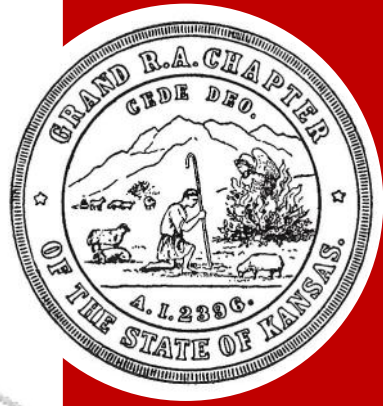


# News of the Ark

A Monthly Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



## From the Grand High Priest

Most Excellent Companion Patrick C. Carr, Grand High Priest

*The Most Excellent Grand High Priest has asked the current Grand Chapter Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.*



Companions, this will be my last communication using this newsletter as your Most Excellent Grand High Priest. Thank you for the honor you have bestowed upon me by electing me to serve as your Grand High Priest during the 2025-2026 Capitular year. It is something which I did not expect when I first moved to Kansas, but I am happy to have served you during this year.

My hope is that during the past year, our Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons has helped you to fulfill your expectations as a Royal Arch Masons in Kansas. With the new communications developed under the *Securing Our Future* plan, effective communication was identified as a major action item. With this monthly newsletter, the monthly letter from the Grand High Priest, and the quarterly *Royal Arch Mason* magazine insert, and the *Letters from York* e-magazine, it was intended for the level of communication to be increased to each of you.

The special events we participated in during this last year have provided more engagement for each of our members. I believe by beginning the year with the outdoor Quarry Conferral for the Grand Master's Class, we had energy and interest at a high level, and it continued throughout the rest of the Capitular year. Other events continued throughout the year as well.

I continue to be proud of each of our Chapters in Kansas. You have worked tirelessly to not only recruit new members to your Chapter, but to offer a quality masonic experience to help and retain the members you have. After examining the numbers from the 2026 Annual Reports, I can tell you, with confidence, your efforts are starting to be seen in Royal Arch Masonry. We are bringing more members into our portion of the Craft, and fewer are leaving us.

I would like to pledge my support to our new Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Companion Gary B. Strout, our current Grand King. He will be installed as Most Excellent Grand High Priest on Friday, May 1, 2026, at the Grand Convocation which will be held in Manhattan at the Bluemont Hotel. Please be in attendance to see him installed, and to attend the Grand Convocation earlier in the day where we will execute the business of your Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas.

Thank you again for electing me to serve you as your Grand High Priest, I hope we have accomplished the things you were hoping to see done here in Kansas. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you as we all work together for Royal Arch Masonry and for our beautiful York Rite.

*Patrick C. Carr*

April, 2026

Patrick C. Carr,  
Most Excellent  
Grand High Priest

2025-2026

# 2026 Grand York Rite Session Schedule



The session will start on Thursday, August 31, 2026, at 8:00 AM with the conferral of the Order of the High Priesthood which will be followed by at 10:00 AM by the conferral of the Order of the Silver Trowel. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM and after lunch, at 1:00 PM, the Kansas Association of Past Commanders will induct new members into the Association. The meeting of Kansas College No. 125 of the York Rite College will be held at 3:00 PM and Ashmole Court No. 17 of the Masonic Order of Athelstan will meet at 4:00 PM. 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 1, registration starts at 7:30 AM and the 160th 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 2026-2027 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 host their 159th 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 2026-2027 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 7:00 PM.

Saturday, May 2, will be the final day of activities for the 2026 Grand York Rite sessions and will start with a breakfast for the Past Grand Commander's wives at 6:30 AM and 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 158th Grand Conclave at 8:00 AM with a public opening session and the tiled meeting will start at 9:00 AM. Installation of the 2026-2027 Grand Commandery Officers will be held at 11:00 AM.

All members are invited to attend. Dais officers of the constituent Chapter, Council, and Commandery are highly encouraged to attend and vote on the business held at the sessions.

To register, or for more information, visit [www.kansasyorkrite.org](http://www.kansasyorkrite.org).

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## April Grand High Priest's Schedule

In April, the Grand High Priest is planning to meet with one of the Chapters in Kansas by using the Zoom platform. Our MEGHP likes to meet face-to-face with the Companions, but sometimes video conferencing is the best medium for our needs. He will appear in person at the other events to represent our Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas.

Liberal Chapter No. 65 Official Visit	TBA @ 6:00 PM	Liberal, Kansas
Grand York Rite Officer Orientation	April 4, 2026	McPherson, Kansas
Past Master/MEM Degrees	April 7, 2026	Overland Park, Kansas
Kansas Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter	April 20, 2025	Topeka, Kansas
Grand York Rite of Oklahoma	April 24-25, 2026	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma