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boldfaced and asterisks (*) indicate that the page should be **copied** and given to the DDGHP by April 1, 2014

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2014-2015 HIGH PRIEST PLANNING GUIDE*

Why Plan?

In order to meet the standards of successful operations for a Royal Arch Chapter, a High Priest should engage in planning. Planning for year as High Priest is an essential step in order to ensure that: (1) you meet the standards for successful operations, and (2) you will have a successful term in office and that your chapter grows and prospers. This workbook should help you plan your year in office effectively. The more input that you receive from the Companions as you complete this form, the more useful this process will be for you. Remember – without involvement, there is no commitment! Involving your Companions to help you plan as a team gives you a much better chance of succeeding. Begin planning the year no later than December of the year prior to installation.

Requirement: Submit a copy of the pages with an asterisk (*) to your DDGHP no later than April 1 prior to your installation. Keep the entire workbook for your reference. Your DDGHP is happy to help you work on this form and can give you some good ideas in the process. Your DDGHP will copy the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

Officers*

Select your chapter officers, based upon their availability, their competence, and their commitment to the craft. Assign each chapter officer some responsibility - give each officer something to contribute or oversee. Use the table below to draft your list.

Officer /Name	Responsibility
High Priest /	
Excellent King /	
Excellent Scribe /	
Treasurer /	
Secretary /	
Chaplain /	
Captain of the Host /	
Principal Sojourner /	
Royal Arch Captain /	
Master of the 3 rd Veil /	
Master of the 2 nd Veil /	
Master of the 1 st Veil /	
Guard /	

Note: This Planning Guide was first developed for M:E: Clarence J. Laney when he was Grand High Priest in 2007-2008, by the then State Coordinator, Dr. Karl J. Krayner, PHP.

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Standards of Successful Operation For Chapters And Councils

By Robert P. Walker
V:E: Past Grand High Priest - 2001
The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas

The following material has been prepared under the direction of The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, and/or the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas.

Primary Standards

These standards are determined to be necessary for enhancing the dignity and efficiency of your meetings.

Each Officer should fill his station at all stated meetings, unless excused for reasonable cause.

Each Officer should be proficient in his station in the opening and closing ritual and floor work.

Each Officer should know and understand his duties at a stated meeting. (Example: Duties of an officer during a balloting procedure.)

The Presiding Officer prepares a "Business Agenda" for the meeting in accordance with the general order of business as set forth in Article 207 of the Laws of the R.A.M. of Texas and Article 174 of the Laws of the Grand Council of R.&S.M. of Texas and follows the pre-planned Agenda, thus promoting an orderly and timely meeting.

Examples of items that may be included are:

- Conferrals
- Presentations
- Special Programs
- Report future activities
- Activities and other Bodies
- Reports from the various Committees

Secondary Standards

These standards, if achieved, will not only continue to enhance professionalism in the meetings, but will aid in promoting growth and interest in the activities of the body.

Each Officer should strive to be proficient, in his station, in at least one of the Degrees of the Body.

The Presiding Officer should utilize the officers of the body whenever feasible to chair committees or otherwise provide input for the successful operation of the body.

The Bodies should strive to promote training in leadership and management for

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officers and other interested members. Sources include the Masonic Renewal Committee, the Warden's Retreat Program, the Texas Lodge of Research.

The Presiding Officer should plan to include, in each stated meeting, a short presentation (5 minutes or so) to the membership by some knowledgeable person on any topic of interest, not necessarily limited to a Masonic subject.

The Officers should develop and implement various ideas for including family members in at least some of the yearly activities of the Body.

Each Body should develop and implement methods of promoting the idea of York Rite membership in Blue Lodges. Some methods might include promotional programs, volunteer work, presentations, recognition programs, liaison officer, etc.

The Fraternal Bodies should work together to develop and implement ideas for community involvement.

Committees*

Form chapter committees. Involving your Companions in meaningful committee work is an important way that they partner with each other and enjoy fellowship. Committees are also ways that keep the Companions busy doing the work of the chapter..

You are required to form some committees according to Grand Chapter Law. At your option, you may form other committees. Use the table below to draft a list of companions to invite to serve. Use an asterisk (*) to designate the Companion you wish to ask to chair the committee.

