

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

2022 Grand Sessions Completed

The 2022 Grand York Rite Sessions were held May 4-7, 2022, at the Topeka City Center Hotel in Topeka, Kansas. There was a lot of York Rite Masons in attendance and a lot of fun and fellowship



was had by all who attended. The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International was represented by ME Dick Browning, District Deputy General Grand High Priest. The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International was represented by MI Bill Snyder, Deputy General Grand Master and MI John Logan, District Deputy General Grand Illustrious Master. The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA was represented by RE Robert Loflin, Department Commander and RE Jim Magee, the ME Grand Master's Personal Representative.

At the session, the honorary bodies of the Order of Anointed Kings, Order of the Silver Trowel, and the Past Commanders Association met and conferred their degrees upon the several worthy candidates who had served their York Rite Bodies as High Priest, Illustrious Master, or Commander.

The Joint York Rite Banquet was held on Friday night and several awards were presented. Awards were presented to the Past Presiding Officers of each body, and Companion and Sir Knight Wayne Drake, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, was awarded the prestigious Knight Commander of the Temple.

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Michael D. Johnson II spoke at the banquet and appointed Right Worshipful Brother Kelly J. Long as the Grand Lodge Piper.

During the sessions, elections, appointments, and installations were held for each of the Grand York Rite Bodies. Information on those new officers, can be found inside this magazine.



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News of the Ark



On Saturday, May 7, 2022, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas held their annual Grand Communication. ME Wayne Rolff was installed as the new Grand High Priest of Kansas for

the ensuing term. ME Companion Wayne announced his appointed officers after the election and all were installed at the session. There is a lot of work which will be happening in Royal Arch Masonry in the ensuing year.

During the session, the Order of Anointed Kings was held and conferred on worthy Past High Priests of their local Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.



Grand Chapter Officers

Grand High Priest: Wayne Rolff
Grand King: Michael Terry
Grand Scribe: John Staton
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Secretary: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Kelly Long
Grand Capt. Of Host: Roger Walls
Grand Prin. Sojourner: Gary Strout
Grand Royal Arch Capt.: Patrick Carr
Grand Mast. 3rd Veil: Gary Mason
Grand Mast. 2nd Veil: Wayne Drake
Grand Mast. 1st Veil: Warren Hughes
Grand Sentinel: Frederick Kemp
Asst. Grand Sentinel: James Burns

DDGHP Dist. #1: Jamie Carwell
DDGHP Dist. #2: Warren Hughes
DDGHP Dist. #3: Wayne Drake
DDGHP Dist. #4: Ronald Mzingo
DDGHP Dist. #5: Patrick Carr

The York Rite is the completion of the Blue Lodge Degrees. This is done by the conferral of the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

Grand Council Officers

Grand Master: John Staton
Deputy Grand Master: Gary Mason
Grand PCW: Kent Needham
Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
Grand Chaplain: Joseph Withrow
Grand Capt. Guard: Gary Strout
Grand Cond. Council: Robert Haynes
Grand Marshal: Robert Beardsley
Grand Cust. Work: James York
Grand Steward: Ronald Phipps
Grand Sentinel: James Burns, III



From the Ninth Arch

On Thursday, May 5, 2022, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas held their Annual Communication. At the communication, Most Illustrious Companion John Staton was installed as the new Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Kansas.

After election, MI Companion Staton announced his new officers and all officers were installed into their respective offices for the ensuing masonic year.

Most Illustrious

Companion Bill Snyder attended and brought greetings from the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. He reminded those in attendance how important the degrees of the Cryptic Rite are to Masonry.

Be sure to keep an eye out for the Cryptic Masons and the degrees of the Grand Council. These truly are some of the most important historic degrees for the York Rite as they bridge the gap between the Master Mason degree timeline and the York Rite.

During the session the Order of the Silver Trowel was conferred upon Companions who were eligible and had served as Illustrious Master of their local Council.





The Chivalric Orders



The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas held their Annual Communication in Topeka, Kansas on Friday, May 6, 2022. The Grand Commandery was opened and the attending dignitaries were received and recognized. After business was conducted, the Grand Commandery installed its new Right Eminent Grand Commander, Sir Knight Robert McClarty. The Right Eminent Grand Commander announced his appointments, the election was held, and the

electd and appointed officers were installed.

After installation, Right Eminent Sir Knight McClarty announced the formation of an Honor Guard for the Grand Commandery of Kansas. The members were announced, charged with their duties, and received the Honor Guard Cords appropriate to their rank within the Honor Guard. If you would like to have the Knight Templar Honor Guard present the colors at your event, please contact the Grand Recorder at the office of the Grand York Rite of Kansas.



Another event at the session included the installation of investiture into the Past Commanders Association for Sir Knights who served as Eminent Commander of their local Commandery of Knights Templar.

Grand Commandery Officers

Grand Comm: Robert McClarty
 Dept. Grand Comm.: Dennis Taylor
 Grand General.: William Leonard
 Grand Capt. Gen.: Gary Mason
 Grand Sr. Warden: Frederick Kemp
 Grand Jr. Warden: Justin Crippen
 Grand Prelate: Roger Walls
 Grand Treasurer: T. Michael Fegan
 Grand Recorder: Allan Jackson
 Grand Std. Bearer: Patrick Carr
 Grand Sword Bearer: Gary Strout
 Grand Warder: Ivan DeTevis
 Grand Sentinel: Warren Hughes
 Grand Guard: Thomas Krauss
 Grand Guard: Delmus Morrow
 Grand Guard: Douglas Wettlaufer

Aide-de-camp: Kent Needham
 Aide-de-camp: T. Michael Fegan
 Aide-de-camp: Wayne Rolff

Honor Guard Members:

Commander: Justin Crippen
 Commander: Patrick C. Carr
 Member: Fred Kemp
 Member: Michael Smith, REPGC
 Member: Kent Needham, REPGC
 Member: Robert Haynes
 Member: Gary Mason
 Member: Bill Koonce
 Member: Doug Wettlaufer

Member Spotlight



William "Bill" Koonce

How long have you been a Master Mason? 8 Years

How long have you been a York Rite Mason? 1 year

What York Rite are you a member? Newton, Kansas

Why did you join the York Rite? I wanted to be a member of the Knights Templar because of its history.

What do you like most about the York Rite? Furthering my education in masonic history plus I enjoy the semi-regiment of the drill and ceremonies.



Gary Strout

How long have you been a Master Mason? 24 years

How long have you been a York Rite Mason? 24 years

What York Rite are you a member? Leavenworth, Kansas

Why did you join the York Rite? The York Rite is grounded in the Blue Lodge and compliments those three beautiful degrees.

What do you like most about the York Rite? In Kansas it is a brotherhood within a brotherhood. The teachings enhance your spiritual life.

Knight Masons in Kansas

The Chapter of Knight Masons are an invitational body for York Rite Masons who are members of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The Knight Masons confer three degrees, sometimes referred to as the Irish or Green Degrees, within their Chapter. These are impressive degrees which tell an Old Testament story. The lessons learned in the Knight Masons degrees are an excellent building block for a member of the Holy Royal Arch to continue their journey of masonic education.

Kansas currently has two Chapters of Knight Masons. Kansas Chapter No. 53 meets in Wichita and Drogheda Chapter No. 68 meets in Shawnee. Each meets four times per year to elect candidates and perform the degrees.

The two Chapters regularly visit each other to assist and to observe the performance of the Green Degrees.



Knight Masons visiting together

Kansas Chapter traveled to Shawnee to visit and meet with Drogheda Chapter on March 5, 2022, and enjoyed an excellent conferral on new members. Congratulations to the new members of both Knight Masons Chapters.

