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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights:

Masonry is popular among good men because it is universal brotherhood dedicated to truth and liberty which strives to bring the light of charity and love to an all-too-forgotten bleak, and sometimes, dismal world. We are charged, as Christian Masons, to constantly seek further light in Masonry in order to be more deserving of the name which we have been taught to wear along with our symbolic aprons with honor and great humility. By the time this article is published the mantle of leadership will be passed to a new corps of officers

within our Commanderies, and it is expected that, through their efforts, great accomplishments lie on the horizon for our Order, and that we can look to the future with expectations that will surpass our wildest imaginations. But, in order to accomplish this we will need strong Commanders within our Asylums, and even stronger Past Commanders who are willing to guide, support and nurture them along their way.

Far too often, within our Fraternity, leadership has become a position, rather than a person. I can recount, with some disappointment, numerous occasions during my 19 years of York Rite membership men being hurried through our lines into office just to fill a chair or position, and then we sit back and wonder, after their term of office has passed, why they don't return. The reason is obvious, because leaders, great leaders are made, not conscripted.

Sir Knights, the obvious necessity of Masonic conduct in the leadership of this Order should fire every Soldier of the Cross to take an active, responsible part in the health, welfare and prosperity of every stage of our development, and, in doing so, we can reclaim our heritage, and lay the ground work for future generations to follow. Remember, there is no retirement age in Freemasonry, and ours is the obligation and opportunity for tomorrow, for we are all members of the York Rite.

Who is wise? He who learns from all men. Who is a hero? He who subdues his passions. Who is rich? He who is happy with his portion in life. And who is honored? He who honors others.

Ben Soma

Best wishes to each of you, Courteously and Fraternaly thine,
Raleigh C. Foster Grand Commander

**YORK RITE-KOSAIR UNITY CLASS
JULY 18, 2009 SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE**

The date is almost upon us and petitions are coming in steadily. We are expecting a large crowd and a magnificent production. It's not too late to obtain your own candidate for that day. Email me at jbhitt@att.net if you need another copy of the petition. The final opportunity for balloting for our Commandery will be at 7:30 A.M. on July 18. King Solomon Chapter and Louisville Council will also ballot that morning. The York Rite fee is \$100, as is the Shrine. We will begin with the Mark Master Degree at 8 A.M., after gathering for coffee and donuts at 7. The other degrees and orders will follow in natural sequence with the conclusion of the Order of the Temple at 4 P.M. There will be a break for lunch downstairs in the dining room at noon. The Shrine Ceremonial will begin immediately at 4 P.M with an introduction by Noble Aubrey Combs. Those events will then continue through a cold sands also to be held at the Scottish Rite Temple. Dinner will be served in the dining room at 7 P.M. at Kosair Temple at 812 S. Second St. Dress is coat and tie for the entire day. Ladies are invited to join us at 7 P.M. and all cast members, new members, and stage and planning crews are also invited for dinner. Presentation of fezzes will take place at that time, also. Plan to join us that day to see some of the best ritualistic work that has been performed recently in our area as well as to join in the enthusiasm and fellowship bound to be generated.

ANNUAL EYE FOUNDATION FUND RAISER

Sir Knights,

We will be holding the third annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Golf Scramble this year. We are again asking each Commandery to be a hole sponsor for \$100.00 or make donations to the event in the amount you can afford. Sir Knights Jim Hogue, Mark Elliott and Jim King will coordinate the event. Price is \$60 per player

Please help as much as you can to insure the success of this project again this year. The scramble will be held again in Danville Kentucky at Old Bridge Golf Course and we hope to see you there. The date will be August 8, 2009. Prize for first place is \$400, and the second and third place prizes will be determined by the number of players.

Please make checks payable to the Grand Commandery and mail them to Sir Knight Jim Hogue, Committee Chairman, at the following address:

James G. Hogue	S.K. Mark Elliott
215 Lakeview Point	S.K. James King
Harrodsburg Ky. 40330	

GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS SUMMER ASSEMBLY OF YORK RITE MASONS

Masons from all over the United States will gather on July 10 thru July 14 in Maggie Valley, North Carolina for the 72nd annual pilgrimage to the Masonic Marker at the National Park. Housing takes place in a variety of more than 100 motels in the Maggie Valley-Waynesville area and there is no headquarters site. The speakers meetings take place in the Carolina Nights Theater Auditorium at 3727 Soco Road in Maggie Valley.

The committee of Grand Officers of North Carolina's York Rite has provided a number of events of interest to a wide variety of Masons. A York Rite College Assembly, with the portrayal of Knight of York, will take place on Friday evening in the Waynesville Lodge Hall. On Saturday, the annual putt-putt tournament will be held. Divine Services will be in the theater auditorium on Sunday followed by a picnic for all. The assembly will convene with speakers beginning at 9 A.M. on July 13. Some of the speakers are Dan C. Rice, Grand Master of Masons of N.C., S. Brent Morris, Managing Editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, and James D. Cole, SGIG of Virginia. The Banquet and Carolina Nights Dinner Show will be held on Monday night. Plan to join the fellowship. The experience is wonderful.