

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge

The Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas will be held March 19-21, 2026, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan. The Annual Communication is filled with fellowship, the fraternal business of the Grand Lodge, and fun.



The Kansas Masonic Foundation will hold their annual meeting on Thursday and the Board of Trustees will gather to continue the business of the KMF and to elect a new member to serve as a trustee. R.:W.: Brother Lincoln Wilson, President of the KMF, will complete his term of office and W.: Brother Brad McConnell will become the new President. Thank you to Brother Wilson for his leadership and wisdom during his tenure.

The silent auction will continue to be held, and the winning ticket will be drawn for the beautiful KMF Raffle Car! The new car for 2026 will be unveiled and announced during the Annual Communication.

The Annual Communication will be held on Friday and there will be visiting dignitaries from other Grand Lodges around the world who will be received and introduced. There will be many of the Grand Presiding Officers of bodies in Kansas received and introduced during the public opening of the Annual Communication.



The closed business session of the Annual Communication will see several pieces of proposed legislation. The Grand Lodge Officers for 2026-2027 will be elected and appointed to serve the members for the net Masonic year.

The Friday night banquet will be held and will set the stage for the installation of officers on Saturday. Most Worshipful Brother Derik L. Hockett has had a fantastic year as Grand Master and we all look forward to R.:W.: Brother Dave Hendricks being installed as the Grand Master for the 2026-2027 term of office. Be sure to attend the Annual Communication and enjoy the fellowship and fun we each have as we enjoy each other's company and continue to do the business of our Grand Lodge during this Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas, AF&AM.

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News of the Ark



Much like the last few months, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas has continued to be busy. Our members are active in their Lodges, Scottish Rite bodies, Shrines, and other Orders.

This business has included the conferring of various degrees and orders, the starting of new Masonic Orders in Kansas, with the consent of the Grand Lodge, and service to the community in which they live and work. Thank you to all Royal Arch Masons who continue to set the standard for each of us to follow. Your service to your community is inspiring to all of us.

The several new Orders which are not meeting in Kansas have one thing in common: they each require their members to not only be Master Masons, but to also be active members of their Chapters as well. Several of these new masonic orders are English in their origin and governance, and thus are tightly connected to both the Lodge and the Holy Royal Arch of Freemasonry.

English invitational bodies are a bit different from their American counterparts. The big difference is in how they select their membership. Being of an invitational nature, one does not request membership in these bodies. What is acceptable is for a Master Mason who meets the requirements to let a member know they have interest in the work of the Order. That opens the door for consideration. This is quite different from what many of us are used to!

Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: Patrick C. Carr
Grand King: Gary B. Strout
Grand Scribe: Thomas M. Krauss
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan, PGHP
Grand Secretary: Allan D. Jackson, PGHP
Grand Chaplain: Anthony J. Pence
Grand Capt. Of Host: Andrew G. Mosley
Grand Prin. Sojourner: L. Kent Needham
Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Wayne D. Drake
Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: William P. Leonard
Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Kelly J. Long
Grand Mast. 1st Veil: Warren L. Hughes
Grand Sentinel: Glenn O. Davis
Assist. Grand Sentinel: James A. Lyle
Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long
Grand Musician: Dennis L. Reed
Grand Orator/Lecturer: Delmus R. Morrow

DDGHP Dist. #1: Kenneth E. Foster
DDGHP Dist. #2: Juanito J. Ernacio
DDGHP Dist. #3: Curtis A. Utley
DDGHP Dist. #4: Gary A. Mason
DDGHP Dist. #5: Michael K. Colbary

Watch your email each month for the publications from our Grand Bodies

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: Gary B. Strout
Deputy Grand Master: Robert B. Haynes
Grand PCW: Wayne D. Drake
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan, PMIGM
Grand Recorder: Allan D. Jackson, PMIGM
Grand Chaplain: Kelly J. Long
Grand Capt. Guard: Patrick C. Carr
Grand Cond. Council: Frederick R. Kemp
Grand Marshal: Justin D. Crippen
Grand Cust. Work: Warren L. Hughes
Grand Steward: Andrew G. Mosley
Grand Sentinel: Thomas M. Krauss
Asst. Grand Sentinel: Kenneth E. Foster
Grand Organist: Dennis L. Reed
Grand Lecturer: Jamie L. Carwell
Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long

Arch Master #1: Wayne D. Drake
Arch Master #2: Curtis A. Utley
Arch Master #3 : Juanito Ernacio
Arch Master #4: Gary A. Mason, PMIGM
Arch Master #5: Michael K. Colbary
Arch Master: Wayne H. Rollf, PMIGM
Arch Master: H. Wayne Rector, PMIGM
Arch Master: Jamie L. Carwell

From the Ninth Arch



The Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will be held the first weekend of May, 2026. This is the time for the business of the Grand Council to be conducted, and the new officers appointed and elected to serve for the ensuing cryptic term of office. New officers, and the leadership they provide, means new ideas and new events. Remember to be prepared for a busy and enjoyable Cryptic year as the Grand Council rolls out its schedule of events.

One event which has given our membership an enjoyable time, is the Great Plains Rendezvous, which is held on the last Saturday of June each year. This is the annual gathering of the Grand Councils of Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas. During this time together, each jurisdiction confers a different

degree. What makes it special is this is an opportunity for each jurisdiction to witness, and to discuss, the many differences between their beautiful rituals. Many of the customs from each jurisdiction is based on their Lodge customs, and this adds a level of interest to the conferral of degrees many have seen time and time again.

The host state confers the Super Excellent Master degree each year. For 2026, Kansas will be hosting the Rendezvous at the lodge hall in Russell. This is your opportunity to witness the beauty and pageantry of the Super Excellent Master degree. If you have not seen the degree already, you will be given a certificate from the Grand Council certifying you have now taken the SEM degree.



The Chivalric Orders



As the Templar year comes to a close on the first Saturday in May, there are a lot of things to be thankful for from the 2025-2026 Templar term of office.

The beautiful Magnanimous Order of the Temple has been conferred several times within the jurisdiction during the last term. Not only was there a state-wide conferral of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Orders of Malta, and the Order of the Temple, but the constituent commanderies have worked diligently within their own bodies to confer several of the Orders without state assistance.

In January, 2026, the Magnanimous Order of the Temple was conferred on three Nights of Malta at Newton during a Friday evening called meeting for that purpose. Before the meeting was held, the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta had already been conferred by the Sir Knights of both Askelon Commandery No. 6 and Mount Olivet Commandery No. 12.

While it does take quite a few Sir Knights in a Class A Uniform to confer the Order of the Temple, it requires many commanderies to work together with a nearby commandery to put together a conferral of the Order of the Temple. There are parts which do not require a Class A Uniform, and those parts can be performed by any Sir Knight willing to learn the work.

Congratulations, and thank you, to the Kansas commanderies who are performing the work and conferring the Orders in their own asylums. It is an inspiration to once again see our Sir Knights performing their own work without the organization of a state-wide conferral of the Orders. We Salute You!



Grand Commandery Officers

- Grand Comm: Frederick R. Kemp
- Dept. Grand Comm.: Patrick C. Carr, *CTC*
- Grand Generaliss.: Justin D. Crippen, *KCT*
- Grand Capt. Gen.: Delmus R. Morrow
- Grand Sr. Warden: Andrew G. Mosley, *CTC*
- Grand Jr. Warden: Warren L. Hughes
- Grand Prelate: H. Wayne Rector, *PREGC*
- Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan, *PREGC*
- Grand Recorder: Allan D. Jackson, *HPREGC*
- Grand Std. Bearer: Kelly J. Long
- Grand Sword Bearer: Anthony J. Pence
- Grand Warder: Robert D. Beardsley, *KTCH*
- Grand Sentinel: Robert D. Haynes, *KTCH*
- Grand Audio-Visual: Dennis L. Reed
- Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long
- Grand Guard: Juanito J. Ernacio
- Grand Guard: Kenneth E. Foster
- Grand Guard: William Koonce

Aide-de-Camps:

- Aide-de-camp: Kent Needham, *PREGC*
- Aide-de-camp: H. Wayne Rolf, *PREGC*
- Aide-de-camp: Wayne D. Drake, *PREGC*

Inspectors:

- Inspector #1: Gary B. Strout, *CTC*
- Inspector #2: Andrew G. Mosley, *CTC*
- Inspector #3: Warren L. Hughes
- Inspector #4: Justin D. Crippen, *KCT*
- Inspector #5: Robert B. Haynes, *KTCH*

Templar Honor Guard:

- Justin D. Crippen, *KCT*, Captain
- Patrick C. Carr, *CTC*, Co-Captain
- Michael Smith, *PREGC*
- Gary A. Mason, *PREGC*
- Andrew G. Mosley, *CTC*
- Kelly J. Long
- Gary B. Strout, *CTC*

2026 Allied Masonic Degrees Ingathering



The 2026 Kansas AMD Ingathering will be held on October 10, 2026, at Palmyra Lodge No. 23, in Baldwin City.

