

Grand Commandery of New Mexico State News for August 2022



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Sir Knights, after much anticipation and preparation, the Land of Enchantment degree festival was held July 22nd and 23rd in Santa Fe. The festival was a great success with nine companions taking the Chapter/Council degrees and eight sir knights taking the Commandery orders. After the degree festival in Albuquerque in February it was questionable if there would be more petitioners for the degrees/orders or if New Mexico needed another degree festival this year. At the February festival there were twelve candidates. So, the total number of new members to New Mexico York Rite this year looks very solid which is a relief given the previous two years of covid restrictions preventing the conferring of the degrees and orders. Most of the credit for the number of candidates goes to Sir Knight James Bungard from Las Cruces Commandery who has done an excellent job of reviving York Rite in Las Cruces. He is doing such a good job of recruiting enthusiastic members down in Las Cruces, he gave a talk at MASONICon on his techniques which I was unable to attend due to my giving a presentation at the same time 😊.

I also give a big thanks to the stage crew. The degrees and orders are done in the two adjacent lodge rooms, Montezuma and Cerrillos. Keeping on a tight schedule for two very long days owes a lot to setting up and tearing down some very complicated scenes for the degree and orders. Sir Knights Harry Jenkins, Chris Larsen (PREGC) and David Tennis did an excellent job utilizing the two lodge rooms and allowing us to stay on schedule. Finally, I would like to thank all of the cast members. Being a statewide degree/orders festival there are almost forty names on my cast list so I will not mention them all here. Suffice to say that no degree festival could happen without the participation of the cast. And with so many cast members there are bound to be a few last-minute difficulties. I especially thank the companions and sir knights who were willing to take parts minutes before the start of a degree or order and soldier through a part they had no idea they were going to have to perform and had no time to practice for the part.

The next scheduled Land of Enchantment degree festival is for July 2023 with the exact weekend being worked out so as not to conflict with other events and to make sure the Scottish Rite Temple is available. We did not utilize the Temple for the degrees or orders, but being in an

adjacent building it was very convenient to stay in the dorm rooms that are available and inexpensive. It was nice to just walk across the parking lot and fall into bed at the end of the long day of degrees on Friday and roll out again for the early morning breakfast to start the orders on Saturday.

Upcoming visitations:

Arizona Grand Sessions August 11th, 12th and 13th in Mesa, Arizona. The Grand Commandery will be on the 11th with the Grand Chapter on the 12th and Council on the 13th. Arizona always has a strong showing at the New Mexico Grand Sessions and New Mexico should return the favor.

Other Grand Sessions:

Colorado Grand Sessions September 9th and 10th in Golden, Colorado. The Grand Commandery will be on the 9th with the Grand Chapter and Council on the 10th.

Southwest York Rite Conference, October 27th-29th, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Other times and dates to make note of are the York Rite quarterly meetings for 2022:

WHO CHAIRS THE MEETING	HEAD OF BODY	DATE/TIME/LOCATION
MI Grand Master	Sky Olsen	Oct 22, 2022 9 am in GLNM Library
RE Grand Commander	James Overfelt	Jan 28, 2023 9 am in GLNM Library

The New Mexico York Rite quarterly meetings will be hybrid with the option to Zoom in.