

Tales of the Secret Vault

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



From the Illustrious Grand Marshal

Companion Justin Crippen, Illustrious Grand Marshal

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has asked the current Grand Council Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



Companions, as we are near the midway point for the masonic year here is Kansas as well as close to the end of the Calendar year. I want to talk to you today about Fraternal relief through charitable giving. I am blessed here in Kansas to be the State Chairman to the CMMRF or Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation.

The CMMRF is dedicated to funding innovative medical research into critical health issues such as heart disease, diabetes, and regenerative medicine.

By using Stem Cell research and technology, they can do amazing things. Visit their website (cmmrf.org) and see all the wonderful things they are doing! One of the new and exciting discoveries is the potential to grow new blood vessels around a dysfunctional blood vessel. WOW! There is so much more and it is available on their website. You, or someone you know, could benefit from their amazing research and treatments.

Do you or your councils give regularly to the CMMRF? You can set up recurring payments. Does your council have a spokesperson? Do you have some sort of way of collecting donations for this great cause? How are you getting the message out? There are district chairman who are trying to visit all our Councils to help raise awareness of this great cause. The chairman are Companions Juanito Ernacio, James Lyle and Kenneth Foster. You can reach out and request education on our charity and we can assist you with events and other needs to help you spread the word.

There is a new and beautiful jewel in Kansas for the CMMRF. The cost is \$120. Of that amount, \$20 goes to the cost of the jewel and the other \$100 goes to CMMRF in your name! Please visit kansasyorkrite.org to pay online or contact the Grand Recorder for more information. Place a donation jar out for your meetings and ask everyone to put what pocket change they can spare into the jar. Every one of us has been touched in some way by these diseases.

Lastly, none of us want to face this, but at some point in life, we will meet our maker. Do you have your favorite charities like the CMMRF in you will? Do you want to leave a memorial in your name? Please visit cmmrf.org and click the donate tab. There you can find the information you need to leave a memorial or add to your estate planning.

I leave you with this: be kind to each other, help one another out, love thy neighbor. All we have is each other. Follow the lessons we learn and spread them to the world with your trowel and defend it with your sword.

Justin D. Crippen

October, 2025

Gary B. Strout,
Most Illustrious
Grand Master

2025-2026

2025 South Central York Rite Meeting

The 2025 South Central Conference and meetings were held in League City, Texas, just south of Houston, on Friday and Saturday, September 19 & 20, 2025. This is an annual event and it brings Companions from the Chapter, Council, and Sir Knights together from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas, to discuss what each of their individual Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies are doing within their jurisdiction.

This year's annual conference included speakers from each jurisdiction bringing fresh and new ideas to those who attended. The General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council representatives, along with those from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA, spoke about their individual bodies and the opportunities each provides for leadership development and assistance to the constituent Grand York Rite bodies and local bodies.

Kansas was once again well represented. There were several members of the grand leadership in attendance and a group of our past grand presiding officers attending attended and took part in the conference. Everyone enjoyed the sessions, the meals, and especially the opportunity to share ideas and fellowship together. The 2026 session will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas and in 2027, Kansas will once again be hosting the conference.

This session is not just or state-level leadership, but for all who are members of the York Rite. We would invite you to attend in 2026 in Little Rock and see all these bodies have to offer. The fellowship alone is worth the time and money spent to attend the conference. You will come away refreshed and with a renewed purpose in leading your area of the York Rite of Freemasonry.



October Illustrious Grand Master's Schedule

In October our Most Illustrious Grand Master will be continuing his travels for Cryptic Masonry here in Kansas. Most Illustrious Companion Strout's October schedule can be found below:

AMD/Knight Masons Ingathering

October 11, 2025

Emporia, Kansas