

Raleigh York Rite Bodies
Spring 2015 Newsletter

Our York Rite Year has gotten off to a rousing start. Raleigh Chapter No. 10 presided over our stated meetings during the first 4 months of the year. Our Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Billy J. Neely was present in February and commented on the proficient manner of our opening. During the next four months Enoch Council No. 5 will preside. Illustrious Master Will Highsmith has already begun preparations for our Council officers to practice the opening.

Our Bodies were well represented at the Grand Meetings in Wilmington in March. Several of our Companions and Sir Knights received awards for service to the York Rite. Companion Luigi Ammons was awarded the Simon Jones Baker Award by the Grand Council. Companion Will Chriscoe was awarded the General Grand Council Adult Leadership Award for service to our Masonic youth organizations. Companion Ludwik Wodka was awarded the General Grand Chapter Bronze Award and the Knight Commander of the Temple Award by Grand Encampment. Our outgoing Most Illustrious Grand Master, Johnny Davis, was awarded the Knight Templar Cross of Honor by Grand Encampment. Companion Davis was also elected Grand Treasurer. He succeeds the retiring Paul Holbrook, who has served as Grand Treasurer for many years. Companion Will Highsmith was recognized for becoming a certified Capitular lecturer. Raleigh Commandery No.4 was awarded the Wilbert F. Huntley Award as the top Commandery in North Carolina.

We also have a new Grand Secretary/Recorder. Companion Allen Surratt succeeds our own Bob Schafer who is retiring after serving as Grand Secretary/Recorder for 17 years. He was elected Grand Secretary/Recorder Emeritus and thanked for his many years of service.

Closer to home, we are working on plans for our annual Festival of the Degrees and Orders. The Chapter and Council Degrees will be conferred on Saturday, May 9 beginning at 8AM. The Commandery Orders will be conferred on Saturday, June 6. We currently have six candidates approved and two more petitions in hand. It is not too late to get petitions to me for presentation at our May meeting.

In an effort to increase the amount of our charity contributions we are holding a raffle for a \$500 Visa Gift Card. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The drawing will be held at our August Stated Assembly. Let me know if you need tickets. Proceeds will go to our York Rite Charities and the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Several Sir Knights traveled to Arlington, Virginia to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown on April 4. They then attended the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Easter Sunday.

Remember, our Stated Meetings are the 1st Friday of each month. Dinner is at 6:30 with the meeting at 7:30. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally – Andy Adams, Secretary/Recorder