This year there will be an additional conferral of a degree instead of the traditional three degrees. This was made possible because of the need for a separate Knight Masons Ingathering which will be held in June, 2026, in Junction City at Union Lodge No. 7.

The AMD Ingathering will once again witness the conferral of the first three grades of the Scarlet Cord, along with the normal conferral of some of the degrees of the AMD which are rarely performed in Kansas.

The banquet speaker will be Brother Jack Harper, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA. There will be the requisite toasts which accompany the meal as well.

Be sure to get this event on your calendar now and be prepared to preregister for the Scarlet Cord.

2026 Knight Masons Ingathering



The 5th Annual Ingather of Kansas the Kansas Councils of Knight Masons will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Union Lodge No. 7 in Junction City. The event will mark the first time during the last five years in which the ingathering is not connected to the Allied Masonic Degrees annual ingathering. Because of the amount of work, and the success of the ingathering in Kansas, it was decided to make these separate days.

The morning will start with the usual coffee and pastries during registration. The Kansas Councils will open jointly for the business of

the ingathering at 9:00 AM and the Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West degrees will be conferred upon candidates of the Councils which have already been approved and elected.

There will be a luncheon banquet held with the requisite toasts and discussion usually had during these banquets. The special guest speaker will be Cousin Frank Ballardo of Oklahoma. The topic of his presentation will be Billy the Kid and the Masons who rode with him.

After the luncheon banquet is completed, the Masonic Order of Saint Patrick will open Downpatrick Lodge for the first time and

confer the Order upon candidates in waiting. While the Order has been conferred before, this will be the first time under a Charter gifted to Kansas from the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Order of Saint Patrick in England. Any member of a Council of Knight Masons is eligible to apply at the ingathering and be elected to receive the Order.



2026 Grand York Rite Sessions

The Annual Grand York Rite Sessions will be held from April 30 until May 2, 2026, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan.

The session will start on Thursday with the conferrals of the Order of the High Priesthood, Order of the Silver Trowel, and the Kansas Association of Past Commanders. Kansas College No. 125 of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Ashmole Court No. 17, Masonic Order of Athelstan, and the Kansas Past Grand Presiding Officer Association will all meet. There will also be a dinner and necrology service that evening.

On Friday, the 160th Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas and the 159th Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will be held. There will be a public opening which will

be followed by a tiled meeting for each body. The Grand York Rite Awards banquet will close out the day.

Saturday opens with the annual meeting of the KYCH to elect members to receive the honor. The 158th Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar will have a public opening followed by a closed session before their public installation of officers.

Visit the Grand York Rite website for more information and to register for the events.



Masonic Week 2026

The Grand York Rite bodies of Kansas were well represented at Masonic Week this year. The event was held February 4-8, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Washington DC Crystal City. This was the first year at the new hotel and it was a splendid time for those who could attend. The event was attended by Companions Kelly J. Long, Justin D. Crippen, Jarrod R. Adkisson, Wayne H. Rollf, H. Wayne Rector, Andrew G. Mosley (with his wife, Abigail), Mark Stephenson, A.J. Pence, L. Kent Needham, Gary A. Mason, and Patrick C. Carr. Several of those in attendance from Kansas had attended many times before and for others this was their first time.

The event started on Wednesday evening with jurisdictional dinners and the Kansas delegation went to their traditional Indian restaurant for a spicy start to the week. After dinner, the Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill held a meeting and brought in well over 100 new members.



The main event started on Thursday with the conferral of the Installed Supreme Ruler degree of the AMD. Companions Crippen, Long, and Carr were once again asked to be on the conferral team.

The Grand Master's Council, Ye Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon held their annual meeting after the conferral and held a luncheon afterwards for members and their guests, which was well attended. The Order of Holy Wisdom of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests was conferred afterwards as an honor on a small number of its members. During this time, the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor held their meeting and inducted new members. The Grand Court of the Masonic Order of Athelstan of the United States of America held their first meeting as a sovereign Grand Court and Court Master Mason Kelly J. Long received the Past Grand Rank of Past Grand Guard and Court Master Mason Wayne H. Rollf received the Grand Rank of Past Grand Banner Bearer. Court Master Mason Patrick C. Carr was reappointed to serve another term as Grand Marshal of the Order.



