

Tales of the Secret Vault

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



From the R. Ill. Dep. Grand Master

Right Illustrious Companion Wayne D. Drake, Deputy Grand Master

The Most Illustrious Grand Master has asked his officers to write the monthly articles for this newsletter.



Companions, I would like to thank everyone for their confidence in electing me to be your Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master. I will do everything in my power to not only make this a successful year for Most Illustrious Robert; but prepare to have a successful year as well.

Grand Session, the first of May is now behind us and another new year lies ahead for many opportunities. We have a lot scheduled for the new year and each of us will have to make a decision as to what we can and will attend. The high points for the month of June: is the Great Plains Rendezvous in Russell, KS on Saturday the 27th, following the next day on the 28th, we will have the KYCH annual communication in Baldwin City. These are two great events that I hope you will try to attend, even though it might prove a little tough, one being after the other in different locations. Also, I would like to remind everyone of the 73rd York Rite Triennial in Washington, D.C. on August 29th through September 2nd. I know it can be a little expensive; but if you are able to see your way through, it will be a rewarding experience. As you know, it's our 250th anniversary of the founding of our country, and to be in the Capitol at this time along with the Triennial will be exhilarating.

Companions, we have been doing a great job of receiving new members into our ranks and we don't want to take our foot off the gas. Although, we also don't want to forget that getting new members is only half the battle. We need to do all we can to keep these new Companions engaged and actively learning about the craft they just joined. We need to make sure they are aware of the events we are having and invite them. It's also important to provide them guidance and instruction at regular meetings so they don't feel left out. They joined to receive more light in Masonry. So, let's make sure they get it. We can always use new cast members for our degree work.

Lastly, take care of yourself and your families. Be kind, patient, and understanding. It's a difficult world we live in and now more than ever we need to be the guiding light. God Bless.

Wayne D. Drake

June, 2026

Robert B. Haynes,

Most Illustrious
Grand Master

2026-2027

2026 Great Plains Rendezvous



For the year 2026, the 30th Anniversary of the Great Plains Rendezvous, the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons will host this annual event.

The Rendezvous provides Cryptic Masons from Colorado, Kansas, and Wyoming an opportunity to see how each of the jurisdictions confer the three degrees contained within Cryptic Masonry, namely those of the Royal Master, the Select Master, and the Super Excellent Master degrees.

Registration will commence at 8:30 Am at the Lodge Hall of Russell Lodge No. 177 in Russell, Kansas. After a time for

fellowship, and coffee and donuts, the event will be underway.

The morning will start with greetings from the three sitting Most Illustrious Grand Masters from each of the three jurisdictions. The order of the degree conferrals for the 30th Anniversary will include the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado using their ritual to confer the Royal Master degree. After a short break, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Wyoming will confer their ritualistic version of the Select Master degree. Lunch will be served and will consist of Prime Rib with all the usual sides, plus a dessert. After lunch, the degree team from the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will convene the beautiful pageant known as the Super Excellent Master Degree. The ladies in attendance may remain and witness this first part of the degree exemplification. After the ladies are dismissed, the second portion of the degree will be conferred.

If you, or your members, have not taken the Super Excellent Master degree, this will be your only opportunity within Kansas for the next three years. We will host the event again in 2029 and that will be the next scheduled opportunity for you to witness and receive the degree.

Registration can be found at the Grand York Rite of Kansas website at www.kansasyorkrite.org. Payment for the event is included on the website as well.