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My Fellow Companions of the Holy Royal Arch,

The current capitular year has gotten off to a quick start. The first of the three Grand Master's Classes in honor of Most Worshipful Brother Derik L. Hockett, Grand Master of Masons of Kansas, was held in an abandoned quarry between Alta Vista and Council Grove and there were 11 Brother Master Masons who took the two degrees. There were 10 of the Brothers who decided they wanted to complete their degrees in Newton on June 21, 2025. The second GM Class was held in Russell and there was a total of 4 who took the degrees and desire to continue their Masonic education through their York Rite journey.

It is amazing what can be accomplished when we are all on the same page and moving in the desired direction. One ant may be strong, but an entire colony of ants is much, much stronger. A single ant can lift and carry 10-50 times their own body weight. Despite their single strength, an ant works better when they are within their colony. The colony is a collection of ants who live together, work together, and cooperate for their own survival. Ant colonies can be as small as a few dozen ants and become as large as a colony containing millions of ants. Their cooperation works so well because they each have a variety of tasks to perform, yet they all continue to work together for the greater good of their colony. They work together and rely on one another for success.

The Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in Kansas are a lot like an ant colony. We need each other for strength, support, and success. Working together for a common goal, or idea, can lead our Chapters forward as we rely on each other. How can we use this today? Offer something more than the standard meeting of opening and closing. Work with your District Deputy Grand High Priest to offer education. Find something you can do at your meetings which will inspire Companions to attend and want to take part. Then take a few moments to call a Companion who you have not seen at your Chapter meeting. Tell him what your Chapter is doing and Invite him back to attend. We need to work together to give our Companions a reason to attend our meetings. No one person has all the right ideas. By working together, we can develop new ideas and set a new standard of success among our Chapters here in Kansas. Let us not only bring in new Companions but retain those who no longer attend.

Be blessed, Companions.

Patrick C. Carr
Most Excellent Grand High Priest, 2025-2026
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas