

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

South Central Meetings and Conference 2024

The South Central Meetings and Department Conference was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma from September 20-21, 2024. The Grand York Rite bodies of Oklahoma did an excellent job in preparing and planning for the conference.



The South Central Meetings and Conference includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. These Grand Bodies come together each year to meet with representatives from the General Grand Council of Royal Arch Masons International, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. These General Grand bodies provided information concerning membership, education, their individual charities, and what they are able to do to assist each of their member Grand Bodies to prosper and grow.



On Friday morning, Most Excellent Grand High Priest John T. Staton reported to the assembled delegates the state of Capitular Masonry in Kansas. Each state provided the same type of report by their Grand High Priest.

After lunch, Grand Conductor of the Council, Illustrious Companion Patrick C. Carr represented L. Kent Needham, the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of

Kansas and gave the state of the Cryptic Craft in Kansas. MI Needham was unable to attend.

On Saturday, the Grand Encampment convened the South Central Department Conference meeting and Sir Knight Gary A. Mason, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Kansas, reported on the state of Templary in Kansas. There were several good presentations each day from various individuals.

It was a great event and we look forward to League City, Texas next year when Texas hosts the event.

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- Commissioned Templar Chaplains Update
- Sovereign Order Knights Preceptor
- Chapter, Council, Commandery Reports and Updates

News of the Ark



The Capitular Craft of Royal Arch Masons in Kansas continue to be busy and working to move their individual bodies forward.

On Saturday, October 5, 2024, the Companions

from the York Rite Bodies of Independence hosted a school of instruction. This school was well attended by Companions from across the jurisdiction. Most Excellent Companion H. Wayne Rector supplied much of the instruction at the school and reports are it was well received. Opening in ritual form is a great part of Royal Arch Masonry, and

learning the correct way to give the signs, communicate the words, and provide a quality ritual opening will help each of our bodies as they continue to do the work of the Holy Royal Arch.

Most Excellent Grand High Priest John T. Staton has been visiting several of the subordinate Chapters in Kansas and represented the jurisdiction at the South Central York Rite meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma in September.



Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: John Staton
Grand King: Patrick Carr
Grand Scribe: Gary Strout
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Secretary: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Steven DeBerry
Grand Capt. Of Host: Tom Krauss
Grand Prin. Sojourner: Robert Beardsley
Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Andrew Mosley
Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: James York
Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Dan Owens
Grand Mast. 1st Veil: Daron Woelk
Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Asst. Grand Musician: Dennis Reed

DDGHP Dist. #1: Andrew Mosley
DDGHP Dist. #2: Warren Hughes
DDGHP Dist. #3: Wayne Drake
DDGHP Dist. #4: Ron Mozingo
DDGHP Dist. #5: Patrick C. Carr

*The Grand Session is an opportunity for your voice to be heard.
Please be sure to attend. All are invited!*

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: L. Kent Needham
Deputy Grand Master: Gary Strout
Grand PCW: Robert Haynes
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Kelly Long
Grand Capt. Guard: Wayne Drake
Grand Cond. Council: Patrick C. Carr
Grand Marshal: Justin Crippen
Grand Cust. Work: Warren Hughes
Grand Steward: Frederick Kemp
Grand Sentinel: Andrew Mosley
Asst. Grand Sentinel: Thomas Krauss
Grand Organist: Dennis Reed

Arch Master: Wayne Rolf
Arch Master: Wayne Rector
Arch Master: Jamie Carwell

From the Ninth Arch



Most Illustrious Grand Master L. Kent Needham has been traveling across the jurisdiction in his quest to visit each and every Council within the state of Kansas. He has made most of his visits already and is hoping to complete his visits in the near future. If you have not had a visit from the Most Illustrious Grand Master, please reach out to him to get your official visit scheduled. His wisdom and the information he provides at each of the meetings is excellent and thought provoking.

The annual Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection was held on Sunday, September 15, 2024. The group who ascended the summit of the mountain found the deposit to be in

excellent shape with no need for repairs. They had a great time during the weekend and each one is looking forward to the 2025 Inspection. Hopefully more of our members will accompany them on the next Inspection. It is a fantastic weekend of fellowship and fun.

The 2024 South Central Conference meetings was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma in September and because of personal and professional conflicts, Most Illustrious Companion Needham asked one of his officers to present the state of the Cryptic Craft in Kansas. Illustrious Companion Patrick C. Carr, Grand Conductor of the Council, attended the session and brought greetings from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. It was a great weekend in Tulsa!



