

News of the Ark

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



From the Grand King

Right Excellent Companion Gary B. Strout, Grand King

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



The Burning Bush: A Symbol of Divine Revelation and Royal Arch Light

Among the many profound symbols that enrich the teachings of Royal Arch Masonry, few are as powerful as the Burning Bush. It is a symbol rooted deep in sacred history, yet ever relevant to the Royal Arch Mason who seeks light, understanding, and reverence for the Divine.

In the familiar account from the Book of Exodus, Moses encounters the Burning Bush on holy ground, a bush not consumed by fire. From this extraordinary vision comes divine revelation, instruction, and purpose. Moses is commanded to remove his shoes, for the ground upon which he stands is holy. This moment marks a turning point: a direct encounter between the human and the Divine, where reverence precedes understanding and obedience follows illumination.

For Royal Arch Masons, the Burning Bush speaks directly to our own journey. It reminds us that sacred knowledge is not seized, but received, and only when we approach with humility, preparation, and respect. The bush that burns without destruction symbolizes the eternal presence of Deity: unchanging, sustaining, and beyond human comprehension. It is a visible reminder that divine truth may reveal itself in unexpected ways, yet always calls us to pause, reflect, and listen.

It is especially fitting, then, that Moses, kneeling before the Burning Bush, is depicted in the official seal of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. This image is not decorative; it is declarative. It proclaims that our Grand Chapter stands upon principles of reverence, submission to divine will, and the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment. Moses's posture, kneeling, teaches us that true exaltation begins with humility.

As Royal Arch Masons, we labor not merely for knowledge, but for wisdom. The Burning Bush challenges us to recognize holy moments in our own lives and to respond to them with the same awe and obedience shown by Moses. It calls us to remove the "shoes" of pride, distraction, and complacency, and to stand symbolically and spiritually on sacred ground.

Gary

February, 2026

Patrick C. Carr,

Most Excellent
Grand High Priest

2025-2026

General Grand Chapter Triennial Session



2026 is the year set aside for the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International Triennial Session. This session will be held, as is their custom, jointly with the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. The sessions will be held in Washington, DC, and coincide with the 250th Anniversary of the birth of the United States as a sovereign nation.

All current Dais officers (Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe) will have votes at the meeting. Others who have votes are those who are permanent members of the General Grand Chapter. These are usually the Past Grand High Priests of each subordinate jurisdiction with membership in the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch masons International.

The meetings will start on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC. Many will be checking into the hotel on Saturday, August 29, 2026. The meeting of the General Grand Chapter will be held on Monday, August 31, 2026. The business includes the normal items pertinent to the General Grand Chapter along with the election of the officers (General Grand High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustees). Even if you do not have a vote, you are encouraged to attend and enjoy the fellowship and the several meetings.

For those attending the Grand Master's Trip to Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, and Pennsylvania, are encouraged to stay for a few extra days and attend the Triennial Sessions. More information, and registration, can be found at yrtriennial.org.

February Grand High Priest's Schedule

In February, the Grand High Priest is planning to meet with three of the Chapters in Kansas. He will be using the Zoom platform to host these meetings. While the MEGHP likes to meet face-to-face with the Companions of the Chapters in Kansas, it is more efficient for this month to use the online interactions.

Mt. Horeb Chapter No. 43 Official Visit	February 12, 2026 @ 6:00 PM	Hiawatha, Kansas
Pittsburg Chapter No. 58 Official Visit	February 19, 2026 @ 7:00 PM	Pittsburg, Kansas
Liberal Chapter No. 65 Official Visit	February 26, 2026 @ 6:00 PM	Liberal, Kansas