



Grand Commander



Scottie W. Cox

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We Need Your Help!

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✘ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✘ Please send emails with subject line “KT State News” to the editor.

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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

As our annual York Rite Conclave approaches, I want to use this opportunity to print the message I gave at the District meetings so those of you that could not attend one of the meetings would have the opportunity to read it for yourselves.

I was attending York Rite Honors Day a couple years ago and had a moment between the conferrals to sit back and reflect. You always see familiar faces, the brothers who take time to help facilitate the day, confer the degrees etc. Then you get to see new faces, those brothers there to receive the honors they have earned by being leaders of their respective York Rite Bodies. I was sitting back taking it all in and asked myself, what do all these brothers have in common? What has brought all these brothers together here today? I see men from different walks of life, all gathered together for a common interest. I realized that everyone there shared a love of masonry, a passion for the fraternity. It's our passion for the fraternity that embraces us to give of our most precious commodity, our time, for the betterment of our Brothers and Society.

So, what is passion for the fraternity? According to Merriam Webster, “passion” refers to a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement either for something or about doing something. Passions are often something you would love to do constantly. Dr. Robert Vallerand at the University of Quebec has studied passion more than anyone, and he asserts that passion is self-defining. According to Vallerand, “Passion is a strong inclination towards a self-defining activity that people love, that they consider important, and in which they devote significant amounts of time and energy.” To be at Honors Day, it means you have devoted years to the fraternity. From being Master of your blue lodge to being High Priest of your Chapter,

Illustrious Master of your Council and Commander of your Commandery. To achieve all that takes years of devotion and passion for the fraternity.

But wait a minute, I was told as an entered apprentice that I needed to learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry. To understand why the imperative “to learn to subdue my passions” is so important, we must first understand what Freemasonry means by the word “passions.” It does not mean emotions like lust, greed, anger, and hate. Hopefully, we, as good men, learned to control such base passions long before we first knocked on the door of Freemasonry.

Rather, in the context of Freemasonry, “passions” are irrational beliefs that imprison the minds of men and prevent them from living a life of virtue in harmony with their fellow men. According to the philosopher Baruch Spinoza, the remedy for such a life, mired in the passions, lies in virtue, that is, in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. In Masonry, we want good men and the opportunity to teach them the lessons of Freemasonry. It is through our ritual that this is done. Our Ritual is what makes us different from other organizations, it tells of our values, how to live in society and conduct ourselves especially with each other. Again, in the entered apprentice degree, our ritual teaches us about temperance. For masons, Temperance is that due restraint upon our affections and passions and frees the mind from the allurements of all the vices and superfluities of life. When practiced and perfected, we will be able to abstain from all actions that may impair our faculties and perceptions.

(to be continued)

Fraternally yours,

Scottie W. Cox

Grand Commander

Grand York Rite Schedule of Events

Denton – The Grand Secretary has published the schedule of events for the 2025 Grand York Rite, to be held from March 16 – March 18 at the Village Inn Hotel and Event Center, located at 6205 Ramada Drive in Clemmons.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

2:30 PM - Shute Chapel St. Thomas of Acon – IVEY

5:00 PM - Divine Service – LEXINGTON/ MONROE
All are encouraged to attend.

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM - Reception & Ice Cream Social – SALEM/NORTH - Open to all in attendance, FREE

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025

8:30 AM - Opening of Joint Session – Grand Chapter Presiding - LEXINGTON/MONROE

8:45 AM - Reception of Distinguished Guests

9:00 AM - Joint Session

9:45 AM - Break

10:00 AM - Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina - LEXINGTON/ MONROE

12:00 PM (NOON) - MENS LUNCHEON - Ticket Required – NORTH, Sponsored by York Rite Sovereign College

12:00 PM (NOON) - LADIES LUNCHEON - Ticket Required – SALEM

1:00 PM - Grand Chapter Reconvenes (If necessary) - LEXINGTON/MONROE

1:30 PM – Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina Reconvenes – LEXINGTON/ MONROE (Immediately after the recess of Grand Chapter)

3:30 PM - Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina Reconvenes - LEXINGTON/ MONROE (Immediately after the recess of Grand Council)

7:00 PM – ANNUAL BANQUET – Ticket Required – LEXINGTON/ MONROE

9:30 PM – Old Saratoga Degree – IVY

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

8:30 AM - Grand Commandery Reconvenes (If necessary) – LEXINGTON /MONROE

(If Grand Commandery does not need to Reconvene the Joint Installation of Officers will take place at **9:00 AM**)

10:00 AM - Joint Installation of Officers - LEXINGTON/ MONROE (Open to all)

(MEETING ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

TICKETS:

Monday Men’s Luncheon – \$30

Monday Ladies Luncheon – \$30

Monday Evening Grand Banquet – \$65 per person

Monday Night Saratoga Degree – \$20

Make checks payable to **NCGYRB** and send to:

NCGYRB

6328 Surratt Ctry. Rd.,

Denton, NC 27239-9080

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

For reservations call:

(800) 554 – 6416 or (336) 766 – 9121

The deadline for reservation is February 16.

Standard room rate is \$89 plus tax or a suite at \$145 plus tax. Please note that the hotel recently completed its renovations of all the sleeping rooms.

For more information, visit their website at:

<https://thevillageinn.com>

Important Reminders:

February 16: Deadline for Reservations for Grand York Rite at the Village Inn Hotel.

February 22: Annual Ham Supper Fundraiser for the Greensboro York Rite Bodies, 4:30-7:30PM at the Greensboro Masonic Temple, eat-in or takeout \$8 per person.

March 1: Deadline for Registrations for Grand York Rite to be delivered to the Grand Secretary.

March 5 & 8: Greensboro York Rite Spring Festival, starts at 7:00PM Wednesday night and 8:00AM Saturday morning.