

Letters from York

A Quarterly Publication of the Grand York Rite of Kansas

Its almost 2023!

The new year is upon us. It is a time for us to make decisions which affect us throughout the coming year. Many will make resolutions. Some will keep them. Some will not keep those new resolutions. Either way, we like to make plans for the fresh year to come and we want to do things differently.

How about a New Year’s Resolution for York Rite Masonry? Maybe that resolution would include attending our Chapter, Council, and Commandery meetings on a more regular basis. It could be something as simple as resolving to memorize a part in the degree conferrals. It could be working with the York Rite bodies to recruit more Master Masons so they can see and witness the beauty of the degrees of Capitular Masonry, Cryptic Masonry, and the Orders of the Temple.



There are a lot of resolutions we can make. One of the best is to resolve to take part in our York Rite Bodies. We can do this by attendance, attention to what is happening within the bodies, and to be active when we are in attendance at the meetings.

It takes all of us to have a successful York Rite body. In Kansas, we are growing. More Master Masons are discovering and joining our York Rite bodies. Let us work to make our bodies better, more efficient, and more enjoyable for all of our members.

We decide what York Rite masonry is. By being active, recruiting others, and taking part in the meetings and the conferrals, we can continue the path we have started which leads us to greater membership and greater successes within each of our bodies.



Inside this issue

News of the Ark	2
From the Ninth Arch	2
The Orders	3
Knight Masons/AMD News	4
SRICF Honors	5
Scarlet Cord Conferral	5
With Sadness	6
Masonic Week 2023	6
British Royal Arch Masonry	7

Special Interests

- Masonic Week Introduction
- AMD/KM State-Wide Conferral
- Education Article
- A Look at Our Membership

News of the Ark



It has been a good year for Capitular Masonry in the Jurisdiction of Kansas! We have had several conferrals of the Chapter Degrees throughout the state in the last year. There are several Chapters who are doing their own work either at a stated communication or a called communication for the degrees. The Grand Chapter and its officers are here to serve each of our Chapters in the Jurisdiction. If you are planning a conferral, and desire some assistance, reach out to the Grand Secretary and he will contact the Grand

Officers and procure their assistance. We are here to serve YOU!

There will be a conferral of the Chapter Degrees held on Saturday, January 7, 2023, in Junction City. It would be great to have a large turnout to assist these Brothers who are desirous of becoming Companions of the Holy Royal Arch. Any help is greatly appreciated. Learn a part of one of the Degrees and come and assist in this Great and Glorious Work!



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

*Joining the York Rite is the natural completion of the Blue Lodge experience.
Invite a Brother Master Mason to join today!*

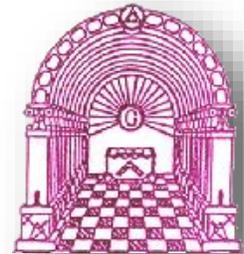
Grand Council Officers

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

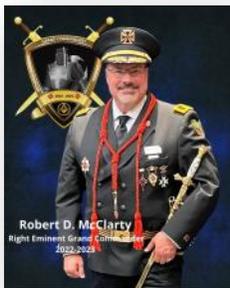


We have certainly had our fair share of trials and tribulations during this Cryptic year. There have been too many companions sick with Covid, pneumonia, and other ailments and maladies. We send our prayers and thoughts to all who have had health issues throughout this last year.



As we look to the new year, we understand the need to continue to labor within the quarries as we work with each other to continue to make out Councils the best they can be. We will be continuing to work with each other within the Grand Jurisdiction of Kansas to make more members within our subordinate Councils. In 2023, we will have our first opportunity to assist another Council in the work. On January 7, 2023, new Royal Arch Masons will be made in Junction City, and they will be awaiting the opportunity to be made Royal and Select Masters. Come to Junction City and assist in the work of the Council. We would enjoy seeing you there and assisting in the work. Make it a great 2023!

The Chivalric Orders



This year has been a whirlwind of activity within the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas. We have had several knightings and enjoyed each other's company at the first Knights Templar Feast held at the Stratata salt mine and museum in Hutchinson, Kansas. What's next, you may be asking? Stay tuned, Sir Knights! There will be more new and exciting events coming in 2023. You can stay up to date by reading this magazine each quarter, the Kansas insert in the Knights Templar Magazine, and the Grand York Rite website. Each is a tool for the Grand Commandery of Kansas to communicate with you to keep you aware of what is happening within the Jurisdiction.

As we end the year 2022, we are ready to start 2023. There will be a conferral of the Orders of Christian Knighthood held in Hays, Kansas on Saturday, June 14, 2023. It would be great to introduce these new Sir Knights from across the state with as many of our Sir Knights as we can muster. It can be a time to assist in the work, to enjoy fellowship, and to re-energize your devotion and commitment to your Commandery. All Sir Knights and candidates are invited.