The Allied Masonic Degrees

The Allied Masonic Degrees are an invitational organization, and requires membership in the Royal Arch as well as the Symbolic Lodge. Membership is limited to 27 members per council. Kansas currently has three Councils of the Allied Masonic Degrees. They are Loch Lomond No. 235, Sunflower No. 383, and Blarney Stone No. 360. Each Council meets quarterly to confer some of the older degrees which are no longer being held or conferred by other masonic bodies.

The Allied Masonic Degrees confer the Royal Ark Mariner, Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, Saint Lawrence the Martyr, Grand Tilers of King Solomon, Knight of Constantinople, Master of Tyre, Excellent Master, Architect, Grand Architect, and Order of the Secret Monitor.

These degrees are beautiful and preserve a history of masonry which is sometimes forgotten due to time and loss of a body to hold and confer the degrees.

Grand Lodge Update

The 166th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas was held in Topeka, Kansas on March 18 & 19, 2022. It was an exciting time of fellowship and education. There was an education presentation by the Kansas Lodge of Research given by Companion and Sir Knight Alex Powers. Other presentations were held throughout the session and the new Grand Lodge Officers were elected and installed. There were quite a few members of the Grand York Rite and its subordinate bodies in attendance. The new Grand Lodge officers are:

Grand Master—Michael Johnson, II

Deputy Grand Master—Robert D. McClarty

Grand Senior Warden—Doug Wilkinson

Grand Junior Warden—Derik L. Hockett

Grand Senior Deacon—David Hendricks



Congratulations to the newly installed officers. The Craft in Kansas continues to be in good hands and we all look forward to the ensuing year.

York Rite College

The York Rite Sovereign College of North America has one College in Kansas, that being Kansas College No. 125 which meets in Newton, Kansas. The York Rite Sovereign College of North America exists primarily to be of service to the York Rite of Freemasonry. Constituent colleges must declare fealty to the Grand Lodge of their respective jurisdictions. The pre-requisite for membership, which is by invitation only, is to be in good standing in all four York Rite bodies: Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery.

Kansas College No. 125 met on February 19, 2022, at the lodge hall in Newton to confer the degree. A wonderful lunch was provided by the Jobs Daughters of Newton before the conferral commenced. The degree conferral was both impressive and beautiful and was done by the sitting officers for the College. After the completion of the degree, the College elected and installed their officers for the ensuing masonic year.



Masonry is work and it is that work which makes both the Mason, and all he interacts with, better for having been together.

HRAKTP? What does that even mean?

Masons are used to seeing “alphabet soup” when they hear about the various masonic bodies in the United States. There are ROOS (Royal Order of Scotland), RCC (Red Cross of Constantine), YRSCNA (York Rite Sovereign College of North America), and many more too numerous to mention here. There is one which seems to have such a long string of letters as to confuse those who are not familiar with it and its history. That is the HRAKTP (Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests).

The HRAKTP, sometimes referred to as Knight Templar Priests or KTP for short, is an honorary and invitational only body. Its membership cannot be applied for. Members are selected and extended invitations based on their exemplary service while serving as a Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar.

The Order has its roots in England and started in 1786. There are some references from as far back as 1686, which has been listed as the traditional year of revival of the Order. This Priestly Order was conferred in the High Knights Templar in Ireland in 1755. There

have been records purporting the Order to have been conferred in the United States in the 1800s, however there is not a certain manuscript proving that.

The HRAKTP selects the number of Tabernacles in each state based on the number of Commanderies located in that state. Each constituent Tabernacle is limited to only 33 members each.

There are currently three Tabernacles operating with the Grand Jurisdiction of Kansas. These are All Saints Tabernacle LVI in Kansas City, King David Tabernacle LX, in Salina, and River Jordan Tabernacle XXXVIII in Wichita.



York Rite Spotlight

This issue spotlights the York Rite Bodies of Kansas City, Kansas. The bodies held there are Wyandotte Chapter No. 6, Wyandotte Council No. 6, and Ivanhoe Commandery # 21.

They meet at the Old Mission Masonic Center at 5201 West 75th, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

The bodies meet at 7:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. The 1st Tuesday is Commandery, 3rd Tuesday of the odd months is the Chapter, and the Council meets on the even months.

