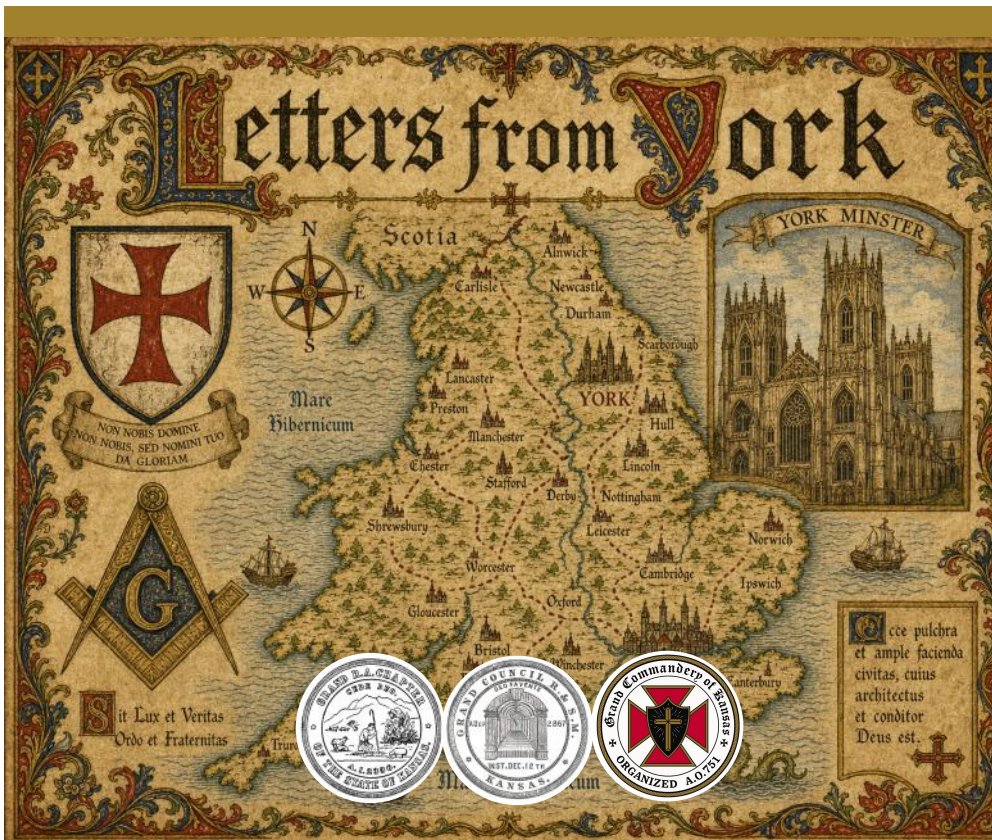


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A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

2026 Grand Chapter RAM Festival

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas hosted their first opportunity of the 2026-2027 Capitulular Year for Master Masons to join the York Rite of Freemasonry in Kansas. The event was held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, in Baldwin City at Palmyra Lodge No. 23. The event was hosted by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion Gary B. Strout, and allowed for any Master Mason who was



interested in joining a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons to petition and be approved by the Chapters of Kansas by email balloting or by a vote of the Chapter at the conferral.

The event started at 9:00 AM with the conferral of the Marked Master degree. It was followed by the Virtual Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and the Holy Royal Arch degree, the culmination of the Master Mason's Blue Lodge experience and education. There were five Master Masons in attendance who received the Capitular Degrees. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest addressed the Companions assembled and congratulated the new Companions on taking this step in their York Rite experience.

It was well attended by the Companions of the Holy Royal Arch in Kansas and many of the Grand Chapter Officers were involved in the conferrals. All were reminded of the next opportunity to receive the Cryptic Degrees at the Great Plains Rendezvous on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at Russell Lodge No. 177 in Russell, Kansas. More on the upcoming conferral of the Cryptic Degrees can be found in this issue.



The Grand East of the Sanctuary



The new Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas officers for 2026-2027 were installed on May 1, 2026, in Manhattan at the Bluemont Hotel.

This was an excellent Annual Convocation and there were many guests in attendance from different jurisdictions across the United States. Our own Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother David W. Hendricks attended and gave remarks from the East of the Sanctuary.

We would like to thank Most Excellent Companion Patrick C. Carr, now the Junior Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest of

Kansas, for his diligence and continued work on behalf of the capitular craft during his term of office. Between his leadership, and the leadership of the heads of the other two Grand York Rite bodies, the York Rite in Kansas has embarked upon a new path. This path includes the Securing Our Future plan which was put into place in 2025. We have a bright future ahead of us and are looking forward to all the members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons Kansas will accomplish as we move forward together.



Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: Gary B. Strout
 Grand King: Thomas M. Krauss
 Grand Scribe: Andrew G. Mosley
 Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan, PGHP
 Grand Secretary: Allan D. Jackson, PGHP
 Grand Chaplain: Anthony J. Pence
 Grand Capt. Of Host: L. Kent Needham
 Grand Prin. Sojourner: Wayne D. Drake
 Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Justin D. Crippen
 Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: Kelly J. Long
 Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Alfred J. Pearson
 Grand Mast. 1st Veil: James A. Lyle
 Grand Sentinel: Glenn O. Davis
 Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long
 Grand Musician: Dennis L. Reed
 Grand Orator/Lecturer: Delmus R. Morrow
 Unity Committee Rep: Justin D. Crippen
 Personal Rep: William P. Leonard

DDGHP Dist. #1: Kenneth E. Foster
 DDGHP Dist. #2: Juanito J. Ernacio
 DDGHP Dist. #3: Curtis A. Utley
 DDGHP Dist. #4: Gary A. Mason
 DDGHP Dist. #5: Michael K. Colbary

Watch your email each month for the publications from our Grand Bodies

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: Robert B. Haynes
 Deputy Grand Master: Wayne D. Drake
 Grand PCW: Patrick C. Carr
 Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan, PMIGM
 Grand Recorder: Allan D. Jackson, PMIGM
 Grand Chaplain: Roger L. Walls
 Grand Capt. Guard: Frederick R. Kemp
 Grand Cond. Council: Kelly J. Long
 Grand Marshal: Michael K. Colbary
 Grand Cust. Work: Edgardo Negron
 Grand Steward: Chad M. Thomas, Sr.
 Grand Sentinel: Alfred J. Pearson
 Asst. Grand Sentinel: Thomas M. Krauss
 Grand Organist: Dennis L. Reed
 Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long

Arch Master #1: Kenneth E. Foster
 Arch Master #2: Curtis A. Utley
 Arch Master #3 : Juanito J. Ernacio
 Arch Master #4: Gary A. Mason, PMIGM
 Arch Master #5: Michael K. Colbary
 Arch Master/Lect.: Wayne H. Rolf, PMIGM
 Arch Master/Lect.: H. Wayne Rector, PMIGM
 Arch Master/Lect.: Jamie L. Carwell
 Arch Master: John T. Staton, PMIGM

From the Ninth Arch



During the 159th Annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, held on May 1, 2026, in Manhattan, Kansas, the new Grand Council Officers were elected and installed. The new Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, Most Illustrious Companion Robert B. Haynes, was installed and appointed his new officers for the ensuing Cryptic year. The Most Illustrious Grand Master gave a wonderful allocution about his expectations for the next year for the Grand Council in Kansas and he reminded the Companions in attendance about the upcoming events for Cryptic Masons of Kansas.

These events included the Great Plains Rendezvous and the Cryptic Deposit Inspection. The Rendezvous will be held on June 27, 2026, in Russell, Kansas will be hosting the Rendezvous at the lodge hall in Russell. The Super Excellent Master degree will be conferred by the Cryptic Masons of Kansas. This will be the first time the Super Excellent Master degree will have been conferred within the state of Kansas in the last three years.

The Cryptic Deposit Inspection will occur between Friday, July 31 and Sunday, August 2. The event will once again be held in Colorado at Pike's Peak, where the original Cryptic Deposit was made in 1899. It will start with a jurisdiction-wide dinner on Friday at Edelweiss German Restaurant. Saturday the Companions in attendance will ascend the mountain to the peak using the Pike's Peak Cog Rail Train. Once the inspection is done, and any needed repairs are completed, the group will descend the mountain and have the afternoon free to visit several of the local attractions. There will be a dinner together on Saturday evening and everyone will meet again Sunday morning for breakfast before leaving for Kansas.



