

Issue #8 - October 2026
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Caro Royal Arch Chapter #96
Thumb Council #90
St. George Commandery #52
Mount Moriah #226 | Hubbard Winsor #420



Wearing Red and Getting Fed

Lapeer Royal Arch Chapter #91 recently hosted a memorable evening of Masonic tradition and fellowship as three dedicated candidates took their next steps in Capitular Masonry. On October 14th, the Chapter convened to confer both the Past Master and Most Excellent Master degrees in an exemplary fashion. The impressive degree work highlighted the rich history and deep symbolism of Royal Arch Masonry, offering a meaningful experience for everyone present.

Prior to the conferral, the Brethren and candidates gathered for a delicious, hearty dinner provided by the Chapter. Breaking bread together created a warm and inviting atmosphere, giving members a chance to reconnect, share stories, and offer encouragement to the candidates before they embarked on their ritualistic journey.

The three candidates had an excellent time throughout the evening, fully immersing themselves in the lessons and camaraderie of the craft. Thanks to the hard work and proficiency of the Officers and participating Brethren, the night was a resounding success, reinforcing the strong bonds of Brotherhood and the bright future of Royal Arch Masons in Michigan.

Senior Center Smiles

Mount Moriah Lodge #226 recently demonstrated its continued commitment to community outreach through a meaningful charitable contribution to local senior services. LCA Representative and Brother Steven Dennis represented the Lodge in delivering a monetary donation directly to the Human Development Commission, specifically dedicated to supporting the vital programs and daily activities at their local Senior Center.



The funds were drawn from the Lodge's LCA (Lodge Charity Account), a dedicated fund established by the Brethren to support impactful charitable causes and strengthen the local community. The donation was warmly received by the staff and representatives at the Human Development Commission, who expressed deep appreciation for Mount Moriah's ongoing generosity and support for the area's senior citizens.

This contribution highlights Mount Moriah Lodge's enduring mission to put Masonic principles into action through charitable giving and active community engagement. The Brethren are honored to partner with organizations like the Human Development Commission to help enrich the lives of local seniors and make a positive, lasting impact.

2027 Dues are in the Mail



Attention Mount Moriah #226 and Hubbard-Winsor #420 Lodges!
Keep an eye on your mailbox for your 2027 annual dues notices. A reminder that the **balance is due by January 1st, 2027.**



Past Master - Present Leader

Caro Royal Arch Chapter #96 recently honored a distinguished leader in the local Masonic community during a special presentation at Hubbard-Winsor Lodge's regular communication. On behalf of the Chapter, Worshipful Brother Jack Ruby was officially presented with his 2026 Past Master pin, recognizing his dedicated leadership, tireless service, and steadfast commitment to the Craft.

The presentation served as a wonderful moment of fellowship between the Capitular and Symbolic bodies, highlighting the strong bonds shared among the local Brethren. WB Ruby's contributions have made a lasting impression on the Chapter and Lodge alike, and presenting him with his Past Master pin was a fitting tribute to his guidance, hard work, and faithful service.

Hubbard-Winsor Work

The ongoing remodel of Hubbard-Winsor Lodge No. 420 is making swift and impressive progress as transformation work continues on the lodge facility. Contractors have recently wrapped up the installation of new exterior insulation, working efficiently to ensure the building is thoroughly sealed and energy-efficient for years to come. In addition to the insulation, modern new windows have now been successfully installed all around the building, drastically upgrading both the exterior appearance and the natural lighting inside.

With these major structural and weatherization milestones completed, the project is moving smoothly into its next phase. Exterior siding installation is set to begin soon, which will give the lodge a fresh, updated look that the Brethren and the local community can take pride in. Thanks to the fast pace and quality craftsmanship of

the crew, the renovation remains well on track to provide a welcoming, refreshed, and comfortable home for the lodge's members and guests.



Words from the Worshipful

"This month we are moving forward full steam ahead on the refurbishing of our Temple. The work crew is actively buttoning up the building with insulation and wrap, siding is next. The second floor windows have been replaced and we should be complete before the first snow flies. The Temple Association and Lodge are both pleased with the progress, and are looking forward to shifting the work mode indoors once the outside is complete. If you haven't been to Lodge lately you are certainly missing out on the progress we have made in the last few years inside, and now out! **We meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:30pm for a meal, the gavel drops at 7:30pm.** In November we will hold an election for a new slate of Officers and our annual memorial service. Regular communications are business casual, coat and tie encouraged, and are also educationally focused. Join in the fellowship!" *-WM Jack Ruby, Hubbard-Winsor No. 420*

Moriah's Minutes



Mount Moriah Lodge No. 226 recently held its regular communication, bringing the Brethren together for a productive evening focused on administrative business and the future operations of the Lodge. A key highlight of the meeting was establishing officer lineups, ensuring that leadership roles and ritualistic responsibilities

are well-organized as the Lodge prepares for upcoming degree work and upcoming fraternal events.

In addition to planning for leadership roles, the Brethren addressed several important lodge governance matters, including a discussion on Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) policies and lifetime membership structures. By proactively addressing these financial and membership topics, Mount Moriah Lodge No. 226 continues to maintain strong operational health while ensuring that long-standing members remain supported and engaged in the life of the Lodge.

NO Royal Arch or Council in Nov!

Due to the upcoming annual Inspection of St. George Commandery #52 there will be <u>NO Caro Chapter #96 or Thumb Council #90 meetings in November.</u> Our regular meeting date of November 19th has been reserved entirely for the Inspection, Dinner and Ladies Program.

Commandery Inspections
A History

The tradition of annual inspections within the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan is rooted deep in the 19th century military and ritualistic heritage of Christian Masonic Knighthood. Ever since the Grand Commandery of Michigan was formally organized in 1857, the leadership recognized that maintaining ritualistic uniform standards, tactical military drill, and administrative discipline across local constituent Commanderies required hands-on, regular oversight. Early Grand Commanders initiated official visitations across the state, which gradually evolved into a structured annual inspection protocol assigned to the Grand Officers each asylum season.

Historically, these annual inspections served a dual purpose: evaluating a Commandery's proficiency in Templar tactics and ritual work, while

reinforcing the spiritual and fraternal bonds connecting distant Commanderies across Michigan. Inspecting officers, ranging from the Grand Commander to his staff officers, travel to local asylums to review the opening ceremonies, inspect uniforms and swords, observe full Order conferrals, and review official lodge books and records. The evening typically features a military-style inspection formation on the asylum floor followed by a festive banquet, seamlessly blending strict Templar discipline with genuine Masonic fellowship.

Over the decades, as military tactics and drill competitions (such as those practiced by famous Michigan drill teams at the Annual Grand Conclaves) shifted, the core purpose of the inspection remained unchanged: preserving excellence and accountability. Today, the annual inspection remains one of the most vital calendar events for any Michigan Commandery. It serves not only as an official appraisal by representatives of the Grand Commandery, but also as a premier gathering where Sir Knights from neighboring Commanderies travel across the state to assist, spectate, and celebrate the enduring traditions of Templar Masonry.

NPD Forms are Due

As the official due date for annual dues and administrative reporting has now passed, all required Form 52s for Non-Payment of Dues (NPD) must be completed and submitted to the Grand Lodge immediately. Timely filing ensures that lodge administrative records remain accurate, up to date, and compliant with Grand Lodge regulations and reporting deadlines.

It is always a matter of deep regret whenever the Lodge must take action to remove Brethren from the rolls due to unpaid dues. Each member contributes to the life, history, and fellowship of our Craft, and taking this administrative step is never done lightly or without sincere reluctance.

While these Brethren are being suspended from membership at this time, our fraternal hope remains that their departure is only temporary. We sincerely look forward to welcoming them back into the fold, restoring their active membership, and continuing our shared journey in Freemasonry whenever they are ready to return.

Conductors of the Floor

Comparing Roles in Rainbow



While the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG) and Symbolic (Blue Lodge) Freemasonry serve different membership bodies, the office of **Sister Drill Leader** in an Assembly shares remarkable parallels with that of the **Senior Deacon** in a Blue Lodge. Both officers serve as the primary conductors of movement within the lodge or assembly room, ensuring that floor work, processions, and ritualistic transitions are executed with dignity, precision, and order.

In an IORG Assembly, the Sister Drill Leader is responsible for guiding candidates during their initiation, leading floor maneuvers, and directing lines of movement during meetings and public ceremonies. Similarly, the Senior Deacon acts as the Worshipful Master's primary messenger and conductor on the lodge floor, leading candidates through their degrees and managing the floor during formal proceedings. In both roles, the officer must possess a thorough command of ritual floor work, spatial awareness, and confidence, as their direction dictates the pacing and reverence of the degree or ceremony.

Beyond ritual mechanics, both positions represent a vital stepping stone in leadership development. Serving as Drill Leader allows a young woman to cultivate public speaking, poise, and direct leadership skills while commanding the room's movement. In the same way, the Senior Deacon position in a Blue Lodge is often a key milestone on the path toward the Master's Chair, testing a Brother's ability to communicate clearly, lead with grace, and maintain administrative and ritualistic control of the floor.

Preparing the Way for 2027

As the Masonic year draws toward its conclusion, the time has come for Lodges to prepare for a smooth transition of leadership and to honor the Brethren who have served our fraternity with distinction. Worshipful Masters and Secretaries should begin coordinating details for the upcoming Officer Installation—confirming installing officers, inspecting ritual equipment, and scheduling floor work rehearsals to ensure a dignified, well-executed ceremony for Brethren, families, and guests.

Equally vital to our year-end preparations is recognizing the quiet, tireless dedication of the Master Masons who keep our Lodges running smoothly. Brethren are urged not to overlook the **Mason of the Year** nomination packets. Taking the time to gather achievements, complete the necessary paperwork, and submit packets prior to the deadline ensures that deserving Brothers receive the recognition they have earned through their devoted service to our Lodge and community.

Strengthening Our Pillars
Masonic Mentorship

The future and vitality of Freemasonry rely heavily on the active mentorship we provide to the younger and newer generations of Masons entering our West Gate. Becoming a Master Mason is not the end of a journey, but the beginning of a lifelong pursuit of light, self-improvement, and fraternal service. As experienced Brethren, our duty extends beyond conferring degrees; we are called to walk alongside our newer members, answering their questions, explaining the depth of our ritual and philosophy, and helping them find their unique place within the Lodge. By taking an active interest in their growth, we ensure that the lessons and traditions of our Craft are preserved with understanding and pride.

Mentorship, however, cannot happen from afar—it requires our presence on the sidelines and in the Lodge room. **Making a personal commitment to attend meetings more regularly is <u>one</u> of the most direct ways we can support our Worshipful Master, our officers, and our fellow Brethren.** A well-attended Lodge inspires confidence, adds warmth to our

fellowship, and invigorates our degree work. When a new Brother looks out into the South and West and sees a room filled with supportive Brethren, it reinforces the true value of our obligation and the strength of our fraternity.

