



Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter

HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF FLORIDA & U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, INC.
Prince Hall Affiliated

Post Office Box 16303, Pensacola, Florida 32507 | 305-527-9523
meugc.hram@gmail.com | www.meugc.org

16TH ANNUAL YORK RITE WORKSHOP PROCLAMATION

September 7, 2024

To the Honorable Jeffery G. Jones, 19th Most Worshipful Grand Master; All Florida Jurisdiction Department Heads; Deputy Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Peter J. Bruton; Grand King, Right Excellent Andre Reed; Grand Scribe, Right Excellent Craig E. Hall; Grand Treasurer, Right Excellent Jose "Tito" George; Grand Secretary, Right Excellent Canary Williams; Grand Chaplain, Right Excellent Rev. Ernest L. Powell; Grand CCFC, Right Excellent Jordin T. Chandler; All Past Most Excellent Grand High Priests; All Past Grand High Priests; All Appointed Grand Chapter Officers; All Excellent High Priests, Past High Priests, Kings, Scribes, Treasurers, Secretaries; All Local Appointed Officers, and All Companions.

But you are a chosen people, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2: 9

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter has worked to deliver you a York Rite Workshop built on a foundation of EXCELLENCE, housed in PERFECTION and guarded by LOVE. This year's **workshop**, just as in years past, will focus on the good **work**, true **work**, and square **work** of our Companions all across the Jurisdiction.

CALL TO ASSEMBLE

Now, by the prerogative of this office and in conformity with the Constitution and By-Laws governing the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Florida & U.S. Virgin Islands, Prince Hall Affiliated, I, Most Excellent Dr. Elton L. Lewis KYGCH KCT, Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry, do hereby proclaim the **16th Annual York Rite Workshop**, will convene for all Holy Royal Arch Masons on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 and conclude on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld 10100 International Dr., Orlando Florida 32821.

LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS

The host hotel for this event is the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld. The hotel can be reached at (407) 352-1100 to make your reservations. Book your rooms under the group name of "**York Rite Weekend**." The room rate is \$119.00 per night plus applicable taxes/fees for a standard single (king bed) or standard double (queen beds). Reservation cut-off date is December 1, 2024. *(After December 1, 2024 reservation requests are confirmed on guestroom and convention rate availability. If the rate is not available, the prevailing hotel rate will apply.)*

The Pass Key for Hotel Reservations:

The pass key for the 16th York Rite Workshop is below. Please click the hyperlink below to access the hotel reservation site:

[LINK TO DOUBLETREE BY HILTON - ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD - PASS KEY](#)

We are expecting a larger than normal attendance at this event, so make your reservations early. Please do not over book rooms. Reservations must be made with a major credit card. The Grand Chapter will not be responsible for cancellation charges or overbooked rooms.

Most Excellent
Dr. Elton L. Lewis KYGCH KCT
Grand High Priest

Right Excellent
Peter J. Bruton KYCH
Deputy Grand High Priest

Right Excellent
Andre Reed KYCH
Grand King

Right Excellent
Craig E. Hall KYCH
Grand Scribe

Right Excellent
Jose "Tito" George
Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent
Canary Williams
Grand Secretary

Right Excellent
Rev. Ernest L. Powell
Grand Chaplain

Right Excellent
Jordin T. Chandler
Grand Chair of Foreign
Correspondence

REGISTRATION

Registration is **\$100.00 from September 7, 2024 through November 15, 2024**. Late Registration is **\$125.00 from November 16, 2024 through December 1, 2024**. Any registrations received by the Grand Secretary after December 1, 2024 will be considered on-site registration. On-site registration is \$175.00. Chapters must pre-register the following six (6) local Chapter officers: Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, and Royal Arch Captain. These officers must register whether in attendance or not.

All **Appointed Grand Chapter Officers** and Companions who serve as **Joshua or Court Director** for the Heroines of Jericho are expected to **register with their local Royal Arch Chapter**. This will be strictly enforced. Please understand that it should not be expected that the local HOJ Court will pay your registration for you.

This year's registration form can also be completed using the online registration form. A link to the online registration form can be found on the registration form attached below. ALL local Chapter Secretaries are asked to complete the online registration form to allow for accuracy of information being submitted. The QR Code for Zelle payments can also be found on the online registration form.

Registrations should be mailed directly to the **Grand Secretary, Right Excellent Canary Williams, at P.O. Box 16303, Pensacola, FL 32507**. Attached below is the registration form. Make all checks and money orders payable to the "M.E.U.G.C." If you send a check there will be a \$40 fee on any returned check plus bank fees. Individuals or Chapters can also register using Zelle by sending funds using the email address meugc.grtreasurer@gmail.com.

