

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

Conferrals Completed and More Planned!

What a fulfilling and exciting time it has been for York Rite Masonry in Kansas! Our local constituent Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies have been busy conferring their own degrees and orders within the last year. That is something we have rarely seen in Kansas and it is a welcome sight for sore eyes.

The statewide conferrals for the Chapter, Council, and Commandery from our Grand Bodies will be held in 2023. Be sure to keep abreast of these events as you read through the Grand Chapter and Council inserts in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International insert each quarter. For the Grand Commandery festival, keep an eye out on the insert into the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA magazine. It is only available online at this point, as printing such an insert became cost prohibitive. You can visit the Grand Encampment website, or download the digital app to keep apprised of the information contained in that insert.



There will be an upcoming Commandery Festival to confer the Orders of Christian Knighthood still to come in 2022. Watch the Grand York Rite of Kansas website for more information on these events.

I hope you enjoy this second issue of the magazine. If there are things you would like to see included, please do not hesitate to contact the editor with your ideas. This magazine can be made better but only with your input. Please send pictures of what YOUR York Rite bodies are doing for the next issue of this magazine. It would be greatly appreciated.

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News of the Ark



On Friday, July 8, 2022 and Saturday, July 9, 2022, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas travelled to Liberal, Kansas to assist in rejuvenating and reviving the Liberal York Rite Bodies. There had been



interest from the Brothers located in Liberal to add new members

to their York Rite Bodies and to get their Chapter working again. It was a complete success, and nine new York Rite Masons received the Chapter degrees, culminating in receiving the Holy Royal Arch Degree.

Congratulations to Liberal!!

On Saturday, August 27, 2022, the Grand Chapter again travelled to another area to assist the Brethren of that location to revitalize their York Rite Bodies. The Brethren of Goodland, Kansas, wanted to add new members and eleven new members of the Holy Royal Arch received the degree. Congratulations to the Companions in Goodland!



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 Mazingo
DDGHP Dist. #5: Patrick C. Carr

*Be sure to share this magazine with a Brother Mason.
They may have an interest in becoming a York Rite Mason
and you can plant that seed!*

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

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Kansas have been busy travelling throughout the state and assisting the local subordinate Councils in conferring the degrees of Cryptic Masonry on worthy Capitular Companions.



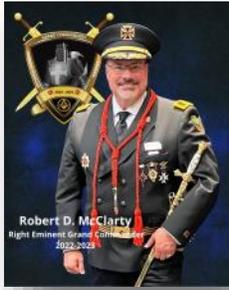
On Saturday, July 9, 2022, members of the Grand Council were present in Liberal, Kansas and assisted in making new Select Masters for that York Rite Body.



On Saturday, August 27, 2022, the Grand Council was again on the move. They arrived in Goodland, Kansas, and assisted that Council to make new Select Masters for their Council.

Congratulations to Liberal and Goodland on the success of your local festivals! We look forward to travelling and meeting with you all again in the near future!

The Chivalric Orders



What an incredible last few months the Grand Commandery of Kansas has witnessed.! On Saturday, July 9, 2022, members of the Grand Commandery travelled to Liberal, Kansas, and knighted nine new Sir Knights. This took quite a lot of effort but, in the end, it was all worth it to see new Christian Knights in Liberal.

On Saturday, November 19, 2022, there will be a knighting for the members of the Goodland York Rite Bodies, as well as for anyone else who is still needing the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. This will take place in Salina, Kansas, at the home of the Salina York Rite Bodies.

The inaugural Knight Templar Feast was held on Saturday, July 23, 2022, in Salina, Kansas at the Strataca Salt Mine. It was an incredible event with over 100 Sir Knights and their ladies in attendance. The Grand Commandery Honor Guard presented the colors and were well received



by those in attendance for their hard work. The Grand Commander gave several special awards to some of the Sir Knights in attendance, recognizing them for their zeal in the cause of Knight Templary in Kansas. The key note speaker for the evening, Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, spoke about the need for more Christian masons to be Sir Knights and encouraged those in attendance to strive harder for



greater achievements within the communities they serve. It was an excellent evening of comradeship and fellowship. If you missed this year's Feast, be on the lookout for next summer. Rumor has it there may be another one in the works for next year.

It is a great time for Knight Templary in Kansas. The Honor Guard is working hard to form a Drill Team for the future. Watch this space for more information on how YOU can be a part of this new and exciting Drill Team in Kansas.

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 Warden: 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



Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar!



Member Spotlight



Tom Krauss

How long have you been a Master Mason? 11 Years

How long have you been a York Rite Mason? 5 years

What York Rite are you a member?
Salina, Kansas

Why did you join the York Rite?
I was convinced to join by with a good brother so we could travel together.

What do you like most about the York Rite? How it ties directly back to the deeper understanding of the Blue Lodge.



Justin Crippen

How long have you been a Master Mason? 6 years

How long have you been a York Rite Mason? 5 years

What York Rite are you a member?
Newton, Kansas

Why did you join the York Rite? To seek further light in Masonry.

What do you like most about the York Rite? I love the teachings and the brotherhood. It ties all my masonic journey together. Especially the Christian aspect of the Knights Templar.

Kansas York Rite College Adds New Members

The York Rite College, an invitational and honorary body within the York Rite of Freemasonry, has colleges in each jurisdiction.

Kansas College met for their quarterly meeting on Saturday, August 20, 2022, at the Lodge Hall in Newton, Kansas. This quarterly meeting included a meal provided by the Social Order of the Beauceant (SOOB). The ladies provided a wonderful meal as they have continued to do for many, many years.

After the meal was completed, the College opened their meeting and conferred the Order on a new member. After the beautiful ritual was completed, the College had one new potential proposed to be invited to membership. The new Companion was elected and will receive their invitation to join the College in the mail.



It was a great meeting with many of the members in attendance. We look forward to continuing to grow the College as time passes. The College is open to all York Rite Masons who are in good standing. The degrees cannot be requested, but instead are conferred by invitation only.

First State-Wide Conferral Planned



The first of its kind gathering of Knight Masons and members of the Allied Masonic Degrees has been planned for October 8, 2022, at the Lodge Hall in Prairie Village, Kansas. This in-gathering will bring both of the Councils of Knight Masons together to confer their degrees on new members and to allow other Knight Masons in good standing to receive the honorary Order of St. Patrick. Past Great Chief, Kevin Samples, of Missouri, will be in attendance and will be conferring the Order of the Knight of the East and West. It is an honor to have a past presiding national officer visiting our Councils.

The three Councils of Allied Masonic Degrees will meet after lunch and will confer the degree on several new Brothers who have been invited to membership in the AMD. After the initial conferral, there will be an exemplification of the Knights of Constantinople and the Order of the Secret Monitor. Worthy Companions of the AMD will be permitted to receive the First Grade of the Scarlet Cord, another honorary body which is available only to AMD Companions who have received the Order of the Secret Monitor. This is the first time the Scarlet Cord will have been conferred in the state of Kansas. The Sovereign Grand Master will be in attendance during the degrees. It is an honor to have him visiting our Councils.

After the conferrals are completed, there will be a banquet and festive board held by the AMD for all members of that Order. It is sure to be an exciting and busy day for York Rite Masonry in Kansas. More information and pictures will appear in the Winter issue of this magazine.



SRICF Annual Meeting in Louisville



The annual meeting of the High Council Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis, otherwise known as the Masonic Rosicrucians, will be in Louisville, Kentucky at the historic Brown Hotel on Friday, November 4, 2022, and Saturday, November 5, 2022. This meeting is open only to members of the Order. Several of the members of the Kansas College attend this gathering each year. Wayne Rolff, the Chief Adept for Kansas, takes a group from our jurisdiction each year.

The meetings are more than an annual gathering to discuss the business of the College. It is a time for the conferral of the ninth and tenth degrees of the Order. This is only done at the annual meeting of the College and the degrees are not usually conferred outside of these meetings.

It is a great honor to receive these additional degrees of the SRICF and the degrees are only open to those who already possess the honors or are candidates for the honors. News from this meeting will be published in the next edition of this magazine.



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

South Central Conference and Department Meetings

2022 was the year for the Grand York Rite bodies of Louisiana to host the South Central Conference and the South Central Department Meetings. This event was held in Shreveport, Louisiana at the Sam's Town Hotel and Casino. It



was an excellent venue and a lot of fun was had by all who could attend.

Friday morning was the Chapter meetings and Kansas was represented by many of our Grand Chapter Officers including our Grand High Priest.



The Leadership Class hosted a graduation as well. For those who completed their course.

Friday afternoon saw the Grand Council meetings and again Kansas had a good showing of members ready to learn and to discuss how to make Cryptic Masonry better for everyone who is a part of it.

Saturday morning was the time for the South Central Department Meetings and it was an excellent time for everyone. The Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar USA was in attendance as well as several of the Grand Encampment officers. It was a great time of learning about the Knight Templar Eye Foundation and about how we as Christian Knights can move forward and continue to assist the world.

