

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

Welcome to Our New Members

The Grand Master’s Classes are completed and over 50 new members have joined the York Rite of Kansas. The Capitular Degrees were completed in Emporia in June and there was a large class of new Companions made at that degree conferral.



The Cryptic Degrees were conferred in June in Hays, Kansas at the annual Great Plains Rendezvous. The new members were able to receive the special and honorary degree of the Super Excellent Master at that conferral.

The Commandery Orders were completed in July at Newton and all three of the Orders of Christian Knighthood were conferred in full form on the newly made Sir Knights.



Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to make this idea into a reality. Welcome to the new members of the York Rite in Kansas. Be sure to attend your local meetings where you will discover even more light on your Masonic journey.

Inside this issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| News of the Ark | 2 |
| From the Ninth Arch | 2 |
| The Orders | 3 |
| Triennial Update | 4 |
| York Rite College | 5 |
| Masonic Order of Athelstan | 6 |
| Red Cross of Constantine | 6 |
| The Star of David..... | 7 |

Special Interests

- Grand Master’s Classes
- Triennial 2023
- AMD/KM In-Gathering
- Masonic Order of Athelstan
- Order of Knights Preceptor
- GM’s Unit Meeting

News of the Ark



While the Grand Master's Classes were a success, we realize there are numerous other Brothers who took the first two degrees of Capitular Masonry and have not been able to complete

their Chapter degrees. This means there will be several Chapters across the jurisdiction who will be endeavoring to confer the degrees and assist our Brothers in becoming Royal Arch Masons.

There was a special conferral the night before the Grand Council's Great Plains Rendezvous



held in Hays, Kansas. Three Brothers received the Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch Degrees.

Junction City Chapter conferred the Mark Master Degree on two Brothers in August as well. Congratulations to all who are performing the work and conferring the degrees!

Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: Michael Terry
Grand King: John Staton
Grand Scribe: Roger Walls
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Secretary: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Kelly Long
Grand Capt. Of Host: Gary Strout
Grand Prin. Sojourner: Patrick Carr
Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Tom Krauss
Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: Justin Crippen
Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Robert Haynes
Grand Mast. 1st Veil: Daron Woelk
Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Asst. Grand Sentinel: Dale Morrow

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 2023 Grand Master's Classes were a huge success for the Kansas York Rite!

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: Gary Mason
Deputy Grand Master: Kent Needham
Grand PCW: Gary Strout
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Roger Walls
Grand Capt. Guard: Robert Haynes
Grand Cond. Council: Wayne Drake
Grand Marshal: Patrick Carr
Grand Cust. Work: Tom Krauss
Grand Steward: Justin Crippen
Grand Sentinel: Mark Stephenson
Asst. Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Grand Organist: Dennis Reed

Arch Master: Wayne Rolff
Arch Master: Wayne Rector
Arch Master: Jamie Carswell

From the Ninth Arch



Wyoming. The three Grand Cryptic Councils of those states gather each year and confer the three degrees upon candidates who have been previously elected. This year it was held in Hays, Kansas, and it was a wonderful day of fellowship and fun.

The Great Plains Rendezvous was a tremendous success! There were over 40 new Cryptic Masons who took the degrees of Royal Master and Select Master. There was a special conferral of the Super Excellent Master degree after lunch. The case for the members of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas conferred that degree and it was well attended and well done.

The Great Plains Rendezvous is an annual event which moves from Kansas to Colorado and



The Chivalric Orders



This has been a spectacular year for the Grand Commandery of Kansas! The 2nd Annual Knight Templar Feast was held in Hutchinson, Kansas, at the Strataca Salt Mine and Museum and there were 90 Sir Knights and their ladies present. We had guests from four different states attend a fun and educational event. Sir Knight



Donnie Higginbotham, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Oklahoma, presented research on the Ark of the Covenant and its disappearance from history. REGC, Sir Knight Kevin Sample, was in attendance from Missouri, and brought several Sir Knights with him. The meal, the fellowship, and the time together was priceless. Be sure to attend the 3rd Annual event in 2024.