ATTIRE

For the Statewide Exaltation and the Workshop on Saturday, all Companions are to dress in full Royal Arch dress, to include black suit, white dress shirt, black shoes, black socks, red tie, crown, apron, gloves, and appropriate collar. All elected and appointed Grand Chapter Officers are to dress in full ritualistic regalia. Please see the attached agenda for more detailed information with regard to the attire for each event. *In lieu of full Royal Arch dress Companions are authorized to wear the approved Grand Chapter oxford of any color, black slacks, black shoes, black socks, crown, apron, gloves, and appropriate collar.*

OCCASIONAL CHAPTER OPENING

The officers and members of Harmony Chapter #107 will perform the Workshop opening in due and ritualistic form.

COLLEGE OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY

The College of Royal Arch Masonry will convene during this workshop. Our Dean, Rev. Maurice Wilson, and the administrators are anxious to continue the rich tradition of this great institution! Rev. Wilson will provide a list of courses offered along with the instructors of each course by December 1, 2024. All who have not previously enrolled in the College of Royal Arch Masonry will have the opportunity to do so at the York Rite Workshop.

JEWEL CONTEST

The Jewel Contest will take place during our session on Saturday, January 11, 2025. The Jewel Contest is conducted to serve mainly as a learning tool and to provide uniformity throughout the jurisdiction in the performance of ritualistic ceremonies. The focus of this year's Jewel Contest will be performing the opening of a Royal Arch Chapter. All rules and regulations for the Jewel Contest will be attached to the Proclamation. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place winners.

STATEWIDE EXALTATION

SPECIAL OFFER

Candidates for Royal Arch Masonry can take part in a ONE TIME offer of **\$125.00** for their application fee. This fee will be inclusive of their registration fee and the application fee. **NO OTHER FEES ARE TO BE ASSESSED BY THE LOCAL CHAPTER.** There will not be an opportunity for local exaltations until August 2025. Candidates will receive a membership certificate, dues card, and ritual. All other items will be available for purchase at the York Rite Workshop. ***Once exalted, these Companions will be required to pay their Annual Head Tax of \$60.00 for the 2025-26 fiscal year.***

ALL Candidates will be required to be at the Capitular Education Courses at 8:00 AM on Thursday, January 9, 2025. The statewide conferral of the Holy Royal Arch degree will take place on Friday, January 10, 2025 at 12:30pm. Candidates must meet at the appropriate meeting room by 12:00pm. All candidates will participate in a Most Excellent Master proficiency education course Friday January 10, 2025. Candidates not present for proficiency will not be permitted to participate in the statewide exaltation.

HRAM & HOJ JOINT BANQUET

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter HRAM and the Most Ancient Union Grand Court HOJ will have a joint banquet, “Honoring the Grand Life,” on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 7pm. There will be several presentations made during this event including awards and recognitions for Companions and Chapters around the Jurisdiction.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

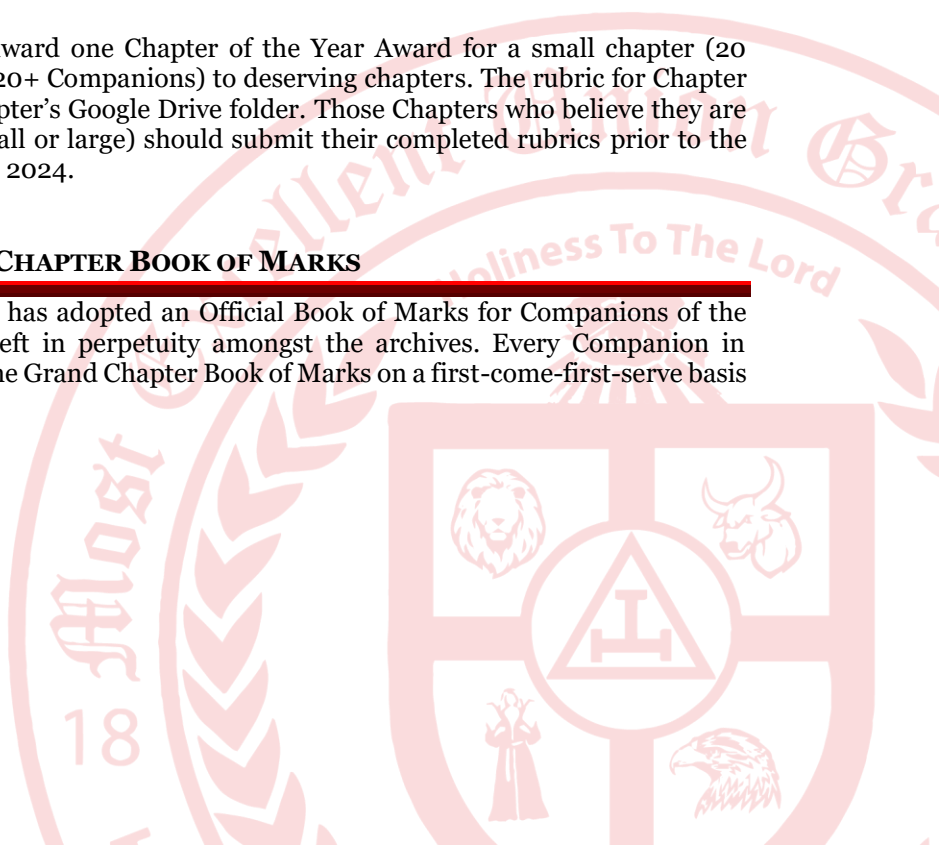
HAGGAI AWARD: For all companions exalted over the last 12 months and working towards the Haggai Award, you will need to submit the award tracking form prior to December 1, 2024. The tracking form can be found attached below. The Haggai Award is our designated new member retention program.

