



Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Summer 2025

Patrick C. Carr, MEGHP 2025-2026



From the Grand High Priest

I would first like to address each of the Royal Arch Masons in Kansas and thank them for their confidence in me as the Grand High Priest of Kansas. When you elected me as the Right Excellent Grand King at the 2024 session, I was humbled by your action and votes, and I continue to be humbled today. I am here to serve you and want to hear from each of you as we embark upon a busy and wonderful capitol year which we have planned for 2025-2026.

We all have things which make demands upon our time. Whether it is personal responsibilities, family demands, work which makes our days incredibly long, or even masonic meetings and sessions, our time is taken by things which are sometimes out of our immediate control. I would like to encourage you to reexamine your twenty-four inch gauge and discover if there is any way you can save some precious time. If nothing else, make sure you make time for your family. This is one of the most precious, and important, part of each of our lives. Our family loves and supports us, and that enables us to move forward and do all the other things we like to do which takes time from each of us.

This year, we will be making a focused effort on communication with all of the members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. Please watch your email for a monthly note from me, and a monthly short two page newsletter from the Grand Chapter about current events. Be sure to visit the website for the Grand York Rite of Kansas (www.kansasryorkrite.org) where these publications will be available on the front page of the website. There will be this quarterly insert in the General Grand Chapter magazine, and the quarterly York Rite of Kansas e-magazine, *Letters From York* available for download as well. Don't forget to visit the Grand Chapter and Grand York Rite Facebook pages. A lot of our calendar updates and special events will be posted to those sites as well as on the website. We want you to know what is happening within the Grand York Rite of Kansas.

I would like to hear from you! Do not hesitate to reach out to me by phone, email, messenger, or text, if you have a question or simply want to talk about masonry. I am here to serve, and your calls and thoughts are important to me. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you all!

Fraternally,

Companion Patrick C. Carr
M.:E.: Grand High Priest



Grand Master's Classes

The Grand Master's Classes, in honor of our Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas, Most Worshipful Brother Derik L. Hockett, were held in two locations so far. There will be an additional opportunity on June 21.



Quarry Degree attendees and the new GM class of Mark and Past Masters

During these classes, a Master Mason will be permitted to take the Mark Master and Past Master degrees of our York Rite. This opportunity is afforded to Masons in Kansas through the cooperation and unity of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The first class was held in an abandoned quarry located between Alta Vista and Council Grove on May 10, 2025. There were 11

candidates who took the first two degrees and who are eligible to complete the caputular degrees if they so choose. Several of the Brothers who took these degrees have indicated they intend to move forward and join the York Rite in Kansas. A total of 34 Mark Masters and Past Masters were in attendance for the degrees, including the new members.

The second class was held on May 24, 2025, at the lodge hall in Russell. We had XX candidates at the conferral and most confirmed they wanted to join the York Rite and take the Holy Royal Arch degree.

On June 21, 2025, at the lodge hall in Newton, we will confer the first two degrees as before, but will allow those who desire to continue and we will confer the Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch degrees. We are hoping to have 20 or more new caputular masons at the completion of the day in honor of M.:W.: Brother Derik L. Hockett.



The new Mark and Past Masters and conferral teams in Russell



MEGHP Appoints Grand Royal Arch Captain



The Grand High Priest was proud to announce his appointment to the progressive officer line for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch masons of Kansas. Excellent Companion L. Kent Needham was selected and installed as the Grand Royal Arch Captain after the closing of the 159th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Kansas. Companion Needham comes with much experience to our line. He has served Kansas as M.:W.: Grand Master, M.:I.: Grand Master, and R.:E.: Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Kansas. He was the driving force behind the *Securing Our Future* strategic plan as well. We look forward to Kent's

time serving our Grand Chapter and we know he will continue to lead with wisdom and integrity as he ascends the line.

Grand Chapter Ritual Jewel

The Grand Chapter of Kansas is working on a ritual jewel and annual award to recognize and celebrate those diligent Royal Arch Masons who are committed to the excellence of the work. Be sure to check the Grand York Rite website (www.kansasyorkrite.org), and the magazines for updates on the program. It is a work in progress and we hope to be able to unveil and publish the new program sometime in August.

2025 Grand Chapter Convocation Update

The 159th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas was held in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel on Friday, May 2, 2025. There were several dignitaries from out of state present, and they included M.:E.: Companion Teko A. Foly, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International, M.:E.: Companion Steven Tiner, Junior Past General Grand High Priest, GGCRAI, Piers Vaughn, Mid-Atlantic DGGHP, Michael Watts, South Central DGGHP, Kevin Sample, PMEGHP from Missouri, Robert Loflin, PMEGHP from Texas, Jarrod R. Adkisson, PMEGHP from Arkansas, Michael Dodd, MEGHP of Missouri, Frank Belluardo, Jr., MEGHP of Oklahoma, James Hunt, Personal Rep. of the Grand High Priest of Wisconsin, and several other Grand Chapter Officers from across the country.

There was not a lot of business this session, other than the update of the bylaws to eliminate or define committees of the Grand Chapter, and all the resolutions passed overwhelmingly. The strategic Plan, *Securing Our Future*, was accepted and adopted by all three Grand York Rite bodies as they move into the future. After the session was closed, the 2025-2026 Grand Chapter Officers were installed by MEGHP Wayne H. Rolf. It was a great convocation and everyone enjoyed the time together at the newly shortened Grand York Rite sessions.



Grand Chapter Officers 2025-2026

The Grand Chapter Officers were installed at the completion of the 2024 -2025 Grand Convocation. The officers are trained, in place, and ready to get to work assisting the Royal Arch Masons of Kansas and their respective Chapters.

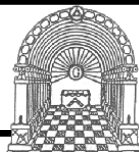
M.:E.: Grand High Priest: Patrick C. Carr, Salina #18
R.:E.: Grand King: Gary B. Strout, Leavenworth #2
R.:E.: Grand Scribe: Thomas M. Krauss, Hays #68
M.:E.: Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan, Junction City #17
M.:E.: Grand Secretary: Allan D. Jackson, Lawrence #4
E.: Grand Chaplain: A.J. Pence, Topeka #5
E.: Grand Captain of the Host: Robert D. Beardsley, Wichita #33
E.: Grand Principal Sojourner: Andrew G. Mosley, Salina #18
E.: Grand Royal Arch Captain: L. Kent Needham, Lawrence #4
E.: Grand Master of 3rd Veil: William P. Leonard, Leavenworth #2
E.: Grand Master of 2nd Veil: Kelly J. Long, Salina #18
E.: Grand Master of 1st Veil: Wayne D. Drake, Lawrence #4
E.: Grand Sentinel: Glenn O. Davis, Salina #18
E.: Asst. Grand Sentinel: James D. Lyle, Salina #18
E.: Grand Musician: Dennis L. Reed, Lawrence #4
E.: Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long, Salina #18
E.: Grand Orator/Lecturer: Delmus (Dale) R. Morrow, Salina #18
R.:E.: Unity Committee Representative: Justin D. Crippen, Wichita #33
R.:E.: Personal Representative: Matthew J. Rutkowski, Junction City #17
R.:E.: DDGHP District #1: Kenneth E. Foster, Leavenworth #2
R.:E.: DDGHP District #2: Juanito J. Ernacio, Salina #18
R.:E.: DDGHP District #3: Ivan M. DeTevis, Keystone #22
R.:E.: DDGHP District #4: Gary A. Mason, Wichita #33
R.:E.: DDGHP District #5: Michael K. Colbary, Goodland #74
M.:E.: Ark Bearer: Wayne H. Rollf, Leavenworth #2,
M.:E.: Ark Bearer: Jarrod R. Adkisson, M.D., Salina #18
M.:E.: Ark Bearer: T. Michael Fegan, Junction City #17





Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Summer 2025

Gary B. Strout, MIGM 2025-2026



From the Illustrious Grand Master

Colors hold great symbolic significance within Masonry, marking distinctions among various branches of our fraternity. The Craft Lodge is known as the Blue Lodge, members of the Royal Arch wear red, and we in Cryptic Masonry proudly identify ourselves with the color purple. Have you ever wondered why these colors were chosen? Was it merely a random selection, or does the choice reflect deeper historical and esoteric meanings? Allow me to share some insights into why we proudly wear purple.

