



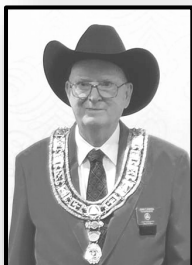
Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Spring 2025

John T. Staton, MEGHP 2024-2025



From the Grand High Priest

Greetings to all of the Royal Arch Masons of Kansas!

I am getting near the end of my term as Grand High Priest of Kansas. I appreciate this honor and am grateful to all my officers and others who have supported the journey this year. The Grand Session will be on May 1-3, 2025 at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. The Chapter and Council Sessions will be on Friday, May 2, starting with open introductions. Right Excellent Grand King Patrick Carr will be installed as Most Excellent Grand High Priest after the Chapter session.

Royal Arch Masons have been busy this year with both local and state level meetings.

On September 20, 2024, many of the Kansas Grand Chapter officers attended the Southcentral York Rite Conference. The Grand Chapter of Louisiana had created a RARA (Royal Arch Research Assistance) medal for a fund raiser. RARA supports advocacy for individuals with autism and research into this condition, and also supports research into Central Auditory Processing Disorder, a condition that prevents an individual from understanding what he or she hears, even though his physical hearing is normal. Several of the attendees from Kansas expressed an interest in creating a RARA medal for Kansas. I appointed a committee to look into this, and an RARA medal was designed and manufactured for Kansas. It is now available for \$120.00. I extend a big thank you to Patrick Carr, Thomas Krauss and Daron Woelk for this work.

On November 23, 2024, a meeting was held in Baldwin City to discuss a combined Strategic Plan for all three bodies of Kansas York Rite. The Right Excellent Grand King Patrick Carr represented the Royal Arch at this meeting. A preliminary plan was crafted. At the same meeting all committees were evaluated for relevance. I'm sure we will be hearing more about this at the Grand York Rite session.

Also on November 23, 2024, there was a regional awards banquet in Colby, Kansas which I attended for the Western Kansas York Rite in Liberal, Goodland, and Hays. We enthusiastically support Excellent Thomas Krauss, Excellent Eric Berquist, Excellent Tyler Hook and all in western Kansas working to revive these York Rite bodies.

Chapter Degree work was held in Newton, Kansas. The Mark Master and the Past Master degrees were conferred on January 17 with two candidates. The Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees were conferred on January 24 with four candidates. Two Candidates were for



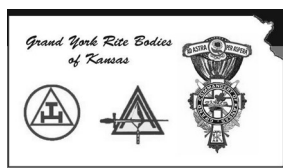
Wichita Chapter No. 33 and two were for Junction City Chapter No. 17. This is the first time in several years that Wichita Chapter 33 has done degrees in house. There were several Companions doing parts that had not done them before. Good job to all those participating!

I wish all of the Royal Arch Masons of Kansas well and hope to see you at Grand Session in Manhattan, Kansas.

Fraternally,

Companion John T. Staton
M.:E.: Grand High Priest of Kansas 2024-2025

2025 Grand York Rite Session Tentative Schedule



The session will start on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 8:00 AM with a meeting of Kansas College No. 125 of the York Rite College, and Ashmole Court No. 181 of the Masonic Order of Athelstan will meet at 9:00 AM.

The conferral of the Order of the High Priesthood will start at 10:00 AM. Lunch will be served at noon which will be followed by the conferral of the Order of the Silver Trowel at 1:00 PM. At 3:00 PM, the Kansas Association of Past Commanders will induct new members into the Association. The Past Grand Presiding Officers Association will have their annual meeting at 5:00 PM and will be followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. At 7:00 PM, all will gather to commemorate the lives of those who have passed to the celestial lodge above at the necrology service.

On Friday, May 2, registration starts at 7:30 AM and the 159th Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons will have a public session at 8:00 AM which will be followed by the tiled session at 9:00 AM. Installation for the 2025-2026 Grand Chapter Officers will be held at 11:00 AM with lunch to follow at 12:30 PM.

The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will start the 158th Grand Assembly with a public session at 1:30 PM which will be followed by the tiled session at 2:30 PM. Installation for the 2025-2026 Grand Council Officers will be held at 4:30 PM. The Perpetual Life Committee will have their annual meeting at 6:00 PM, and the annual awards banquet will follow at 6:30 PM.

Saturday, May 3, will be the last day of activities for the 2025 Grand York Rite sessions and will start with a breakfast for the Past Grand Commander's wives at 6:30 AM. The Knights of the York Cross of Honor will have its annual meeting to elect worthy candidates at their 6:30 AM breakfast meeting. Registration will open at 7:30 AM and the Grand

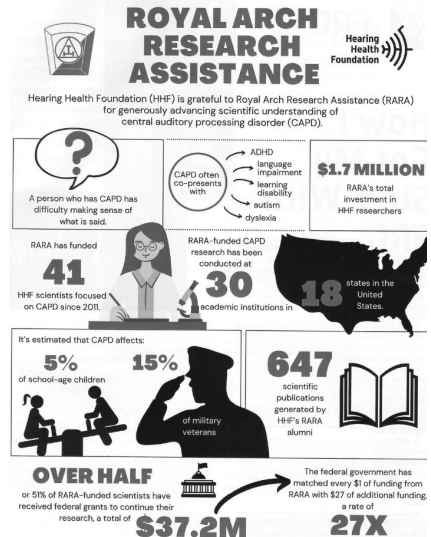


Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas will reconvene its 157th Grand Conclave at 8:00 AM with a public opening session and the tiled meeting will start at 9:00 AM. Installation of the 2025-2026 Grand Commandery Officers will be held at 11:00 AM.

To register, or for more information, visit www.kansasyorkrite.org.

RARA Update

Royal Arch Research Assistance is an important part of research into not only Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD), but how it effects people with autism. Understanding how auditory processing differences impact individuals on the spectrum is crucial for developing targeted interventions and supports that can affect them daily. These studies represent a significant step forward in our mission to improve quality of life for autistic people by fostering greater understanding and innovation in treatment approaches. The chart below, from Hearing Health Magazine, will help explain more about the funding RARA has provided through generous donations from its members and partners. Please consider being a partner in this work by donating to RARA at <https://givetorara.org>.



Junction City Chapter Confers MEM Degree

Junction City Chapter No. 17 had two candidates who had previously received Mark Master and Past Master degrees. The Companions at Junction City worked diligently to confer the Most Excellent Master degree on those two candidates to get them ready to receive the Holy Royal Arch Degree at Wichita Chapter No. 33. Junction City Chapter No. 17 conferred the degree on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.



Congratulations to the new members of Junction City Chapter and to the Chapter for conferring their own degrees. Well done!



Wichita Chapter Confers Capitular Degrees

Wichita Chapter No. 33 has been working on their own degree conferrals for the last year. The members of the chapter understand how important it is to have their own candidates receive their capitular degrees within their own chapter room. With a firm understanding of what they desired to accomplish, the members of Wichita Chapter moved forward on their own conferrals. The first conferral was held on Friday, 17, 2025, at the lodge hall in Newton. The members conferred the Marked Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master degree. It was a long night but they had several candidates receive the degrees. Junction City Chapter No. 17 had a few candidates of their own and they were in attendance to receive their degrees as well.



On Friday, January 24, 2025, the companions returned to their chapter room and conferred the Holy Royal Arch degree on their candidates and on the candidates who were in waiting from Junction City Chapter No. 17.

Thank you to these two chapters for making the time, and taking the diligent effort, to confer their

degree work in their own chapters. It takes much planning, effort, and work to perform their own degree work, and the members of Wichita Chapter No. 33 performed the work well. Congratulations to the newest Royal Arch Masons in Kansas from both Chapters!

2025-2026 Grand Officer Training

The 2025 Grand Officers for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas, with the Grand Officers for the Grand Chapter of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas, will take part in a training course on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Emporia Lodge.

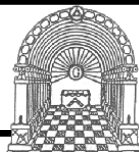
This course is a unified meeting between the three Grand York Rite bodies to assist its officers in serving the membership. The training will include information on the three York Rite charities, constituent body official visits by their regional DDGHP, Arch Master, and Inspector, and is designed to assist the officers in understanding their roles in the three grand bodies.

Throughout the training, there will be question and answer sessions to assist the new officers in moving the three bodies forward and assisting the membership in their own chapter, council, or commandery development. It takes all of us to work together to advance the goals and aims of our York Rite bodies. The 2025 Grand Officers will be ready to assist and provide help where needed.



Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Spring 2025

L. Kent Needham., MIGM 2024-2025



From the Illustrious Grand Master

Greetings Companions. As the current Cryptic year winds down and my term as Most Illustrious Grand Master comes to an end, it is appropriate to share updates on our two major goals for the year. As mentioned previously, a meeting was held in November, which included the elected officers of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery, to review the committee structure in all three bodies. We were looking to eliminate obsolete committees as well as create efficiencies within the committees that were necessary to be retained. It was a great meeting and much was accomplished. The results of the group's deliberations will be made available at the Annual Communication in May through a series of by-law proposals. Those have been sent to your recorder for your review before the session.

In addition, we finalized our proposal for the Strategic Plan and it will be presented for approval at the Annual Communication. While I anticipate the Strategic Plan will have been sent to your Recorder for review, I have included it on the last page of this insert. If approved, this should be a working document that would be modified as we move forward as a Grand York Rite Body. I am very excited about the accomplishments of the Grand Council this year. While our goals will not be considered accomplished until the by-law proposals and the Strategic Plan are approved, these proposals represent thoughtful changes in our committee structure and a plan to secure the future of York Rite Masonry in Kansas. Again, I would encourage all officers of the local York Rite Bodies to consider attending the 2025 Kansas Grand York Rite Annual Communication. All are welcome, but the elected officers will benefit greatly from the experience. It will be held in Manhattan, Kansas the first few days in May. There will be more to come on this subject, but please mark your calendar and consider attending.

