



# Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Fall 2025

Patrick C. Carr, MEGHP 2025-2026



## ***From the Grand High Priest***

Companions, Royal Arch Masonry in Kansas is alive and doing quite well. This is all because of each of you and what you have done, and continue to do, to make Capitular Masonry here in Kansas vibrant and growing.

We have seen some growth this year through the use of the Grand Master's Classes in honor of Most Worshipful Brother, and now Companion, Derik L. Hockett. I am proud to say we have added several of the officers of the Grand Lodge of Kansas to our ranks during at these classes.

Our fundraising for Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) has been phenomenal so far this year. The amount we have raised is because of your donations to RARA directly, through your Chapter, or by the purchase of the Kansas RARA Jewel. Many of you wear that jewel proudly to show your support for our unique and personal charity.

I have been busy making my official visits, and many of the Chapters are doing quite well. Iola Chapter No. 8 received me in full form for my Official Visit, and performed a wonderful opening. They even sang the opening ode! That was quite impressive. After my remarks, I closed their Chapter in ample form, but that was not enough for the Companions who attended the meeting. They wanted to sing the closing ode as well! What a fantastic experience we all had visiting Iola Chapter.

In that same spirit, I would encourage each of you to look at our beautiful ritual and to seek out something you personally could do to take a more active part in your Chapter's meetings or degree conferrals. While the Grand Master's Classes were a success, there are still many Master Masons who would benefit from the lessons taught within the capitular degrees. Be sure to invite them to join your Chapter, and when they do, be ready to confer some of their degrees. If your Chapter needs assistance, reach out to me and I will assemble a team to travel to your Chapter to assist, but I will expect you to take a part, no matter how big or small. Keep the energy moving forward in our Chapters!

Fraternally,

Companion Patrick C. Carr  
M.:E.: Grand High Priest



## ***Grand Master's RAM Class***

The final Grand Master's Class, in honor of our Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas, Most Worshipful Brother Derik L. Hockett, was held on June 21

at the lodge hall in Newton. This was the culmination of all the work the members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas has put into making these classes not only a success,

but a new learning opportunity for Brother Master Masons to

attend, and experience the wisdom, beauty, and knowledge held within the caputular degree system.



*The Final GM Class RAM Class Held in Newton*



*The Special Communication in Newton*

The degree conferrals at Newton were done quite well, and it was a wonderful day of caputular masonry for those who were fortunate enough to attend. There were 17 new Companions of the Holy Royal Arch at the Grand Master's Classes. The Grand Master himself received the final two degrees of caputular masonry, that of the Most Excellent Master and the Holy Royal Arch,

alongside his Grand Senior Deacon and three others who were unable to attend the final GM class, at a special communication conducted by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Patrick C. Carr, the evening before the Cryptic and Templar conferrals. With another communication to complete the caputular degrees on a Grand Lodge Officer in August at Salina Chapter No, 18, and the work of other Chapters in the state of Kansas, there have been an additional 28 new Royal Arch Masons added to our ranks in Kansas. This is a good example of what can happen within our state when everyone works together for the betterment of all masonry. Our Royal Arch Chapters will continue to grow through this same fervency and zeal we see actuated to prepare for these special conferrals at the Grand Master's Classes.



## ***MEGHP Visits***



The Grand High Priest has spent the majority of this year endeavoring to visit each Chapter within the jurisdiction. As of the end of September, he has visited nine of the fifteen Chapters in Kansas. At each one, he has been warmly welcomed and received. Traveling is one of M.:E.: Carr's passions, and he is spending his time well with the Companions of Kansas as he listens to their ideas and their concerns. These visits are intended as a way to assist our Chapters in the areas where they need the most help. Be sure to attend and

take some time to "bend the Grand High Priest's ear" with your ideas.

## ***South Central York Rite Conference***

The 2025 South Central York Rite Meetings and Department Conference will be held in League City, Texas and will start on Friday, September 19, 2025. The Friday sessions include meetings with the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International and will conclude before the evening meal with the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. On Saturday the sessions will continue with the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA holding their Department Conference. All York Rite Masons are invited to register and to attend. This is a great place to meet with other York Rite Masons from around the region and to hear their ideas for making our York Rite stronger and more vibrant.

## ***Securing Our Future Update***

Since it has been almost five months since the "Securing Our Future" strategic plan was voted on by the delegates at the Grand York Rite meetings in May, it is time for an update to the membership to let them know what has been happening since the meeting.

The Grand High Priest has been writing a short letter each month to the membership and it has been posted on the website, and emailed to all members, each month.

A new monthly short publication, News of the Ark, has been published each month on the GYR website and emailed with the Grand High Priest's letter. This publication is written by a different Grand Chapter Officer each month and gives both our membership, and them, a chance to start conversations about their thoughts on Royal Arch Masonry in Kansas.

Both the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas are doing the same things to communicate with the membership in Kansas.



## ***What Is On the Kansas Grand Chapter Seal?***

When Royal Arch Masons view our Grand Chapter Seal in Kansas, we see some interesting items contained on the seal. A further inspection of the seal tells us much more about not only the Kansas Grand Chapter Seal, but a bit of history as well.

The first thing which garners our attention is the shepherd tending his flock which is in the center of the seal. He is kneeling and seemingly watching his sheep as they graze. We quickly discover the shepherd is none other than Moses. His being on one knee is a reverential sign of his respect for what he is also seeing, that of the burning bush with an angel of the Lord. We read in Exodus 3:2-4, "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn. So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, Moses, Moses! And he said, Here I am."

We next discover the large mountains located in the background. On the Grand Lodge of Kansas' seal the mountains represent the original western border of Kansas which housed the Rocky Mountains and part of Colorado during its territorial years. On the Grand Chapter Seal, it represents Mount Moriah, where Moses ascended and met God in the form of the burning bush. It was here Moses was given the several signs of the Holy Royal Arch degree.

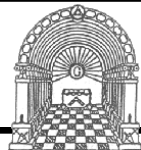
The last item we discover is the words "Cede Deo." and "A.I. 2396." The words "Cede Deo" are Latin and translate to "Yield to God." The letters "A.I." stand for "Anno Inventionis" which translates to "In the Year of Discovery." This is the year of the construction of the second temple by Zerubbabel. Add 530 years to the common era and the today it would be 2555. Subtract the 530 years and we discover the number to be 1866, which is the year the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Kansas was formed.





# Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Fall 2025

Gary B. Strout, MIGM 2025-2026



## ***From the Illustrious Grand Master***

I am pleased to report that Cryptic Masonry in Kansas continues on a positive and promising course. This summer, we had the honor of creating several new Royal and Select Masters, and we visited all three of our Masonic youth groups and presented them with donations. We also made our annual journey to the summit of Pike's Peak to inspect our deposit.

As we look ahead to the fall, I will begin conducting what I am calling "regional visits" covering the Central, Eastern, and Western parts of the state.

Information regarding the date, time, and location for each visit will be sent to the secretaries of the councils in those regions. These gatherings will provide an excellent opportunity for the Craft to meet with me directly, share their thoughts, and offer input on the future of our Council.

In September, I will be attending the South Central York Rite Conference in Texas. I am eager to represent Kansas, exchange ideas, and network with fellow Companions from across the region. We should have a strong delegation from Kansas present at this important event.

Fraternally,

Companion Gary B. Strout, Ed.S.  
M.: I.: Grand Master



## **68th Annual South Central York Rite Conference**

Register at [www.southcentralyr.org](http://www.southcentralyr.org)

Make your plans now to attend the 68th Annual South Central York Rite Conference in League City, Texas on September 19-20, 2025, at the South Shore Harbour Resort (2500 South Shore Blvd, League City, TX 77573).

Join your fellow leaders of the York Rite for an exciting program where exchanging ideas, sharing successes, and enjoying food & fellowship will be our top priority.

**Send submissions to Editor Patrick C. Carr, PIM — [carrs@cox.net](mailto:carrs@cox.net)**



## ***Kansas CMMRF Jewel Available Now!***

In our last publication we stated the Kansas Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation jewel was almost ready to be revealed. In this issue we are proud to announce it has been completed and several have already been sold to our Companions around the world!

Visit the Grand York Rite website, or ask your District CMMRF Representative, to purchase the new jewel. The jewel will require a donation of \$120 and \$100 of that amount will be sent by the Grand Recorder and Treasurer to CMMRF in your name and in the name of your Council. Both you, and your Council, will receive credit for your \$100 donation to CMMRF.



## ***Rendezvous Wrap Up***

The 2025 Great Plains Rendezvous was held on Saturday, June 28, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Because of some scheduling conflicts, and some unfortunate personal events for some who were planning to attend, there were a few less Companions present from Kansas than we would normally see. Nevertheless, the Select Master degree was conferred by our Kansas Companions in full form, with a little help from the Companions of Wyoming and Colorado.



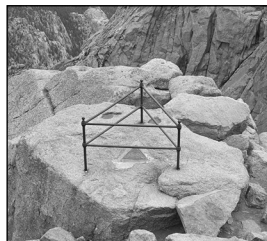
Attending and representing the Grand Council of Kansas were Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master Robert Haynes, who was accompanied by Most Illustrious Companions H. Wayne Rector and Bill Leonard. They had a great time and enjoyed the immense hospitality of the Wyoming Companions. The 2026 Rendezvous will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026, in Russell,

Kansas. Start planning now to attend so you can witness the beauty and splendor which is contained in the Super Excellent Master degree, which will be conferred in full form by the Companions of Kansas.



## ***Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection***

The 2025 Cryptic Deposit Inspection had a new date, and a new schedule. Our M:I:. Grand Master, Gary B. Strout, was accompanied by R:I:. Companions Robert Haynes, Deputy Grand Master, and Juanito Ernacio, Arch Master to Colorado Springs and enjoyed a wonderful dinner together at Edelweiss German Restaurant on Friday, August 1. On Saturday, August 2, our intrepid Grand Council Officers ascended the mountain by way of the Cog Rail Train and, after a leisurely ride up to the summit, beheld the beauty and splendor which was the backdrop for the original 1899 Cryptic Deposit at the summit of Pike's Peak. They discovered the Deposit was in good shape and did not need any repairs to protect it from the weather. They deemed the Deposit fit and safe to withstand the elements for another year and descended from the summit in the Cog Rail Train shortly afterwards. They stated it was a beautiful day at the summit of Pike's Peak, even though there was a little snow coming down in the form of flurries.



## ***2025 Grand Master's Cryptic Classes***



This year's 2025 Grand Master's Cryptic Class was held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at the Lodge Hall in Newton, Kansas at 8:30 a.m. Both the Royal Master degree and the Select Master degree was conferred in full form

upon 25 Royal Arch Masons who had received their degrees prior to the event. There were 31 additional Cryptic Masons from across the jurisdiction who attended to help with the conferrals and to support the new Cryptic Masons in their York Rite journey. Our Grand Master, M:W:. Brother Derik L. Hockett and our Grand Senior Deacon, R:W:. Brother Mark Slubowski, both attended and received their degrees. Congratulations!



## **2025 Adult Youth Leadership Award Presented**



The 2025 recipient of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International Adult Youth Leadership Award was unable to be at the 2025 Grand York Rist banquet. Because of this, M.:I.: Companion L. Kent Needham, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, asked the incoming Most Illustrious Grand Master, Gary B. Strout, to make sure the award was presented during his term of office.

M.:I.: Companion Strout asked Illustrious Companion Patrick C. Carr, Grand Captain of the Guard, to present the award on behalf of the Grand Council. On Saturday, July 12, 2025, I.: Companion Carr, accompanied by R.:I.: Companion Robert Haynes and I.: Companion Fred Kemp, attended the Kansas Rainbow Grand Assembly in Wichita after the completion of the Grand Commandery of Kansas' Knighting ceremony. Companion Carr asked for Miss Caeleigh (Harris) Reig, to stand and be escorted to the Grand East. Miss Reig received the award and was speechless. She is a Past Grand Worthy Advisor of Kansas Rainbow and has served the young ladies of Kansas very well not only as a PGWA, but as a member of the State Executive Committee and in many other positions throughout Kansas Rainbow. She continues to inspire the young ladies through her dedication and her service to Rainbow. Congratulation, Caeleigh!



## **2026 Cryptic Mason Awards**

If you are aware of a Companion Cryptic Mason who is doing an outstanding job and serving Cryptic Masonry, you, or your Council, can nominate and recommend him for the Cryptic Mason of the Year award which is given out at the Grand Banquet each year. There are other awards which you can recommend as well. If you are aware of an adult who is diligently serving in the Masonic Youth Orders of Kansas, they can be nominated for the Cryptic Mason Adult Youth Leadership Award. Only one of each of these two honors can be given out each year and the Most Illustrious Grand Master selects the recipient from the nominations he receives during the year.

There are numerous people in our state who are serving the youth of our state. While they may not be Masons, and are not serving Masonic Youth, there is still a recognition you may have given to them. The Cryptic Mason Youth Advocate Award can be purchased and presented as a recognition for their service. Visit the General Grand Council's website to purchase this recognition award.