In Cryptic Masonry, symbols are vital, teaching profound lessons and preserving traditions that have been handed down through generations. Among these, the color purple is prominently featured on our regalia and aprons. It symbolizes not only the dignity and solemnity of our Craft but also more profound spiritual teachings that enhance our Masonic journey.

Historically, purple has been associated with royalty, authority, and prestige. This tradition dates back to ancient Phoenicia, where Tyrian purple, a dye extracted from rare sea snails, was reserved exclusively for monarchs and nobility. Even in Roman society, strict laws governed the wearing of purple, highlighting its role as a symbol of power, wisdom, and high honor.

Beyond its royal associations, purple carries deep esoteric symbolism. Merging the calm stability of blue with the fiery passion of red, purple represents balance and harmony, integrating spiritual contemplation with worldly action. It embodies the Cryptic Mason's quest for profound wisdom, deeper understanding, and a harmonious union between the spiritual and earthly realms. Esoterically, purple is associated with the Crown Chakra in Eastern spirituality, symbolizing spiritual awakening, enlightenment, and divine connection. Thus, every time we wear purple, we are reminded of our ongoing journey toward higher truths, personal transformation, and spiritual enlightenment.

Companions, as we wear our purple regalia, let us reflect upon its profound symbolism, mindful that we embody both the dignity of our Craft and our commitment to the pursuit of deeper wisdom and spiritual balance.

Faternally,

Gary B. Strout
M.:I.: Grand Master 2025-2026



CMMRF Kansas Jewel

After the success of the Kansas jewel created for donations to Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA), it was decided a new jewel to support Cryptic Masons Medical Research was needed to complement the jewel currently available for the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.



CMMRF

This new jewel is currently being created, and a image of the new jewel is not yet available. The design for jewel will include the nine arches from our Cryptic rituals, the CMMRF logo, and the unique Cryptic Masons logo for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, which is a bit different than the other jurisdictions.

Check the Grand York Rite website regularly, or ask your District CMMRF Representative, for more information. The jewel will require a donation of \$120 and \$100 of that amount will be sent by the Grand Recorder and Treasurer to CMMRF in your name.

2025 Pike's Peak Inspection

There will be a new date, and a new schedule, for the Annual Cryptic Deposit at Pike's Peak for 2025. Our M:I:. Grand Master, Gary B. Strout, has selected August 1-3, 2025, as the new date for our annual event. The evening will start with a casual dinner together at Edelweiss German Restaurant on Friday, August 1. On Saturday, August 2, we will arrive at the Pike's Peak Cog Rail Train to start our journey up the mountain at 8:40 AM. Once we have completed our inspection of the deposit, we will descend the mountain and visit the Garden of the Gods for a self-guided tour of the beautiful rock formations. Dinner will be at Phantom Canyon Brewing Company before we return to our hotel and prepare for departure on Sunday, August 3. The host hotel, the Hampton Inn and Suites Colorado Springs, has a block of rooms for our group, and the price of the room includes breakfast. For more information, or to book your hotel, visit www.kansasyorkrite.org.





2025 Rendezvous — Wyoming!

Many years ago, the Grand Cryptic Councils of Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming gathered together with a plan. This plan included having the three Grand Councils meet annually, hosted by a different state each year, to confer their degrees. From this meeting, the Great Plains Rendezvous was born.

The 2025 Great Plains Rendezvous will be held on Saturday, June 28, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The schedule will include the conferral of the Royal Master degree by the Grand Council of Colorado, the Select Master degree by the Grand Council of Kansas, and the Super Excellent Master degree by the Grand Council of Wyoming. The host Grand Council confers the Super Excellent Master each year. Pictures will be available in the Fall 2025 Council Cliff Notes.

Cryptic Degree Conferrals for 2025

The beautiful degrees of Cryptic Masonry will be conferred in conjunction with the Grand Master's Classes on Saturday, July 12, 2025, in Newton, Kansas. The Cryptic degrees will be conferred first and will be followed by the conferral of the Orders of Christian Knighthood by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas. More information will be available on the Grand York Rite website.

2025 Grand Council Annual Assembly

The 158th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas was held in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel on Friday, May 2, 2025. This Annual Assembly did not a lot of business to transact, other than to update the bylaws to eliminate or define committees of the Grand Council, and those resolutions all passed. The strategic Plan, *Securing Our Future*, was accepted and adopted by all three Grand York Rite bodies as they move into the future.



There were several visitors from other jurisdictions present at the session, and at the installation of the 2025-2026 Grand Council Officers. The visitors included Companions Camille Joseph "Buddy" Guidry, Jr., RDGGM, General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International, Kevin Sample, PMIGM Missouri, Brian Ragain, MIGM, Oklahoma, Frank Belluardo, Jr., Illustrious Grand Steward, Oklahoma, Piers Vaughn, New York, Michael Watts, Louisiana, Robert Loflin Texas, Michael Dodd Missouri, and several other Grand Council Officers and Representatives from across the nation.

The new Grand Council Officers were installed by MIPGM William "Bill" Leonard after the Annual Assembly was closed. The Annual Assembly was well attended and the newly-shortened time for the weekend seemed to be well received by those who attended.



2025-2026 Grand Council Officers

The Grand Council Officers were installed at the completion of the 2024-2025 Grand Assembly. The officers have been through their orientation, been trained, and are ready to get to work assisting the Cryptic Masons of Kansas and their respective Councils.

M.:I.: Grand Master: Gary B. Strout, Leavenworth #1
R.:I.: Deputy Grand Master: Robert B. Haynes, Junction City #22
R.:I.: Grand Princip. Cond. of the Work: Wayne D. Drake, Lawrence #14
M.:I.: Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan (OSV), Junction City #22
M.:I.: Grand Recorder: Allan D. Jackson (OSV), Lawrence #14
I.: Grand Chaplain: Kelly J. Long, Ellsworth #9
I.: Grand Captain of the Guard: Patrick C. Carr (OSV), Ellsworth #9
I.: Grand Conductor of the Council: Frederick R. Kemp, Leavenworth #1
I.: Grand Marshal: Justin D. Crippen, Wichita #12
I.: Grand Custodian of the Work: Warren L. Hughes, Iola #8
I.: Grand Steward: Andrew G. Mosley, Ellsworth #9
I.: Grand Sentinel: Thomas R. Krauss, Jericho #26
I.: Asst. Grand Sentinel: Kenneth E. Foster, Lawrence #14
I.: Grand Organist: Dennis L. Reed, Lawrence #14
I.: Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long, Ellsworth #9

R.:I.: Arch Master #1: Kenneth E. Foster, Lawrence #14
R.:I.: Arch Master #2: Ivan DeTevis, Independence #15
R.:I.: Arch Master #3: Juanito Ernacio, Ellsworth #9
M.:I.: Arch Master #4: Gary A. Mason, Wichita #12
R.:I.: Arch Master #5: Michael K. Colbary, Goodland #24

M.:I.: Arch Master: Wayne H. Rollf (OSV) Lecturer, Leavenworth #1
M.:I.: Arch Master: H. Wayne Rector (OSV) Lecturer, Leavenworth #1
R.:I.: Arch Master: Jamie L. Carwell, Lecturer, Washington #2