After the Athelstan banquet, Ye Antiente Order of Corks installed new members. Also, the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors initiated new members, including several from Kansas who were in waiting.

On Friday, the Knight Commander degree of the Red Branch of Erie was conferred and was followed by the annual meeting of the Grand Council of Knight Masons, USA. During the meeting, Cousin Wayne H. Rollf, Past Excellent Chief, was awarded the Knight Commander of Zerubbabel Honor by the Grand Council and Cousin Justin D. Crippen was installed as the Very Excellent Superintendent for Kansas and Oklahoma. Sir Knight Russell E. Bridges was installed as the Most Excellent Great Chief for the term. The Grand College of America, HRAKTP, held their annual meeting which was followed by the annual meetings of the Grand College of Rites, Society of Blue Friars, and the Masonic Order of the Bath. Several Kansas Masons took the Order and Brother Carr was advanced in the line as the Right Honorable Keeper of the Bath Door. There was a special conferral of the Fifth Grade of the Scarlet Cord on a small group of members held that day as well.

Saturday started with the conferral of the first four grades of the Scarlet Cord on eligible members and was followed by the Philaethes Society meeting. Afterwards, the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees opened and conducted business before electing and installing Most Venerable Duane Vaught as the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master. The annual banquet was held which normally closes the session.

On Sunday, the Washington Monument Assemblage of the Operatives held several meetings and before their brunch held . Afterwards, the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors opened and consecrated three new Conclaves for the United States. It was another Great Masonic Week!



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



The Scarlet Cord: An Explanation



The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord is one of the concordant bodies of the Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) in the United States. In England, the Scarlet Cord is a separate and sovereign body whose members must be a member of the Order of the Secret Monitor. In the United States, the Secret Monitor is one of the degrees held and conferred through the AMD. This means all AMD members are members of the Order of the Secret Monitor.

There are only six grades of the Order: Ostiarius, Lector, Fellow, Councillor, Keeper of the Hidden Secret, and Prince of Jerusalem. Any member may petition to take the first three grades of the Scarlet Cord. The Fourth Grade is reserved for those who have been made Installed Sovereign Masters and presided in the chair of a Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

The Fifth and Sixth Grades are honorary and invitational. Until the 2025 meeting of the Grand Council of the AMD at Masonic Week, only those elected or appointed to serve the Grand Council could receive the Fifth Grade, and only those elected could receive the Sixth Grade. The constitution was changed and the Fifth and Sixth Grade is now invitational only. The invitation can be provided if a Grand Officer of the AMD recommends a holder of the Fourth Grade, and then only by approval of the Grand Council and the Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master. There are only approximately 100 who hold the Fifth Grade in the US, and approximately 50 who hold the Sixth Grade. Kansas has one member who holds the Fifth Grade, and he received it at the 2026 conferral at Masonic Week.

Helianthus Conclave No. 53 Consecrated

On Sunday, February 8, 2026, in Alexandria, Virginia at the 2026 Masonic Week gathering of AMD Masons, a new Masonic Order was consecrated and brought back to Kansas.

Helianthus Conclave No. 53 of the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors is an appendant body of the York Rite of Freemasonry. It is an English degree order and an invitational body. Its members are made up of those who are Past Masters of their Lodge and Past High Priests of their Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The rituals of the Order tell the story of the journey of Freemasonry from Jerusalem to England. There are three degrees: Pilgrim, Preceptor, and the third is the installation into

the chair of an Illustrious Preceptor, and each has its own unique story and ritual.

There have been several members of the order in Kansas. Previously to the consecration of Helianthus Conclave, the members from Kansas were made a part of the Conclave in Virginia, namely Mayflower Conclave No. 8. This had become the "holding Conclave" for those who entered the Order during the annual Masonic Week meeting.

Before the Conclave could be consecrated, there needed to be three Past Illustrious Preceptors of the Order. This is in keeping with English tradition. Because of this need, Preceptors Patrick C. Carr, Kelly J. Long, and

Wayne H. Rolf were advanced on Friday, February 6, 2026, to the rank and title of Past Illustrious Preceptor in a beautiful ceremony.

We welcome this new Order into Kansas and look forward to its growth as it meets on the same day with Ashmole Court No. 17 and Kansas College No. 125, YRSCNA.



Merton Chapel No. 49 Consecrated

The Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon is an English system of degrees, and was revived in England in 1974 from records found in the Guildhall Library which referred to the origination of the Order. Members must be Master Masons and Knight Templars.

