



Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Fall 2024

John T. Staton, MEGHP 2024-2025



From the Grand High Priest

Greetings to all of the Royal Arch Chapter Companions of Kansas!

Summer is almost over, and fall is near. I hope things are going well for you and your families.

Age is a much discussed topic in the current Presidential election. In Masonry age is also a factor. I joined the Blue Lodge at the age of 45. MW.: Morris Fisher Past Grand Master told me not to let the older grumpy members of the lodge run me off. I took his advice to heart and am still in Masonry after 27 years. Now I have to watch myself to make sure that I do not become one of the older grumpy members of the organization that runs people off. Those of us who are older in time of service and age need to mentor and encourage the younger and newer members.

Younger and newer members can be enthusiastic. They may want to try new things and shake things up. Now when I attend local Blue Lodge and York Rite meetings, I look around and almost all of the men that were active in organizations when I started are gone due to death or health problems. If there were no newer and/or younger members, the organizations would be dormant or closed. Cherish and support your younger and/or newer members. They are the future.

York Rite is in the process of being renewed in western Kansas. When I joined the York Rite in 2002 there was very little York Rite activity in western Kansas. Now Liberal, Hays, and Goodland are getting new members and becoming active once again.

York Rite is gaining new members all around the state. In August I was privileged to attend degree work in Iola where York Rite gained seven new companions.

On a personal note, I would like to thank RE Grand King Companion Patrick Carr for attending the youth organizations meetings for me this summer while I was away on family matters.

Fraternally,

Companion John T. Staton
M.:E.: Grand High Priest of Kansas 2024-2025



Iola Chapter Hosts Capitular Degrees

Iola Chapter No. 8 had a few brothers who received the Marked Master and Virtual Past Master degrees, but had not been able to attend any of the degree conferrals to complete their Royal Arch experience. Merrill Hodgdon reached out and asked if there was anyone who could assist them in conferring the degrees. Several officers of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas began to gather information for the conferral, began to lay out the trestle-board for the day, and set the date as Saturday, August 10, 2024.



There were three brothers who completed their degrees from Iola, and four new Companions who had all four degrees conferred upon them. One candidate from Salina Chapter No. 18 was in attendance and completed the Holy Royal Arch degrees as well.

Companions from across the state attended to assist the Grand High Priest, Most Excellent John T. Staton, and the Grand King, Right Excellent Patrick C. Carr, in conferring the degrees and making sure the work was of the highest standard for the new companions.

This is what happens when a Chapter seeks assistance and someone steps up and requests help. Thank you to all the Companions from across the state who helped to make the day a great one for our new Companions.



Capitular Education Available

The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, has been developing quality education and leadership training through both in-person and on-line courses. The Capitular Learning Center is dedicated to the inspired enlightenment and qualification of Companions at the constituent chapter level. Visit their website at www.ggcrami.org and discover the many offerings available under the educational bureau section of their website. You might just be surprised what you will learn!



Checks Presented to Masonic Youth

Masonic Youth Orders are an integral part of the Masonic experience and life in Kansas. Kansas has several Bethels for Job's Daughters, Assemblies for the Rainbow Girls, and Chapters of DeMolay for the young men of Kansas.



The Grand Chapter, along with the Grand Council and Grand Commandery, have a long-standing tradition of attending each of the masonic youth annual communications and making a presentation of a check from the Companions and Sir Knights of Kansas. These monies are to be used as needed for each of the youth orders. This year the Grand Chapter was represented at each of the sessions by several

Companion Royal Arch Masons. At the sessions, Right Worshipful Dave Hendricks represented the Grand Lodge, Right Excellent Patrick C. Carr represented the Grand Chapter for the Grand High Priest, Most Illustrious L. Kent Needham represented the Grand Council, and Right Eminent Sir Knight Gary A. Mason represented the Grand Commandery of Kansas. All of these Companions are proud Royal Arch Masons! Thank you to the Masonic Youth Orders of Kansas for continuing to display the traits of friendship, loyalty, and leadership to all you encounter. We look forward to being with them again at their annual sessions, and hearing them speak at our Annual Grand Communication in Manhattan in May, 2025.

Passing of Past Most Excellent General Grand High Priest Ted Harrison

Most Excellent Companion Edmund D. Harrison, Past General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Council of Royal Arch Masons International, served for the 69th Triennial from 2011-2014. He died on Sunday, July 14, 2024, at the age of 85. His funeral was held on Saturday, August 3, 2024, in New York City at his beloved Church of the Incarnation.

A summary of Most Excellent Harrison's Masonic Career was provided from Ancient Chapter Number One, Royal Arch Masons, New York.

He was a Master of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, a founding member of John Philip Sousa Lodge No. 1192, and Grand High Priest, Royal Arch Masons State of New York (2002) and General Grand High Priest, General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International (2011-2014) among many other offices and honors. R.W. Ted Harrison was made a Master Mason on January 23, 1969 by Republican Lodge in Greenfield, Massachusetts. He affiliated with Independent Royal Arch



Lodge No. 2 in 1992 and became a member of the American Lodge of Research in 1992. He served the Grand Lodge of New York as the District Deputy Grand Master of the First Manhattan District from 1996 to 1997 and he was appointed an Emeritus Chairman of the Masonic Fraternity on Campus Committee from 2016 until today. R.W. Ted Harrison was honored with the highest award that the Grand Lodge of New York can bestow upon a worthy Mason. R.W. Ted Harrison was the recipient of the Grand Lodge Distinguished Achievement Medal at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge F & AM of the State of New York in 2014. The General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International presented Ted with its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal in Gold at the 72nd Triennial in 2023. It is a sad loss. He was loved by brothers from around the world and will be missed by many.

In Memory

It is with profound sorrow that I announce the death of our beloved Most Excellent Past General Grand High Priest Edmund D. Harrison. Most Excellent Harrison served as General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, Int'l for the 69th Triennial 2011-2014.



Died Sunday July 14, 2024, at the age of 85

His funeral will be on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in the Church of the Incarnation, New York City. He was a 50 plus year member of the church and had served as Senior Warden. Interment will be in the church's columbarium.

It is my desire that this memorial be read at the next Annual Convocation of each Grand Chapter and their Charter draped in his memory.

Given under my hand and caused the seal of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International to be affixed hereto this 15th day of July, 2024, in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Ted Harrison

General Grand High Priest



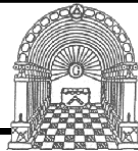
Attest:

Bill A. Branning
General Grand Secretary



Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Fall 2024

L. Kent Needham, MIGM 2024-2025



From the Illustrious Grand Master

Greetings Companions.

The 2024-2025 Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas year has started off with great energy and excitement. The 2024 Great Plains Rendezvous was held in Sterling, Colorado on June 22. The Great Plains Rendezvous brings together the Cryptic Masons of Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas to perform the Royal, Select and Super Excellent Master Degrees of the Council on eligible candidates. This year, 61 Cryptic Masons came together for a day of fun, degree work, and to enjoy the friendship and comradery of fellow Companions from other jurisdictions. I am excited to share that Kansas had 16 Companions involved in this year's event. Four were candidates for all three degrees and one participated as a candidate in the Super Excellent Master Degree. Kansas was responsible for putting on the Royal Master Degree this year. I was very proud of the Kansas degree team as the work was performed very well. I want to thank MIC H. Wayne Rector for handling the Director's duties for Kansas, C Jamie Carwell for his portrayal of Hiram Abiff and all those Companions who filled the roles needed to put on a quality presentation of this beautiful degree. Thank you.

Our next adventure was the Annual Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection. While I am still researching the history of this event, at this point it appears the 2024 trek was the 125th annual inspection of the time capsule. We had 10 Companions, and their spouses make the journey to Colorado Springs this year. Those that arrived on Friday, September 13th, enjoyed an evening dinner at the Edelweiss German Restaurant. Saturday, September 14, we met for an evening of good food and entertainment at the Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner and Western Show in Colorado Springs. On Sunday, September 15th, we made our way to the summit of Pike's Peak to inspect the time capsule. Once it was determined the capsule was secured, we made our way back home to Kansas.

As mentioned in the Summer Addition of Council Cliff Notes, the Grand Council officers have two significant projects under consideration and review: the development of a strategic plan and a review of the committee structure of the Grand Council. While these items continue to be a work in progress, we have developed significant input on the strategic plan and will soon be developing a preliminary product for review. I don't anticipate much activity on the second initiative until the later half of this year. We will keep you updated.



From the Illustrious Grand Master (cont.)