Our ladies enjoyed a fantastic event as well. They were treated to glass blowing where they made their own creations. The art museum was a welcome addition. Thank you to the Grand York Rite of Louisiana for hosting such a fabulous event this year.



York Rite Spotlight

This issue spotlights the York Rite Bodies of Salina, Kansas. The bodies held there are Salina Chapter No. 18, Ellsworth Council No. 6, and Askelon Commandery # 6.

They meet at the Odd Fellows Lodge Building at 143 South Third Street, Salina, Kansas 67401.

The bodies meet at 7:00 PM on the 4th Monday of each month. The bodies rotate each month for formal opening. The Chapter meets in January, April, July, and October. The Council meets on February, May, August, and November. The Commandery opens in March, June, September, and December. December is the annual installation of officers.

The bodies have begun to perform their own degree work so they can be better equipped and ready to assist the Grand York Rite bodies by having members who already know and understand the degree work for state wide conferrals.

Commandery Inspections

The annual inspections of our constituent commanderies within the Grand Jurisdiction of Kansas has begun.

Inspector and Sir Knight Jason Crippen, Eminent Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Kansas, and his assistants, Sir Knight Tom Krauss, Grand Guard, and Sir Knight Patrick Carr, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer, held their first Commandery inspection at Askelon Commandery No. 6 in Salina on August 22, 2022.

During this stated communication of the Commandery, Sir Knight Crippen, who is also the Representative in Kansas of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) presented Sir Knight Dale Morrow, Eminent Commander, the seal for their plaque showing the Commandery donated at least \$10 per member to the last campaign.

Be on the lookout for the inspectors who will be inspecting your constituent commanderies. They are working hard to

assist your bodies to grow as we move forward with the York Rite in Kansas.

Don't forget to watch for Sir Knight Crippen as well. He will continue to travel to other Commanderies to present them with their plaques, certificates, and seals, as they continue to donate towards our official charity.



Annual Pike's Peak Inspection

The companions of the Kansas Grand Council of Cryptic Masons once again traveled to Pike's Peak for the annual inspection of the deposit. This is an annual

event held on the second weekend of September and commemorates the deposit made on Pike's Peak by

Ellsworth Council No. 9 on the week of August 16, 1899. A new deposit was made on Labor Day, 1999, by the Grand Councils of Kansas and Colorado.



Saving Our History

It is always a sad moment when our masonic bodies decide to either turn in their charters, or to merge with another body within the state of Kansas. There are no word adequate enough to explain how we feel when this occurs. Yet, there is something we can each remember to do if we are cognizant of what is happening.

Too often we throw away our history. Not our minute books, as they are forwarded to the grand presiding bodies which grant them their charters. We forget about the little items each of our bodies possess which cannot and will not be able to be replaced. Each of our masonic bodies has something which has either been built just for them, or has been given to them as a gift. When we decide to simply discard those items, we lose a part of the history of our bodies.



The York Rite of Freemasonry is the natural completion of the lessons taught in the Master Mason Degree.

One such instance occurred at McPherson Lodge No. 172. The lodge in Newton had received a consolidation from a lodge which sadly did not have enough active members to hold meetings any longer. Newton did not have room to store so many items, so they reached out the McPherson Lodge, which had been in the middle of a slight remodel, to offer those items to them. McPherson gladly accepted the items. In this case, the items were chairs which are being researched to determine their age. They appear to be from England and possible date to the mid 1700s. More research is required to discover their true age and place of manufacture.

Another instance which happens all too frequently is our members pass away and their relatives and loved ones do not understand how important their masonic regalia was to them. Companion Carr was gifted a beautiful set of early 1900s Chapter jewels by another Companion who discovered them in an antique shop many years ago. These are irreplaceable jewels and deserve a more fitting fate than to be sold to someone who does not appreciate them and only believes they are valuable.



There are Lodges who do a wonderful job of maintaining not only their own history, but that of the constituent bodies who no longer meet in their facilities. Great Bend Lodge has a beautiful collection of old masonic jewels dating from the 1800s. These are jewels from Grand Encampment Triennial gatherings, Kansas Grand York Rite meetings, and other jurisdiction's Grand York Rite gatherings. If you look really hard you may spot a Past Grand High Priest jewel from Kansas.

Remember to take care of our history. If we do not take care of it, no one will do it for us. Donate your items to someone who will appreciate them. Display them in your buildings. They are precious treasures which cannot be duplicated.



Pass This Issue to Another!

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.

You may have received this from a Brother Mason and you do not know much about the York Rite. 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.

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