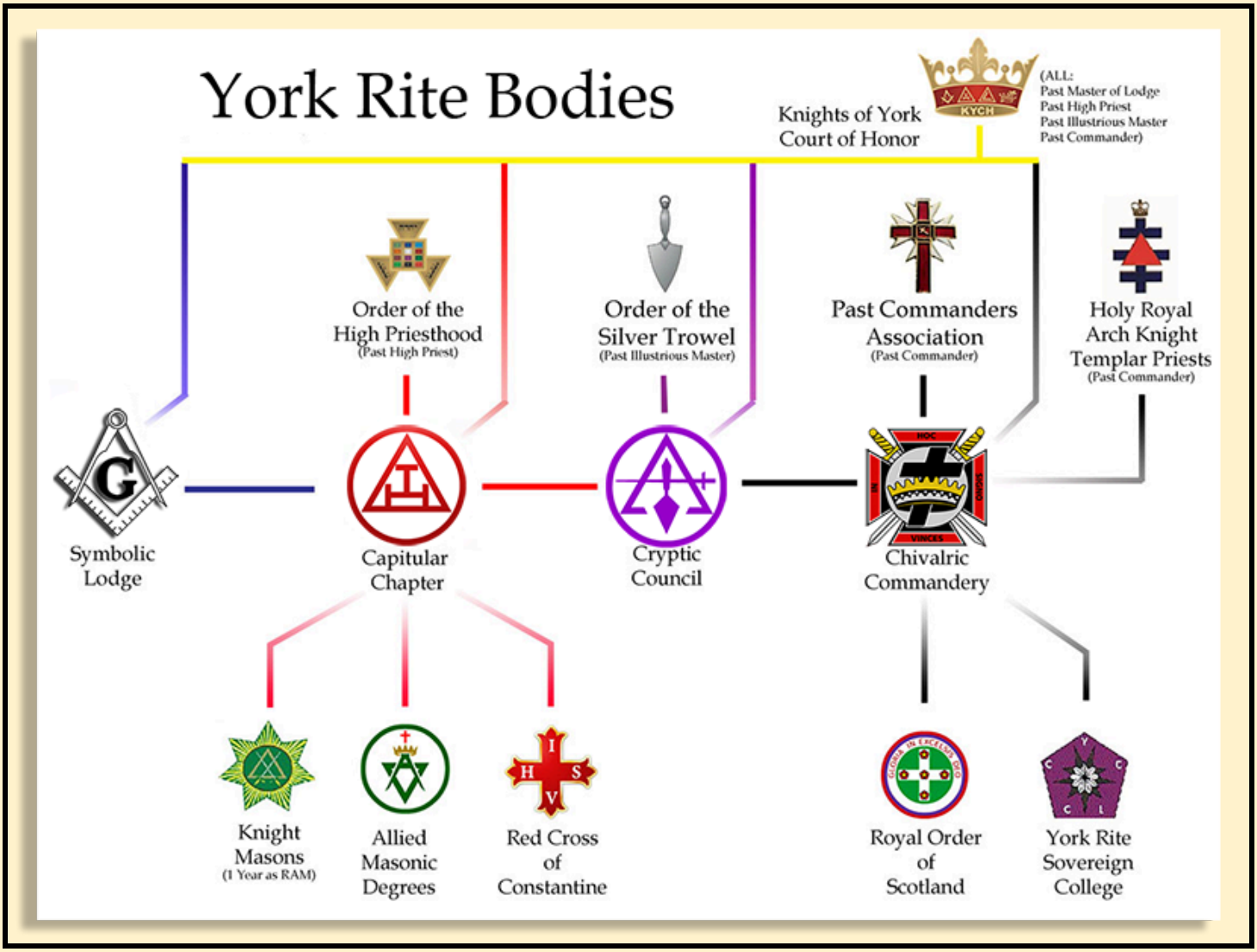
As we look ahead, let us each make it a goal to attend **at least one additional meeting** or event each month and reach out to a newer Brother to sit beside us. Your wisdom, encouragement, and simple presence at the sound of the gavel make a lasting difference in building a stronger, more connected Lodge.

