



GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL Organized October 24, 1797

Words from the General Grand East February 2023

Fraternally,

Numbers 16:8-9 recalls the man whose name was Korah. He led a rebellion against the High Priest, Aaron and against Moses. If wealth were defined by how much a person has, then Korah was one of the wealthiest men of his day. He was a Levite from the family of Kohath. He had been given one of the most important roles among the people. Yet, Korah was not happy. In the Talmud, the Jewish sages ask, "Who is wealthy?" "The one who is happy with his lot!" The Kohathites were privileged to be tasked with the all important job of carrying the holy vessels of the Temple whenever the Israelites traveled. It was the Kohathites who carried the Ark of the Covenant, the golden candlestick, and all the other holy items. So, Moses asked, *"Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD's tabernacle...?"* Well, the answer is "no." It wasn't enough for Korah. While the Levites carried the holiest items in the world, they were forbidden to look at them and this is what made Korah so unhappy. He was so close and so important, yet not as important and close as the priests who could see and do things that were forbidden to him. Plain and simple, Korah was jealous. For all that he had, he felt he still was lacking.



A man recalled being a little boy when the first man set foot on the moon. He watched the television broadcast with his older brother, and both sat glued to the television in awe of the astronauts. The man remembered saying to his brother, "I feel bad for the guy who has to sit in the shuttle while the other astronauts got to land and walk on the moon! He was so close to the moon, and yet he couldn't walk on the moon." His older brother replied, "I'm sure he was fine. The astronaut in the shuttle understood that if he left, both men would be stranded on the moon forever! He knew how important his role was, and so he wasn't jealous of the other two."

Therein lies the cure to the jealousy that Korah felt — and to be honest, how we might feel from time to time. We have to know that our role is so important that we shouldn't be jealous of someone else's job in the fraternity. We each have a place in our wonderful fraternity. The role you have right now is important — whatever that role is. When we are joyful with our lot, we will lack nothing at all.

Steven Tiner,
General Grand High Priest,
General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons International

***Moses also said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites! Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them?" –
Numbers 16:8-9***

King's Komments

By Teko Foley General Grand King

February 2023

Greetings Companions,

The East Coast of the United States of America and more specially the Washington DC area is known for its challenging weather during the month of February. For that reason, each year we hope for the best and brace for the worst. With two very important national masonic conferences being held in the DC area being held in the area, one can only pray for mother nature to be kind. This year, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America is being held in Virginia and the highlight will be the commemorative celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Laying of the Cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Masons throughout the Country must be proud of this unique and beautiful edifice that is a reference in the world and hold a very prominent place that is second to none in its class.



The special interest that this monument holds for us Royal Arch Masons is that it has a space in the inside on one of the higher floors that exhibits artifacts of Royal Arch Masonry of important value to our craft. This exhibit serves as wonderful way to advertise our Craft. It behooves us to encourage our brothers and non-masonic friends and family to visit the George Washington Memorial and take tour whenever the occasion permit. You could even make a chapter group trip out of it should there be enough interest for this in your chapter and Lodge.

The month of February also brings us in the thick of masonic meetings as activities have resumed everywhere in the craft. This might be the time of the year when you want to check on your usual absent brethren to know what they are up to and attempt to interest them in coming back to the chapter meetings. It is helpful to do so since you must have planned all your degree conferrals for the year and need some of these companions to come back and assist by taking a part in the degree conferrals. You must always remember that most of the time, you need to ask the companion to attend and give him a role to perform. You will be amazed how you can quickly turn an absent bother into an always present companion. So many times, some companion out there does not bother to attend chapter meeting just because he does not feel needed or does not think he has anything to contribute to the work of the chapter. You can make an inactive to an active companion just with a phone call. Try it, you have nothing to lose.

Let me close by reminding all that the Triennial for the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International, is scheduled to take place in conjunction with that of the General Grand Council in Branson Missouri on August 12-16, 2023 and you are all cordially invited to attend and be part of the proceedings.

I wish you health, I wish you success and I wish you joy.

T eko A. F OLY
General Grand King
General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons International

SCRIBE'S SCRIBBLES By Chadwick Burks General Grand Scribe

February 2023

Companions,

I encourage you to take a minute to think about how you respond to inquiries from the "profane" made to your Chapter or your Lodge. We are so used to the general public hearing negative things about Masonry, that we often ignore inquiries or at the very least, don't make them a priority. This is a grave error. For an organization that talks as much about needing members as we do, when we finally have someone "interested" we often don't return the phone call or give the man the attention he deserves. This couldn't be more true when the aspirant bring up questions or concerns about Masonic "secrets." I know many well intentioned Brothers who immediately tune out or shut the door when a profane utters those words; this is a true tragedy. So this month I'd like to present to you a case in point about how to do things THE RIGHT WAY.



I subscribe to several Masonic email lists and am involuntarily added to many, many, more, but recently ran across an "email blast" that really made me smile. The email originated from Matt Johnson who is currently the Worshipful Master of Montezuma Lodge #35 in Phoenix, Arizona. Below is the very slightly edited content of what Worshipful Brother Johnson sent to his lodge educational email list:

A young man considering becoming a Mason asked a valid question ... what if he learns secret things on how to help his family and friends to live better lives and he is not allowed to tell them about it because of being sworn to secrecy? Having such helpful knowledge and not being able to tell others would be a true torture, he believes. Here was my answer:

You and I are cut from the same cloth my friend! Over thinkers! Better to be an over thinker than a dull man I say! You will learn incredible things. The thing you will learn that will help the people you love the most is the thing that is no secret at all regarding Freemasonry and here it is: We meet with men of all races, religions, political parties, etc. and focus not on our differences but on our common humanity. We do not talk about politics and religion together. We encourage our members to read, think and ponder the great mysteries of life. THOSE things right there, if you share those values with the people you love, will DRAMATICALLY improve their lives. These Masonic values are no secret and our greatest gift to humankind which culminated in the creation of the U.S. Constitution which is a profoundly liberating work of genius not just for Americans, but for the entire human race to learn and benefit from. Freemasonry is such a precious gift and through our influence, the U.S. Constitution not only gives Masonic light and liberty to all Americans as I already said, it shines a light to the world as how to make their own countries better and more free. Freedom for all is the light of God's truth. Oppression, tyranny, forced conformity, domination, these are the darkness. Freemasonry is a study in light. Freemasonry needs more thinking and compassionate empathetic men like you seem to be.

Wow, could you imagine if you were that young man and received a response like that from the Master of a Masonic Lodge? What would your impression of Freemasonry be after reading that? I especially applaud the line, "Freemasonry needs more thinking and compassionate empathetic men like you seem to be." Kudos to you, Worshipful Brother Johnson, kudos indeed.

So next time you get an inquiry about the Fraternity no matter how awkwardly it is worded or no matter how busy you are, take some time to get to know the man who submitted that inquiry and do it quickly! You never know . . . that could be a future General Grand High Priest on the other end of that email address and by you simply taking the time to help him get his questions answered, you may be doing a tremendous service to the entire international Masonic community.

So go ahead, be a hero. It's ok. :)

God Bless,

Chadwick Burks

General Grand Scribe

ChadwickBurks@gmail.com

The Secret Isn't Very Secret

DID JAH KNOW?

February 18th **On this date in 1909, U.S. President William Howard Taft received his 1st degree in Kilwinning Lodge #356, Cincinnati, Ohio**



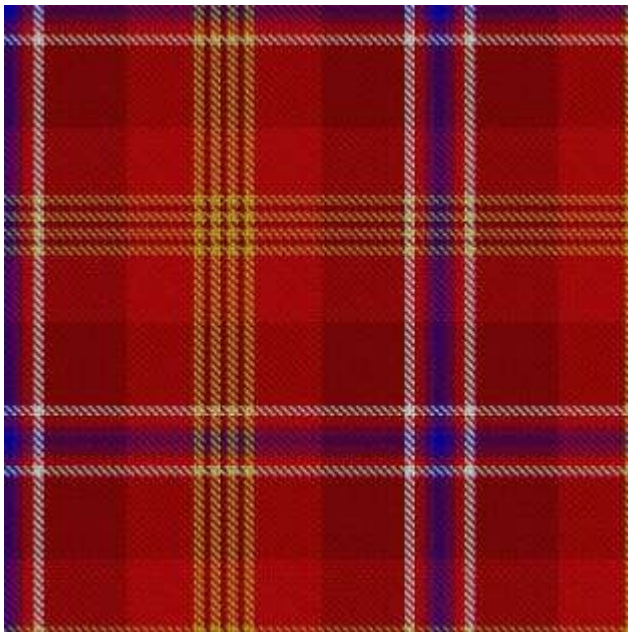
February 19th **On this date in 1811, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was formed in Washington D.C.**

