



Connecticut York Rite Opportunities

Information to be included in **York Rite Opportunities** must be submitted by the **15th** of the preceding month to the Assistant Grand Secretary/Recorder, James S. McNeely, 23 Ariel Way, Avon, CT 06001 or jsmcneely@msn.com. **NOTE: All dates and visitations are subject to change without notice.**

NOVEMBER 2019

MP	1 - 3	Southwestern Conference		Las Vegas
ME RE	2	York Rite Testimonial at the Gallery		Glastonbury
ME	5	Franklin Chapter	Royal Arch Degree	New Haven
RE	5	Washington Commandery		East Hartford
	5	Keystone Chapter	Royal Arch Degree	Meriden Dinner 6:15
ME	6	Halleck Chapter		Madison
RE	12	Cyrene Commandery	Order of the Temple	Middletown
MP	12	Harmony Council		New Haven
	12	Hamilton Council	Royal Master Degree	Meriden
ME	13	Hiram Chapter		Sandy Hook
RE	13	Pythagoras Chapter		East Hartford
ME	14	Joseph Andrews Chapter		West Haven
MP	14	Buel Council		Torrington
	14	Washington Council		Norwalk
MP	15	Trinity Commandery		Norwalk
	16	AMD/SRICF		East Hartford
RE	19	Washington Commandery	Order of the Temple	East Hartford
ME	19	Burning Bush – Washington Chapter		Middletown
	19	St. Elmo Commandery		Meriden Dinner 6:30
RE	21	Hamilton Commandery	Inspection	Stratford
RE	22	St. Elmo Commandery	Order of the Temple	Meriden Dinner 6:30
ME	27	Pulaski Chapter		Branford
RE	27	Pythagoras Chapter		East Hartford
	28	Happy Thanksgiving!		

December dates - tentative

8	Cyrene/St. Elmo	Christmas Observance	Meriden	4:30 PM
10	Paugussett Council	R&S Master Degrees	Milford	Dinner 6:30
12	Washington Council	Select Master Degree	Norwalk	Dinner 6:30
13	HRAKTP		Hartog Center	
14	Knight Masons		East Hartford	
14	Trinity Commandery	Christmas Observance	Darien	3:00 PM
15	Hamilton Commandery	Christmas Observance	Stratford	3:00 PM
16	Milford Carol Sing		Milford	
17	Washington Commandery	Christmas Observance	East Harford	
20	New Haven Commandery	Christmas Observance	New Haven	8:00 PM

FROM THE MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST

Companions,

As we enter the holiday season, people will ask you, "What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving?"

As Masons, we thank our Supreme Being for all that is good and true in our lives. We give thanks for our family, our jobs that help support our families, our friends, our Brethren and our health.

In addition to those things, I'm also thankful for the bounties I am afforded in life. My freedom of speech allows me to praise God with a grateful heart. The right to peacefully assemble allows me to reflect on my blessings with my companions and friends. I'm thankful for the ability to travel across the state and the world to meet and rejoice in the All Mighty with my fellow Masons.

Our first president and fellow Mason, George Washington, wrote an official proclamation in 1789 designating Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor--and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

You can read it Washington's proclamation in its entirety here:

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0091>.

However, subsequent presidents didn't maintain the tradition until Abraham Lincoln's presidency in 1863, and it wasn't made a legal holiday until 1941.

Even before his proclamation, Washington had supported the importance of giving thanks to God after winning battles during the Revolutionary war as a means of supporting his troops to reflect on gratitude and success.

When I was younger, I didn't appreciate the true meaning of Thanksgiving. I was too busy working. I had a lawn mower business, sold blue crabs down at the Guilford docks, and maintained the sump pumps on local boats. Sure, our family had the big meal with all the trimmings. I was thankful for my father's gravy. He could make a mouthwatering gravy in his cast iron skillet with anything we happened to have in the house. On Thanksgiving, he'd add flour and other ingredients to the turkey grease and twenty minutes later we had the best gravy you could imagine. I poured it on everything, but especially on the mashed potatoes.

Now that I'm older and need to watch my potato and gravy intake, I can concentrate on being thankful for more important things. I'm thankful I'm still here, doing things I never thought I would do, like searching for the light and obtaining further knowledge in Masonry.

As we enter in the latter part of the year and the busy holiday season, I would ask that you take a moment not only to reflect and give thanks to our God for your blessings, but also to keep in your hearts and minds those that are less fortunate and use your bounty to help others in need.

James C. Kleinkauf, MEGHP

FROM THE MOST PUISSANT GRAND MASTER

Companions,

Where does time go? We are now into November and Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and Christmas is right around the corner. I hope that everyone will have a safe and pleasurable holiday season.

As I mentioned in my last message, we need to start moving our councils forward. We need to give our new companions something to look forward to in our meetings. Reading the minutes and paying the bills, as everyone should know, is not what is going to put butts back in our chairs. You should have hopefully by now received the Council Training Course, if you have not please send me an email, and I will try to arrange you to get it sooner than latter. Your inspecting officer as listed in the directory has them for you. I hope that you will start using these materials to make meaningful programs for the companions and that you advertise them so that they know they will be having a program that is worth their time. But remember you will have to go over the material first as the officers of the Council so that you are familiar with it before presenting it in an open Council.

I look forward to my visitations this month and also greeting you in my travels.

Fraternally,
Charles D. O'Neill, MPGM

FROM THE RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings to my Fellow Sir Knights and to All the Masonic Family of CT;

I bid each of greetings from the Grand Commandery of Connecticut, as we enter this season of Thanksgiving let us remember to be thankful for all that God has Blessed us with! Both materially and for all the spiritual gifts we have received in full measure. Let's not forget our service men and woman and the first responders this Holiday season, who stand watch, that we can enjoy the freedom to be with friends and family this season. I personally am thankful for my friends and family, and also my Masonic Brothers from whom I have learned, and so much benefited from! Our fraternity is a further blessing we enjoy! Doesn't our Masonic family so much enrich our lives!! May god bless our Grand Master, our Masonic Family, and our Great Country!

“Live Templary, Be of Service”

Michael E. Seamon, KTCH
Grand Commander

From the Grand Secretary/Recorder

New revised ritual books are now available from the Grand Secretary. Chapter books are \$7 each, and we are pleased that the Council books are now only \$4 each. They contain the ritual changes that were adopted in both bodies in 2018. Previous editions of the rituals are still usable, since the changes are very minor.

From the Editor

It is my goal every month to include the information that I receive not only from the Heads of the Grand Bodies but also from all of our Chapter, Councils, and Commanderies as well as invitational bodies. To accomplish this, I need your information no later than the 15th of the preceding month.

YORK RITE WEB-SITES

Grand Chapter RAM of CT:

www.yorkritect.org/gcram

Grand Council R&SM of CT:

www.yorkritect.org/gcrsm

Grand Commandery KT of CT:

<http://www.gcktct.org/>

Common to all three YR bodies:

www.yorkritect.org

Directories, Opportunities, Proceedings and downloads for petition and scholarship applications on these sites.