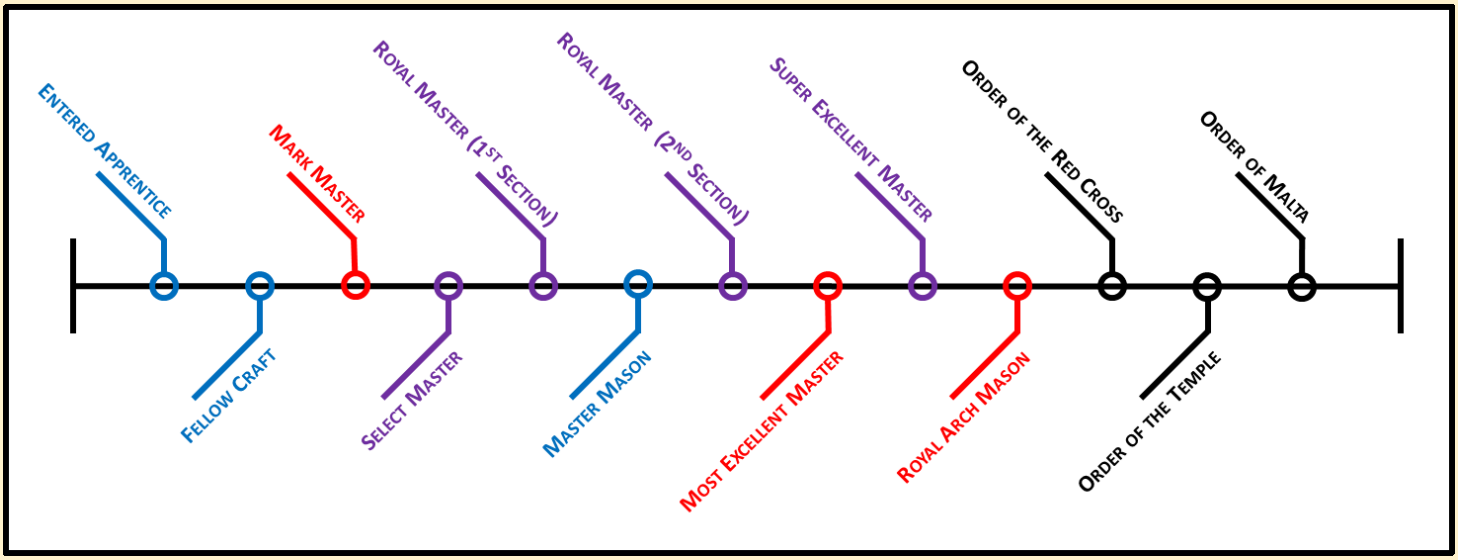
Expanding Your Masonic Light

For many Master Masons, the symbolic degrees of the Blue Lodge lay a powerful foundation, but they also leave profound mysteries and allegories waiting to be fully understood. Joining the York Rite allows a Brother to continue his spiritual and philosophical education by directly building upon the story of the Craft. Through the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Commandery of Knights Templar, the York Rite provides the missing pieces of the Ancient Craft traditions, completing the search for lost knowledge and offering a deeper, more cohesive appreciation of the lessons first taught at the altar.

Beyond ritualistic instruction, the York Rite offers a tight-knit fellowship and unique opportunities to serve both the fraternity and the broader community. Each body within the Rite brings its own rich history, inspiring leadership paths, and impactful philanthropic initiatives—from supporting medical research to aiding local charitable causes. By stepping into the York Rite, a Mason not only deepens his understanding of our ancient traditions, but also surrounds himself with dedicated Companions and Sir Knights who are committed to walking the path of honor, duty, and fraternal service together.




York Rite Bodies
Knights of York
Court of Honor
(ALL:
Past Master of Lodge
Past High Priest
Past Illustrious Master
Past Commander)
Order of the
High Priesthood
(Past High Priest)
Order of the
Silver Trowel
(Past Illustrious Master)
Past Commanders
Association
(Past Commander)
Holy Royal
Arch Knight
Templar Priests
(Past Commander)
Symbolic
Lodge
Capitular
Chapter
Cryptic
Council
Chivalric
Commandery
Knight
Masons
(1 Year as RAM)
Allied
Masonic
Degrees
Red Cross
of
Constantine
Royal Order
of
Scotland
York Rite
Sovereign
College


Entered Apprentice
Fellow Craft
Mark Master
Select Master
Royal Master (1st Section)
Master Mason
Royal Master (2nd Section)
Most Excellent Master
Super Excellent Master
Royal Arch Mason
Order of the Red Cross
Order of the Temple
Order of Malta