February 24th **On this date in 1853, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was formed**



Did you know we have a Facebook page? Please come check it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/GGCRAMI/>



General Grand Chapter now has it's own, registered Tartan that is being made available in Kilt form to all Royal Arch Masons. There are accessories available and, after the initial Kilt order, there will be other items as well. Please go to <https://ggcrami-kilts.com> for more information and to order.

This effort is starting like a kickstart campaign. We need 26 kilt orders to get the process started, Once we get the initial orders, we'll be able to offer ties, vests and other tartan items.

Again, the link for the webpage is <https://ggcrami-kilts.com>

If you have any questions after reviewing the page, please message Rod Waggoner, PGHP, Arizona.

rod.wagoner@gainbroadband.com



Thank you, Companions!

10 months in operation and we have sold Kilts, Vests, Ties, Accessories and Gifts to Royal Arch Masons across the country and now, even overseas! There have been sightings of our wares at various Grand Sessions and it's been said, general satisfaction with what has been produced. We're grateful for your patronage and hope to continue bringing items that will bring pleasure to yourself and honor to our Capitular Clan!

For Questions or Suggestions contact:

Rod Wagoner, PGHP—rod.wagoner@gainbroadband.com



Customer Photos!



Companions in their Tartans! (LEFT) MEC Dennis Tomsen, 3rd Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Denmark in his Syd Kilt and Regalia (RIGHT) MEC Dick Browning, Grand Secretary/Recorder of the Grand York Rite of Arkansas and DGGHP for General Grand Chapter, South Central Region looking well turned out in his GGChapter Formal Dress set. Companions, send your picture to us for inclusion in the newsletter!

Fielding questions about the Rite?

WHAT ROYAL ARCH MASONRY IS

Founded in 1797, in Boston, Massachusetts, as a national organization, the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, International now has jurisdiction over half the 7,000 Chapters in the world, including several provinces in Canada, the Grand Chapters of USA, Philippines, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and many chapters in Central and South America. Upon your exaltation as a Royal Arch Mason you will become a member of the oldest and largest rite of Royal Arch Masonry.

WHO ROYAL ARCH MASONS ARE

One of the most fascinating aspects of Royal Arch Masonry has always been how so many men, from so many different walks of life, can meet together in peace, never have any political or religious debates, always conduct their affairs in harmony and friendship, and call each other brother. No Rite of Freemasonry covers the world so much as does Royal Arch Masonry. In every country of the earth, on every continent and on many isles of the sea, Will be found Royal Arch Chapters, eager and willing to receive their companions from other parts of the world into that full fellowship that characterizes Royal Arch Masonry.

WHAT ROYAL ARCH MASONS BELIEVE IN

All Royal Arch Masons believe in one God and in respect for each other.

WHAT ROYAL ARCH MASONS DO

Royal Arch Masonry contains some simple, plain statements of Truth, easily understandable and helpful in our relation to life. Lodge symbolism deals with lessons of the material side of life. The Chapter degrees, and particularly the Royal Arch, deal with the spiritual side of life. Upon your exaltation as a Royal Arch Mason you will become a member of the oldest and largest rite of Freemasonry. **QUALIFICATIONS** Royal Arch Masonry is the logical step for every Master Mason to take. If after becoming a Royal Arch Mason, you desire to continue your studies, you may take the Council Degrees and the Commandery Orders, both of which are illustrative of and carry forward the principles of the Royal Arch. Any Royal Arch Macon will eagerly propose your name as a candidate for the advancement in the mysteries of Freemasonry.