The Chapter was established in 1866, the Council in 1908, and the Commandery in 1883.

The Kansas City bodies are unique because they have a member who is a Past Grand Master of Masons in Kansas, Past Grand High Priest, and a Past Illustrious Grand Master. The member is our esteemed Brother and Companion, Jimmie Grassi, Sr. This is quite a unique honor for any York Rite Body to have in their midst.

The Knight York Cross of Honor

The Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour (KYCH), was formed in Monroe, North Carolina on March 13, 1930. Membership in the KYCH cannot be applied for. Candidates must have served as the Master of a Symbolic Blue Lodge, High Priest of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Illustrious Master of a Council of Royal and Select Masters, and a Commander over a Commandery of Knights Templar. Potential members are proposed to the order at a stated communication of the KYCH. Candidates must not only have served their constituent bodies, but they must have served with distinction to be recommended and considered for membership. Serving as the presiding officer alone is not enough for membership.

Kansas has one Priory of the Knights York Cross of Honor, that being Kansas Priory No. 33 which holds its meetings in Topeka.

The Kansas Priory meets twice per year. The first meeting is to consider and elect qualified candidates for the Order. The second meeting is to confer the Order upon those who have been elected to receive the honor.



2021-2022 KYCH Officers

Red Cross of Constantine

The Red Cross of Constantine is officially referred to as the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist. Membership in the Red Cross is by invitation only for those who are members of a Royal Arch Chapter and are of the Christian faith, as revealed in the Old Testament of the Bible. The bodies are known as Conclaves. Membership in each state is based on the number of Royal Arch Masons in good standing within each state.

Kansas has five Conclaves. They are St. Augustine in Topeka, St. Justin in Kansas City, St. David in Salina, Calvary in Wichita, and Crispus in Pittsburg. These Conclaves meet at different times in their respective meeting places to elect members, confer the orders, and have discussions centered around masonic education as it relates to the Red Cross of Constantine.

Rosicruciana

The Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (SRICF) is a masonic body which has a special place in research and Christian study. While the SRICF is sometimes referred to as a York Rite appendant body, it is technically not. Membership in the SRICF is held by Master Masons who have made a statement of Christian faith.

Kansas has one College and it meets in Shawnee quarterly. The body has a total of nine grades, and cannot be applied for. Membership is granted by invitation only. The first seven grades are conferred by each College. The eighth and ninth grades are conferred by the national body at its annual meeting.

A College of Rosicrucians meets to discuss concepts related to the Christian faith and esoteric concepts related to the mysteries of the Christian religion. It is predominantly a research body and publishes an annual journal of research done by its members throughout the preceding year.

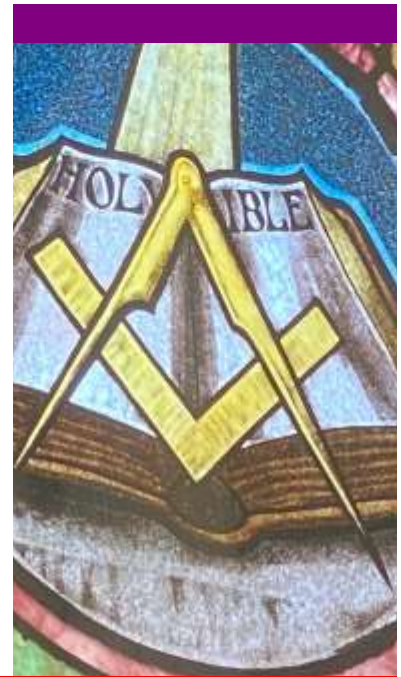
Interested in Joining the York Rite?

This first issue of the quarterly York Rite magazine has been sent to all Master Masons within the Grand Jurisdiction of Kansas. If you are interested in learning more about the York Rite of Freemasonry, or are interested in membership within the three bodies of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Council of Royal and Select Masters, or the Commandery of Knights Templar, there are several ways to learn more about membership.

