

Tales of the Secret Vault

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



From the Illustrious Grand Steward

Illustrious Companion Andrew G. Mosley, Illustrious Grand Steward

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has asked the current Grand Council Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



The Cryptic Council, the middle child of the York rite. The all too often over-looked, taken for granted and sometimes viewed as a less important or not as appealing set of degrees. So how do we convince our new brothers coming into York rite or describe them to an interested brother, wishing to learn about the York? There are many ways to swell with pride or look back fondly on our experiences with the council, and this needs to start in our own local councils for old and new members. Our Grand Council of Cryptic Masons offers so truly one of a kind experiences that, quite frankly, not nearly enough of us are taking advantage of.

We offer our involvement in Great Plains Rendezvous, an experience that is hard to find today. A place where two other jurisdictions come together, not only to put on the degrees, but also provide our members with access to the pageant of the Super Excellent Master degree and the chance to visit other states and their lodges. I had the chance to see it done in a magnificent lodge in Sterling, Colorado. This lodge had a museum and library we don't get to see as much now a days. Then there are the brothers, guys you would never get a chance to meet if it weren't for the council.

Now, the next Cryptic Council event is the Pikes Peak inspection. This should be discussed and talked about year round in our local bodies. This truly is an experience you can only get by being a Kansas Cryptic Council member. This should be a highlight of our year in York rite. Our leadership always plan enjoyable events while there and strive to make it extra special each time. So if you say to yourself, "Well I went once... I don't need to go again," you are wrong. For those who have not had the chance yet, it is breathtaking. When you think about the time when the time capsule was first placed in 1899, it is said some 500 Masons made the trek up the mountain then, to place this piece of Kansas Cryptic Council history. You can't help but feel humbled and a sense of pride following in their footsteps standing atop one of our nation's most treasured peaks, situated in a well kept magnificent national park. There is a new state of the art visitor center up top which offers some time for all the family. Stepping out on top of the mountain off the beaten path to inspect our own piece of masonic history, doing our part to maintain our legacy for York rite members to come, is not only our duty as council members but also our privilege.

We as Masons and men tend to sometimes take for granted some of our opportunities we are afforded now a days, like the ability to travel and share fellowship with Brothers from all over the world. Just like we similarly take our opportunities in the council for granted, and treat it as a stepping stone for Commandery or other degrees. So where do we start to get back in touch with what brought us here to begin with? In our local bodies — these are the places where the magic happens. This is where you bond and become better council members. Now, if your council does

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Gary B. Strout,

Most Illustrious
Grand Master

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the same thing every meeting (open, read minutes and bills, then close), step up, help make the experience what you want it to be and what you would have wanted it to be when you first came around. Push your group to do its own degree work. Festivals are great, but they don't hold the personal significance to the new member like having their degree done in house. Believe me, I have heard every reason in the book as to why it can't be done locally. "We don't know it... we don't have all the props... not enough people." Well, guess what? Not a one of those is true! We are in a jurisdiction where your brothers will drive hours just to help you put on a degree. We will bring whatever props you need. Don't believe me? Just try calling your Grand Illustrious Master, and see how quick we can get your degree work done. There is no reason to have a candidate sit in limbo and wait for a statewide festival, when you can get him going and show him exactly how important he is to your group. That attention helps build a connection and will help spread his positive experience to others in his home lodge and elsewhere.

We all hold the keys to keeping our groups going and making them stronger, not just your grand officers. Your grand officers are here to help in any way we possibly can. We are always just a phone call away. The Cryptic Council and those trendy purple jackets are something to be celebrated and proud of — we are not just simply an over-looked middle child. The York Rite really is a tripod with each body forming a leg, and you need all three legs to stand.

Andrew G. Mosley

End of Year Opportunity to Donate to CMMRF

As the end of the year is fast approaching, so is the end of the tax season, and the Internal Revenue Service will start to process tax returns early in 2026. If you are looking for a way to reduce your tax debt for the year 2025, we may have an answer for you. Consider making a donation to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF). All donations are tax deductible and can help your tax burden to the IRS if you can make your donation before December 31, 2025.

For more information, or to make a donation online, please visit the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation website (www.cmmrf.org/donate). You can make a one-time gift, give in the name of someone as a tribute, or make a long-term donation.

If you are seeking to add CMMRF to your will, you can do so using the guidelines available through the website from the CMMRF. Thank you for your consideration on giving to our official Grand Council of Kansas charity, CMMRF.