THOSE WHO SEEK MEMBERSHIP

Anyone seeking Membership in the Royal Arch must sign a Petition, stating his age, occupation and place of residence. Members of the Chapter vote by ballot. To be accepted, the ballot must be unanimous.

THE ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

What has attracted so many Brethren to seek further light in Royal Arch Masonry?? The Royal Arch Degrees was considered most important in the early years of Freemasonry and so dogmatic was the Mother Grand Lodge - from which all Speculative Masonry derives - that in 1813, when the two grand lodges in England united, a firm and solemn landmark was adopted and placed in the **Articles of Union to guide Masons throughout the world forever on this matter: "Pure Ancient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, that of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."** The Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry consists of four degrees, Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.





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Nathaniel Adams Coles (A.K.A Nat King Cole) Passes Away

February 15th in Masonic History Nathaniel Adams Coles (A.K.A Nat King Cole) passes away in 1965.

Nathaniel Adams Coles (A.K.A Nat King Cole) was an American musician and entertainer.

Cole was born in Montgomery, Alabama on March 17th, 1919. When he was four years old the family moved to Chicago, Illinois where his father became a Baptist minister. His mother, who was the church organist, began teaching Cole how to play the organ. Shortly after he gave his first performance of *Yes! We have no bananas*. He began formal lessons at the age of 12. He eventually learned gospel, jazz and Western classical music. He attended Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago. At night he snuck out to listen to music outside clubs.



Cole traveled with his band and eventually ended up in Los Angeles, California where the band suddenly failed. After his first group failed, Cole started another and was soon appearing on radio with the band. Up to this point, Cole did not sing. He quickly discovered doing vocal pieces in between instrumental numbers was a crowd pleaser. Legend has it Cole only sang after a drunk bar patron demanded he sing *Sweet Lorraine*. Cole himself said it was not true, it was such a good story he just let it go. Like most legends there was an element of truth to the story, after he began singing in between instrumental numbers a drunk patron did demand Cole sing a song he did not know the words to. So Cole sang *Sweet Lorraine* for which the band was tipped \$0.15, which is equal to just over \$2 today.

In 1943, Cole signed with Capital Records. Records and music produced by Cole during his contract with Capital Records were very lucrative for the company. The now famous round office building of Capital Records is often referred to as "The House Nat Built."

In 1956, *The Nat King Cole Show* debuted on NBC. It was a variety program which included many of the big names of the time. Many of whom worked for scale or for free to help the show stay afloat financially. Although the show was very popular a national sponsor for the show never materialized and after a year and a half, Cole himself pulled the plug on the show. When the show went off the air Cole quipped "Madison Avenue is afraid of the dark."

It was also in 1956 Cole started to be attacked from all sides on the subject of Civil Rights and on racism. While appearing on stage in Alabama three men rushed the stage, it is believed, trying to kidnap Cole. Local police were able to break up the attack and the men involved were arrested and convicted. At the same time, Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP were attacking Cole for playing to segregated audiences in the south. Marshall even referred to Cole as an Uncle Tom. African-American run newspapers in the North called Cole's performances to segregated audiences an "insult to his race." One also said to play "Uncle Nat's" discs "would be supporting his 'traitor' ideas and narrow thinking." Despite these attacks, Cole continued his concerts to segregated audiences. He also continued his support of the Civil Rights movement, which he was very active in, despite the implications of Marshall and others.

Cole also consulted with John F. Kennedy and later, Lyndon B. Johnson on matters of Civil Rights.

In 1964, Cole began losing weight and by December of the same year had been diagnosed with lung cancer. On February 15th, 1965, after successfully having one of his lungs removed, Cole passed away.

In 1991, Cole's daughter, Natalie Cole, who had a successful singing career of her own, was able to sing a duet with her father. Through advances in recording technologies, Natalie was able to sing the song *Unforgettable* as a duet with her father.

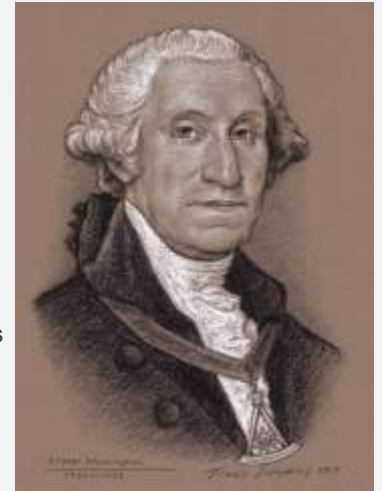
Cole was raised in Thomas Waller Lodge No. 49 Los Angeles, California in 1944.

George Washington is Born

George Washington was born on February 22nd in 1732.

George Washington was an American politician and soldier.

Washington was born on Pope's Creek Estate which is near present day Colonial Beach, Virginia. Washington's father passed away when Washington was eleven. Washington's older brother, Lawrence, became a surrogate and role model for Washington. Due to the death of Washington's father, Washington was unable to travel to England for a more formal education. Instead Washington was taught by tutors and attended a school run by Anglican clergy.



At the age of 15, Washington sought an appointment to the Royal Navy. His widowed mother refused to allow him to go. By the age of 17, Lawrence, using his influence in Virginia society, had secured Washington a well paying position as a surveyor. This allowed Washington to begin investing in land, which he acquired a large amount of over his life.

In 1751, Washington traveled with Lawrence to Barbados. Lawrence was suffering at the time from tuberculosis and it was hoped the trip would improve his health. The trip had no effect on Lawrence and died the following year.

Lawrence's passing brought changes to Washington's life. Washington inherited Mount Vernon from his brother's estate. At the time of his passing, Lawrence was the Adjutant General of the Virginia Militia. The Governor of Virginia split the militia into 4 parts giving Washington one of the posts of district adjutant along with the rank of Major.

In 1775, when the American Revolution began, Washington appeared at the 2nd Continental Congress in full uniform, indicating he was ready for war. Although he tried to convince the delegates he might not be the best selection for the head of the newly formed Continental Army, he was voted into the position of General and Commander-in-chief.

In 1783, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, Washington resigned his commission and returned to Mount Vernon.

In 1787, Washington was convinced to go to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. When he arrived he was elected President of the Convention. As President he stayed out of the debates and voted little, except on specific articles. Washington kept the delegates on task during the convention. When the convention was done, it was Washington's support of the Constitution is what convinced many to sign it.

Washington made sure his Presidency in no way resembled the Royal courts of Europe. When Congress voted to pay Washington \$25,000 a year, a large sum in those times, he initially refused. Congress convinced him he needed to create a precedent future Presidents needed to be independently wealthy. Washington also insisted on being called "Mr. President" instead of some of the more majestic titles Congress came up with.

Washington insisted on serving only two terms, again trying to set a precedent for future presidents.

Washington passed away on December 14th, 1799.

Washington was initiated into Alexandria Lodge No. 22 in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1753.

Omar Nelson "Brad" Bradley is Born

February 12th in Masonic History Omar Nelson "Brad" Bradley is born in 1893.

Omar Nelson "Brad" Bradley was an American soldier.

Bradley was born into poverty in Missouri. When Bradley was 15 his father passed away and his mother moved the family to Moberly, Missouri and remarried. Bradley graduated from Moberly High School in 1910. He considered Moberly his home for the rest of his life no matter where he traveled with the Army.



After graduation, Bradley took the West Point entrance exam. He came in second on the exam and when the first place entrant could not attend, Bradley accepted the appointment.

Bradley graduated in 1915 from the Academy. His class has been nicknamed "the class the stars fell on" because of the number of generals made from the graduating class. The class included Dwight D. Eisenhower, who like Bradley attained the rank of General of the Army.

During World War II Bradley got his first front-line command in 1943. He was sent to North Africa to work under Eisenhower revamping the troop deployments there. Patton requested Bradley come work for him in his efforts in North Africa as well. Despite being part of Patton's command, Bradley retained the right to represent Eisenhower in the theatre.

