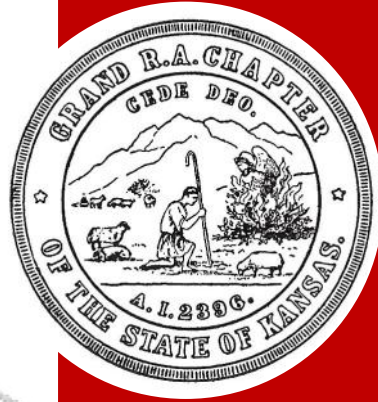


News of the Ark

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



From the Grand Royal Arch Captain

Companion L. Kent Needham, Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain

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



Greetings Companions.

Recently, while attending the Templar Feast in Emporia, I had the privilege hearing Most Excellent Steven G. Tiner, Past General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, share words of wisdom with those in attendance. What an amazing and inspirational human being. In a previous encounter, Most Excellent Tiner shared a collection of Masonic Speeches he put together with those in attendance. Today, I would like to share with you excerpts from one such speech entitled "Getting the Lead Out." Some portions

will be paraphrased, and others quotes. While attempting to distinguish between the two, these are his motivational thoughts to all of us.

We have all heard the term "get the lead out." While we don't know where it originated, we know that phrase suggests that we need to speed up, get rid of things that hinder us and get going. ME Tiner wrote "a few years ago, I became absolutely fascinated with the birth, life, and death of organizations. Organizations go through three stages. They start out as risk-takers. Then they become caretakers, and they wind up as undertakers." ME Tiner shares a story of a chapter in his state that is on fire. "They are so excited about Capitular masonry they don't hardly know what to do." He describes them as risk-takers. "Now every organization starts that way but then they tend to reach a certain point that they begin to settle down, they play it safe. They become caretakers rather than risk-takers. Unfortunately, there is only one step from being a caretaker chapter to being an undertaker chapter. When a chapter is alive, dynamic people will be attracted to it. John Stuart Mill once said, 'one person with a dream is equal to a force of 99 who have only an interest.' We need to dream of what can happen in our chapters and we need to be willing to work to make it happen."

ME Tiner suggests the following questions should be asked of our chapters: "are we doing the right thing? What ought we be doing that we are not doing now? How do we need to change to meet the challenge of the future?" He states, "if we don't dream, we'll never have visions. And if we don't have vision, we'll never grow and prosper." He next moves into a request to start setting goals. We just adopted a new strategic plan that has several goals for individual chapters to consider. Goals must be measurable and attainable. If you haven't, please review the strategic plan adopted at our annual communication last May. There is a lot of good information and potential guidance in that document for your consideration.

October, 2025

Patrick C. Carr,

Most Excellent
Grand High Priest

2025-2026

ME Tiner finishes his speech by asking every companion in his state to do the following:

- I. Fall in love with Royal Arch Masonry again. The chapter is so important and here is some of the most beautiful work in all of Freemasonry.
- II. Dream and implement ways your chapter can be on fire and be alive.
- III. Talk to every mason you meet about joining the York Rite.

I believe these are important items for us to contemplate and implement as well. Let's "get the lead out" and move our chapters forward with a clear vision of the future.

Respectfully and Fraternally,

L. Kent Needham

Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas, 2025-2026

Supporting Our Chapters in Kansas

I have heard the question from several Companions here in Kansas of "what can I do to help another Chapter grow?" This is not an easy question. Indeed, it is one which has no simple or quick answer or solution. One thing we can do is visit those Chapters who are struggling with opening, or with attendance at their stated communications. Call and offer to attend and to help them get through this rough patch in their membership's attendance. Speak with a Brother Master Mason in that region and ask if they are interested in learning more about their Blue Lodge experience by becoming a member of Capitular Masonry. Gather some of your fellow Companions and travel to a Chapter to be a part of their experience. There may not be easy answers, but there are ways we can assist our fellow Companions with their Chapters. Be willing to get out of your comfort zone and spend time with another Chapter. It is worth it!

October Grand High Priest's Schedule

October will be yet another busy month for our Grand High Priest. During the month of October he will be continuing to make his official visits to our Chapters in Kansas and meeting with other York Rite Masons from across the world. Most Excellent Companion Carr's October schedule can be found below:

Kingman Chapter No. 71	October 8, 2025	Kingman, Kansas
Winfield Chapter No. 31	October 9, 2025	Winfield, Kansas
Pittsburg Chapter No 58	October 14, 2025	Pittsburg, Kansas
Topeka Chapter No. 5	October 16, 2025	Topeka, Kansas
Grand Court of Athelstan in England	October 19-26, 2025	Leicester, England