The Chivalric Orders



The state of Templary in Kansas is well and we continue to thrive and grow. Many of our Commanderies are starting once again to open in form instead of using the short form in the Grand Encampment ritual books. The opening of our Commanderies is quite beautiful and thank you to each of the Commanderies in Kansas who are investing their time and resources into learning how to properly open their Commandery.

A school of instruction was held in Independence, Kansas and was sponsored by the York Rite Bodies of Independence. The Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Gary A. Mason, was in attendance and assisted Right Eminent Past Grand Commandery H. Wayne Rector in instruction which included tactics, communication, the signs, and other finer intricacies of the ritual.



The South Central Department Conference of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar United States of America was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Saturday, September 21, 2024. The majority of the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery of Kansas were in attendance and our Right Eminent Grand Commander brought greetings and gave a report on the state of Templary in Kansas during the last year.



Our Grand Commander, and Sir Knights Ivan DeTevis, Grand Junior Warden, Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders John T. Staton, Butch Blackman, and T. Michael Fegan Grand Treasurer, Sir Knight Andrew Mosley, Grand Sentinel, and Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Grand Generalissimo, all attended the Annual Communication of the Supreme Assembly of the Social Order of the Beauceant in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This was held a few days after the South Central

Department Conference of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. It was a wonderful event and the two Beauceant Assemblies in Kansas did a fantastic job in preparing the Supreme Assembly meeting.



Grand Commandery Officers

- Grand Comm: Gary Mason
- Dept. Grand Comm.: Frederick Kemp
- Grand General.: Patrick C. Carr
- Grand Capt. Gen.: Justin Crippen
- Grand Sr. Warden: Gary Strout
- Grand Jr. Warden: Ivan DeTevis
- Grand Prelate: Dan Owens
- Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
- Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
- Grand Std. Bearer: Dale Morrow
- Grand Sword Bearer: Warren Hughes
- Grand Warder: Robert Beardsley
- Grand Sentinel: Andrew Mosley
- Grand Musician: Kelly Long
- Grand Guard: Juanito Ernacio
- Grand Guard: William Koonce
- Grand Guard: Robert Haynes

- Aide-de-camp: Kent Needham
- Aide-de-camp: T. Michael Fegan
- Aide-de-camp: Wayne Drake

- Honor Guard Members:
- Commander: Justin Crippen
- Commander: Patrick C. Carr
- Member: Fred Kemp
- Member: Michael Smith, REPGC
- Member: Kent Needham, REPGC
- Member: Robert Haynes
- Member: Gary Mason, REGC
- Member: Bill Koonce
- Member: Andrew Mosley

Social Order of the
Beauceant Supreme
Assembly 2024



The Supreme Session of the Social Order of the Beauceant (SOOB) was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma September 23-28, 2024. The two SOOB Assemblies in Kanas were well represented with (Mrs. Ivan) Judy DeTevis, (Mrs. Andrew) Abbey Mosley, and (Mrs. Michael) Debbie Fegan assisting in making the event a spectacular one for all to remember.

The Most Eminent Grand Master, David Kussman, was in attendance as were several dignitaries from across the country.

The keynote speaker for the banquet was Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, who spoke on the need for unity and mutual aid between all masonic order, especially those of the Knights Templar.

Supreme Worthy President, Ms. Tara B. Shulas, had a wonderful term of office and the newly elected and installed Supreme Worthy President, (Mrs. David) Wynn C. Evans will as well.



3rd Annual AMD/Knight Masons Ingathering

The 3rd Annual Knight Kansas Allied Masonic Degrees and Knight Masons Ingathering was held in Newton, Kansas and there were visitors from across the country in attendance for this historic event.

The morning opened with the conferral of the three degrees of Knight Masonry. The conferrals were done by the three Knight Masons Councils in Kansas. Drogheda Council No. 68 opened the Councils jointly for business and conferred the Knight of the Sword. Kansas Council No. 53 conferred the Knight of the East, and Kansas' newest Council, W. Ron McKenzie Council No. 134, conferred the Knight of the East and West before closing the Councils. Four new Cousins were greeted at the meeting.



Lunch was served by Job's Daughters Bethel 21 in Newton and everyone enjoyed the meal.

After lunch, the four Allied Masonic Degree Councils were opened for joint conferrals by Blarney Stone Council No. 360, who subsequently conferred the initiation degree on seven new members of the Order.



