

Tales of the Secret Vault

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



From the Conductor of the Council

Illustrious Companion Dale R. Morrow, Grand Conductor of the Council

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



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our M:I. Grand Master Wayne D. Drake for appointing me to serve the craft as your Grand Conductor of the Council. I take appointments such as this very seriously and will serve the craft to the utmost of my ability. I look forward to serving in this capacity as well as serving on committees and visiting our several Councils.

On Friday and Saturday, the 18th and 19th of September, I attended the South-Central York Rite Conference in Little Rock Arkansas along with our M:I. Grand Master Wayne D. Drake, our R:I. Deputy Grand Master Patrick C. Carr, M:I. Grand Recorder Allen Jackson, M:I.

Arch Master Wayne Rollf and our I. Grand Captain of the Guard Kelly Long. I believe it is important to note here that attendance by your Grand Officers at these conferences is fully paid for by each individual officer and not the expense of the Kansas York Rite.

This conference is made up of the York Rite bodies in the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. The conference moves to a different state every year. In 2027, Kansas will host this conference. It will be held in Overland Park on September 17th and 18th. On Friday the day in Little Rock began with the General Grand Chapter including our own Past Grand High Priest Patrick C. Carr who was recently elected and installed as General Grand Scribe in our International Chapter body.

The Council session took place on Friday afternoon. Included in this session was a very good presentation on the wonderful research being done with funding from our Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. This presentation did a good job of illustrating several success stories and showing where the funds are being utilized. Emphasis was also given to the large percentage of every dollar that goes to research as opposed to overhead costs.



Attending this conference is an invaluable resource. Not only do we get to meet and interact with our counter parts in our region but we also get to hear about programs and initiatives that have been implemented in other jurisdictions; what has worked and what has failed and why. The M:I. Grand Master of each

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Wayne D. Drake

**Most Illustrious
Grand Master**

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jurisdiction (or his designee) gives an oral synopsis of the activities in his Grand Jurisdiction including their successes, also their less than successful attempts at improving the state of the craft in that jurisdiction. Our M.:I. Grand Master Wayne Drake represented Kansas well. The several officers of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International were also in attendance and give a more widened view of the Council throughout the world.



A banquet was held on Friday evening which gave each of us a chance to meet and visit old friends and also to break bread with brothers we had not met before. Several awards and presentations were given during the banquet. Of note for the session was a presentation made to our own M.:I. Grand Recorder Alan Jackson.

After the banquet on Friday evening, I had the pleasure of visiting with Frank Bellaudio Jr. PGHP of Oklahoma, Robert G. Davis PGM of Oklahoma, Michael Dixon PGM and Grand Secretary of Oklahoma, Stanton Brown PGM of Missouri and Bryan Ragain of Oklahoma.

Saturday's session was led by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Reports by the Grand Encampment Officers were given and the Most Eminent Grand Master S.K. David Kussman gave a report on the upcoming Triennial coming up next fall in Burbank California. Several Leadership sessions were given during the Saturday session and several breakouts that involved the officers of the state commanderies. Our Right Eminent Grand Commander Patrick Carr gave an amazing report to the body on the state of the Grand Commandery of Kansas.

This was a great session to attend, and I look forward to Kansas York Rite bodies hosting this conference in Overland Park in 2027.

Dale Morrow

Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection for 2026

The annual Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection pilgrimage was held September 25-27, 2026, in Manitou Springs, Colorado. It was attended by several of the Grand Officers including the Most Illustrious Grand Master, Wayne Drake, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, John Staton, and the Illustrious Grand Steward, Chad Thomas. The intrepid inspectors began the ascent to Pike's Peak at 8:30 AM on the Cog Railway.

Once they arrived at the top of the mountain the group discovered there were several issues at the site. The first was the snow which had fallen on the mountain. This made the task of venturing down the rocks to the Deposit a little more harrowing than it ususally was. The second issue concerned the need for repairs to the deposit plate, which the group

quickly made as it was already nearing time for them to descend from the mountin using the Cog Railway.



Arriving back at the Silver Saddle Motel, the group then drove to Canon City and took the Royal Gorge Railway dinner excursion. The views of the canyons and other scenery were quite spectacular and the meal offered on the train was delicious and enjoyed by all.

The pilgrimage ended and the group departed for Kansas on Sunday morning. Be on the lookout for a special pilgrimage next year. The Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master may have a few new ideas and events planned for 2027 for this historic annual event.