolina, Incorporated, and Tarheel Grand Commandery Order of Knights Templar, PHA Incorporated) voted unanimously to accept the invitation for mutual recognition with the York Rite bodies of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of North Carolina (Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina, A.F.&A.M., Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of North Carolina, A.F.&A.M., and the Grand Commander Knights Templar of North Carolina A.F.&A.M.)

Below are some photos of the historic events that took place during the Convention.



(l to r) – MEGHP Robert D. Hood, Grand Commander Stencil W. Wilson, REGC Robert Ambrose (VA), newly elected REGC William A. Cooke, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander Floyd A. Duhon, MWGM Milton F. Fitch, Jr., REGC Jerome Turner (GA), RGTIM Maurice D. Hamilton



Grand Commander Stencil W. Wilson & Past Right Eminent Grand Commander Floyd A. Duhon

Mutual Recognition



(l to r) – GGC Grand Scribe PMEGHP Nathaniel DeGraffinraidt, MEGHP Kenneth Hale (WV), PMEGHP Kirby Turner (GA), MEGHP John Singleton (PA), MEGHP George Winston (DE), GGC Grand King PMEGHP Medford Campbell, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Robert D. Hood & Most Excellent Grand High Priest C. Ray Hall, REGK Dale Weaver (MD), PMEGHP Willie Tate (TX), MEGHP Steven Legette (VA), MEGHP Fred Joyner (DC), PMEGHP Reginald Tolbert (VA)



Most Excellent Grand High Priest Robert D. Hood & Most Excellent Grand High Priest C. Ray Hall

Mutual Recognition



(l to r) – RGTIM Larry O. Grant (PA), RGTIM Ronald Johnson (VA), GGC Thrice Illustrious Grand Master Reginald Tolbert, Grand Conductor of the Council Right Illustrious Craig Horton, Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master Maurice D. Hamilton, MIGTIM Joel Mends (GA), MIGTIM Troy Cousins (TX), RGTIM Michael Miles (SC), RGTIM Gerald Hamm (NJ)



Grand Conductor of the Council Right Illustrious Craig Horton & Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master Maurice D. Hamilton