Committee Names	Companions
Required Standing Committees	
Finance (including Audit) - see Article C - 105 and Code of By-Laws, Article VI, Section 2(b)	
Charity (including Fraternal Assistance) – see Article C – 105 and Code of By-Laws, Article VI, Section 1(a)	
Sickness – see Code of By-Laws, Article VI, Section 2(a)	
Special Committees Required by Code of By-Laws see Article VI, Section 2(c)	
Membership (including Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement)	
Programs (including being “Ready and Willing to impart instruction, and receive the same”)	
Activities (including “Cultivating the Social Virtues”)	
Ritual Conferral either in the Chapter pursuant to Articles C-171, C-176, and C-177, or in a Festival pursuant to Articles C-178 in your Chapter or at another Chapter	

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Goals*

Goals give your chapter an accomplishment to aim for. They provide a common purpose and heighten enthusiasm toward achieving meaningful outcomes. All successful terms in office in any Masonic organization begin with clear, high performance goals. Your goal could be in membership, finance, social activity, Masonic Education, ritual proficiency, or any other area that you wish. Be creative!

Select one outcome that you would like to achieve by the end of your term, and mobilize activities and resources toward it.

“At the end of my term, I would like to have accomplished _____

_____.”

Then, complete the following table with your Companions:

What You Have to Do To Accomplish the Goal	By When You Have to Do It	Who is Working on It
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7,		
8.		

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Activity*

Select one social activity that you would like your chapter to host during your term. Pick an activity that will emphasize unique fellowship and capitalize upon family relationships that would be of interest to members.

This should be fun! The activity could be a dinner, board game night, visitation, sporting event, social night – the sky is the limit to what you could do. The Master of every Symbolic Blue Lodge is charged to cultivate the social virtues. Activities should be social!

The activity is: _____

We will hold this on _____.

In order to be successful, complete the following planning chart with your Companions:

What You Have to Do To Hold the Activity	By When You Have to Do It	Who is Working on It
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

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Masonic Education Programs*

Have one Masonic Educational Program at each stated meeting that focuses upon York Rite Masonry. Use this chart to align your topics for each meeting. Decide who will be responsible for presenting the program, or finding someone to present. NOTE: If your chapter does not meet every month, then complete this for the months that you do meet.

Month	Program Topic	Presenter or Responsible Companion
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		

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High Priest Name _____ Phone _____

External Masonic Education For Symbolic Blue Lodges*

Sponsor one Masonic Educational Program to present at one of the Constituent Symbolic Blue Lodges within your chapter's territory. This could be about York Rite Masonry in general, or specifically on Capitular Masonry (Royal Arch Chapter). This program is one way for York Rite Masonry to be visible in our Symbolic Blue Lodges.

The Masonic Lodge or Lodges we will target is/are _____

Their stated meeting night is _____

Their WM in July, 2014 will be _____

His phone number is _____

Our preferred dates to present are _____

Topics that we could offer for a program are: _____

Companions who are responsible for coordinating this are:

Other notes about this program:

Note: See the Appendices in this booklet for programs that other Grand Jurisdictions have used.

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Conferring of Degrees

The appropriate statutes regarding the conferral of degrees are as follows:

Art. C-171 (321) Degrees: Conferred Jointly. The degrees of Mark Master and Past Master may be conferred on more than one candidate at the same time, but only in the manner as adopted by the Grand Chapter and as taught and exemplified by the Committee on Work.

Art. C-176 (327) Most Excellent Degree. The Most Excellent Master Degree may be conferred upon any number of Brethren at one and the same time.

Art. C-177 (328) Royal Arch Degree. The Royal Arch Degree shall be conferred on not more or less than three persons at one and the same time, except the lecture and the charge, which may be given to any number; provided, substitute candidates, a representative candidate or a representative trio may be used under circumstances as provided by these laws.