It has been an honor to serve you as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Kansas. Thank you for your confidence in me and for your support throughout the year. Also, thank you to both the Grand Council Officers and Committees for their willingness to serve in their respective roles. We have worked diligently to secure the future of the Kansas Grand York Rite. We will see you down the road.

Respectfully,

Kent Needham
M.:I.: Grand Master 2024-2025

Send submissions to Editor Patrick C. Carr, PIM — carrs@cox.net



CMMRF News

Cryptic Masons Medical Research is one of the greatest charities within the craft. But just what does CMMRF provide research



CMMRF

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

and treatment on? CMMRF funds research into several different vascular medical issues and diseases. These include research and the development of treatments and/or cures for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms, Arthritis, Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Failure, Pancreatitis, Peripheral Arterial Disease, and Strokes. Each of these are serious medical conditions which can lead to poor quality of life and even death.

Your donations do make a difference! Please consider giving to CMMRF or adding them to your financial estate planning. No amount is too small. Your donation can be a part of making life better for anyone with these types of medical conditions. Visit www.cmmrf.org for more information or to give to our fantastic Council charity!

158th Annual Grand Council Assembly

The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will start the 158th Grand Assembly with a public session at 1:30 PM which will be followed by the tiled session at 2:30 PM. Installation for the 2025-2026 Grand Council Officers will be held at 4:30 PM and the annual awards banquet will follow at 6:30 PM. For more information, visit www.kansasyorkrite.org.

Council Degree Conferrals

The beautiful degrees of Cryptic Masonry were conferred on six awaiting companions from Wichita Council No. 12, Junction City Council No. 22, and Iola Council No. 8.

Wichita Council hosted Junction City Council and Iola Council as they joined together in Newton, Kansas on February 28 to confer the Cryptic degrees. These three councils worked diligently to learn the work and conferred the Royal Master degree and the Select Master degree on those in waiting to receive the degrees.



Several of these candidates had previously received their Capitular degrees just a month earlier. These Councils should be commended for their diligent work and preparation to provide the Cryptic degrees to their candidates. Thank you for another job well done by the members of these great Kansas Councils.



Order of the Silver Trowel

The Order of the Silver Trowel will host its annual conferral on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas in conjunction with the Grand York Rite sessions.



Please have your nominations for your candidates sent to MI Companion Wayne Rollf before the date of the conferral. Remember the Order is open to all Past Illustrious Masters. This includes those who are currently serving as Illustrious Masters of their constituent Councils.

This is a beautiful, and moving degree, and is an honor for those who are Illustrious Masters to witness.

The cast does an excellent job of the conferral. All Past Illustrious Masters are invited to attend and to witness the degree again. It provides the opportunity to witness the beauty and magnificence of the degree and to refresh you as you continue your work in the Ninth Arch.

Securing Our Future: Kansas Grand York Rite Strategic Plan

The Mission of the Grand York Rite of Kansas:

To encourage and support the York Rite of Freemasonry in Kansas by assisting its members and local bodies to achieve success in developing their abilities to contribute to the York Rite and the communities they serve.

The Vision of the Grand York Rite of Kansas:

To create and encourage a quality experience for the membership of the York Rite of Kansas.

Three Pathways to Success:

- **Membership (Growth and Retention)**
- **Ritual Proficiency**
- **Exceptional Communication**



Membership Growth and Retention:

- Focus on a quality experience in each constituent body
- Create a membership retention and recruitment program
- Develop mentorship program
- Set standards for each constituent body (DDGM/Inspectors Book)
- Provide new member packets and patents from Grand Recorder's Office
- Create a 10-year award for membership
- Provide certificates to bodies who have the largest number of new members each year
- Enhance focus on philanthropic efforts (KTEF, CMMRF, and RARA)

Ritual Proficiency:

- Create standards for ritual and encourage openings for constituent bodies
- Create proficiency awards for each body
- Encourage study clubs within each body
- Utilize the ritual proficiency programs of the General Grand bodies
- Conduct ritual schools for each constituent body annually

Exceptional Communication:

- Quarterly publication for Chapter and Council in the General Grand Magazines
- Monthly Grand Commandery/Chapter/Council digital insert (website)
- Utilize Website for communication/registration/publications
- Continue quarterly Letters from York digital magazine (website and email link)
- Use Constant Contact for regular communications from Grand Body Heads and Recorder
- Communicate from Grand Recorder on monthly basis to all constituent recorders
- Monthly communication from each Grand Head to the membership (short message)