

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

State News for August 2022

Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

Grand Commander: Ronald G. Andress REGC

Editor: Thomas F. Craig, PGC, tfcraig@aol.com

AN URGENT PLEA

Sir Knights and Companions, I **REALLY** need your help in maintaining our supplement. I've had good support from many of you in the past, but the contributions from our bodies has really dropped off this year. Undoubtedly the lockdowns and cancelled meetings due to COVID have been a major factor over the past two and a half years. Please – if your body is doing anything at all that would interest other bodies and perhaps inspire them to do something similar, write it up and send it to me. I know it's hard to sit down and prepare an article, but I really really need your help.

HONORS IN THE YORK RITE - INVITATIONAL AND AFFILIATE BODIES

This concludes a list of descriptions of various bodies affiliated or associated with the York Rite that I prepared a few years ago and presented partially last month.

Allied Masonic Degrees

This body is a compilation of degrees no longer a part of the York Rite system. Its purpose is to promote scholarship and service to the York Rite. Membership is invitational and predicated upon membership in the Royal Arch Chapter. There are only 27 members to each council. There are two Councils in Alabama.

Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests

This invitational body's minimum requirement is to be a Past Commander. The membership is limited to 33, so it is somewhat more exclusive than other invitational bodies.

Red Cross of Constantine

This invitational body requires that the honoree be a Royal Arch Mason and a Christian. The number of members of each conclave are limited by the Imperial Council. There are four conclaves in Alabama.

Social Order of the Beauceant

As the wives, widows, mothers, daughters and sisters of Knights Templars, they are the only ladies' fraternal order whose eligibility is determined by the husband's membership in the Commandery.

These next bodies are national rather than local, but are also associated with the York Rite as described below.

Royal Order of Scotland

The basic requirement for this order is to have been a Master Mason for five years and to be a Trinitarian Christian. It is more closely affiliated with the Scottish Rite, as the invitee must also be a 32nd degree mason, which requirement may be waived if he is a Knight Templar.

Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Citie Sainte (CBCS)

The English translation of the body is the Order of Knight Beneficent of the Holy City of Jerusalem. Members must profess the Christian faith. It may be considered as a ne plus ultra Grade of Freemasonry, the closest organization to a civil knighthood as practiced in Europe. Membership is limited to 81 members per presiding body, and is divided into 3 Prefects of 27 members each.

Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor

All present and Past Commanders of Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America in a jurisdiction where there is not any Chapter of the Order may petition for membership in the Order of Knights Preceptor.

Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon

An invitational body composed of York Rite Masons selected for their contributions and dedication to the Masonic bodies and orders. Membership requires affiliation with the Knights Templar. The modern Order commemorates an early body of English Knights Templar founded during the 3rd Crusade. Membership is unlimited in the presiding body. The presiding body is a Chapel, and the presiding officer is a Master (titled Worthy).

AUGUST PRAYER

I pray that August, September, October and November be months filled with good news, blessings, growth, new opportunities, healing, love.

Amen!

-- Author Unknown

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