Art. C-178 (328-A) York Rite Festival. One or more Subordinate Chapters in any Capitular District may confer the Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and a representative trio in the Royal Arch Degree. The sponsoring Chapter shall vote to conduct a York Rite Festival at a Stated Convocation. No degree or degrees shall be conferred upon a Candidate at a York Rite Festival unless he shall first present his Notice of Election (Form 8-B) attesting to his election to receive the degree or degrees and his payment of the fees for the degree or degrees to the Secretary of the Chapter which elected him. (Amended 2009)

The Grand High Priest shall be informed fifteen (15) days prior to conducting a Festival. (Amended – 1986).

Art. C-178.1 (328-B) Royal Arch Lecture. A Chapter may, as its option, insert the “Keys to the Mysterious Characters” presentation, following its mention in the lecture, with accompanying text and slides, as authorized by the Committee on Work of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. (2008)

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High Priest Name _____ Phone _____

Questions?*

Is your chapter interested in hosting a York Rite Festival? ____ yes ____ no

What date would your chapter be interested in for a York Rite Festival? _____

Have you read the handbook entitled “**How to Have a Successful Festival**”?

____ yes ____ no

Note: This is available from your District Deputy Grand High Priest.

If your chapter is unwilling or cannot host a York Rite Festival, would your chapter be willing to take candidates to the nearest York Rite Festival? ____ yes ____ no

Have you contacted the Grand Secretary, or the Grand High Priest, or viewed the York Rite website (www.texasYorkrite.org) for Grand Chapter to see when and where a York Rite Festival would be available to your chapter candidates? ____ yes ____ no

What is that place and what is that date? _____

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The **New Candidate Orientation** is a meeting tool for retention. The text follows:

Candidates should receive a special invitation to attend the first stated convocation after their exaltation in order to participate in this orientation. This is true whether they are exalted at a festival or at an individual degree night in a chapter. The orientation is to be delivered by the High Priest, or another qualified companion, in open chapter with the assistance of available companions, where necessary. The lines in italics are suggested remarks that the High Priest or other qualified companion may paraphrase.

Congratulations and uniqueness

Explain that only 10% of Texas Masons become Royal Arch Masons

“Welcome! You are now a member of a unique group in Texas. Only one out of ten Master Masons in Texas has made the choice to receive additional light in Masonry by joining the York Rite. Congratulations upon your exaltation and welcome to _____ Chapter No. _____.”

Remind companions what they now know as a result of proceeding through these degrees – that they are better and more knowledgeable Masons:

“I mentioned additional light in Masonry that you received as you took the Chapter degrees in the York Rite. Here are some examples of what you have learned:

- *You now know the True word of a Master Mason, which you learned in the Royal Arch Degree.*
- *You now know how Fellowcraft Masons receive their wages, taught in the Mark Master Degree.*
- *You witnessed the final completion and dedication of the Temple in the Most Excellent Master Degree, which was in an unfinished state when you took your Master Mason’s degree.*
- *You now know how to properly rule and govern a lodge, armed with the lessons you learned in the Past Master Degree.”*

Unique customs

“Let’s talk about some of the traditions and customs that we practice in a chapter of Royal Arch Masons, many of which differ radically from what you are used to in your blue lodge:

- *When you are called upon, or wish to speak in the chapter, you stand, address and salute the High Priest, saying “Most Excellent.”*
- *We use a double gavel in rapid succession (demonstrate) and also talk while gaveling.*
- *We call each other ‘Companions,’ to illustrate that closer connection that we have among us as brother Masons.*

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- *We use red as the unique color of the Royal Arch Degree. All the aprons and jewels, the logo, and paraphernalia of the chapter are red.*
- *In all cases, 'three' has a great significance in Royal Arch Masonry. We have three elected officers in the east representing our Ancient Grand Masters in the Grand Council, we require three candidates at exaltation, we have a 'triple tau' as a symbol (show), we gavel during the opening and closing three times of two gavels each, we use trios of companions to bring up the word at the opening and to deposit it at the closing, and many other examples of how we use three."*
- *Legally, it takes either nine or five companions to open and close a chapter, but nine companions is traditional and preferable. Keep the tradition!*
- *Our ritual is written out in plain English in codebooks. You may study with these, but they are not to be used while the chapter is open. We also have a monitor for the chapter degrees that specifies movement, floorwork, and tactics."*

Ritual

"I want to spend a few minutes ensuring that you are comfortable with the ritualistic traditions that we use here.

