

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

Send submissions to Editor SK Patrick C. Carr, VEDGC — carrs@cox.net



March, 2026

Frederick (Fred) R. Kemp, REGC 2025-2026

From the Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knight Justin D. Crippen, Eminent Grand Generalissimo

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



Good Day Sir Knights I hope you and your families are blessed!

I am speaking to you today in hopes that you and your families had a wonderful holiday season!! As we have moved into the new year I wish you the best on your goals for 2026. I hope you have renewed your vows of your Christian Knighthood thru the Christmas season! Sir Knights our new year has started off with a bang, Mt. Olivet Commandery #12 with the assistance of Askelon Commandery #6 conferred the Order of the Temple on 3 Worthy Sir Knights in Newton Kansas. The big deal is our Commanderies are starting to do their own degree work!! This is exciting as that means State wide classes and making worthy Companions wait for a year or more, is almost over!! Outstanding Sir Knights great job!! Our Commanderies are doing a great job trying to change the templar experience to something enjoyable! Continue pressing yourselves to get back to opening in full form. We have 4 Commanderies doing that so far! If you don't have enough

of sir Knights coming, why have you not called to invite them back. If you call and invite them. They will come, if you need help or instruction, inform the Grand Records Office and we will come to you!! Things are happening and changing for Kansas! We are putting together a team to participate in the Grand Commandery opening on a permanent basis, reach out to the Grand Records Office if you are interested! Uniform standards are being updated for you and your bodies!! What are you doing to secure your future for your Commanderies? If you want to know what I mean go to the Kansasyorkrite.org website and check out our Securing our Future! Be sure you are talking about our Knights Templar Eye Foundation or KTEF.org. The foundation is doing amazing things, Dr. Lee and his team are adding more hospitals and groups to there network. Stem Cell therapy is really advancing this great cause.

The next event we are looking to celebrate is the resurrection of our lord and Savior Jesus Christ! See the Grand Encampment website for the schedule on there event in Washington DC. Keep your ears open for what we are going to do on ours in Kansas!

Finally Sir Knights, remember your nightly vows with what's going on in the world. We are needed more then most know, we have to be the example to our brothers and sisters! Reach out and help one another, be there for our widows and orphans! ! We can show the world how to love and care once more. Be well Sir Knights and I will see you at Grand Session at the end of April! Make sure and sign up!!!

In Christ,

Justin D. Crippen

2026 Grand York Rite Sessions

The session will start on Thursday, August 31, 2026, at 8:00 AM with the conferral of the Order of the High Priesthood which will be followed by at 10:00 AM by the conferral of the Order of the Silver Trowel. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM and after lunch, at 1:00 PM, the Kansas Association of Past Commanders will induct new members into the Association. The meeting of Kansas College No. 125 of the York Rite College will be held at 3:00 PM and Ashmole Court No. 17 of the Masonic Order of Athelstan will meet at 4:00 PM. The Past Grand Presiding Officers Association will have their annual meeting at 5:00 PM and will be followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 PM, all will gather to commemorate the lives of those who have passed to the celestial lodge above at the necrology service.

On Friday, May 1, registration starts at 7:30 AM and the 160th Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons will have a public session at 8:00 AM which will be followed by the tiled session at 9:00 AM. Installation for the 2026-2027 Grand Chapter Officers will be held at 11:00 AM with lunch to follow at 12:30 PM.

The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will host their 159th Grand Assembly with a public session at 1:30 PM which will be followed by the tiled session at 2:30 PM. Installation for the 2026-2027 Grand Council Officers will be held at 4:30 PM. The Perpetual Life Committee will have their annual meeting at 6:00 PM, and the annual awards banquet will follow at 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 2, will be the final day of activities for the 2026 Grand York Rite sessions and will start with a breakfast for the Past Grand Commander's wives at 6:30 AM and the Knights of the York Cross of Honor will have its annual meeting to elect worthy candidates at their 6:30 AM breakfast meeting. Registration will open at 7:30 AM and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas will reconvene its 158th Grand Conclave at 8:00 AM with a public opening session and the tiled meeting will start at 9:00 AM. Installation of the 2026-2027 Grand Commandery Officers will be held at 11:00 AM.

All members are invited to attend. Dais officers of the constituent Chapter, Council, and Commandery are highly encouraged to attend and vote on the business held at the sessions.

To register, or for more information, visit www.kansasyorkrite.org.



2027 Triennial Drill Team Competition

Sir Knight Justin Crippen, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Kansas, is also serving as the Captain of the Kansas Knight Templar Drill Team. It is his desire to form a drill team to compete at the 2027 Grand Encampment Triennial session in California. If you are interested in marching, and in the Knight Templar Drill Team, please contact Sir Knight Crippen for more information.