Sunflower Council No. 383 conferred the degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr in full form.

Charles David Williams, III Council No. 596 conferred the Knights of Constantinople, and the last of the degrees was the Excellent Master's Degree (Scottish Version), which was conferred by Loch Lomond Council No. 235.

After a brief change-over, the Scarlet Cord Grades was in place and the three Grades

were conferred on awaiting and eligible candidates for the Grades.

This event was the first time the 3rd Grade of the Scarlet Cord was conferred in Kansas. This is the last Grade of the Scarlet Cord which can be conferred outside of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees which holds the conferral, along with the 4th Grade conferral, at Masonic Week each year.

The annual banquet and requisite toasts were held and the young ladies of Bethel 21 served another fantastic meal. The highlight of the banquet was the speaker, Companion Jeff Bennett from Texas, who made a presentation on Zerubbabel.

Next year's event has been planned for October 11, 2025, and will be held in Emporia. The team is planning on offering a conferral of the first three Grades of the Scarlet Cord once again to all members of the Allied Masonic Degrees.



Red Cross of Constantine In-Gathering

The inaugural Red Cross of Constantine Statewide In-Gathering was held on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at Palmyra Lodge No. 23 in Baldwin City. This event stemmed from the idea of Past Intendant General of the RCC in Kansas, Wayne H. Rollf. He desired to have a gathering of all five of the Conclaves in Kansas to confer the degrees and to spend time together as Companions of the Order. His vision became a reality. The current Intendant General, Allan Jackson, worked with Companion Rollf and many other members of the Red Cross of Constantine across the jurisdiction to make the first, of what is hoped to be an annual event, a success. Over 40 Companions of the Red Cross were in attendance, one received all three degrees, and fifteen received their remaining degrees of the Order.



The Senate of Sovereigns, which is the chair degree for the presiding officer of the Conclave, was opened and the degree conferred upon those who were elected to serve as Puissant Sovereigns for the next year.



The College of Viceroys, the chair degree for the deputy of the order, was opened that degree conferred upon those who were elected to serve as Eminent Viceroy of their Conclave for the next term.

The Conclaves were opened jointly for business, and included St. Augustine Conclave of Topeka, St. Justin Conclave of Kansas City, St. David Conclave of Salina, Calvary Conclave of Wichita, and Crispus Conclave of Pittsburg. Following the joint opening, the Ceremony of Installation of Knight Companion of the Red Cross, Ceremony of Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, and Novice and Knight of Saint John the Evangelist were all conferred on worthy candidates in waiting. This was the first time all three degrees have been conferred on this scale in many, many years.



At the conclusion of the degree work, the Conclaves were closed in joint session and the installation of officers was held for the Conclaves who had already elected their officers for the next year.

It was a fantastic event, with a great lunch served by the ladies. The date for the Red Cross of Constantine of Kansas State-Wide In-Gathering will be on November 1, 2025, in Topeka. Bring your candidates and those who need to take the chair degrees for Eminent Viceroy or Puissant Sovereign. We hope to have an even larger group in 2025 in attendance.



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



The Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor



Upon completion of Thurman Pace's term as Commander of Trinity Commandery No. 17, K.T., in 1966, he was disappointed that the Grand Commandery of New Jersey didn't have an organization that recognized Past Commanders and he desired to establish an organization for those who were serving as Commanders or who had served as Commanders. He requested his best friend, Wallace M. Gage, a REPGC of New Jersey, to write the ritual for what is now known as The Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor.

The Grand Chapter of the Order was formed on February 22, 1977, at a meeting held in Westfield, New Jersey, at which time the Constitution, Laws, and Ritual for the Order were adopted. The purpose and objective of the Order was to promote the cause of Chivalric Masonry through a dedication of Templar Leadership to its principles, and to further the knowledge of its history, background, customs, usage, and traditions.

At the meeting of the Grand Chapter, a charter was granted to New Jersey Chapter, Order of Knights Preceptor, with Pace as its first Preceptor.

The Order was conferred for the first time on Friday, March 4, 1977, during the 117th Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey, and was carried out by the charter officers of the Order. The Charter class included 139 Sir Knights from across the U.S.

Charters were issued to many states after the initial conferral. The Order is conferred at Masonic Week on those who attend, petition, and are qualified. Several states have this Order instead of a Past Commander's Association and they confer the Order annually at their meetings.

Commissioned Templar Chaplain Prayer

The five Commissioned Templar Chaplains of Kansas have been working diligently within the Craft to assist our members with their prayer needs.

Several of our Knight Templar Commissioned Chaplains gathered in Junction City after the latest Templar Chaplains were commissioned



by Sir Knight Patrick Carr, CTC, and assisted by Sir Knights Kelly Long and Stephen Sims, both PEC. After the ceremony of commissioning was completed, and before everyone adjourned to their respective residences, a question was asked as to what the Commissioned Templar Chaplains of Kansas could do to help our friends and brothers in Kansas. The answer was simple: PRAY!

by Sir Knight Patrick Carr, CTC, and assisted by Sir Knights Kelly Long and Stephen Sims, both PEC.

After the ceremony of commissioning was completed, and before

Out of this quick meeting and simple answer, it was decided the five Commissioned Templar Chaplains would form a text message group whereby each member could be kept informed concerning the prayer needs of others.

The Grand York Rite of Kansas website (www.kansasyorkrite.org) now has a link on the front page where an individual can request prayer. The request can be done anonymously, or the individual can leave their name (first, last, or entire name), an email address (optional), and their prayer request. Once this is done an email will be generated to one member of the group who will forward the text to the entire group.

We are here to serve you! Prayer is a great way to assist all of us, and we will continue to offer that to our members. Intercessory prayer make a difference in our lives and we are here to pray for you.

Grand York Rite Website Updates

There have been some major changes to the Grand York Rite of Kansas website in the last few months.

The main page now includes the biography of each presiding Grand Officer, their travel schedule (which is always subject to change), and a place to search for the constituent York Rite Bodies in Kansas. It now includes the location, time, and date of each meeting held by the various Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies in Kansas. This will allow our membership, and those visiting us from out of the jurisdiction, to be able to see when and where our bodies meet so they can visit when they are in the region.

A Grand York Rite calendar has been created using Google Calendars. It has the dates of special meetings of the several appendant York Rite Bodies, as well as the dates, times, and places of each of the constituent Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies. This is a crucial part of our communication tool to increase the number of visitors and members who are attending our various bodies. If you

would like to add something to the calendar, please contact Wayne Rolf, Allan Jackson, Andrew Mosley, Justin Crippen, or Patrick Carr. They are hosting and managing the items on the calendar.

The Commissioned Knight Templar Chaplains of Kansas requested a link on the home page for a prayer request and it has been added to the page and is already being used.

An area for special events has been added and it has an automatically rotating function so we can showcase several special events under one area.

The Invitational and Appendant bodies of the York Rite each have their own page displaying when and where they meet. Contact our webmaster, Patrick Carr, to make changes to your page.

This website is intended to be functional and to add value to our communications. Be sure to check it frequently as the content changes on a regular basis.

The 1899 Cryptic Deposit at Pike's Peak

Why would Cryptic Masons from Kansas, in the year 1899, travel to Pike's Peak in Colorado just to deposit a time capsule?

The idea for the deposit came from the Ill. Master of Ellsworth Council No. 9 sometime in 1898. It was decided to host a grand event, and to do it in Colorado in conjunction with placing a time capsule on the top of Pike's Peak. This required a lot of work, planning, and logistics. Travel in 1899 was not as convenient as it is today. The Companions planned a week-long excursion and arrived from several states by train. Those present included the MIGM of Kansas, Thorp P. Jennings, the Most Puissant General Grand Master, Branford Nichol, PGHP Bestor G. Brown, (who acted as the Master of Ellsworth Council and served as the Director of the Pilgrimage), William M. Shaver (Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Kansas and Musical Director for the Pilgrimage), and a host of masons and their ladies. The entourage traveling to Colorado was so large there had to be twelve Brothers put in charge of the pilgrimage.

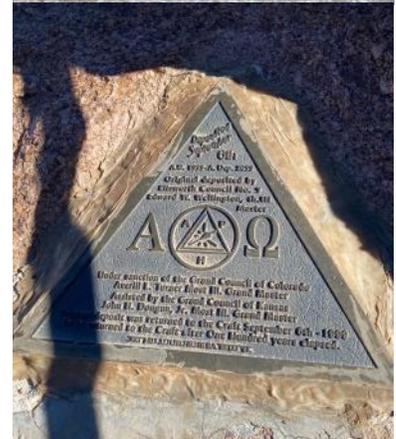
During the three-day train ride to Colorado, there were times for sight seeing throughout the trip and several well planned banquets. Upon arrival, many of the Companions made the trip up to Pike's Peak using the Cog Rail Train, where they used the Summit House and communicated the degrees of Cryptic Masonry on August 9-10, 1899, on those who were eligible. On the evening of August 11, 1899, it was time to prepare the deposit. Cryptic Rock had already been prepared by several Companions from Colorado and all that was left was to place the deposit and seal the vault for one-hundred years.

Ellsworth Council No. 9 had been opened in Kansas before the pilgrimage and was allowed dispensation to remain open

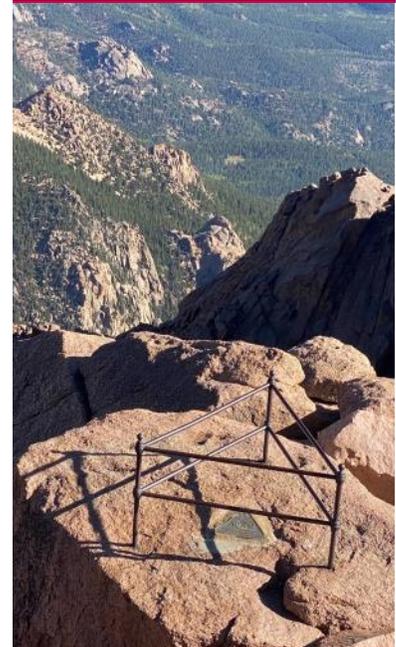
until the deposit had been completed. The deposit was made at the Broadway Theatre and was presided over by MIGM Thorp B. Jennings. The items placed into the bronze casket for the vault included the Book of the Law, Masonic square and compasses, a history of Cryptic Masonry, a copy of the proceedings of the convention organizing the General Grand Council of the United States, several copies of important proceedings, a history of Ellsworth Council No. 9, photographs of the masonic dignitaries and leaders in attendance, a history of the Colorado Pilgrimage written by Ill. Comp. Bestor G. Brown, a list of all registered upon the pilgrimage, a roster of the Companions who passed the circle during the pilgrimage, copies of the itinerary, invitations, and newspaper articles from Denver, three phials containing Kansas corn, wine, and oil, a keystone with the general mark of the Craft thereon, a copy of the triangular plate of gold, a masonic trowel, and the United States flag. Wow!

Once the deposit had been sealed, Ellsworth Council No. 9 conferred the degrees to those who attended the evening's festivities. The deposit was to be placed into the vault at Cryptic Rock and sealed later. Having the deposit placed into the vault at such a large ceremony would have been impossible at Pike's Peak during this period.

The next day the group journeyed to Denver, Colorado, and the degrees were conferred on an additional 206 Royal Arch Masons. What a fantastic event this was! It was followed by a sumptuous banquet which included foods rare for the area. The program for the several events were printed and had special purple ribbons attached to each one. What a fantastic event for Cryptic Masonry! Especially when considering it was held in 1899.



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



Two New Commissioned Templar Chaplains

The York Rite of Freemasonry

The York Rite, or more correctly, the American Rite, is based on the early remnants of Craft Masonry that were practiced in the early 1700's. The formation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717 specified that the lodges were to confer only the first three degrees of Craft Masonry.

Three bodies were later formed to work the degrees no longer controlled by the lodges. The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. All three bodies are technically autonomous Masonic entities, only the requirement of membership in the Royal Arch connecting the Cryptic degrees and Chivalric Orders together.

On September 10, 2024, at the stated communication of Junction City Commandery No. 43, a commissioning ceremony was held for two new Sir Knights who had completed the requirement and graduated from the Commissioned Templar Chaplain program offered by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA.



Sir Knights William Jones, from Askelon Commandery No. 6, and Matthew Rutkowski, from Junction City Commandery No. 43, received the final commissioning ceremony entitling them to be known as Commissioned Templar Chaplains. The commissioning ceremony was performed by Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr (CTC) and an Eminent Commander from each of the new Chaplain's commanderies assisted. Sir Knight Kelly Long represented Askelon Commandery and Sir Knight Stephen Sims is the sitting Commander for Junction City Commandery.



Welcome to the two newest Commissioned Templar Chaplains in Kansas! This brings the number of Commissioned Templar Chaplains in the jurisdiction to five. They are looking at ways to assist the Craft in Kansas and more information will be coming soon.

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