In 1944, Bradley moved to London to take charge of the US First Army in preparation for the Normandy invasion. After the landing, Bradley was in charge of several operations including Operation Cobra. The purpose of Operation Cobra was to break the German lines with a large number of smaller bombs so the craters did not impede the advance of the allies. Bradley was horrified when 77 of the bombers dropped their bombs short killing many of the allied troops including General Lesley McNair. Of the event Bradley said:

"The ground belched, shook and spewed dirt to the sky. Scores of our troops were hit, their bodies flung from slit trenches. Doughboys were dazed and frightened....A bomb landed squarely on McNair in a slit trench and threw his body sixty feet and mangled it beyond recognition except for the three stars on his collar."

At the Battle of the Bulge Bradley's command took the brunt of the initial battle. When Eisenhower ordered some of Bradley's troops to move under the command of Field Marshal Montgomery a heated argument ensued between Bradley and Eisenhower. The disagreement did not affect the two men's relationship though.

After World War II Bradley became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Head of the Veterans Administration (which he is recognized as being a major influence on) and was the senior military commander at the start of the Korean War.

Bradley passed away April 8th, 1981.

Bradley became a member of West Point Lodge No. 887 in Highland Falls, New York. He remained a member there his entire life.

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTION FORM

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| Certificate Yes or No _____ | <p>It is understood that not everyone wishes to receive a certificate, or even a Keystone or Diamond Pin. This saves us money for certificates and mailing. However, if you do desire to receive one, please let us know as we are happy to obliged.</p> <p>!!!! If not indicated, no certificate or Pin will be sent!!!!</p> |
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General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International
2020 - 2024 MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, with a heritage of over 200 years, is to offer services and support to its Subordinate and Grand Chapters throughout the world in fulfilling the goals of Capitular Masonry by:

- providing a source of, and administration for, the rituals of the four degrees of the American Royal Arch system.
- Assisting in the creation and chartering of new Subordinate and Grand Chapters throughout the world while maintaining our traditional standards.
- Being the primary source for developmental information concerning the formation of a Royal Arch Masons Chapter or Grand Chapter.
- Providing a means of communication, liaison and interaction for our member Chapters and Grand Chapters worldwide.
- Supporting and encouraging York Rite unity around the world in harmony with regular Grand Lodges, the General Grand Council and Grand Encampment.
- Recognizing achievement and service.
- Helping member Chapters and Grand Chapters to fulfill the obligation of all Royal Arch Masons to spread further light in Masonry.
- Promoting the progress of the Royal Craft, disseminating true Masonic knowledge, inspiring interest, and encouraging Blue Lodge Masons to pursue their search for Light and Truth to its logical conclusion through the degrees of Capitular Masonry
- Organizing a Triennial Convocation for all member Chapters and Grand Chapters to express their concerns, offer programs, legislate and elect officers for the next three years.
- Representing Royal Arch Masonry to the world in its highest tradition and heritage.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS INTERNATIONAL
2020 - 2024 VISION STATEMENT

- To uphold and support the Mission Statement of the General Grand Chapter.
- To take all reasonable steps to secure membership of those Grand Chapters in North America which are not currently members of General Grand Chapter.
- To retain all existing members, helping them become true and zealous disciples of Royal Arch Masonry and not mere wearers of emblems.
- To respond to requests and to encourage development of the American Royal Arch system in foreign lands especially Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa.
- To maximize our communication efforts through enhanced development of the Royal Arch magazine into the internet world and to maintain an electronic newsletter which serves as a method of instruction to supplement the ceremonies and lectures of the degrees.
- To live and work together in a devoted team spirit with the aim of promoting better education among Royal Arch Masons.
- To be the most useful and effective unit in the entire Fraternity in promoting the progress of Royal Arch Masonry among our member Grand Chapters through Regional Deputies and Ambassadors with duties and responsibilities to and from the General Grand Chapter to be visible as a support and a link.

Royal Arch Mason Magazine

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Articles

Send articles in electronic format to the Editor at parallaax@comcast.net. We reserve the right to determine suitability for publication, to exclude content at the discretion of the Editor, and to perform reasonable edits to any article submitted to better suit the purposes of the General Grand Chapter.

DEADLINE 25th of each Month for submissions

Photographs

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