

Tales of the Secret Vault

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



From the Illustrious Grand Master

Most Illustrious Companion Robert B. Haynes, Grand Master

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has asked his officers to write the monthly articles for this newsletter. He has written the article for this month.



I want to thank each of you for electing me to lead our Grand Council during this 2026-2027 cryptic year. There are a lot of things which we will need to get done this year, and I know that each of you have the necessary skills to assist our Grand Council in making those things happen. You are each serving our Cryptic Councils because of your love for our fraternity, and especially for the York Rite and more specifically the Council of Cryptic Masons.

I hope your experience serving our members and community as a member of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons has been enjoyable. I want to point out that here is still a lot of work to be done within Cryptic Masonry in Kansas. Even with the work we do within our Councils, please be coherent of your family, church, and personal responsibilities. These are important and should never be laid aside because of our business as we advance the cause of Cryptic Masonry here in Kansas.

Securing Our Future, our strategic plan was implemented last year, and we will continue to review and refine the Securing Our Future plan as we move forward. I would ask you to review the components of the strategic plan and learn how it can be implemented within your Council. If you have any questions, reach out to me so we can discuss them and look at using them in the future.

As always, I thank you for your willingness to serve our Councils. We will have several large events planned for this year, and your presence is requested at each of these events. The first event is the Great Plains Rendezvous between Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming. It will be held on June 27, 2026, at Russell Lodge and we will be responsible for conferring the Super Excellent Master Degree this year. The second event will be the Pike's Peak Inspection which will be held on August 1, 2026. We will once again ascend Pike's Peak to inspect the Cryptic Deposit from 1899. There will be a Grand Chapter and Grand Council School of Instruction on October 17, 2026, at Union Lodge in Junction City and this is an excellent time to learn more about our beautiful rituals and to sharpen your ritualistic skills within Cryptic Masonry.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you and our Councils here in Kansas. I know we will be able to accomplish a lot during this year.

Robert B. Haynes

May, 2026

Robert B. Haynes,

Most Illustrious
Grand Master

2026-2027

2026 Grand Council Officers

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas was convened on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 8:00 AM. The 160th Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons had an exciting public session. The tyled session began at 9:00 AM. Installation for the 2026-2027 Grand Chapter Officers was held at 11:00 AM and the following were installed:



M.I. Grand Master:	Robert B. Haynes (Junction City No. 22)
Deputy Grand Master:	Wayne D. Drake (Lawrence No. 14)
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work:	Partrick C. Carr, OSV (Ellsworth No. 9)
Grand Recorder:	Alan D. Jackson, OSV (Lawrence No. 14)
Grand Treasurer:	T. Michael Fegan, OSV (Junction City No. 22)
Grand Chaplain:	Roger L. Walls, OSV (Junction City No. 22)
Grand Captain of the Guard:	Frederick R. Kemp (Leavenworth No. 1)
Grand Conductor of the Council:	Kelly J. Long (Ellsworth No. 9)
Grand Marshal:	Michael K. Colbary (Goodland No. 24)
Grand Custodian of the Work/Orator:	Edgardo Negron (Junction City No. 22)
Grand Steward:	Chad M. Thomas, Sr. (Wichita No. 12)
Grand Sentinel:	Alfred J. Pearson (Leavenworth No. 1)
Assistant Grand Sentinel:	Thomas M. Krauss (Jericho No. 26)
Grand Organist:	Dennis L. Reed (Lawrence No. 14)
Grand Piper:	Caleb J. Long (Ellsworth No. 9)
Arch Master #1:	Kenneth E. Foster (<i>Leavenworth No. 1, Lawrence No. 14, Washington No. 2</i>)
Arch Master #2:	Curtis A. Utley (<i>Iola No. 8, Silver Trowel No. 27, Independence No. 15</i>)
Arch Master #3:	Juanito J. Ernacio (<i>Ellsworth No. 9, Junction City No. 22, Zabud No. 4</i>)
Arch Master #4:	Gary A. Mason (<i>St. John No. 23, Wichita No. 12</i>)
Arch Master #5:	Michael K. Colbary (<i>Goodland No. 24, Jericho No. 26, Liberal No. 5</i>)
Arch Master At Large/Grand Lecturer:	Wayne H. Rollf, OSV (Leavenworth No. 1)
Arch Master At Large:	John T. Staton, OSV (Wichita No. 12)
Arch Master At Large/Grand Lecturer:	H. Wayne Rector, OSV (Leavenworth No. 1)
Arch Master At Large/Grand Lecturer:	Jamie L. Carwell (Washington No. 2)