



**Prince Hall Grand Council
Royal and Select Masters, P.H.A.,
Jurisdiction of South Carolina**



**Most Illustrious Companion James “JT” Thompson Sr,
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master**

PROCLAMATION 04-2026

To: GIC Jesse I. Ward Jr., Grand Deputy Master, GIC Walter Wiggins, Grand Principal Conductor of the Works, All Elected and Appointed Grand Council Officers, Past Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Masters, Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Masters, Thrice Illustrious Masters, Elected and Appointed Council Officers, and Illustrious Companions and to the Princes Eugenia Royal Grand Court and the Royal Grand Perfect Matron, Rosie Ross, Royal Grand Chief Advisor Willie White, Grand Court Officers Elected and Appointed, Past Royal Grand Perfect Matrons, Past Grand Advisors, Local Courts Officers Elected and Appointed, Local Royal Grand Chief Advisors, Past Royal Perfect Matrons, Past Chief Advisors, Officers and Members of the Jurisdiction’s Ladies of the Circle of Perfection.

Cc: Royal Grand Perfect Matron, Rosie Ross, Princess Eugenia Grand Court, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection

Greetings:

Pursuant to the powers and authority vested in me and by the Constitution of the Prince Hall Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, PHA, Jurisdiction of South Carolina I, James “JT Thompson Sr, the seventh Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master do hereby announce and proclaim that all owing allegiance to the Prince Hall Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters, PHA, in the Jurisdiction of South Carolina, to convene for the 13th Annual Grand Assembly on Thursday, April 2nd, 2026 at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, 2324 Gervis St, Columbia S.C. Rollins Edwards Council, #12 will open an occasional Grand Council on 02 April, 2026, at 8:30 AM for the purpose of receiving the Grand Council Officers.

Dress:

Purple Blazer for all Grand Council Officers, sitting Council Elected Officers, and Past Thrice Illustrious Masters, Purple Blazers, black pants, or standard black suit, white shirt, black or purple socks, black shoes, Black or Purple straight or bow tie, crown, apron, collars, and gloves.

REGISTRATION:

All Elected Council Officers **MUST REGISTER!** All Elected and Appointed Grand Council officers and attending Illustrious Companions will register via your recorder, assistance. The fee is \$60 for **EARLY REGISTRATION**, and the deadline is March 16TH, 2026. If received after March 16TH, 2026, it will be \$100. There will be a lunch meal provided to purchase at the registration. The registration form is included with this proclamation. The Grand Assembly Committee Chairman for the Grand Council is GIC Chris Syfuss (803-381-3437) and GIC Arthur Thompson (803-404-8915) if you have any questions or concerns.



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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

There will be an Executive Board meeting which will be Wednesday April 1st, 2026, at 2000 hrs (8PM). All Elected, and Appointed Officers, and District Deputy Grand Thrice Illustrious Masters are EXPECTED to attend, all Illustrious Companions are encouraged to attend. The DDGTIM will read their reports during this time.

ANNUAL/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

All Reports are to be submitted to the Grand Illustrious Recorder (the DDGTIM Reports goes to the Grand Illustrious Deputy Master), No Later Than (NLT) March 13th, 2026. Reports received after midnight on the listed date will incur a **\$75 LATE FEE. Any report received 10 days after the Grand Assembly will incur an additional \$100 late fee.**

LUNCHEON:

There will be a lunch meal provided to purchase at the registration.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Options: <https://scyorkriteconvention.com/york-rite-convention-registration/>

Online – complete the room registration online at the provided link or call listed number.

Hotel room reservations can be made on a first-come/first-served basis until March 12, 2026. You need to reserve your rooms as soon as possible because the hotel is holding a limited number of rooms at this discounted rate.

Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown

1200 Pickens Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-227-3400

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You can make your reservations by calling the NUMBER above, or ONLINE with the booking link below:

LINK: April: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/yorkriteconventionapril/>

Room Rate is \$159.00+ taxes and fees

REGISTRATION:

1. Online – complete the form online by answering ALL the registration questions and hit submit.
2. Mail your payment to the following address:
SCYR Grand Council and Grand Commandery Session 2026
3. Use the attached registration form. Identify which meeting you will be attending



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MAKE ALL CHECKS/MONEY ORDERS TO :

Mail all funds and forms to York Rite Convention, P.O. Box 291193, Columbia, SC 29229.

NOTE: IF CHECKS ARE BEING SENT IN BY INDIVIDUAL ILLUSTRIOUS COMPANIONS, ONLY CASHIER CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS WILL BE "ACCEPTED", NO PERSONAL CHECKS!!!

KENNETH M. BARKLEY

PAST THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER'S COUNCIL:

The President of the Past Thrice Illustrious Master's Council, PTIM Derrick Knuckles will bestow the "Silver Trowel Degree" at 4:00 P.M. on April 2nd, all Thrice Illustrious Masters who are to receive the degree are expected to be there at after the Grand Session and be registered, the fee is \$50. All Thrice Illustrious Master's "Elect" must receive the "Silver Trowel Degree" before taking the seat.

NOTE: ALL ELECTED OFFICERS WILL BE INSTALLED AT THE SESSION.

Yours in the Secret Vault,

**James E. Thompson, Sr.
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master
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**This proclamation is to be read in every Council meeting through the convening of the Grand Assembly.
Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.**



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COVID-19 ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

The Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, PHA., is fully aware and takes seriously the dangers involving exposure to the COVID-19 virus and its several variants. The protection and safety of our members, attendees, leadership, and staff is our top priority. All attendees will adhere to the following health and safety protocols during the assembly in Columbia, SC.

1. The wearing of a facemask is **OPTIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE** during the Annual Grand Assembly. Facemasks and hand sanitizer will be made available to all members if needed.
2. Prior to checking in at the advance/onsite registration desk, you must first visit the Medical/COVID-19 Check-In station. Please **DO NOT GO** to the advance/onsite registration desk before going to the Medical/COVID-19 Check-In station.
3. The Prince Hall Grand Council Royal and Select Masters is requiring all attendees to provide proof of one of the following: **Vaccination card showing full vaccination** status against COVID-19 or a Negative COVID-19 PCR or rapid test result, administered by a medical professional and taken within 72 hours of check-in at the 37th Annual Grand Assembly.
4. Daily screening will consist of a current COVID-19 Self-Assessment Questionnaire with a temperature check. **Attendees with temperatures above 100.4° F / 38° C will be evaluated for COVID-19 and will not be allowed into the meeting.** All attendees will be required to complete a copy of the COVID-19 Liability Waiver and Statement of Understanding. If you answer “YES” to any of the “Symptoms”, “Contact”, or “Temperature” related questions on the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Questionnaire, you will not be permitted into the meeting and will need a negative COVID-19 test and normal temperature to be admitted the following day. A wristband will be issued to all attendees (daily) after successful completion of the medical screening process. **NO WRISTBAND, NO ENTRY!!!** A wristband is also required to register onsite or to pick up credentials at the advance/onsite registration desk.
5. Temperature checks will be required anytime you leave and return to any of the designated meeting areas. Temperature checks may also be rendered throughout the session or as directed by the presiding officer.



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6. Social distancing inside and outside of the meeting is required. We are currently working with the venue to establish parameters around seating inside each meeting space. Please remain cognitive of your surroundings and environment as you enter the meeting rooms. The General Conference of Grand Councils of Royal and Select Masters, PHA, U.S.A. & Bahamas encourages groups to minimize social group gatherings outside of those already scheduled as part of the 37th Annual Grand Assembly. We are grateful for your attendance and participation at this year's Annual Grand Assembly but, your safety is of our utmost concern.

This I declare under my hand and seal on this 20th day of January 2026.

Yours in the Secret Vault,

**James E. Thompson, Sr.
Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master
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