Templar Knights of Kansas

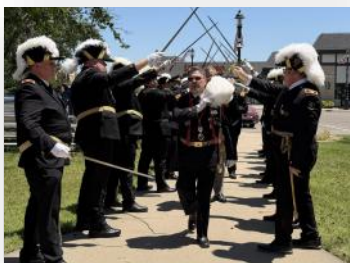


The new Templar year commenced on Saturday, May 2, 2026, after the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas was declared to be at refreshment. The 158th Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Kansas was held and the meeting was well organized and commenced without any difficulties. The only piece of legislation brought before the Conclave was to pay for a Lifetime Membership in the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. The legislation included paying for those within the jurisdiction who were not life members and changing the knighting fee for new Sir Knights in Kansas to cover for the fee.

The new Grand Commandery Officers were installed by Sir Knight Robert Loflin, Past Department Commander for the South Central Department and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas. He was assisted by Sir Knight Wayne H. Rollf, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Kansas, as the Installing Marshal, Sir Knight H. Wayne Rector, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Kansas, as the Assistant Installing Marshal, Sir Knight Bill Leonard, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of Kansas, as the installing Prelate, and Sir Knight Lawrence Tucker, Secretary for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA and Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of Texas. The installing team performed their parts well and the new officers were swiftly installed into their respective offices.



Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr was elected and installed as Right Eminent Grand Commander. His appointment to the progressive Grand Commandery line was Sir Knight Juanito J. Ernacio, Past Commander of Junction City Commandery No. 43 and a member of Askelon Commandery No. 6. The Right Eminent Grand Commander gave an allocution and spoke about his desires for Templary in Kansas for the next year. He presented his officers and installing team with special gifts and unveiled his pin and coin.



The Grand Commandery of Kansas attended the annual Memorial Day Observance in Junction City at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Right Eminent Grand Commander was asked by the committee organizing the event to be the guest speaker. The event started at Union Lodge No. 7 with coffee and donuts, and followed by a luncheon before the Sir Knights assembled and marched to the park which was approximately two blocks away. It was a sight

to behold with the 26 Sir Knights forming up into two lines outside of the Lodge Hall and marching, in formation, to the park for the service. Caledonia Lodge No. 459 participated with bagpipes with the Eminent Grand Piper as they followed the procession. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dave Hendricks, and the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, were introduced by Sir Knight T. Michael Fegan, Right Eminent Past Department Commander for the South Central Department of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA. Sir Knight Carr spoke about the importance of



remembering each of those who have fallen in the defense of our nation and encouraged those present to take up their cross each day as they continue to defend our nation and our religion. It was another Kansas event where those who attended were impressed by the ceremonies of the day.

Grand Commandery Officers

- Grand Comm: Patrick C. Carr, *KCT, CTC*
- Dep. Grand Cmr.: Justin D. Crippen, *KCT*
- Grand Generalissimo: Delmus R. Morrow
- Grand Capt. Gen.: Andrew G. Mosley, *CTC*
- Grand Sr. Warden: Warren L. Hughes
- Grand Jr. Warden: Kelly J. Long, *KCT*
- Grand Prelate: Gary B. Strout, *CTC*
- Assoc. Grand Prelate: Philip J. Rowe
- Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan, *KCT, PREGC*
- Grand Recorder: Allan D. Jackson, *KTCH, HPREGC*
- Grand Std. Bearer: Juanito J. Ernacio
- Grand Sword Bearer: Anthony J. Pence
- Grand Warder: Thomas M. Krauss, *KTCH*
- Grand Sentinel: Mark W. Stephenson
- Asst. Grand Sentinel: William E. Koonce
- Grand Musician: Dennis L. Reed
- Grand Piper: Caleb J. Long
- Grand Guard: Michael K. Colbary
- Grand Guard: Glenn O. Davis
- Grand Guard: Daniel E. Owens

Aide-de-Camps:

- Aide-de-camp: Wayne Rollf, *KCT, PREGC*
- Aide-de-camp: H. Wayne Rollf, *KCT, PREGC*
- Aide-de-camp: Wayne D. Drake, *KCT, PREGC*

Inspectors:

- Inspector #1: Mark W. Stephenson
- Inspector #2: Curtis A. Utley
- Inspector #3: Michael K. Colbary
- Inspector #4: Glenn O. Davis
- Inspector #5: Daniel E. Owens

Templar Honor Guard:

- Justin D. Crippen, *KCT*, Captain
- Patrick C. Carr, *KCT, CTC*, Co-Captain
- Gary A. Mason, *KCT, PREGC*
- Andrew G. Mosley, *CTC*
- Kelly J. Long, *KCT*
- L. Kent Needham, *KCT, PREGC*
- Wayne D. Drake, *KCT, PREGC*
- Brook Benningfield

2026 Grand York Rite Honors/Recognitions



The awards for the 2025-2026 Grand York Rite were presented after the banquet on Friday, May 1, 2026. Right Excellent Companion Justin D. Crippen served as the emcee.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze to Excellent Companion Robert Beardsley, who was unable to attend. The MEGHP, Patrick C. Carr, received his Past Grand High Priest pin and patent and was admitted as a permanent voting member of the General Grand Chapter.

