



New Companion Packet

Companion _____

_____ Chapter No. _____

Exalted _____ Day of _____, _____

From the Grand High Priest

Welcome to Capitular Masonry!

Companion _____,

Congratulations on your preferment into Capitular Masonry. Today you have completed your journey in Ancient Craft Masonry by taking the Holy Royal Arch Degree. This degree was originally conferred only on those who were Past Masters of their Craft Lodge. By virtue of you either being a Past Master, or taking the Virtual Past Master Degree, you were enabled to receive the lessons of the Holy Royal Arch and to understand certain questions you may have had concerning your degrees in your Blue Lodge.

This packet is intended to assist you in your journey throughout the York Rite of Kansas, but specifically within the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. While this step was considered the last in Ancient Craft Masonry, it is just the beginning of your York Rite experience here in Kansas. There are still two other bodies which, by virtue of your membership within the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, you are eligible to join. These are the Council of Cryptic Masons and the Commandery of Knights Templar. Both these organizations, and their respective degrees and orders, will be available to you in time. Until that time, please enjoy all the benefits your Capitular membership enjoins upon you.

We hope you find your journey through the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons to be enjoyable, full of fellowship, and educational. We have several resources for education, and those will be further explained within the pages of this membership packet.

Yours in Faith, Hope, and Zeal,

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas
Membership Committee

For the New Royal Arch Mason

Your Chapter is _____, No. _____
located at _____, in _____ Lodge No. _____
with meetings held on the _____ (Day) _____ of each month
at _____ PM.

Your mentor will assist you in filling out the information above for your Chapter. A Chapter is a gathering of Royal Arch Masons for the purpose of business. You will soon discover a Chapter meeting is much like a meeting within many of your Blue Lodges. The exception is the inclusion of other items of business, such as education. Education is a central part and one of the cornerstones of Capitular Masonry. With education, we can more effectively polish and adorn the mind to be prepared for the further ceremonies and wisdom within capitular masonry.

Our Chapter is set up differently than a Blue Lodge. The officers are the Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, Recorder, Treasurer, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain, Mast of the First Veil, Master of the Second Veil, Master of the Third Veil, Chaplain, and Sentinel. You will soon discover the manner in which the Chapter is opened and closed, and how the room is set differently with its officers in place than what you have been accustomed.

Dress for most meetings would be a white shirt, black pants, black shoes, black socks, a red tie, and a red jacket. If you do not have these items, please do not skip the meetings of your Chapter. We find your attendance to be more important than your mode of dress. Some Chapters have red polo shirts which they wear instead of white shirt and red jacket. You will soon discover your Chapter's usual expectations of attendance.

We refer to each other as Companions, and not Brothers. This is a singular distinction because of the addition of the degree of the Holy Royal Arch. When you took the degree, you were introduced as a Companion who had come up to take part in the noble and glorious work of the rebuilding of the Temple without the hope of fee or reward.

The Excellent High Priest, who presides in the East with the Companion King and Companion Scribe, is address is "excellent" during the meetings.

During the prayers of the Chapter, we end with the traditional “So Mote It Be” which you are no doubt accustomed to within your Blue Lodge.

Another distinction you will soon discover within Capitular Masonry is how we pray. There is a prayer given when the Chapter is opened or closed by either the Excellent High Priest. If the Lord’s Prayer is used, please substitute the words “debt” and “debtors” within the prayers at the appropriate time and place.

Traditional Grand Honors are given in the same manner as within the Blue Lodge. The only ones receiving Grand Honors will be the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, a Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest, or one of the General Grand Officers of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International.



Be sure to have your Royal Arch Chapter Penny engraved with your Mark. During your Mark Master Degree, you were instructed to select a Mark which would be unique to you and your desires. Make sure to speak with the Recorder of your Chapter. He will provide a Mark Sheet in which you will draw your personal Mark. This Mark should next be engraved upon your Chapter Penny. One side of your Chapter Penny will have the information of your Chapter, while the other side has the Keystone in which you will engrave your Mark.



The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International, is the governing body for Capitular Masonry. We are a member of the General Grand Chapter, and our officers are delegates to their Triennial Sessions. The sessions meet every three years, in a different location, and all Royal Arch Masons are invited to attend. The voting delegates only consist of those who are sitting officers (Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe) within the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within their state, or are a Past Grand High Priest of a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The honorific title of any sitting or Past Grand High Priest is “Most Excellent.” The title reserved for the District Deputy Grand High Priest, or the elected officers of the Grand Chapter (Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer), is “Right Excellent.” The title of a sitting or past High Priest of a Chapter is “Excellent.” All others are addressed as “Companion.”

Education Resources

Because education is so important to the Royal Arch Mason, there are several publications you should make yourself aware of and, in your leisure time, read. The Grand York Rite website (www.kansasyorkrite.org) contains a link at the top for a page of Masonic and Capitular Education. This is one good source of education for you to seek further light outside of your Chapter meetings. There are many other areas of interest on the web where you can seek more information on Capitular Masonry and in areas of the York Rite which you may have a more specific interest in understanding.