The Grand Master's Classes were a huge success! The final class was held in Newton, Kansas, and there were over 50 new Sir Knights who received the Orders of Christian Knighthood. The Sir Knights from Texas arrived and assisted with the conferral of the Orders. The Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta were conferred in full form upon those who had already received the Capitular and Cryptic Degrees. It was a wonderful day for Knight Templary in Kansas!



Grand Commandery Officers

- Grand Comm: William Leonard
- Dept. Grand Comm.: Gary Mason
- Grand General.: Frederick Kemp
- Grand Capt. Gen.: Patrick Carr
- Grand Sr. Warden: Justin Crippen
- Grand Jr. Warden: Gary Strout
- Grand Prelate: Roger Walls
- Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
- Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
- Grand Std. Bearer: Ivan DeTevis
- Grand Sword Bearer: Tom Krauss
- Grand Warder: Dale Morrow
- Grand Sentinel: Juanito Ernacio
- Grand Musician: Kelly Long
- Grand Guard: Andy Mosley
- Grand Guard: Warren Hughes
- Grand Guard: Herb Merrick

- 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
- Member: Bill Koonce
- Member: Andy Mosley

From the Archives

This issue takes us to the book, *Voice of Masonry and Family Magazine*, which was an annual publication of John W. Brown of Chicago, Illinois. The book has many articles concerning masonic history, masonic happenings, and family ideas. The 1883 issue, in the Masonic Gleanings section, mentioned Kansas.

“Dedicated-The new Masonic Hall at Manhattan, Kansas, was dedicated April 26th, 1883. There was a large attendance. Excellent music and elegant banquet added much to the pleasure of the event.”

Even during 1883, the masonic experience was mentioned in the fact there was good food and music present. Stating these things added much to the festivities of the day goes back to what has been said about masonry much of late. Providing a quality masonic experience adds to the desire for men to attend meetings and to enjoy what the Craft has to offer.



2023 Triennial Update

What can one say about such a large and fantastic event as was witnessed at the 2023 Triennial held at Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Missouri? If you were unable to attend this event, you missed one of the best masonic events many of those in attendance have ever been to.

The Triennial started on Sunday, August 13, 2023, with the formal opening of the session. The Grand Masters of Arkansas, Hawaii, and Missouri



were in attendance and addressed the gathered Companions and their ladies. The need for assistance in Hawaii for Maui was brought by the Grand Master of Hawaii. The parade of flags representing the nations and states who are members of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International and the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International was beautiful and awe inspiring.



The 42nd Triennial General Grand Council opening and session was held on Monday,

August 14. There were delegates from many countries who are members of the Order. The General Grand Master of Cryptic Masons International, Monty Glover, spoke about the preceding triennial and the successes which were realized. Elections were held and William “Bill” Snyder was elected and installed as the Most Puissant General Grand Master for the next three years. G. Thomas Taylor continued through the line and was elected as the Deputy Grand Master. William “Keith” Powell of Louisiana was elected as the General Grand Principal Conductor of the Work. The General Grand Recorder, Mark Irwin, and the General Grand Treasurer, Chuck McCollum, continued their service for another triennium.

After the closing of the General Grand Council, and the installation of the new officers, there was a Hawaiian Luau themed dinner with excellent entertainment provided

by a young man who sang, played instruments, and imitated many famous musicians and performers.



On Tuesday, August 15, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International opened their 72nd Annual

Triennial Session. General Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion Steve Tiner presented his allocution which was accepted and approved by the delegates. It was a great triennium for capitular masonry throughout the world.



The elections were held and Teko Foley was elected as General Grand High Priest for the next triennium. Chadwick Burks continued through the line and

was elected as the General Grand King. The elections were held and there were three excellent candidates to choose from. A run-off was held and Reed Fanning of Utah, the sitting Grand High Priest, was elected and installed as the new General Grand Scribe. Dick Browning of Arkansas was elected as the General Grand Secretary, and Bobby Kitchen was elected as the General Grand Treasurer. Two companions from Oklahoma, John Logan and Clyde Schoolfield, were elected as trustees for the ensuing term.



After installation, and the closing of the General Grand Chapter, there was a fantastic



banquet which included yet more exciting and entertaining acts from the Branson area.

It was a wonderful session and it is something which we as York Rite Masons should be looking forward to every three years. Be sure to prepare and plan for the next Triennial in 2026. More details will be available later.

York Rite Sovereign College of North America

The York Rite Sovereign College of North America held their 66th General Assembly in Providence, Rhode Island, on July 28-30, 2023. The Grand Governor of Kansas, Brother John Staton (MIPGM, REPGC), was in attendance with Brother Jimmie Grassi (MWPGM, MIPGM, MEPGHP). Brother Grassi received the honor of the Order of the Purple Cross. This makes Brother Grassi him as Associate Regent of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America. Both Brothers Staton and Grassi were in attendance with their ladies, Ruth Ann Staton and Jan Grassi. Congratulations to Brother Grassi on his reception of this Order.



Grand Master's Unity Council

The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Kansas, Brother Robert D. McClarty, hosted a Unity meeting for all appendant bodies within the Grand Jurisdiction of Kansas on Saturday, August 26, 2023 in Salina, Kansas. This was an opportunity for all appendant and concordant bodies within the jurisdiction to meet and tell each other what they do and how their charities and other operations are handled. This was a great idea and a wonderful way for the appendant bodies in Kansas to be represented and for the many, many York Rite appendant bodies to be seen. The York



Rite was represented by their respective leadership lines, which included Right Excellent Grand King John Staton, Most Illustrious Grand Master Gary Mason, and Right Eminent Grand Commander Bill Leonard. Each of the heads of the bodies explained where each of their bodies fit within the masonic experience and what their charities accomplish and consist of.



Other York Rite bodies represented included The Order of Anointed Kings, Order of the Silver Trowel, Past Commander's Association, Knight York Cross of Honor, Allied Masonic Degrees, Knight Masons, Ye Antiente Order of Corks, the Masonic Order of the Bath, Sovereign Order of Knight Preceptors, York Rite College, Red Cross of Constantine, Masonic Order of Athelstan, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors, Yeoman of York, Social Order of the Beauceant, Grand College of Rites, and St. Thomas of Acon. Several of these bodies do not meet in Kansas however they do have members within the jurisdiction.

It was a fantastic opportunity to meet with our other masonic order leadership within the state and to inform each other of what each body does for masonry and to enhance the masonic experience within the state. It was decided there will be a calendar published which will include important dates from each body. This can assist in keeping the bodies from planning big events at the same time as another body is planning a large event. It was a fantastic day of masonic education, fellowship, and food (as always at a



masonic event). The Deputy Grand Master has set the date for next year as August 24, 2024, in Salina, Kansas. Let's do it again!



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



York Rite Spotlight

It was the idea of Thurman C. Pace, Jr., Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of New Jersey, to establish an organization to recognize Past Eminent Commanders. From this idea came the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptors.

Being fully aware of his inability to write ritual, he requested his best friend, Wallace M. Gage, a Past Grand Commander of New Jersey and an outstanding writer, to write the ritual for what is known as "The Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor."

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

The Order was conferred for the first time on Friday, March 4 1977, during the 117th Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New Jersey, held at the Howard Johnson Regency Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Conferral of the Order was carried out by the charter officers of the New Jersey and the Charter class of 139 included 86 from New Jersey, and the rest from Grand Commanderies from across the USA. There are chapters in several states. This Order is much like the Past Commander's Association held in Kansas.

The Order is conferred annually at Masonic Week in Alexandria, Virginia which is held in February of every year. It is open to all sitting and past commander's of a constituent commandery recognized by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA.

The Masonic Order of Athelstan Approved



Several members of the Masonic Order of Athelstan spoke about the desire to bring a Court to Kansas. Thanks to many discussions and information gathering, we are pleased to announce the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, A.F.&A.M., has

recognized and agreed to the Masonic Order of Athelstan placing their first Court in Kansas.