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons presented the Cryptic Mason of the Year award to Illustrious Companion Juanito Ernacio, and the Tomlinson Ritualist Award was presented to MIPGM Wayne H. Rolf. The MIGM, Gary B. Strout, was presented his Past Most Illustrious Grand Master pin and patent and was made a permanent voting member of the General Grand Council.

The Grand Commandery awarded the Knight Templar Cross of Honor to Sir Knight Kenneth E. Foster. The Knight Commander of the Temple honor was presented to Sir Knights James Burnes, Patrick Carr, Fred Kemp, Kelly Long and Gary Mason. Lady Adriane Carr was presented with the Knight Companion of the Temple. Sir Knight Fred Kemp, Right Eminent Grand Commander, was presented with his Past Right Eminent Grand Commander jewel, pin, patent, and was made a permanent voting member of the Grand Encampment.

It was a great night and a wonderful opportunity to honor those who work diligently within the quarries of the three Grand York Rite bodies within the jurisdiction of Kansas.

Congratulations to all who received honors and awards at the event!

Great Plains Rendezvous

Russell, Kansas will be the place for the 2026 Great Plains Rendezvous for this year. The morning will start on Saturday, June 27, at approximately 8:30 AM with registration and coffee and donuts. Afterwards, at approximately 9:00 AM, there will be a greeting by the three Most Illustrious Grand Masters from the member states. The three Most Illustrious Grand Masters who are expected to be in attendance are Most Illustrious Robert B. Haynes, MIGM of Kansas, Most Illustrious Clinton Keithline, the MIGM of Colorado, and Most Illustrious Timothy D. Forbis, the MIGM for the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Wyoming.

The degrees will commence with the Cryptic Masons of Wyoming conferring the Royal Master degree upon the candidates in attendance from the three states. Next on the agenda will be the Companions of the Grand

Council of Royal and Select Masters of Colorado, who will confer the Select Master degree. It is fascinating to witness the differences between the degrees as they are envisioned by the different states. Many of the Grand Councils use elements of their Grand Lodge's rituals and customs and those have formed the different manner in which each of the Cryptic Degrees are conferred.

After a lunch provided by the Companions of Jericho Council No. 26, which meets in Russell, Kansas at the Lodge Hall of Russell Lodge No. 177, the degree team from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will confer the Super Excellent Master degree. This will be the opportunity for those Companions who have not yet seen the beauty and pageantry of the degree to receive the degree in full form. The first section of the degree is performed as a pageant and the ladies will be able to attend and witness this portion of the degree. Afterwards, only Master Masons who have taken the Select Master may attend.

Please register on the Grand York Rite website for the 2026 Great Plains Rendezvous. It is a time of excellent fellowship, light, and degree work. All candidates and members of the Cryptic Rite are invited to be in attendance.



2026 Knight Templar Feast

This year the Knight Templar Feast, hosted by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas, will return to the McPherson Community Building at 6:00 PM on Saturday, August 15. This event has become an annual tradition for the Sir Knights of Kansas and other nearby jurisdictions to attend and enjoy the fellowship and guest speakers who travel to Kansas to speak to the Sir Knights and their guests.

The guest speaker for the 2026 Knight Templar Feast will be Right Worshipful Brother Moises Gomez, Past Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. Brother and Sir Knight Gomez will present a program on the events of September 11, 2001, and the aftermath of the terrorist attack on New York



City. Sir Knight Gomez, and his wife, both worked for the Port Authority and were in the area when the attacks occurred and participated in the aftermath. His program is moving and emotional.

The evening will feature our guest speaker, a presentation of several awards, a catered meal, and the requisite toasts for the evening. All Master Masons are invited to attend and to bring their ladies and friends. The dress for the evening will be Class A uniform for Sir Knights, uncovered (no cap or chapeau) and unarmed (no sword). Sword belts are optional. Dress for others is requested as dark suit and tie.

More information and registration can be found on the Grand York Rite website at www.kansasyorkrite.org.

Grand York Rite Sessions 2026

The annual meetings of the three Grand York Rite bodies of Kansas was held in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bluemont Hotel from April 30, 2026 through May 2, 2026. The event was well attended by both delegates from Kansas and other visitors from other jurisdictions. The first day of the event included the conferral of the Order of the High Priesthood, Order of the Silver Trowel, and the Association of Past Commander's of Kansas. These three bodies each met and conferred their degrees upon eligible sitting and past Excellent High Priests, Illustrious Masters,



and Eminent Commanders. Afterwards, Kansas College No. 125 of the Sovereign York Rite College of North America met and received visitors from other Colleges. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Associate Regents met to elect one member to receive the Order

of the Purple Cross at the YRSCNA's Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa later this summer. Ashmole Court No. 17 of the Masonic Order of Athelstan in the USA met, received visiting dignitaries, and voted on the instruction of new members into the Order. The final events of the day included a meeting of the Kansas Association of Past Grand Presiding Officers, which inducted several new members, a meal, and the annual necrology service, which was well presented by Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights Kelly Long, Caleb Long, and Roger Walls (REPGC).



On Friday morning, May 1, a public opening was held for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. The Grand Officers were individually introduced as they processed into the Grand Chapter room before the entrance of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, who assumed the east and seated everyone in attendance. Visiting dignitaries from other jurisdictions, and the heads of the York Rite bodies in Kansas who predicate their membership upon the Holy Royal Arch, were received and introduced. After the public session was completed, the Grand Chapter opened and completed their business. Right Excellent Companion Gary B. Strout was installed afterwards as the Most Excellent Grand High Priest alongside his officers.



After lunch, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas held their public opening and introduced visiting guests and dignitaries, before entering into their meeting. After the conclusion of the meeting, Right Illustrious Companion Robert B. Haynes was installed as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. The new officers were installed after the installation of the MIGM as well.

An excellent dinner was served by the caterer which the Grand York Rite bodies have been utilizing for several years. After dinner was completed, the annual honors and awards ceremonies were held, and the event was presided over by Companion and Sir Knight Justin D. Crippen. More information about the awards and honors can be found in this publication. Upon the close of the ceremonies, the First Grand and Glorious Chapter of the Stonecutters held an initiation meeting and raised \$450 to be distributed among the three Grand York Rite charities. This was not a masonic meeting, but is a "side experience" which was enjoyed by all.

On Saturday the Knight York Cross of Honor held their annual breakfast meeting to elect candidates before the public session of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas was held. The visiting dignitaries were received after the inspection of the Grand Commandery. The Grand Commandery of Kansas was reconvened and the VEDGC, Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, was elected as the Right Eminent Grand Commander for 2026-2027. The Grand Commandery was called to refreshment and the installation of the REGC and his officers was performed by Sir Knight Robert Loflin of Texas, who is a Past South Central Department Commander for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA.



Visit kansasyorkrite.org for more info.



Kansas York Rite Past Presiding Officer Organizations



There are four different Past Presiding Officer Associations in Kansas for the York Rite. The Order of the High Priesthood, Order of the Silver Trowel, Kansas Association of Past Commanders, and the Kansas Past Grand Presiding Officer Association. Each of these has their own qualifications and each met at the Grand York Rite sessions on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

The Order of the High Priesthood met and inducted 7 new members into the Order, before electing and installing their new officers for the next year.

The Order of the Silver Trowel met and conferred their beautiful and moving degree upon 7 new members. Afterwards, the new officers were elected and installed.

The Kansas Association of Past Commanders met for their annual meeting. During the meeting, 7 new Sir Knights, all Eminent Commanders in good standing, were instructed into the Association in a beautiful and moving ceremony of purpose. The new officers were elected and appointed for the Association and installed afterwards.

The last of the four bodies, the Kansas Association of Past Grand Presiding Officers, is a smaller body. Only those who have presided over the Kansas Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Council, or Grand Commandery have been inducted into their membership. Others who qualify for membership include the sitting Right Excellent King, Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master, and Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, because they will assume office during the session. This year RIDGM Robert Haynes, MWPGM Dale Morrow, and MWGM David Hendricks were invited and initiated into the Order. The REGK and VEDGC were already past presiding officers.