Interested members can visit the Grand York Rite of Kansas website at <https://kansasyorkrite.org> or by sending an email to grand.sec.rec@ksyorkrite.net. The Grand Secretary/Recorder will send your information to the closest York Rite Bodies in your area of Kansas.

Like all Masonry, there must be a petition, an investigation, and an election before you can receive the several degrees and orders of the York Rite. The York Rite is a journey through seven degrees and three orders composed within the three bodies of York Rite Masonry. Each brings its own light to the candidate who is searching for even more light in their masonic experience.

Join us! You will enjoy the experience and finally be able to complete your Blue Lodge experience. Confused? Ask us how that can happen for you, as it has happened for countless York Rite Masons who have come before you.



For more information, visit <https://kansasyorkrite.org>

Who were the Knights of Malta?

Submitted by Companion Patrick C. Carr

The Order of the Knights of Malta took control of the island in 1530 and continued to rule and govern the island until 1798. The Knights of Malta continued to improve the living conditions for the people living on the island of Malta. They provided a merchant-based trade commerce for the island and erected hospitals to treat the sick and infirm. In 1676 a school of anatomy and surgery was founded. The Knights of Malta established Jesuits College on the island in 1592 and later became the University of Malta. The Knights of Malta built strong fortifications to protect the island and its inhabitants from ocean-borne invaders. The Knights of Malta eventually lost control of the island in 1798 when Napoleon Bonaparte's army conquered the island and removed the Knights of Malta. This was an incredible defeat for the Knights of Malta. They had survived being besieged for many months by the Ottoman invaders during the Great Siege of 1565, yet the French army easily removed them from power. This was due to the Knights of Malta underestimating the strength and resolve of the French army. They made no preparations for the force of power the French army possessed, and the island of Malta became controlled by the French.

During the first few days of the French occupation, several changes were put into place by the new French government. Slavery was abolished and all Turkish slaves were ordered to be freed from their bondage. Napoleon created an education system which provided for primary and secondary education among the inhabitants of the island nation. Napoleon ordered a more scientific-based university to replace the university which was already in place on the island of Malta. This new civil code was enacted to make the nation more prosperous and to educate its people in the way the French educated their own people.

Once Napoleon had been removed from power, the British took control and management of the island. They ruled Malta for over 160 years. During their time Malta was bombed repeatedly by the German army during World War II, however they were unable to conquer and invade the island. The German government wanted to control Malta because of its significance to commerce in the ocean and because it held a strategic position between the two warring nations. The island was granted its sovereignty in 1964 and continues to rule and govern itself, people, and affairs as a sovereign nation.



The York Rite of Freemasonry

The York Rite, or more correctly, the American Rite, is based on the early remnants of Craft Masonry that were practiced in the early 1700's. The formation of the first Grand Lodge of England in 1717 specified that the lodges were to confer only the first three degrees of Craft Masonry.

Three bodies were later formed to work the degrees no longer controlled by the lodges. The Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. All three bodies are technically autonomous Masonic entities, only the requirement of membership in the Royal Arch connecting the Cryptic degrees and Chivalric Orders together.

Knight Templar Feast

Join us for the first ever Kansas Templar Feast! We will be gathering for a meal and much more 650 feet underground at the Strataca salt mine in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Date: July 23, 2022

Time: 5:30PM (begin decent) – 9:00 PM
(everyone above ground)

Location: Strataca Underground Salt Museum,
3650 East Avenue G, Hutchinson, KS 67501

Cost: \$45 per person – Pre-Registration Required
(visit kansasyorkrite.org for reservation form)

Included: Travel 650' underground, tour of the Museum and dark ride, 2 meat buffet, toasting cannon, toasting beverages, Templar Presentation, and cash bar before and after the Feast with Social Time for all to enjoy!

Attire: Formal - Templar Class A (No Sword or Chapeau), Tuxedo or Dark Suit

Who: Knights & Ladies



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