First, we will demonstrate bringing up the word in opening and depositing the word in closing. I would like to call upon these companions (name them) to demonstrate this, and then, I would like for you to participate as we do this again, to ensure you have it. Before we do so, remember that this is the word of a Royal Arch Mason (state the word slowly with clear three syllables), which is the long-lost Master's word.

Next, let's review the signs from Mark Master to Royal Arch Mason, inclusive. I would like for all companions to participate together for our new companion.

Are there any of these signs that you would like us to repeat for you?"

Grand Royal Arch Chapter

"You are well aware that the blue lodge is overseen by the Grand Lodge of Texas, with the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Texas. The Grand Lodge meets in Waco on the first weekend in December. In the Royal Arch Chapter, we also have a parent or superordinate body, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. It has its own grand officers, with the presiding officer entitled the Most Excellent Grand High Priest. Other elected grand officers are the Right Excellent Grand King, Right Excellent Grand Scribe, Right Excellent Grand Treasurer, and Right Excellent Grand Secretary. There is also a full line of appointed grand officers along with elected and appointed committees. The Grand Royal Arch Chapter meets each year in Waco at the Grand Lodge building on the third Monday and Tuesday in October. At that meeting, the Grand Chapter conducts its annual business and elects officers. As a new Royal Arch Mason, you are now entitled to attend this session, and I hope that you will make plans to do so on the next occasion that it meets, which is _____."

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Texas Masonic Retirement Center

“The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, which I just spoke of, has proudly sponsored the Texas Masonic Retirement Center (TMRC), for 100 years. The Center is located in Arlington, and typically houses 70 senior citizens who are either Masons, or relatives of Masons. The Center offers beautiful, relaxing accommodations amid 100 acres of sweeping grassland, wildflowers, and a century-old pecan orchard. The residents enjoy quiet country living and fill their days with countless activities, knowing that their privacy is respected and their independence is honored. The Main Building has a variety of apartments. Also, there are two bedroom duplex units and a luxury apartment building with upscale interiors. Wireless internet is available to all residents. A skilled nursing clinic is on the grounds of the facility. The TMRC offers a fine environment for its residents, with many opportunities for recreation, good food, and rest, along with excellent physical care and hygiene. There are two payment options for eligible Royal Arch Masons and certain family members: payment for services, or total asset turnover which includes lifetime care.”

“I encourage you to visit the Texas Masonic Retirement Center at your earliest convenience. Once a year in our chapter, we have a program on the Center, and this is scheduled for _____.”

“I would like to open the floor to you for questions about anything I have mentioned in this orientation.”

“I would now like to give you the opportunity to speak to our chapter, and say whatever is on your mind and heart.”

The following information is a tool for membership recruitment:

YORK RITE LIGHT

Karl J. Krayer, PHP, PTIM

George Washington Chapter No. 422 - John C. Callahan Council No. 408

We often tell prospective candidates that one of the benefits of joining the York Rite is that they will receive additional light, as our degrees complete many of the stories and extend many of the lessons that they received in their blue lodge degrees. What, specifically, can we tell the candidates that they will learn? Here is a quick list of **York Rite Light**, with the corresponding degree, as the candidates will learn:

- how to receive wages as a Fellowcraft Mason (Mark Master^o)
- how the builder made the principal keystone for the temple and how it was recovered (Mark Master^o)
- how to govern a Masonic body as a presiding officer (Past Master^o)
- what happened at the final dedication and completion of the temple (Most Excellent Master^o)
- recovery of the “lost word or true word” of a Master Mason (Royal Arch^o)
- the destruction and plans for rebuilding the temple (Royal Arch^o)
- the builder’s prophecy about the lost word of a Master Mason (Royal Master^o)
- how the “lost word or true word” of a Master Mason was deposited for the benefit of future generations (Select Master^o) until it was recovered in the Royal Arch Degree
- how work in the temple was preserved for antiquity and later discovered by future generations (Select Master^o)
- how the rebuilt temple was destroyed in a siege at Jerusalem (Super Excellent Master^o)
- how the Jewish Nation was released from their captivity in Babylon and returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (Order of the Red Cross)
- how the true word of a Master Mason became flesh and walked among us (Order of the Temple)

This is quite a list! It is clear that any Master Mason who does not take the York Rite degrees is truly missing valuable information about Freemasonry. There is great value for any Master Mason to finish his Masonic experience and education by completing the York Rite Masonic journey begun in the Symbolic Blue Lodge. Remember it is not the destination, but the journey for more and further light that is important.

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Elevator Speech*

Provide Master Masons who are not York Rite Masons with an “elevator speech” that clearly and concisely describes York Rite Masonry – what it is, what it does, what its benefits are to new members.

Customize this for your chapter and your Companions by holding a discussion at one of your meetings. Take a stab at this yourself before reading the sample on page 19

What is York Rite Masonry?

What do we do in our Chapter that will be attractive to a non-member?

What are the benefits of joining?

Every York Rite Mason should be able to give clear and concise responses to these three questions in the time that it takes an elevator to move 3-5 floors. Your ability to give these responses has direct impact upon whether prospective members decide to petition.

What is York Rite Masonry?

The York Rite of Freemasonry is open to any Master Mason in good standing. The York Rite is comprised of three bodies, each with its own line of officers and ritual, and charitable activity. These are the chapter of Royal Arch Masons, council of Royal and Select Masters, and commandery of Knights Templar. Unlike the blue lodge, candidates in the York Rite do not need to complete any proficiency examination of memory work. And like in the blue lodge, but unlike in the Scottish Rite, the method of presentation we use in our degrees involves active participation from the candidates, which adds meaning and impact for everyone.

What do we do in our Chapter and Council that will be Attractive to a Non-Member?

First, we have fun. It is great to get together with Masons from different blue lodges to share ideas, hear about activities, and support each other. Second, we are dedicated to sharing more Masonic light with our candidates by participating in our degrees and giving them a quality experience, along with our "short talk" programs and discussions at our meetings. Third, many of our activities involve our families, and the York Rite provides an opportunity for everyone to meet and spend time with good people.

What are the Benefits of Joining the York Rite?

York Rite Masons are better Masons because of the two main benefits of joining. First, you will receive valuable instruction and lessons that complete many of the stories and lessons that you learned in your blue lodge degrees. These include the completion of King Solomon's temple, the recovery of the long lost Master Mason's Word, and many others that you will enjoy learning. Second, you may enjoy fellowship with Masons from several different lodges in your area, thus extending your Masonic connections, and experiencing the meaning of true universal brotherhood.

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High Priest Name _____ Phone _____

Questions For Grand Chapter Officers*

What questions could one of the Grand Chapter officers answer for you?

How could Grand Chapter officers be of particular assistance to you?

When is the best time to reach you? _____

What number should we use? _____

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APPENDICES

Membership Development Booklet
By Daniel Hogue – Past Grand High Priest – North Carolina
<http://www.ramint.org/downloads/GGCMembershipBooklet.pdf>

Membership Development Booklet
By Grand Chapter of Ohio
<http://www.ramint.org/downloads/Ohio.pdf>

Membership Development
By Louis E. Bartrand
<http://www.ramint.org/downloads/Bertrand.pdf>

Membership – North Carolina Program
<http://www.ramint.org/downloads/NorthCarolina.pdf>

Fervency and Zeal
Royal Arch Program from New York and Maryland
<http://www.ramint.org/downloads/FERVENCY&ZEAL.pdf>

California Gonzales Plan for Membership
<http://www.ramint.org/downloads/Gonzalez.pdf>

York Rite College Sovereign Self-Study Program

Explanation of Zerubbabel Award Scoring by DDGHP's – 2013-2014

This is a general explanation of the **Zerubbabel Award** as graded by your **DDGHP** on two official visits. The District Deputy Grand High Priest will be able to answer any questions you may have at any time. The grading is required by the Laws of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, as outlined in Article B-084.1.

This award/report has been created to give the chapter leaders an idea of the things that will help them improve their Chapter's proficiency, pride, and esprit de corps among the Officers and Companions. The Zerubbabel Award for the Chapters is similar to the Grand Lodge Vanguard Award and the Grand Commandery Cross and Crown Award.

Here is an overview of the requirements:

1. Meetings- Self-explanatory. The score will be totaled on his Official Visit. Also see the letter from the Grand High Priest to each Chapter.
2. Opening/Closing Proficiency – Self-explanatory. If a book is used by anyone other than the prompter, no points. One learns by listening to the ritual and getting “into the flow” of it. The reception of the DDGHP or any Grand Officer should be practiced, especially when you know his date of visitation.
3. Degree Proficiency – If your Chapter can confer any Degree without use of the ritual book you will receive credit for being proficient in that Degree. It does not matter who is in what station as long as he is a member of your Chapter.
4. Secretary/Records – Self – explanatory.
5. Designed to encourage the Chapter to have all Officers present at installation. Every Chapter should know a month or two in advance when it will hold installation. Every elected and appointed Officer should be there excepting personal emergency. Elected Officers cannot be proxied (Article C-091) and must be installed prior to August 1st unless dispensation is granted. This is graded on the 2nd visitation only.
- 6a. On the first visit, this applies to the Grand Royal Arch Chapter Annual Convocation.
- 6b. On the second visit, this applies to the York Rite Regional Conferences.
7. The Texas Masonic Retirement Center is owned and operated by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. To qualify for points, the date of the presentation and the name of the presenter must be entered into the minutes of that meeting, Stated or Called. Program material is available from TMRC. Call or write Companion Gary Blair (Superintendent) for presentation material at phone (817) 275-2893, fax (817) 275-1065 1501 W. Division St., Arlington 76012, or e-mail gary@txmrc.org.
8. Pride in Chapter/Self--Bonus Pts. – When you send a candidate(s) to a Festival hosted by another Chapter, your Chapter should hold a Special Called meeting within two weeks of that Festival to honor your new Companion(s). This allows him to meet the members who were not at the Festival and learn everything he was taught but forgot as far as words, grips, signs, etc. He should be given an opportunity to ask any questions he may have regarding the Capitular/Cryptic degrees, their individual significance, etc.
The Chapter will receive points for having representation at Festivals as shown. It should be self-evident to all of us that when we have a candidate at another Chapter for degree work, we should be there to help shepherd him through the process.
Anything not listed, but of help in improving the Chapter or showing Community participation by us as Royal Arch Masons will be awarded 25 bonus pts per action.
Chapters that do not participate in Festivals because they fully confer their own degree work are entitled to a bonus of 300 points to equate the points given to Chapters that participate in Festivals because they do not or cannot confer their own degrees.

All Chapters are scored starting at Zero (0) and points are added for all the activities that provide evidence that the Officers are working together to build working Chapters.

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Chapter _____ No. _____ Date _____ District _____

1. Meetings

Installed Officers present:

HP ___ EK ___ ES ___ Tr. ___ Sec. ___ Chap ___ COH ___ PS ___ RAC ___ 3V ___ 2V ___ 1V ___ Gd ___

Installed Officers: 6 Points each; Total of 78 points

Total Points: _____ / 78

2. Opening/Closing Proficiency

Open/Close for 9 without books (1 prompter) _____ / 25 Pts.
Open/Close for 5 without books (1 prompter) _____ / 10 Pts.

District Deputy properly received on Official Visit 25 Pts

Total Points: _____ / 60

3. Degree Proficiency of Graded Degrees

based upon someone grading

Mark Master Degree _____ / 50 Pts.
Past Master Degree _____ / 50 Pts.
Most Excellent Master Degree _____ / 50 Pts.
Royal Arch Degree _____ / 50 Pts.

Total Points: _____ / 200

4. Secretary/Records

All minutes signed and up-to-date _____ / 10 Pts.
Registers properly maintained _____ / 10 Pts.
Submit 990, 990EZ, or 990N (Article C-101(8))
by November 15th _____ / 50 Pts.

Total Points: _____ / 70

5. Installation (Rated on 2nd visit only)

6a. Participation at Grand Chapter (Rated on 1st visit only)

Each Dais Officer
HP ____ EK ____ ES ____
25 points

Treasurer ____ Secretary ____
20 Pts. Each

Each installed Officer Chap ____ COH ____ PS ____ RAC ____ 3V ____ 2V ____ 1V ____ Gd ____
10 Pts. Each

Past High Priests not installed Officers-25 Pts each _____ x 25 pts = _____

Total Points: _____ / _____

7. Texas Masonic Retirement Center

A. The High Priest adheres to the statutes Article C-096(11) and presents TMRC program.
Date _____ Program Moderator _____ noted in minutes _____ 25 Pts.

B. Chapter makes contribution to Texas Masonic Retirement Center of \$50 or more.
Check No. _____ Date _____ Amt. \$ _____ 25 Pts.

C. Chapter holds fund-raiser for TMRC 100 Pts.

Total Points: _____ / 150

Pride in Chapter/Self----Bonus Points

Special meeting for new candidate orientation _____ / 25 Pts.

Grand Chapter Planning Guide completed by April 1st _____ / 50 Pts.

Chapter represented by three or more Companions at festivals
HP ____ EK ____ ES ____
25 Pts. Each

Officers/members represented at festivals:
Sec__ Treas. __Chap ____ COH__ PS__ RAC__ 3V__ 2V__ 1V__ Gd__ Mem____
10 Pts. Each

Community Service (adopt-a-highway, blood drive, etc.) _____ / 25 pts
Coat and tie at meetings (Officers) _____ / 25 Pts.
Refreshments prior to meetings _____ / 25 Pts.

Total Bonus Points: _____ / 335

Grand Total Points: _____

District Deputy Grand High Priest

Most Excellent High Priest

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Chapter _____ No. _____ Date _____ District _____

1. Meetings

Installed Officers present:

HP ___ EK ___ ES ___ Tr. ___ Sec. ___ Chap ___ COH ___ PS ___ RAC ___ 3V ___ 2V ___ 1V ___ Gd ___

Installed Officers: 6 Points each; Total of 78 points

Total Points: _____ / 78

2. Opening/Closing Proficiency

Open/Close for 9 without books (1 prompter) _____ / 25 Pts.

Open/Close for 5 without books (1 prompter) _____ / 10 Pts.

District Deputy properly received on Official Visit 25 Pts

Total Points: _____ / 60

3. Degree Proficiency of Graded Degrees

based upon someone grading

Mark Master Degree _____ / 50 Pts.

Past Master Degree _____ / 50 Pts.

Most Excellent Master Degree _____ / 50 Pts.

Royal Arch Degree _____ / 50 Pts.

Total Points: _____ / 200

4. Secretary/Records

All minutes signed and up-to-date _____ / 10 Pts.

Registers properly maintained _____ / 10 Pts.

All minutes signed and up-to-date _____ / 10 Pts.

Registers properly maintained _____ / 10 Pts.

Submit Annual Returns (Article C-102) by August 1st _____ / 30 Pts.

Submit Minimum Audit Form No. 24 by September 15 to
Grand Chapter (Article C-055 and October 1st to Local
Chapter (Article C-105) _____ / 30 Pts.

Total Points: _____ / 100

5. Installation

All Officers installed in person (no proxies) _____ / 25 Pts.

Installing team and Officers in coat and tie _____ / 25 Pts.

Open installation _____ / 30 Pts.

Total 80 Pts.

Total Points: _____

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6b. Participation at Regional York Rite Conferences (Rated on 2nd visit only)

Each Dais Officer
 HP ____ EK ____ ES ____
 25 points

Treasurer ____ Secretary ____
 20 Pts. Each

Each installed Officer Chap ____ COH ____ PS ____ RAC ____ 3V ____ 2V ____ 1V ____ Gd ____
 10 Pts. Each

Past High Priests not installed Officers-25 Pts. _____ x 25 pts = _____

Total Points: _____ / _____

7. Texas Masonic Retirement Center

A. The High Priest adheres to the statutes Article C-096(11) and presents TMRC program.
 Date _____ Program Moderator _____ noted in minutes _____ 25 Pts.

B. Chapter makes contribution to Texas Masonic Retirement Center of \$50 or more.
 Check No. _____ Date _____ Amt. \$ _____ 25 Pts.

C. Chapter holds fund-raiser for TMRC 100 Pts.

Total Points: _____ / 150

8. Pride in Chapter/Self----Bonus Points

Special meeting for new candidate orientation _____ / 25 Pts.

Chapter represented by three or more Companions at festivals
 HP ____ EK ____ ES ____
 25 Pts. Each

Officers/members represented at festivals:
 Sec ____ Treas. ____ Chap ____ COH ____ PS ____ RAC ____ 3V ____ 2V ____ 1V ____ Gd ____ Mem ____
 10 Pts. Each

Community Service (adopt-a-highway, blood drive, etc.) _____ / 25 pts
 Coat and tie at meetings (Officers) _____ / 25 Pts.
 Refreshments prior to meetings _____ / 25 Pts.

Total Bonus Points: _____ / 335

Grand Total Points: _____

District Deputy Grand High Priest

Most Excellent High Priest

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YORK RITE LIGHT

Karl J. Kraye, PHP, PTIM

George Washington Chapter No. 422 - John C. Callahan Council No. 408

We often tell prospective candidates that one of the benefits of joining the York Rite is that they will receive additional light, as our degrees complete many of the stories and extend many of the lessons that they received in their blue lodge degrees. What, specifically, can we tell the candidates that they will learn? Here is a quick list of **York Rite Light**, with the corresponding degree, as the candidates will learn:

- how to receive wages as a Fellowcraft Mason (Mark Master^o)
- how the builder made the principal keystone for the temple and how it was recovered (Mark Master^o)
- how to govern a Masonic body as a presiding officer (Past Master^o)
- what happened at the final dedication and completion of the temple (Most Excellent Master^o)
- recovery of the “lost word or true word” of a Master Mason (Royal Arch^o)
- the destruction and plans for rebuilding the temple (Royal Arch^o)
- the builder’s prophecy about the lost word of a Master Mason (Royal Master^o)
- how the “lost word or true word” of a Master Mason was deposited for the benefit of future generations (Select Master^o) until it was recovered in the Royal Arch Degree
- how work in the temple was preserved for antiquity and later discovered by future generations (Select Master^o)
- how the rebuilt temple was destroyed in a siege at Jerusalem (Super Excellent Master^o)
- how the Jewish Nation was released from their captivity in Babylon and returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple (Order of the Red Cross)
- how the true word of a Master Mason became flesh and walked among us (Order of the Temple)

This is quite a list! It is clear that any Master Mason who does not take the York Rite degrees is truly missing valuable information about Masonry. There is great value for any Master Mason to complete his Masonic experience and education by taking our degrees.

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Every York Rite Mason should be able to give clear and concise responses to these three questions in the time that it takes an elevator to move 3-5 floors. Your ability to give these responses has direct impact upon whether prospective members decide to petition.

What is York Rite Masonry?

The York Rite of Freemasonry is open to any Master Mason in good standing. The York Rite is comprised of three bodies, each with its own line of officers and ritual, and charitable activity. These are the chapter of Royal Arch Masons, council of Royal and Select Masters, and commandery of Knights Templar. Unlike the blue lodge, candidates in the York Rite do not need to complete any proficiency examination of memory work. And like in the blue lodge, but unlike in the Scottish Rite, the method of presentation we use in our degrees involves active participation from the candidates, which adds meaning and impact for everyone.

What do we do in our Chapter and Council that will be Attractive to a Non-Member?

First, we have fun. It is great to get together with Masons from different blue lodges to share ideas, hear about activities, and support each other. Second, we are dedicated to sharing more Masonic light with our candidates by participating in our degrees and giving them a quality experience, along with our "short talk" programs and discussions at our meetings. Third, many of our activities involve our families, and the York Rite provides an opportunity for everyone to meet and spend time with good people.

What are the Benefits of Joining the York Rite?

York Rite Masons are better Masons because of the two main benefits of joining. First, you will receive valuable instruction and lessons that complete many of the stories and lessons that you learned in your blue lodge degrees. These include the completion of King Solomon's temple, the recovery of the long lost Master Mason's Word, and many others that you will enjoy learning. Second, you may enjoy fellowship with Masons from several different lodges in your area, thus extending your Masonic connections, and experiencing the meaning of true universal brotherhood.

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