Other books which are earnestly suggested to you for reading include:

- *The Royal Arch: Its Hidden Meaning*, George Steinmetz
- *Understanding the Royal Arch*, Richard Sandbach
- *Lessons in Capitular Masonry*, Charles C. Hunt

These books are by no means meant to be the final or the most definitive texts on the subject of Capitular Masonry, but they are a start as you begin your journey through the Chapter meetings and start to understand more of the significance behind the rituals, lessons, and degrees.

Links of Interest

There are several websites where you can obtain more information, or become more active within your Chapter. These include areas where you can discover the different schedules of the Chapters in Kansas and of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas.

- www.kansasyorkrite.org is the link for the Grand York Rite of Kansas and the information on the website will allow you to stay current on York Rite activities within the jurisdiction.
- www.ggcrami.org is the link for the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International and includes education links, awards, and further education concerning each of the degrees you have taken.
- www.yorkrite.org contains information on other York Rite Appendant Bodies within the United States.

Special Events

You will soon discover there are many different special events which you as a Royal Arch Masons are eligible to attend. Our Grand Chapter hosts special degree conferrals. At these conferrals, we confer the degrees of Capitular Masonry. You are invited to not only attend, but to participate within these degrees.

Festive Boards are held in conjunction with special events. These are a great opportunity for fellowship and to enjoy a good meal with the Companions, and sometimes their Ladies.

Special conferrals, such as the Quarry Degree, attending degrees conferred by visiting Companions of another Grand Jurisdiction provide further opportunities to meet with, and get to know, Royal Arch Masons from across the world.



There are opportunities to attend the regional meetings of the various Grand Royal Arch Chapters within the South Central Region. Our region consists of Grand Chapters from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. With your dues card, you are now able to attend these meetings and to travel into other jurisdictions to enjoy all the benefits of Capitular Masonry.

Your attendance at the meetings of your Chapter, and at the Annual Communication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas, is requested. These meetings will assist you in learning more about Capitular Masonry and how your Chapter functions. The rituals are beautiful, and the meanings held within each of the degrees, and the opening and closing of your Chapter, are remarkable and contain much wisdom and knowledge. By being an active participant in your Chapter's affairs you will be better enabled to understand and enjoy the experience Capitular Masonry provides for you.

Our Charity—R.A.R.A.



The charity chosen by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International is Royal Arch Research Assistance. Our charity supports research into Central Auditory Processing Disorder.

Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation incorporated in the State of Kentucky in 1974. The purpose of the organization is to research and promote solutions to Central Auditory Processing Disorder or CAPD. It is governed by a Board of Directors who are all Royal Arch Masons. The General Grand High Priest is the President. The Board Secretary receives all contributions, keeps records, and sends out receipts, certificates, and awards. Each works with the R.A.R.A. Representatives and the Ambassadors for each state, together with the Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest to coordinate Chapter. In this way, the Grand Chapters in their Regions will be encouraged to participate publicly to demonstrate our community involvement. Through greater visibility to the public, the hope is to generate a greater commitment to this endeavor and promote Royal Arch Masonry.

There are three Regional Coordinators to provide public relations and fundraising assistance under the direction of the Executive Director. The R.A.R.A. Board of Directors is committed to identifying and supporting those scientists who are searching for treatment regimens and eventually a cure for CAPD.

At the 1972 Triennial meeting in Las Vegas, Most Excellent (M.E.) Edward Selby, Past Grand High Priest (P.G.H.P.) of Ohio and Grand King of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter International, proposed at the Grand King's meeting that General Grand Chapter should have a unique and unified Philanthropy, one that would not conflict, detract or duplicate existing charities.

In 1974, the R.A.R.A. was born after extensive investigation. The plans were implemented in 1975 during M.E. Gordon Merrick's term.

The mission of the Royal Arch Research Assistance has been to help children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders (CAPD) by funding research. In the beginning R.A.R.A. funded research by Dr. Jack Williford followed by Dr. Joan Burleigh of Colorado State University who later formed the Able Kids Foundation until they discontinued their research program.

Funding was then shifted to Dr. Frank Musiek at the University of Connecticut, and later the University of Arizona until his retirement. Autism Speaks and the Hearing Health Foundation were also added to our program at that time.

Since its conception in 1974, Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.), has become the Leading, Non-educational institution dedicated to helping children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders. R.A.R.A. does not directly fund treatment centers or hospitals, instead it focuses on funding researchers in CAPD, setting them on a lifelong career path to conquering the disease. R.A.R.A. has special relationships with the Hearing Health Foundation and Autism Speaks whose board members suggest and vet researchers for R.A.R.A. funding.

R.A.R.A. Giving Recognitions

There are several ways we as Royal Arch Masons contribute to R.A.R.A. One way is through your local Chapter, which gives an annual sum to the charity directly from the Chapter. This sum usually ranges from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per member of each Chapter. The Chapter receives an annual emblem for their plaque which is intended to show how much the Chapter has given throughout the year on behalf of its membership.

