

News of the Ark

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



From the Grand Principal Sojourner

Excellent Companion Wayne D. Drake, Grand Principal Sojourner

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest has asked the current Grand Chapter Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



Greetings Companions.

I like to ride my bicycle for exercise in the mornings and awhile back I had something happen that has never happened before. The handle bars came loose on my bike. I didn't think it was going to be a big deal, but I was wrong. This proved to be a BIG deal. This made controlling the bike difficult, since my brake levers and shift controllers are all mounted on the handle bars. It was an adventure to shift, brake and control the bike with loose handle bars. This scenario made me think it was a lot like communication. The handle

bars were my communication with my bike. Did you notice how I just slipped that in there?

There are many types of communication, such as verbal, non-verbal, written, visual and silence. If you don't think silence is a form of communication, just make your wife mad and see if her silence isn't communicating. The symbols in our craft are a form of communication. We conduct degrees to gain knowledge and learn their meanings. They communicate to the world that Masons exist, but the exact meaning is unknown to the common person. Our organization relies heavily on communication and not just through symbols. We are not visually in contact with one another and our communication is primarily through text, email and phone. The Grand Officers of our craft need to express with their officers, as well as our constituent council officers who in turn need to communicate with their members. It's the process of exchanging ideas as well as informing each other of upcoming events. By doing so; we share our successes, failures, and hopes for the future. This is how we ask for help in time of need, sympathy and in time of sorrow. Our prayers are another form of communication we all need to help us in our daily lives. Communication allows us to stay in contact with not only one another, but our Lodge.

In closing I would like to remind everyone communication is a very important part of our Grand York Rite Strategic Plan. I have had my Masonic hopes change due to a lack of communication, let's make sure it doesn't happen to others. Don't be loose handle bars; COMMUNICATE.

God bless,

Wayne Drake

September, 2026

Gary B. Strout

**Most Excellent
Grand High Priest**

2026-2027

CCGRAMI Triennial

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas had several members in attendance at the 2026 General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International Triennial Session which was held in Washington, DC, on Monday, August 31, 2026. It was a great Triennial session and the companions from Kansas had a wonderful time at the Triennial and before and after as they toured D.C. during that time.

Kansas was represented by Most Excellent Companions Gary B. Strout and Patrick C. Carr, Right Excellent Companions Andrew G. Mosley and Gary A. Mason, and Excellent Companions Wayne D. Drake, Justin D. Crippen, L. Kent Needham, and Kelly J. Long. Those who attended enjoyed the fellowship time together which was provided both inside and outside of the meetings.

There was a conferral of the Legendary Origin of the Holy Royal Arch Degree on Saturday. This degree was only conferred for this event, and has not been previously conferred or seen within the United States. Those who attended stated the degree was informative and well done.

The Joint Opening Session was held on Sunday afternoon and the flags of the participating member Countries and States were presented. There were brief presentations and speeches given by the presiding General Grand Officers before the event was closed.



On Monday, the General Grand Chapter opened and the business of that body was held. At the end of the session, elections were held for several offices. Most Excellent Companion Chadwick Burks was elected and installed as the new General Grand High Priest for this Triennial.

The new Right Excellent General Grand King office was contested and three worthy companions were the candidates. Those included Most Excellent Past Grand High Priests Reed Fanning of Utah, the current Right Excellent General Grand Scribe, Steve Barchus of Nebraska, and Piers Vaughn of New York. After the ballot was cast, Most Excellent Companion Piers Vaughn was elected and installed to serve as the Right Excellent General Grand King.

There were two candidates for the office of Right Excellent General Grand Scribe. Most Excellent Companion Patrick C. Carr, the Junior Past Grand High Priest, was a candidate along with Most Excellent Companion Thomas Black from Michigan. Most Excellent Companion Carr was elected and installed as the Right Excellent General Grand Scribe for the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International! This starts a nine-year journey for Right Excellent Companion Carr, as long as the Companions continue to see fit to elect him to advance in the progressive line at the next two Triennial sessions in 2029 and 2032.

Right Excellent Companion Dick Browning was re-elected and installed as General Grand Secretary and Right Excellent John Logan of Oklahoma was elected and installed as the General Grand Treasurer.

Right Excellent Companion Frank Balluardo was appointed and installed as the Deputy General Grand High Priest for the South Central Region.

The General Grand High Priest selected a new General Grand Chapter Ambassador for Kansas. The new Ambassador is Most Excellent Companion Gary B. Strout. Most Excellent Companion Strout was installed along with the other officers on Monday, August 31, 2026.

Congratulations to all who were either elected or appointed, and installed, to serve the General Grand Chapter from the Grand Chapter of Kansas for the next Triennial. It is an honor to serve and we know each of you will do a fine job in your respective offices.