This is the first new York Rite appendance masonic body to be recognized and placed within the jurisdiction in many years. The members of the new Court are still being selected. It appears there are over 35 new potential members of the Masonic Order of Athelstan in waiting to receive the Instruction of the Order.

The degree work is beautiful and it is an English Constitution Order. It tells the story of Athelstan, the First to declare himself to be the King of all Britons, and his work in bringing the Christian Sir Knights together with the Craftsman of old. It is a beautiful and educational order. Each meeting will include papers presented on masonic history and other topics of interest to the Craft.

The Red Cross of Constantine

The Red Cross of Constantine is officially The Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist, the latter two of which are called the Appendant Orders. There are also two chair degrees conferred on the Viceroy and Sovereign of a Conclave, and two honorary orders: Knight Commander of Constantine and Knight Grand Cross. The governing body of the Order for the United States of America and Its Jurisdiction is styled The United Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders for the United States of America and Its Jurisdiction.

The purpose of the Constantinian Orders are to commemorate the first elevation of Christianity from the position of a despised and proscribed heresy to that of a legally recognized and honored religion, to cultivate the social virtues, appeal to the intellectual and moral qualities, preserve as far as possible the customs of the fraternity and bring about good fellowship and understanding between all branches of Masonry.



Knights Companions of the Order meet in Conclaves of the Red Cross of Constantine and a member must be a Royal Arch Mason in good standing and subscribe to a belief in the Christian religion as revealed in the New Testament. Membership is by invitation and each Conclave has a prescribed membership limit.

The Star of David and Seal of Solomon

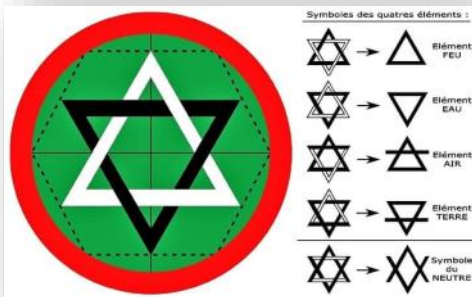
The Star of David and the Seal of Solomon are symbols found in Jewish and Christian scripture and writings. While it is closely associated with the history of the Jewish people, it has been adopted and seen throughout the several degrees of masonry. The York Rite in particular, uses the symbol, and it is worn in some of the costumes of the degree work. The symbols can be sometimes confused as being the same, however both are different and, while they share some meanings, their symbology is different from each other.

The Star of David has been closely associated with the Jewish faith, but its history goes back much further. The Star of David was first mentioned in the Babylonian Talmud and was referred to as the Shield of David. It was referred to in this manner because it is believed the emblem was emblazoned upon the shields of David's armies when they went into battle, and it was an epithet for the name of God. This meaning demonstrates the importance of the name of God to the Hebrew people as they used it when entering battle because the name itself is believed to have power associated with it. The renowned Kabbalah scholar, Gershom Scholem, claimed the Star of David does not, in any way, belong exclusively to Judaism. This claim is made because the advent of the six-pointed star, of hexagram, composed of two opposing triangles joined together, has been witnessed in other religions throughout history.

The Seal of Solomon is first seen in medieval tales and refers to a magic signet ring which had the power to control and bind supernatural creatures. This seal is said to have been worn by King Solomon and was an emanation of the power given to him by God to be wise and to understand the world around him. The seal was said to have given to Solomon by God to assist him during the building of the temple. It gave Solomon the power to remove demons who had been tormenting the son of one of his workmen. It is believed he was able to drive the demons out of the boy's body by using the seal.

The seal is sometimes referred to as a hexagram, and at other times, a pentagram. In whatever context it is viewed, the Seal of Solomon can be said to represent the harmony of the world. While one point reaches the heavens, the other point, in the opposite direction, reaches the earth. This represents the harmony represented in the universe. An example of this harmony can be found in the statement stating it "symbolizes the link between science, beauty and metaphysics, with elements of medicine and magic, astronomy and astrology."