Securing Our Future: An Update

Securing Our Future has successfully been implemented and has survived its initial year of implementation. This strategic plan, devised by MIPGM L. Kent Needham, was introduced at the 2025-2026 Grand York Rite session by then Right Excellent Grand King, Patrick C. Carr. The delegates of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons accepted the proposal and the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar approved the program afterwards to be used within their bodies.

The program centers around three different pathways to success: Membership Growth and Retention, Ritual Proficiency, and Exceptional Communication. The results from the first year of its use demonstrated the need to increase the aptitude of the members of within each of the pathways to success.

Membership Growth and Retention has been an issue for all Masonic bodies within the last 50 years. In Kansas, the 2025-2026 year realized a loss of only 9 members overall. There were 22 deaths this last year and that attributed to the majority of the losses. This means the retention of membership is getting better. This can be attributed to better

communication, ritual, and masonic experience overall within the York Rite.

The second pathway, ritual proficiency, has started to take hold and realize some growth. Each York Rite constituent body has been encouraged to use the supplied ritual to open their bodies. More of the Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies within Kansas are becoming more concerned with the ritual they have provided in the past to their members and are working to increase their ritual proficiency. Hosting the 2025 Chapter and Council and the Grand Commandery Schools of Instruction is one way in which the Grand York Rite has provided assistance.

Exceptional Communication is something the Grand York Rite bodies have done quite well. Within the last year, each month the Grand Presiding Officer for each of the three bodies wrote a short letter to their members. This was accompanied by a newsletter for each body. This publication is produced quarterly and assists with providing an exceptional communication model for the Grand York Rite in Kansas. Other programs are being developed to assist our jurisdiction and will be revealed soon.

Templar Outdoor Knighting Ceremony Coming

The Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, would like to invite the Sir Knights of Kansas, and those who have taken the Cryptic Degrees, to attend the first Templar Outdoor Knighting Ceremony. This event will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2026, at the Masonic Oak Tree Park in Little River. The event will start at 2:00 PM with the conferral of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross followed by the Order of Malta.

There will be a break for dinner, which will include smoked turkey legs, potato wedges, corn on the cob, individual loaves of bread, and hand pies for dessert. This feast of sorts will be reminiscent of a type of meal the Templar would have partaken of while in service to the Order. This means no tableware (although forks will be provided for those who are less adventurous).

The culmination of the event will be an outdoor conferral of the Magnanimous Order of the Temple, which will be held under the

dark skies while they are displaying their stars and planets above the outdoor sanctuary.

The dress for the event will be a bit different than a normal conferral of the Order of the Temple. Those who will be participating in the conferral will be invited to wear appropriate costumes. This includes some form of period knight's garb or dress. Several of the members possess Renaissance Festival costumes, while others will choose to wear a form of the Scottish Rite knights robes. No matter the dress for each Sir Knight, it will be an impressive conferral of the Order.

The price for the meal will be \$25.00 and a commemorative ceramic coin has been prepared for the event for all who are in attendance. More information, and registration, will be posted soon on the Grand York Rite of Kansas website. Be sure to register and attend. This will be an event you will remember for a long, long time.

Grand Presiding Officer Visits Have Started

The 2026 year of service has officially begun and the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Most Excellent Companion Gary B. Strout, has started to make his official visits to the Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in Kansas.

The Grand High Priest's first official visit was made on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, to Leavenworth Chapter No. 2, the Grand High Priest's home chapter. The meeting was well attended by the several Companions of Leavenworth Chapter.

Most Excellent Companion Gary B. Strout addressed the Companions present at his official visit. He spoke with them about the plans for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas for the Capitular Years 2026-2027 and also asked them how the Grand Chapter, and its officers, could assist Leavenworth Chapter. The Grand Chapter officers are prepared to assist constituent Chapters in Kansas with their ritual, working with Securing Our Future, or any other issues which may happen within any of the Chapters.

During the meeting, Right Excellent Companion William P. "Bill" Leonard was called before the Grand High Priest for a special presentation. During the installation of the Grand Officers for the 2026-2027 Capitular Term, Right Excellent Companion Leonard was not presented with his apron or jewel of office. Those items were on order, and the Most Excellent Grand High Priest was awaiting their arrival. It had only been a few days since the close of the Grand Chapter, but the items arrived! The Most Excellent Grand High Priest presented Right Excellent Companion Leonard with his apron and collar which signify him as the Right Excellent Personal Representative of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest. Congratulations to Right Excellent Companion Leonard on his preferment in Grand Chapter, and on receiving his apron and jewel!



The Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Kansas, Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, held his first official visit on Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Lodge Hall of Russell Lodge No. 177 in Russell, Kansas. This is where Aleppo Commandery No. 31 holds their meetings and Sir Knight Carr made the decision to visit Aleppo Commandery No. 31 first for the Templar Year 2026-2027.

The Right Eminent Grand Commander was accompanied by Sir Knight Kelly J. Long, Eminent Grand Junior Warden, Sir Knight Juanito J. Ernacio, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, and Sir Knight James A. Lyle, Generalissimo of Askelon Commandery No. 6.

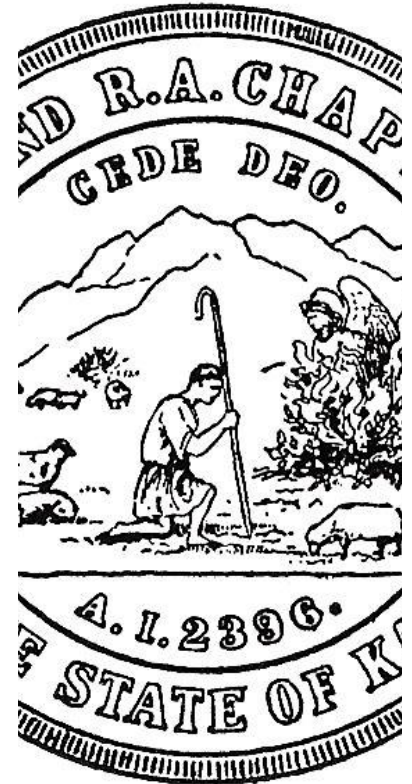
Sir Knight Thomas M. Krauss, Eminent Grand Warden, is the current Secretary of Aleppo Commandery No. 31, and he, along with the



Sir Knights of the Commandery, have worked long and hard to reignite this Commandery. They opened and received the Right Eminent Grand Commander and his staff under an arch of steel, and requested Sir Knight Carr to inspect their Commandery before they completed their business. After business was completed, Sir Knight Carr spoke to the Sir Knights about the plans to assist them with learning the ritual and in growing their Order in Russell and the surrounding area.



Sir Knight Carr, with the Grand Officers, held a short school to explain the words, signs, and some of the sword tactics to the Commandery so assist them in moving forward. The Commandery did a great job, and the Right Eminent Grand Commander would like to recognize them for their diligent work in the ritual during their preparations.



Masonic Order of St. Patrick Conferral

The York Rite of Freemasonry

The York Rite, or more correctly, the American Rite, is based on the early remnants of Craft Masonry that were practiced in the early 1700's. The formation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717 specified that the lodges were to confer only the first three degrees of Craft Masonry.

Three bodies were later formed in the United States to work the degrees no longer controlled by the lodges and includes the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Council of Cryptic Masons, and the Commandery of Knights Templar. These bodies are technically autonomous Masonic entities, only the requirement of membership in the Royal Arch connects the Cryptic degrees and the Chivalric Orders together.

The Masonic Order of St. Patrick, an appendant body to the Allied Masonic Degrees, will meet on Saturday, July 18, 2026, at the Lodge Hall of Union Lodge No. 7 in Junction City Kansas. The Order has only been conferred a few times in Kansas, and this will be an important first organized meeting of the Order under a charter.

The Order was reorganized and set to labor with a new Grand Commander, Sir Knight Paul Weldon Johnston, Knight Grand Cross, and on December 1, 2025, Downpatrick Lodge was chartered in Kansas. This was intended to bring the Order back under some semblance of governance with a new Grand Commander in place in England.

The Charter for Downpatrick Lodge has been received and the officers have been appointed by the Knight Commander of the Lodge, Sir Knight Patrick Clay Carr. The other officers have agreed to serve and have been installed into their respective offices. The conferral will be held at approximately 1:00 PM and all who are members of the Red Branch of Erie in the Allied Masonic Degrees, or have taken the degrees of Knight Masonry, are invited to attend and receive the Order at the meeting and conferral. Downpatrick Lodge meets annually at the Knight Masons Ingathering for the purpose of conferring the Order and installing the officers.

The cost to join the Order is \$20.00 and there are no annual dues for membership in the Lodge. Members will receive their patent, pin, and an electronic version of the ritual. Members may purchase a collarette with the jewel of the Order for \$50.00. Jewels will be ordered and shipped after the conferral has been completed.



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