COMPANION OF THE YEAR AWARD: We will award one deserving Companion the “Charles T. Maxwell Companion of the Year” Award. The recipient of this award will be afforded free registration to all HRAM events for the year that they hold the award and will be exempted from Grand Chapter head taxes for the year that they receive the award.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS: We will award one Chapter of the Year Award for a small chapter (20 Companions or less) and a large chapter (20+ Companions) to deserving chapters. The rubric for Chapter of the Year can be found in each local Chapter’s Google Drive folder. Those Chapters who believe they are eligible for Chapter of the Year (either small or large) should submit their completed rubrics prior to the Grand Secretary no later than December 1, 2024.

GRAND CHAPTER BOOK OF MARKS

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter has adopted an Official Book of Marks for Companions of the Jurisdiction to have their official mark left in perpetuity amongst the archives. Every Companion in attendance can have their mark placed in the Grand Chapter Book of Marks on a first-come-first-serve basis at a cost of \$20.00.



In closing, I ask for your continued prayers of intercession for me as I go to the Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth in intercession for you. Let "Holiness to the Lord" be engraved upon all your thoughts, words and actions.

This communication is to be read in its entirety during each meeting before the York Rite Workshop and a copy made available to each member via email or regular mail.



UNDER THE LIVING ARCH I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter to be affixed.

Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis, KYGCH KCT
Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry

ATTEST,

Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Grand Secretary





Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter

Holy Royal Arch Masons State of Florida & U.S.V.I. & Jurisdictions, Inc.

Prince Hall Affiliated

Most Excellent Dr. Elton L. Lewis, K.Y.G.C.H. , K.C.T.
Grand High Priest

16th ANNUAL YORK RITE WORKSHOP AGENDA

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	
Thu. Jan. 9	8:00 AM	Capitular Education Courses	HRAM Candidate Education Team
Thu. Jan. 9	12:00 PM	Lunch (On Your Own)	
Thu. Jan. 9	2:00 PM	Capitular Education Courses	HRAM Candidate Education Team
Fri. Jan. 10	8:00 AM	Capitular Education Courses Candidate Proficiency Exam	HRAM Candidate Education Team
Fri. Jan. 10	12:00 PM	Candidates Meet & Prep for Degree Conferral ATTIRE: Full Masonic Dress	Statewide Exaltation Team
Fri. Jan. 10	2:00 PM	Registration	Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Sat. Jan. 11	7:00 AM	Registration	Rt. Ex. Canary Williams
Sat. Jan. 11	7:45 AM	Occasional Chapter Opening ATTIRE: Full HRAM Masonic Dress OR Approved HRAM Oxford	Harmony Chapter #107
Sat. Jan. 11	8:15 AM	Reception of Grand Cabinet	Rt. Ex. Peter J. Bruton
Sat. Jan. 11	8:30 AM	Reception of Grand High Priest	Rt. Ex. Peter J. Bruton
Sat. Jan. 11	8:35 PM	Reception of Dept. Heads/Visiting Dignitaries/Guests	Most. Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis
Sat. Jan. 11	8:40 AM	Reception of MW Grand Master & Cabinet	Most. Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis
Sat. Jan. 11	8:45 AM	Devotion	Rt. Ex. Rev. Ernest L. Powell
Sat. Jan. 11	8:55 AM	Welcome	DDGHP Jimmy Stewart – Dist 2
Sat. Jan. 11	9:00 AM	College of Royal Arch Masonry – Course 1	Comp. Rev. Maurice Wilson
Sat. Jan. 11	10:30 AM	College of Royal Arch Masonry – Course 2	Comp. Dr. George Lockhart
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN			
12:00pm-2:00pm			
Sat. Jan. 11	2:00 PM	Jewel Contest	DDGHP Richard Stewart – Dist. 10
Sat. Jan. 11	3:00 PM	Consecration Ceremony	Rt. Ex. Ernest L. Powell, Gr. Chaplain
Sat. Jan. 11	3:30 PM	Final Remarks	Visiting Dignitaries PMEGHPs Department Heads Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis Hon. Jeffery G. Jones
Sat. Jan. 11	4:00 PM	Official Closing of York Rite Workshop	Grand Elected and Appointed Officers
MEUGC HRAM & MAUGC HOJ			
Joint Banquet			
“Honoring The Grand Life”			
7:00pm			



Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter

Holy Royal Arch Masons of FL & USVI, Inc., P.H.A.

C/O Rt. Ex. Canary Williams, P.O. Box 16303, Pensacola, Florida 32507-9998

16TH ANNUAL YORK RITE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM - 2025

Registration Fee: \$100.00 | Late Registration: \$125.00 |

Onsite Registration: \$175.00

[LINK TO ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#)

CHAPTER NAME:		CHAPTER No.:
COMPANION NAME	TITLE	AMOUNT PAID
MANDATORY REGISTRATION		
	EXCELLENT HIGH PRIEST	
	KING	
	SCRIBE	
	CAPTAIN OF THE HOST	
	PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER	
	ROYAL ARCH CAPTAIN	
	APPOINTED GRAND CHAPTER OFFICER	
	DIST. DEP. GRAND HIGH PRIEST	**EXEMPT**
	ASST. DIST. DEP. GRAND HIGH PRIEST	
	DISTRICT GRAND INSTRUCTOR	
EXEMPT REGISTRATION		
	DEPARTMENT HEAD (EXEMPT)	**EXEMPT**
	DEPARTMENT HEAD (EXEMPT)	**EXEMPT**
	PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST	**EXEMPT**
	PAST GRAND HIGH PRIEST	**EXEMPT**
	LIFE MEMBER	**EXEMPT**
	LIFE MEMBER	**EXEMPT**
	COMP. OF THE YEAR/KING CONTEST WINNER	**EXEMPT**
CHAPTER TOTAL REGISTRATION COST		\$



2025 Jewel Contest Rules & Regulations

1. Rules Governing Participation

- A. Each team for the Jewel Contest should consist of its current elected and appointed officers, namely:

Excellent High Priest
King
Scribe
Treasurer
Secretary
Captain of the Host
Principle Sojourner
Royal Arch Captain
Master of the 3rd Veil
Master of the 2nd Veil
Master of the 1st Veil
Sentinel

- B. In the event a current Chapter elected and appointed officer cannot participate, that position may be filled by another member of the chapter. Past High Priests may participate in any position they currently hold in their local chapter, or they should preferably fill the positions of King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, or Sentinel without losing points.
- C. Physical inability, death in the family, an act of GOD, or having to protect one's employment shall be plausible excuses for the absence of an officer. Points will be deducted from the team (see Section VIII) for unfilled position (The TOP 5 Positions MUST be filled by a member of the chapter or one appointed by the Chapter for the CONTEST only. The ONLY excuse will be as stated in 2C)
- D. A Jewel Contest Team, consisting of the officers listed in Step 2A, may also be fielded from a cross section of members from the Chapters within the same district. Past High Priest shall be permitted to participate on a Jewel Contest Team organized from a cross section of members from the Chapters within the same district provided they preferably participate in the position they currently hold in their local chapter. (For example; Zerubbabel Chapter #6 of district 11 is short a M2V for Kings Chapter #1 of district 11, he may fill in for that position with permission from the EHP of Kings Chapter #1)
- E. Each participating Jewel Contest team must submit a listing of its participants, to the judges, prior to the contest

2. Rules Governing Dress

- A. Each Jewel Contest participant will be inspected for adherence to the dress code:

Dress Code

Dark Suit (Black or Blue)

White Shirt

White Gloves

RAM Apron

RAM Crown

(Appropriate Collar and Jewel)

Red Bow or Straight Tie

Black Shoes*

Black Socks**

* Points will be deducted for shoes with shiny objects attached

**If a participating officer has infected feet, it is suggested that he wear black socks over white socks.

- B. Participating Officers who fail to adhere to the dress code shall have points deducted for improper dress.