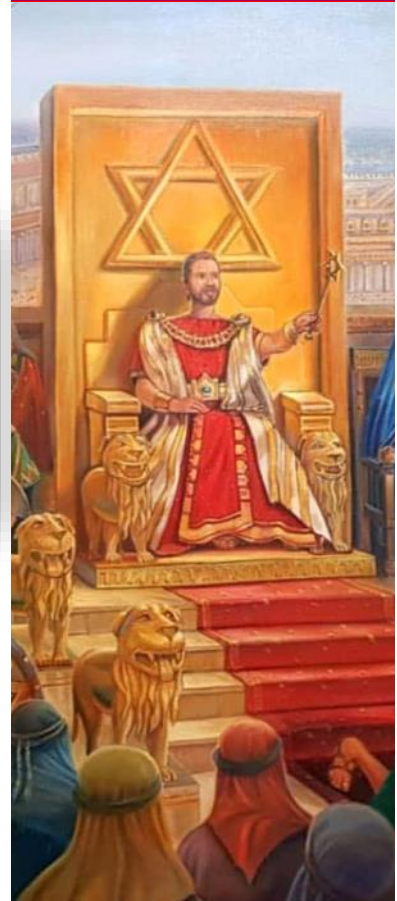
The hexagram has many meanings associated with it depending on the belief of the individual. In Eastern, Kabbalistic, and some occult circles, the meaning of the hexagram is closely tied to it being composed of two joined opposing triangles. This joining can be referred to as representing the duality of God, being both present in Heaven and on Earth at the same moment. Another representation includes the hermetic belief of "as above, so below." Yet another example includes the symbolic masculine, representing the male in pointing upwards, and the symbolic feminine, in the female as pointing downwards. Another example includes it being referred to as representing the spiritual and the physical. The spiritual reality is pointing downwards, and the physical reality is pointing upwards.



It has been believed the hexagram represents the four elements of earth, fire, water, and air or ether represented by the four gaps between the triangle points. This can imply the fifth element, spirit, is contained within the center open space of the hexagram. Another concept refers to the six points of the hexagram as representing the six colors in the rainbow, while the center space represents the seventh color. There were seven celestial planets, or bodies, known to the ancients. These were the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter. The six points of the hexagram could refer to the six celestial planets, with the opening representing the Sun, from which all light emanates for the ancients. As one can observe, there are many different concepts contained within the Star of David and the Seal of Solomon.



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



More Events Coming

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.



AMD & Knight Masons In-Gathering 2023
October 7, 2023 @ Wyandotte Lodge

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AMD In-Gathering | Knight Masons In-Gathering |
| AMD Opening – 8:30 AM | KM Opening – 1:00 PM |
| Royal Ark Mariner | Knight of the Sword |
| Knights of Constantinople | Knight of the East |
| Scarlet Cord – 10:00 AM | Knight of the East & West |
| 1st and 2nd Grade (\$50 ea.) | Institution Ceremony – 4:00 PM |
| Lunch – 12:00 PM | W. Ron McKenzie Council U.D. |
| | Banquet – 6:00 PM |

Preregistration is required for all events.
Registration: \$40 per person (Meals and Firing Cannon Included)
Meals are open to both AMD and Knight Masons members
Register at <https://kansasyorkrite.org/sunflower-council-383>

The second annual AMD and Knight Masons In-Gathering will be held in October in Wyandotte, Kansas.

All members of the AMD and Knight Masons are invited to attend.

Both the 1st and 2nd Grade of the Scarlet Cord will be conferred and a new Council of Knight Masons will be instituted at the end of the day.

Our banquet will feature Brother Bob Davis, PGM and Past Grand Sovereign Master of AMD USA, who will bring education to our combined groups.

Be sure to visit the website and register. It will be another great In-Gathering.

Grand York Rite of Kansas
P.O. Box 1045
Ottawa, Kansas 66067-1045
Office: 785-865-6737
E-mail: grand.sec.rec@ksyorkrite.net