Before we close 2022, we must remember the reason we exist as Sir Knights. In December we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, Jesus, who was sent into the world to atone for the sins of mankind. This means each of us. As Sir Knights, we are pledged to protect and defend the Christian faith. This is a time not only for presents and gifts to our friends and loved ones, but a time to celebrate the awesomeness associated with the reason for the season. Additionally, it can be a time of great reflection and introspection. We pause from our busy and hectic schedules, and looking at our phones, to examine the awesomeness which is held within the Christ Child. He is our reason for existence. Not only as Christians, but as active Sir Knights! Give thanks to our great and glorious God for his protection, and for his wisdom to provide a way of salvation for each of us who would only confess his belief in Christ as Savior.

We have several high holy days within our Order. We celebrate Christmas, Easter, and Ascension Day. In the next Chivalric year, prepare your hearts, and your individual Commanderies, to take part in these ceremonies. You may be surprised how many Sir Knights attend and assist.

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



*Knights Templars = Christian Masonry.
Remember the birth of our Savior this season.*



Member Spotlight



Doug Wettlaufer

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? Wyandotte, Kansas (Kansas City)

Why did you join the York Rite? Curiosity and a general search for knowledge. Interested in expanding the Blue Lodge teachings.

What do you like most about the York Rite? The ritual! I enjoy participating and seeing the York Rite degrees and orders.



Andy Mosley

How long have you been a Master Mason? 5 years

How long have you been a York Rite Mason? 8 months

What York Rite are you a member? Wyandotte, Kansas (Kansas City)

Why did you join the York Rite? To experience the history and beauty of the degrees and orders.

What do you like most about the York Rite? Hands down, the people. The brotherhood I experience in the York Rite bodies could be a shining example to a lot of Masons and Lodges.

Knight Masons Continue to Grow



On Saturday, October 8, 2022, the two Knight Masons Councils in Kansas met for a first ever statewide reunion and degree conferral.

Kansas Council No. 53 opened the bodies in full ritual form for the day. Drogheda Council No. 68 took the stage and conferred the Order of Knight of the Sword on thirteen new candidates for the Councils across the state. Kansas Council resumed their parts and conferred the order of Knight of the East before a joint conferral was held using a degree cast from both Councils to confer the final degree of Knight Masonry, that of the Knight of the East and West.

Those who attended were able to witness something quite different at the reunion. Past Great Chief Kevin Sample, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the USA, assumed the east and conferred the degree of Knight of the East and West. Cousin Sample did a great job conferring the degree from memory and all who were there and witnessed the event stated they were impressed with the events of the day.

A luncheon was had and all members who were in attendance received a pint glass with the Knight Masons logo and the dates of the historic event.

This event is being scheduled for 2023 and there is the hope a third Council will be formed in the Topeka area. This will give Kansas three Councils of Knight Masons in the jurisdiction. Congratulations to all who attended and thank you to those who assisted in this historic event in Kansas York Rite Masonry.



AMD Celebrates First Ever In-Gathering

After the Knight Masons Reunion luncheon, the three Councils of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Kansas started their In-Gathering. The bodies were opened and the initiatory degree was conferred by Great Plains Council No. 300 from Topeka. Loch Lomond Council No. 235 from Shawnee conferred the Knight of Constantinople and Sunflower Council No. 383 from Wichita conferred the Order of the Secret Monitor. There were six candidates in attendance to receive the degrees of the AMD.



The Grand Sovereign Master, Companion Aaron Shoemaker, was in attendance and addressed the candidates and the cast at the completion of the conferrals. Companion Shoemaker presented his personal coin, of which only 100 were made, to Companions Patrick C. Carr and Wayne Rollf, for their work and dedication for making this event a reality. A dinner and the obligatory toasts were had after the meetings ended.

The second In-Gathering has been scheduled for 2023 and more information will be forthcoming at a later date. It was a great day for both the candidates, the York Rite, and Masonry in Kansas.



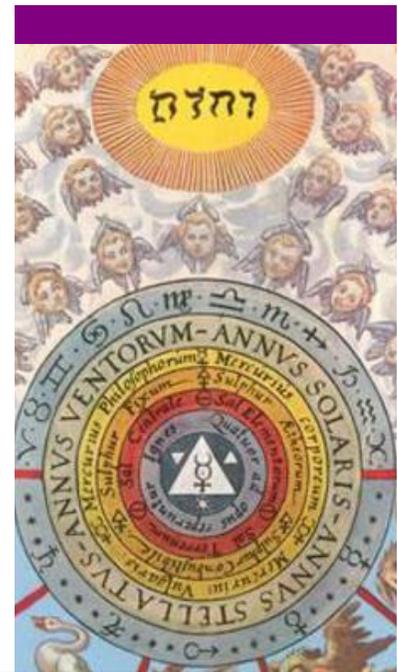
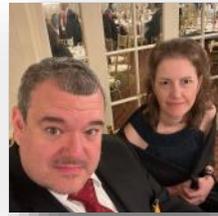
SRCIF Members Receive Honors

At the annual meeting of the SRCIF held at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Missouri, several Kansas Masons were elevated in grade. The grades of the SRCIF start at Grade I and continue through Grade X. The majority of members are Grade VII, however there are some who have attained a higher grade.



Fraters (or Brothers) Wayne Rector and Gary Strout were elevated to the rank and privilege of Grade VIII. Those members who are chosen and elevated to the Eighth Grade are able to serve as the presiding officer or the secretary of the organization.

Congratulations to Fraters Rector and Strout on their selection elevation to the higher grade.



For more information on the appendant bodies in Kansas, visit <https://kansasyorkrite.org>

The Order of the Scarlet Cord in Kansas

The Order of the Scarlet Cord is a series of degrees conferred as a part of the Order of the Secret Monitor. Companions who have received the Order may petition to receive the additional grades of the order.

The first three grades can be conferred upon any AMD member who petitions. The fourth grade is reserved for those who have served in the East as the Sovereign Master of the Council. The higher grades are reserved for Grand Officers.

At the In-Gathering for the AMD, the First Grade of the Scarlet Cord was conferred on 26 candidates who had applied for the Grade. These grades are normally conferred at Masonic Week in Virginia in February of each year. There are several states who have been permitted to confer the grades by permission from the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees. Kansas applied for permission and was granted the opportunity to confer the First Grade.

The body was honored by the attendance of several Grand

Officers of the Allied Masonic Degrees. The Grand Sovereign Master, Aaron Shoemaker was in attendance. He was accompanied by Companion Kevin Sample, Grand Tyler, and Right Illustrious Companion William Snyder, the Deputy General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International.

Plans are underway to seek permission to confer the First, Second, and Third Grade at the AMD In-Gathering in October of 2023. More information will be available as the date becomes near.

Congratulations to all who received the First Grade of the Order of the Scarlet Cord!



The Royal Arch History in England

The following was a post from Charles Bertrand, the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Louisiana, which explained well the connection between Craft Masonry and the Holy Royal Arch overseas, especially within the purveyances of the United Grand Lodge of England. This article is reprinted with his permission.

Within the United Grand Lodge of England, the history and the connection between Craft Freemasonry and Royal Arch needs some explaining – especially for the benefits on non-UGLE Freemasons:

Very briefly, after the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge of England in 1717 (originally named Grand Lodge of London and Westminster) a second Grand Lodge broke away, due to members being denied access. This was partly due to the publication of Pritchard’s *Masonry Dissected*, 1730, (a Masonic exposé) and a class distinction. By now Grand Lodge of England was populated by the ruling class, not wishing to socialise with the tradesmen and professions, so they kept them out.

So, in 1751 the second group formed their own Grand Lodge. This new Grand Lodge became known as the ‘Ancients’, and the Premier Grand Lodge became known as the ‘Moderns’. Therefore, until 1813 two Grand Lodges existed in England. The two Grand Masters, blood Brothers, the Duke of Sussex and Duke of Kent, chose to unite the two Grand Lodges. However, the main stumbling block was the Royal Arch Degree. One side wanted three Craft degrees, including the Royal Arch, while the other side wanted three Craft degrees plus the Royal Arch.



A compromise was presented to both sides, “that pure antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz.: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the supreme degree of the Holy Royal Arch”. This looked like both had got their way, and the Grand Lodges united on 27 December 1813.

Until now, within UGLE, we have had the three Craft degrees and the Royal Arch being the Master Mason’s Completed. My Holy Royal Arch ritual book made it very clear, as it stated, “you may perceive you have completed a fourth degree, this not the case, but the master mason’s completed”.



In recent changes, UGLE has moved to give the Royal Arch a separate identity, now referring to it (not yet as a fourth degree), but a ‘fourth step’. This situation is only peculiar to UGLE, because in other jurisdictions, the Royal Arch is either worked within Craft lodges, or is a completely separate rite (as in the American York Rite system).

Remember, companions and brothers, different does not mean inferior or incorrect. Traveling to other jurisdictions can open the mind (and the heart) to what others are doing within our great and expansive Craft. There is so much to observe, learn, and to enjoy when visiting other jurisdictions, even here in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



Invite a Brother Master Masons to Join!

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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