3. Rules Governing the Manual of Swords

(The C o H, RAC, M1V, M2V, M3V and the Sentinel MUST have swords refer to pages 1 – top of 3)

- A. All officers with swords execute “Salute Sword” while reciting parts.
- B. All officers with swords execute “Carry Sword” when the reciting part(s) is /are finished.
- C. All officers with swords execute “Present Sword” when the command “Be In Order As Royal Arch Masons” is given.
- D. The Veils execute “Present and Salute Sword” whenever the Royal Arch Captain and the Principal Sojourner passes thru the veils.

4. Rules Governing Opening Ceremony Ritualistic Work

- A. No salutation should be given until after the chapter has been purged and tiled.
- B. Excellent High Priest and Captain of Host should be clothed (regaled) before the chapter is organized.
- C. The Royal Arch Captain closes the door before taking his station. (Please pay attention to this)
- D. The pass is not taken from the Council nor the Veils.
- E. On the command “Companions be in order as Royal Arch Masons”, the book calls for the companions to “Rise and give due-guard”, it does not say anything about repeating the salutation at this point in the ceremony.
- F. Veils remain standing at their stations facing north while the procession is being formed.
- G. On the command “Forward March.” The veils left face and march single file to the WEST; then make right turn, and halt. They will not move forward until the command of “Inward Face” is given thereby “squaring” off the WEST End of the Rectangle being formed

- H. After the charge is given, the EHP says “The Council will descend” and they move forward closing up the EASTWARD end of the Rectangle” by kneeling and crossing their hands right over left, taking the hands of the companions on their left and right.
- I. An additional 20 points will be awarded if the charge is recited. However, point deduction will apply as in section 8 below. (The High Priest and Principal Sojourner have an option as to who will recite the prayer.)
- J. Raising and Lowering the Arch: Declaration is given; (The companion whose back is to the EAST after the 3 are formed shall be the Companion to initiate the WORDS GIVEN.
- K. Companions remain standing until seated by the gavel.

5. Rules Governing Jewel Contest Scoring

Each Officer is given 100 points to begin with. Points will be deducted from this total as follows:

Absence of Officers:

High Priest	20 Points
King	10 Points
Scribe	10 Points
Treasurer	5 Points
Secretary	5 Points
Captain of the Host	20 Points
Principle Sojourner	20 Points
Royal Arch Captian	20 Points
Master of the 3 rd Veil	10 Points
Master of the 2 nd Veil	10 Points
Master of the 1 st Veil	10 Points
Sentinel	5 Points

Improper Dress (Officers Failing to Wear):

Dark Suit (Black or Blue)	10 Points
White Shirt	5 Points
White Gloves	5 Points
Red Bow or Neck Tie	5 Points
Black Shoes	5 Points
Black Socks**	5 Points

Floor Work and Other Penalties

Omitting Word(s) or Phrases	1 Points
Inserting Word(s) or Phrases	1 Points
Substituting Word(s) or Phrases	1 Points

Floor Work (each infraction)	2 Points
Failure to Allow Officer Time to Respond	1 Points
Omitting a Line	5 Points
Omitting a Paragraph	10 Points
Being Prompted by Other Members	10 Points
Sword Work, (failure to use at the proper time)	5 Points
Failure of Captain of Host or Royal Arch	10 Points





MEUGC Haggai Award

A three-part program of Education & Fellowship for newly Exalted Companions

To receive the MEUGC Haggai Award, the newly exalted Companion must satisfactorily complete Parts 1 and 2 and fulfill mandatory and voluntary requirements of Part 3 within one year of being exalted. Keep record of all completion dates to obtain signatures.

Part 1: Mentor Program---Receive an appointed position within your chapter and be mentored to achieve proficiency in the duties and responsibilities within 90 days of exaltation.

Part 2: Royal Arch History—Present 3 ‘ritual based’ presentations in your chapter for the (1) Mark Master, (2) Most Excellent Master, and (3) Royal Arch degrees (include handouts)

Part 3: A personal adventure in Royal Arch Fellowship and Learning

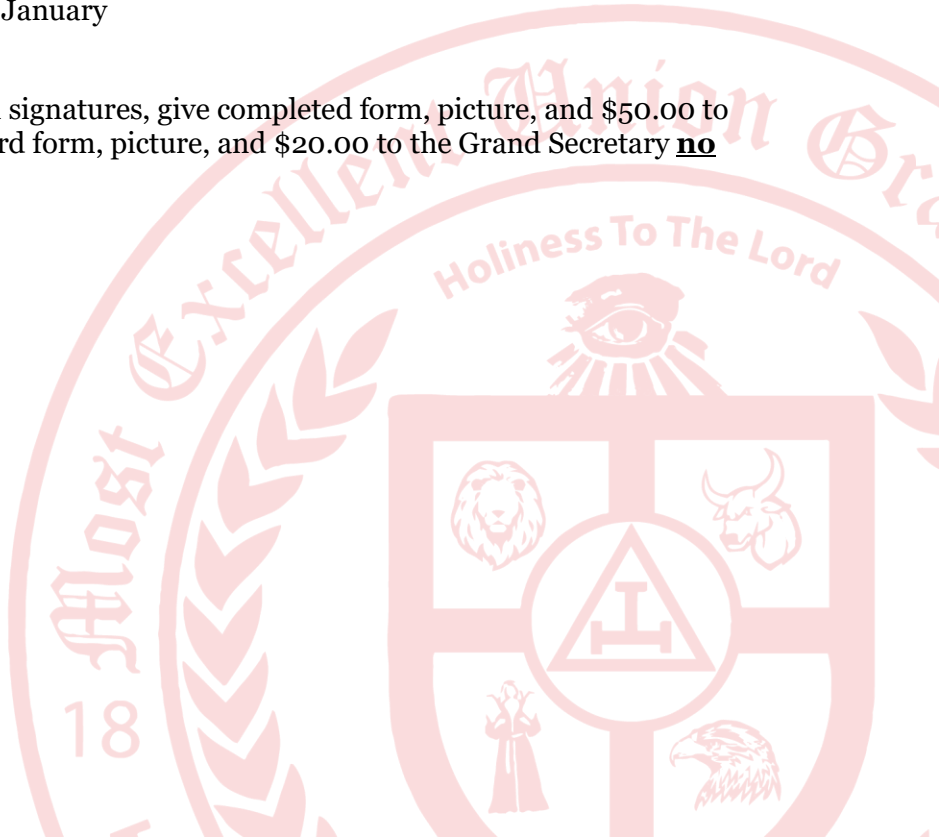
Mandatory Requirements

1. Attend 7 Stated Convocations of your Royal Arch Chapter
2. Attend an Official Visitation of the DDGHP within your District
3. Attend 7 Stated Communications of your Blue Lodge
4. Completion of 7th Degree Proficiency Testing
5. Attend MEUGC York Rite Workshop in January
6. Participate in a fundraiser to donate \$50 (\$30 for your chapter and \$20 to MEUGC)
7. Participate in a community service, provide picture (Gift baskets, feed hungry, etc.)

Fulfill At Least Three of the Voluntary Criteria Listed Below

1. Participate in a degree conferred by your chapter
2. Be the first-line signer on a petition for membership in your chapter
3. Attend MEUGC Annual Session in April.
4. Participate in MEUGC Exaltation in January
5. Attend Grand High Priest Visitation

After completing all requirements with signatures, give completed form, picture, and \$50.00 to your chapter Secretary, who will forward form, picture, and \$20.00 to the Grand Secretary **no later than DECEMBER 1, 2024.**





MEUGC Haggai Award Tracking Form

Companion Name (Print)

Companion Signature

Date

Part 1 (REQUIRED)		
<u>MENTORED POSITION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
Part 2 (REQUIRED)		
<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
Mark Master Presentation		
Most Excellent Master Presentation		
Royal Arch Presentation		
Part 3A (REQUIRED)		
<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
Attend 7 Stated Convocations		
Attend DDGHP Visitation		
Attend 7 Stated Blue Lodge Communications		
7 th Degree Proficiency Testing		
Attend January MEUGC York Rite Workshop		
Participate in fundraiser (\$50.00)		
Participate in community service (picture)		
Part 3B (3 of 5 REQUIRED)		
<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
Participate in local Chapter Degree Work		
1 st line signer on membership petition		
Attend April MEUGC Annual Session		
Participate in MEUGC January Exaltation		
Attend Grand High Priest Visitation		

High Priest Signature

Date

Secretary Signature

Date

DDGHP Signature

Date