The Order was created because of an instance at Acre (Acon is an Anglicized version of Acre) during the Third Crusade. William, the Chaplain to the Dean of St. Pauls, was with



the armies of King Richard I at the city of Acre. When William viewed the bodies of Christians who were on the walls of the city, he had compassion and, with the aid of a few assistants, buried a large number of the dead and attended to many of the wounded.

He saw how their efforts were greatly appreciated, and formed an Order to bury those Christian Knights who fell in battle in the Holy Land. He dedicated the Order to St. Thomas Becket, who had been martyred while he served as Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Order was formed in the United States on February 17, 2000, when Pilgrim Chapel No. 11 and Trinity Chapel No. 12 were consecrated in Washington, DC, at Masonic Week. On September 11, 2005, a Province was established for the United States. Because of the success of the Order, the Grand Master's Council of the USA was established on January 29, 2015.

Merton Chapel No. 49 was consecrated in Columbia, Missouri, by the Most Worthy Grand Master on Saturday, February 28, 2026, and will meet twice annually with Ashmole Court No. 17, Kansas York Rite College No. 125, and Helianthus Conclave No. 53 of the Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors.

The Three Great Masonic Builders

A survey of masonry throughout the various degrees bring us to the realization there are three great time periods within the craft which contain historical significance. Each of these allude to the building of something by a Biblical patriarch of the time. These concepts delve into who the builders were and for what purpose their structures were erected. These structures are the Ark, the Tabernacle, and King Solomon's Temple which are mentioned in Old Testament scriptures contained in the Holy Bible.

The first mention of a builder within the scriptures can be found in Genesis 4:17. This passage explains Cain, who had been banned and expelled from the family of his father, Adam, had married and his wife bore him a son. This heir, whom he named Enoch. Cain had settled in the land of Nod. The scripture explains how Cain built a city which he named Enoch in honor of his new son. This is the first mention of something which had been built by man and not constructed or created by God.

Cain's descendant was Tubal Cain, who we as masons revere as the first artificer in brass and iron. Tubal Cain was the son of Lamech and was in the seventh generation from Adam. Lamech had several other sons, each of whom played a definitive part in the history of different disciplines and studies for mankind. His first son, Jabal, was the father of the tent dwelling nomad herdsmen who had populated the lands we now know as Israel. Jubal was the father of musicians, and Tubal Cain was the father of blacksmithing or the first pioneer of metal work.

The first mention we see of a builder who received his instructions directly from God can be found in Genesis 6:14, when God instructed Noah to build an ark. Noah was instructed exactly how to build the ark, its design, materials, and dimensions.

The importance of the ark to freemasonry can be found in the Royal Ark Mariner and Ark and the Dove degrees which are published and held by the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America. These degrees, which are older than the third degree Hiram legend, lead us to believe there were other patrons of freemasonry before the advent of Hiram Abiff as a patriarch of freemasonry.

The second great masonic builder was ordained by God to build the tabernacle to His glory in the desert. In Exodus 31, God explains to Moses he has chosen Bezalel to be one of the great builders of the tabernacle in the

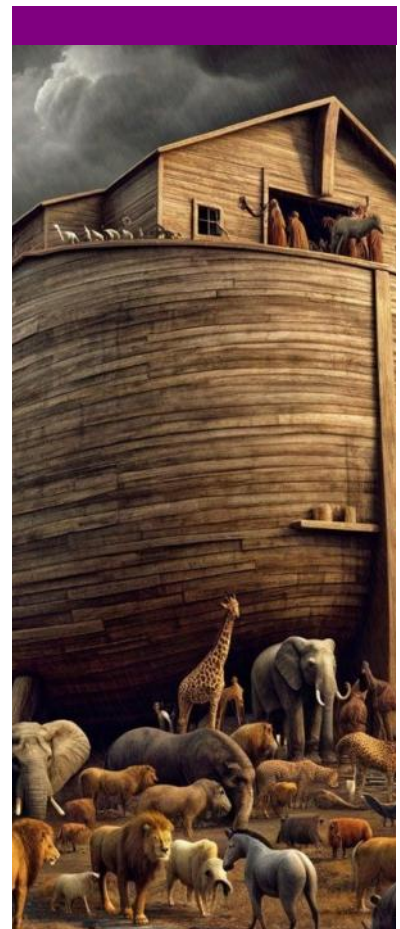
desert. God explains to Moses he has given Bezalel wisdom, understanding, and knowledge in all manner of workmanship to create and design artistic works of gold, silver, and bronze. God further explains to Moses how Bezalel will be skilled in the cutting of jewels and in carving of wood. These were indeed important skills for a craftsman to have during this time.

God continued to give Moses direction for the tabernacle in the desert as he explained to Moses how Aholiab would also be appointed to work on the project. Aholiab was given the wisdom to instruct others on how to build not only the tabernacle, but the Ark of the Covenant as well. Aholiab oversaw the construction of the Ark of the Covenant by Bezalel which included the building of its top, or mercy seat, the table where the Ark of the Covenant would rest, the lampstands, and all other items needed for worship. All of these included the use of gold and acacia wood, as God had instructed.

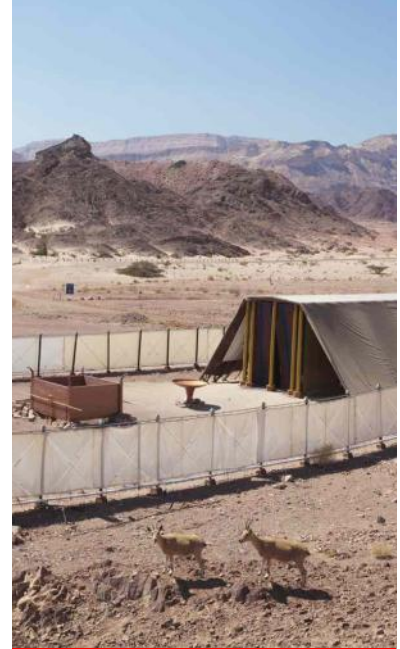
The tabernacle itself was constructed from the finest linen and God gave the dimensions for the tabernacle and the courtyard. The tabernacle was designed to be mobile so it could be moved whenever Moses guided the Israelites through the wilderness. This scene which we derive from the scriptures is important to those who are members of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The Holy Royal Arch degree is intended to be the culmination of craft freemasonry and the story of the construction of the tabernacle, and the Ark of the Covenant, demonstrates the importance of this second builder, Bezalel, to the royal craft.

The third great masonic builder found within the scriptures comes from the book of I Kings Chapter 7: 13-14. In this scriptural passage, we discover King Hiram of Tyre was sending one of his craftsmen, Harum Abi, whom we know as Hiram Abiff, to work with King Solomon on the building of the Temple. It is further explained he is the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and skilled in the art of working in bronze, much like his father was. In I Chronicles Chapter 2:13-14, it is further explained Hiram was trained to work in gold, silver, iron, stone and wood. Hiram was also trained to work in purple, blue, and crimson fabrics and fine linens.

Each of these builders are of important not only to the history of the Jewish people, but to the masonic fraternity as well. These three builders followed God's commands to the letter, and have been immortalized within Masonic ritual across the globe.



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



Who Should Attend the Grand York Rite?

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 in the United States to work the degrees no longer controlled by the lodges and includes the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Council of Cryptic Masons, and the Commandery of Knights Templar. These bodies are technically autonomous Masonic entities, only the requirement of membership in the Royal Arch connects the Cryptic degrees and the Chivalric Orders together.

The annual Grand York Rite sessions will be held in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel. Each year Companions and Sir Knights ask if they should attend the sessions. It is important to remember the Grand York Rite sessions are the equivalent in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, and Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, of the



Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas. These meetings are an opportunity for the voices of the membership in Kansas to be heard by discussing and voting on the legislation offered. It is also the responsibility of those in attendance to elect the next leadership of the Grand York Rite bodies in Kansas.

So who should attend? The three principle officers of each of the three York Rite bodies have an automatic vote during their time in their respective offices. Those with office votes in the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons are the High Priest, King and Scribe. In the Council of Cryptic Masons, it is the Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, and Principle Conductor of the Work. In the Commandery of Knights Templar, those with office votes are the Eminent Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General.

Others who have votes include all past presiding officers of one of the three bodies, the past Grand presiding officers of the bodies, and any current appointed member of the three bodies. Proxies can be carried for the three presiding officers if they are unable to attend.

So this means YOU should attend the Grand York Rite sessions in May, 2026. It is your time to represent your Chapter, Council, and Commandery in Manhattan. We would love to see each of you there, even if you do not have a vote, to witness these sessions. They are important and each of you are the future of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Kansas.

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