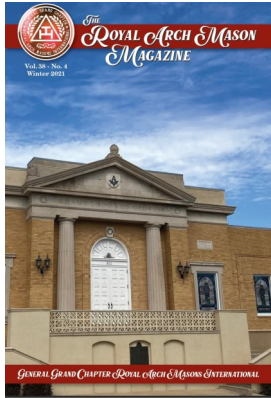
Other awards and recognition are given directly from the General Grand Chapter, and they include pins and jewels based on the cumulative giving level of an individual Companion of the Chapter.

Pins of various colors and containing different precious stones are given for donations totaling \$100 to \$1,000 (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Diamond pins) from an individual Companion.



Additional badges, the Keystone and R.A.R.A. Badge, is given for donations between \$2,500 and \$10,000.

Royal Arch Publications

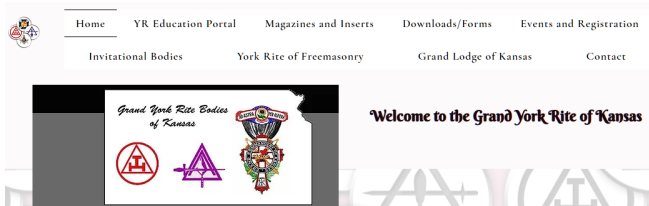


Each quarter of the year, the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International produces a fine magazine, **The Royal Arch Mason**, which will be sent to your postal address. The magazine contains articles of interest to the Royal Arch Mason in the way of education, national and international events, and charitable endeavors. There is a four-page insert within the magazine you receive which will include information strictly from Kansas. The current, and many previous inserts, can be found at the Kansas Grand York Rite website.

The Grand York Rite quarterly newsletter, Letters from York, is produced quarterly and is emailed to members of the Chapter who desire to receive it by email. This magazine includes information relative to each of the many York Rite bodies within Kansas, including the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas, AF&AM. Each publication, and several of the back issues, are available on the Kansas Grand York Rite website as well.



Kansas Grand York Rite Website



The website contains a wealth of information for the new Capitular Mason. It includes dates of upcoming York Rite events article and papers on education, newsletters and inserts for magazines, the bylaws of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas, information on the Grand Chapter Officers, and locations of subordinate Chapters within the jurisdiction of Kansas. Visit the website for more information or to keep updated on current events in Kansas and the region.

The Capitular Degrees



The Mark Master Degree is believed to have originated as a ceremony of registering a craftsman mark in those years distinguished by the operative craft masons and their temple building. It was later developed into a full fledged degree by the Masonic fraternity as we know it today. Some scholars say it was the earliest degree and may predate all others by many years. It is highly regarded by students and ritualists as one of the most beautiful degrees in all Masonry, teaching lessons that have proven of value in all walks of life. Some Grand Lodges place so high an eminence on the Mark Master Degree, that they confine it to the jurisdiction of a separate grand body, the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.



The Past Master Degree came into being because originally the degree of Royal Arch was conferred by the Craft (Blue) Lodge only on actual Past Masters. This degree was instituted to make it possible for all worthy Brethren to receive the Royal Arch Degree. The first record of its conferral is found in 1768 in England.



The Most Excellent Master Degree is a product of American innovation. It was conferred in Royal Arch Chapter as early as 1783 in Middletown, Conn. It is one of the most spectacular degrees in all Freemasonry. It is the only degree that brings forcibly to our attention the completion and dedication of King Solomon's Temple; the very idea upon which all Masonic symbolism has been based.



The Holy Royal Arch Degree is the climax of Ancient Craft Masonry and Masonic Symbolism. It is described as “the root and marrow of Freemasonry.” It is the complete story of Jewish History during some of its darkest hours. Jerusalem and the Holy Temple are destroyed. The people of Israel are being held captive as slaves in Babylon. This degree demonstrated some of the captives as they were set free to return home and engage in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the city and the Temple of God. It is during this rebuilding that they make a discovery that brings to light the greatest treasure of a Mason – the long lost Master's Word.

Resources

There are many resources available for you, the new Royal Arch Mason, to purchase various items from. Below are just a sampling of locations where you can purchase clothing, aprons, and other items, if you so desire. These are not the entire listing of those who offer Royal Arch themed items. Be sure to purchase items which are intended for the American York Rite bodies, and not the British Chapter items. You will soon discover there is a difference in the appearance of these items between the two jurisdictions.

The Red Jacket is available at a variety of locations. One which several of the members in Kansas has purchased from, is Blazer Depot (blazerdepot.com). The Classic Blazer, in the color red, is the typical one purchased by many of the Companions. Please realize the colors may change if a different vendor is used. Be sure the color you select matches the one offered by Blazer Depot.

The Chapter Tie is available from many different resources, and there is not specific tie for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas or any particular subordinate Chapter in Kansas. Masonic Revival (www.masonicrevival.com) has several ties, both long and self-tie or pre-tied bowties, available for purchase.

The Craftsman's Apron (www.craftsmansapron.com) offers a variety of unique bowties and long ties with the imagery of the Holy Royal Arch.

The General Grand Chapter's website (www.ggcrami.org) offers a variety of Chapter-themed and oriented ties, shirts, kilts, and other items of interest for the Royal Arch Mason.