This continues to be a very busy year in the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in Kansas. Many thanks to both the Grand Council Officers and Committees for their willingness to serve in their respective roles. We are working diligently to secure our future.

As I close out this addition of Council Cliff Notes, I have two questions for you to consider: #1: Who helped you get where you are today? Call them. Thank them. #2: Who can you help get where they need to go? Call them. Help them.

Again, it is an honor to serve you. Enjoy the fall and we will see you down the road.

Respectfully,

Kent Needham
M.:I.: Grand Master 2024-2025

Cryptic Masonry in Other Countries

We are familiar with Cryptic Masonry here in the United States as an integral part of the York Rite degree system, but how is it used and exemplified in other countries?

The Cryptic Rite is widespread, although governing bodies exist only in England, Scotland, Canada, and the United States. In England the Cryptic Degrees are controlled by a General Council of the Cryptic Degrees. In Scotland, the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter has jurisdiction over the Cryptic degrees, the Royal Ark Mariner degree, and the Knight of the East and West. The bodies of the Cryptic Rite in Scotland are attached to Chapters. Several of these degrees held by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter in Scotland are either held by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, the Allied Masonic Degrees, or the Council of Knight Masons here in the United States.



Another interesting fact to discover is that while Scotland received the first three degrees of the last series from American sources, the degree of Thrice Illustrious Master, taken over recently in this country, was of Scottish origin. Our Craft is full of interesting items when we look at how and where the rituals originate and how they migrated to other parts of the masonic world.



Cryptic Youth Advocacy Award Presentation

At the 157th Annual Assembly for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas, there were several awards presented to worthy and hard working individuals. One award was unable to be presented at that time because of a scheduling conflict.



On Wednesday, August 7, 2024, in McPherson Lodge No. 172, a joint effort between Wichita Council No. 12 and McPherson Lodge No. 172 was made to present an award, and a donation, to this person and the organization they work for and with.

Veronica Mosqueda-Bargdill, the director of the Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center of

Harvey and McPherson Counties, was selected by Wichita Council No. 12 to receive a Youth Advocacy Award. Veronica leads an agency which provides advocacy to both parents and children. The Child Advocacy Center provides not only education concerning child abuse and other serious crimes against children, but they also provide a safe and contained environment for workers to interview children using a forensic interview technique.



The work Veronica does is important to both counties and their constituents. The Child Advocacy Center rents space from Newton Lodge No. 142, so there is a natural relationship between the Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center location there and the four York Rite bodies in Newton. There is also a connection between McPherson Lodge No 172, as Companion Patrick C. Carr serves on the board of directors for the Child Advocacy Center. The Lodge decided last year to offer to split some of the proceeds from the sale of the Kansas Masonic Foundation Raffle Car.

At the dinner held before the August stated communication of McPherson Lodge No. 172, Veronica and her staff from both locations were invited to attend a dinner and she was awarded the jewel from the Cryptic Masons as well as a check for \$500 from McPherson Lodge No. 172. It was a great evening and displayed how two bodies can work together for the betterment of our community.



Congratulations to Veronica, the members of Wichita Council No 12 and the Brothers of McPherson Lodge No, 172 for their support.



Great Plains Rendezvous 2024



On June 22, 2024, Companion Cryptic Masons from Kansas, Wyoming, and Colorado gathered at Sterling Lodge No 54 in Sterling, Colorado to celebrate together and confer the cryptic degrees.

There were over fifty Cryptic Masons present to witness the conferral of the Royal Masters degree by the Companions from Kansas, the Select Masters degree by the Companions from Wyoming, and the Super

Excellent Master degree by the host Companions from Colorado. Kansas had sixteen present.

The work was done very well, and it displayed the beautiful differences between the degrees when they are conferred in different jurisdictions. While all Cryptic Councils use degrees which are similar, there can be vast differences in both floor work and the words used to convey the beautiful lessons of the Cryptic Degrees.



Four Companions from Kansas were on hand to receive their degrees, and several more of the Companions who had already received their first two degrees, but had not received the Super Excellent Masters degree, were able to be a part of that degree as well.

The food was excellent, the degree work was great, but the best thing about the Great Plains Rendezvous has to be the fellowship with the Companions from across the region. Make plans to attend the 2025 Great Plains Rendezvous which will be on June 21, 2025, in Wyoming!

