

## Grand Commandery of New Mexico State News for September 2022



**SK James Overfelt, REGC**

[www.nmyorkrite.org](http://www.nmyorkrite.org)

Editor: SK L Roughgarden [lenrough@gmail.com](mailto:lenrough@gmail.com)

Sir Knights,

The fourteenth landmark in the New Mexico monitor lays out “the right of visitation”. It is the right of every mason to visit and sit in any regular lodge. The right of visitation ensures that a mason is truly part of a global institution and that he will be welcomed everywhere he finds a lodge in good standing. I feel that every mason should be encouraged to exercise this right and attend lodges far and wide. For, as they say, travel broadens the mind and attending lodges outside your own shows that even when practicing the same ritual not all masonic lodges are the same with each one having its own unique characteristics and atmosphere. Going even further afield and attending lodges outside your own state will both delight and surprise any mason who is not familiar with ritual practiced out of his home state. I have never gone international with my masonic visits but I hear that Mexico ritual is something that I should see.

While it is a right for a master mason to visit other lodges, I feel it is an obligation imposed upon the master of a lodge to visit other lodges within his district and beyond. The master of a lodge is the official representative of the lodge and an unofficial ambassador. Visits to the masters of other lodges cements the bonds of friendship and encourages reciprocal visits. It shows that the lodge cares about being part of a greater whole. It shows that an effort was made to extend the hand of friendship and brotherly love. On a practical side, it helps for a master to be acquainted with masons who are in the same position as himself on whom he could call upon for advice or discuss the problems that always seem to be part of being master of a lodge.

The right of visitations applies to Commandery also. It is the right of every sir knight to visit other Commanderies and I feel the obligation of the Commander to visit other

Commanderies. Even with the Commandery ritual being a universal standard, it is surprising how different Commanderies interpret it. And different Commanderies have different atmospheres just as blue lodges do. Likewise, a visit from a Commander shows respect for the visited asylum and that an effort was made to extend knightly virtues. Especially in a state like New Mexico where Commanderies are few and far in between, a visit to a constituent Commandery shows a particular commitment to keeping the knightly bonds strong.

All of this is a long way of introducing that I attended the Arizona Grand Sessions, August 11th-13th. Arizona is always very welcoming and I am glad we were able to show up with a strong showing of six New Mexico York Rite masons. Arizona introduced us as part of the distinguished visitors and I got to meet and talk to a few Arizona York Rite masons that I have seen around for years but never had time to get to know. I invited Arizona to come to the New Mexico Grand Sessions that will be in person next April after years of virtual only. I'm sure they will turn up in force and it is up to us to return the generous hospitality they showed to us.

Upcoming visitations:

Colorado Grand Sessions September 9th and 10th in Golden, Colorado. The Grand Commandery will be on the 9th with the Grand Chapter and Council on the 10th.

Southwest York Rite Conference, October 27th-29th, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Other times and dates to make note of are the York Rite quarterly meetings for 2022:

<b>WHO CHAIRS THE MEETING</b>	<b>HEAD OF BODY</b>	<b>DATE/TIME/LOCATION</b>
MI Grand Master	Sky Olsen	Oct 22, 2022 9 am in GLNM Library
RE Grand Commander	James Overfelt	Jan 28, 2023 9 am in GLNM Library

The New Mexico York Rite quarterly meetings will be hybrid with the option to Zoom in.