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Companions,

We have completed another month of September in our York Rite Cryptic year. The month started off with the last day of the York Rite Triennial, in Washington D.C. on September 1st. As was previously reported, the meeting was well attended by Kansas delegates and proved to be an enjoyable experience. We took this opportunity to obligate R.:I.: Patrick Carr in the office of Deputy Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. We should, also, again congratulate Patrick on being elected as the General Grand Scribe of Royal Arch Masons International. As usual we will be expecting a lot from R.:I.: Patrick in the upcoming years and I am confident he will deliver.

On September 14th R.:I.: Juanito Ernacio and I made a visit to Jericho Council #26 in Russell where we were well received and overwhelmed by their hospitality. I.: Brother Tom Krauss, Grand Asst. Sentinel served a fantastic meal of mountain oysters. Maybe, next time the Great Plains Rendezvous comes to Kansas we should have them on the menu. The Council was opened in due form with business being conducted. I was allowed to make a few remarks at closing and Jericho Council is doing well.

The South-Central Conference was held in Little Rock, Arkansas this year on September 18th and 19th. There were 142 brothers in attendance and Kansas was well represented with ten of those members. Our M.:E.: Grand High Priest could not be in attendance, but our R.:E.: Grand Scribe, Andrew Mosley did a fantastic job of filling in with his presentation. As the M.:I.: Grand Master I represented the Grand Cryptic Masons of Kansas. S.K. Patrick Car, the R.:E.: Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Kansas was there in support of Knights Templar. Congratulations to our M.:I.: Grand Recorder, Allan Jackson who received the Mordhurst Award from Grand Council for 10 years of service as Grand Recorder in Kansas York Rite Masonry. Let's hope we can get ten more years out of him. Maybe, if he receives another award he will stay. In all seriousness, Allan is well deserved of this award and we are fortunate to have him and his expertise. The next South-Central Conference will be here in the State of Kansas, and through the hard work of Justin Crippen and Allan Jackson it will be a success.

Lastly, we have just returned from our annual Pikes Peaks time capsule inspection. Chad Thomas, I.: Grand Steward, John Staton, PMIGM and I were in attendance. I might also mention my wife Lisa and John's wife Ruth Ann attended as well. Chad, Lisa and I made the ascent up Pikes Peak and on arrival Chad and I made the treacherous trek out to the capsule. My wife Lisa stayed on the platform and photographed our progress in case of our demise. Repairs were made to the capsule and we made it back to the platform safely where Chad and I sucked down on a can of oxygen to be able to regain normal breathing. After returning to lower elevation, we made the journey over to Canon City to ride the Royal Gorge train. The train ride in the mountains under the Royal Gorge was gorgeous. I wish I would have had more time to plan this trip so more brothers would have been able to travel. Those that didn't make it this year really missed out on a fabulous trip. The weather was perfect, the meal at Edelweiss was terrific and the train ride helped to cap off a fantastic weekend. I know most everyone has traveled up to the Pikes Peak time

capsule, but if we can keep incorporating different events along with the visit this will always be a fun outing. If you haven't been able to travel to Pikes Peak, please put it on your Calander and try to make it at least once. The trip is worth the experience and the view is breathtaking.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne D. Drake". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Wayne D. Drake

Most Illustrious Grand Master, 2026-2027

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas