



Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Winter 2024

Michael N. Terry, MEGHP 2023-2024



Reflections on 2023

Well, another year has passed, and the holidays are behind us. I hope everyone had a great holiday season. My family had the privilege to host several college students who could not go home for the holidays at our house for holiday meals.

My family says the Lord's prayer together as our way of giving thanks before our meals. I found the students were willing and able to recite the prayer with my family. Young people continue to amaze me

with their many ideas and solid values.

I am looking forward to accomplishing several things in the upcoming year. Things that need started, things needing to be completed and things I wish to attend.

We have received several new applications for Royal Arch Mason, so we need to start the degree work for these applicants. Hopefully our local Chapters will be able to conduct the degree work with the influx of new Companions from last year's Grand Master class and some assistance from the Grand Chapter.

We need to complete the Commandry orders for several candidates from the Grand Master's Class for Royal Arch Masons. This takes some coordination and planning, but I know we will get it done.

Also, I hope we can help a couple of local Kansas Royal Arch Mason Chapters back to having regular meetings with the influx of the new Companions from last year.

Lastly, I wish to attend the South-Central Conference in 2024. I was unable to attend the Conference in 2023 as unfortunately my mother passed away the day before the Conference, so I stayed home to handle her funeral. I wish to thank R.:E.: Principal Sojourner Patrick Carr for standing in for me at the conference.

I wish everyone God's speed in accomplishing your tasks, remain vigilant to your environment to stay safe, always take care of your family and give thanks to God for our blessings.

Michael N. Terry
M.:E.: Grand High Priest 2023-2024



Grand Chapter Awards

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas has the ability to bestow several awards. These awards are given at the discretion of the Grand High Priest at the annual communication each year. While the Grand High Priest bestows the awards, it is up to each Companion within the Chapter to nominate worthy candidates for these honors and awards.



Distinguished Service Medal (Bronze)

This is an annual Grand Chapter award which is intended to recognize the leadership, commitment, and resolve of companions that dedicate their time to ensure the bond of their word; that establish all their actions and deeds as honorable; and demonstrate unyielding faithfulness to the tenets of Royal Arch Masonry. One award per year is permitted and recommendations can be made to the Grand Recorder. The form can be found here: [Meritorious Companion Cert \(ggcrami.org\)](https://www.ggcrami.org/meritorious-companion-cert).

Grand Chapter Sweetheart Award

This award is intended to show our ladies how much we appreciate all the support they provide which allows us to continue our masonic journey throughout capitular masonry. Who can say they do everything within masonry without support from their ladies? Very few for sure. Any Royal Arch Mason may purchase this award and send the form to the Grand Secretary for procession. As with most awards, this award has a price, which is \$100, and the form can be found here: [926526_28b374e063b84013bc5433a157e7cd66.pdf \(ggcrami.org\)](https://www.ggcrami.org/926526_28b374e063b84013bc5433a157e7cd66.pdf).



2024 Grand Chapter Communication

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas will hold their annual meeting on Friday, May 3, 2023, at 9:00 AM at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. This is slightly different format than previous years where the meetings of the several Grand York Rite bodies rotated their meeting schedules and days. The morning will start the Grand Chapter meeting and will conclude before lunch. The annual banquet will be held on Friday evening as usual.

This event is opened to all Royal Arch Masons and constituent Chapter officers are encouraged to attend and have their votes counted. This is a fantastic time to hear from others within the jurisdiction of Kansas concerning what they are doing for capitular masonry.



2023 South Central Chapter Meeting

The 2023 South Central meeting of Royal Arch Masons was held in September in Branson, Missouri. This was another excellent time for Royal Arch Masons from across the South Central Region to gather together, enjoy fellowship, and learn what each Grand Chapter within the region is doing in their jurisdiction. The Grand Chapter of Kansas was well represented. The South Central Region is made up of Grand Chapters from Arkansas, Kansas,



Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas, and meets in different member states on a rotational basis. The next South Central meeting will be held September 20-21, 2024, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is open to any Royal Arch Mason and it is a good time to learn from our Companions what is working within their jurisdictions and to make long-lasting friendships.



New Perpetual Life Membership Program

At the 2023 Grand York Rite Sessions, the delegates approved a measure allowing the Grand Recorder to present a new program for perpetual life memberships which could be paid over time rather than as one large lump-sum payment. The Grand Recorder met with the PPLM Committee and they are happy to report there is a new program allowing our members to pay their PPLM for the three York Rite bodies (Chapter, Council, Commandery) over a time period.

For a member to take part in the Perpetual Life Membership Payment Plan, they must be current on dues for the term or year for which the payment plan is started or requested.

The Payment Plan payment amount will equal thirty-five (35) times the amount of the annual dues for the constituent York Rite bodies (Chapter, Council, and Commandery) plus \$35.00 for a Life Sponsorship in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.

The dues for the member will be frozen at the current amount during the active payment period of the Plan.

The Payment Plan monthly amount will be collected for a period of sixty (60) monthly installments. The installment amount will be determined by multiplying the annual dues by 35, plus \$35.00 Eye Foundation



Sponsorship (if not already obtained). That number will be divided by 60 monthly installments. (Example: Annual dues of $(\$100.00 \times 35) + \35 will equal \$58.92 per month for 60 months).

The Member's annual dues will be paid by the Payment Plan during the time the installments are collected. Once the installment payments are completed, the member will receive a Perpetual Life Membership in the bodies on the original Installment Application.

If a member defaults on their installment plan for a period of more than 90 days, the Payment Plan will be considered cancelled, and any amount collected will be used to pay the member's annual dues until the balance is exhausted.

If the member desires to continue the Payment Plan between the 90 days of late installments, and up to one (1) year past the time of cancellation, the Payment Plan may be reinstated by calculating the remaining payment amounts and resuming the collection of monthly installments at the new rate. (The new rate will be calculated by using the amount remaining to be collected on the original Payment Plan and dividing it by the number of remaining months of the original plan.)

If the member's installment payments become more than one (1) year in arrears, the Payment Plan may be restarted by recalculating the installment payments. (The new rate will be calculated by using the current annual dues amount, subtracting the balance on hand in the member's account, and dividing by sixty (60) monthly installments.)

The Payment Plan may be paid off at any time. There will be no penalties applied for early payment to the Plan.

Lump sum payments may be made to the Payment Plan account. Payments will be recalculated for the remaining months of the Original Plan.

If a member becomes deceased before the completion of the Payment Plan, the amount remaining in the account will be used to purchase a Perpetual Memorial Membership for the deceased member.

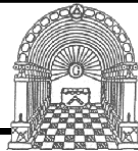
If a member loses the right to membership, such as suspension from a prerequisite body, all payments will be forfeited to the Payment Plan.

The contract, and more information, can be found by visiting the Grand York Rite website and downloading both the contract and the explanation form.



Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Winter 2024

Gary A. Mason., MIGM 2023-2024



From the Illustrious Grand Master

By now the holiday seasons have begun and the first one I want to mention is Veterans Day, which was held on November 11, 2023. Here is some history on how Veterans Day came about which I discovered after some research using the internet.

An Armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities was signed on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month on November 11, 1918 and is regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." This is what we now refer to as World War I. Because of this auspicious event, we celebrate Veterans Day here in America. Other nations celebrate Armistice Day to commemorate the same event. I would like to say "Thank You" to all Veterans for your service whether past, present or future, and no matter what branch of the Military you served in or serve.

Thanksgiving has now come and gone and while many have traveled to be with their families during this time of giving thanks be careful on your trips back to your home since we are now starting into the winter months.

The local Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies are beginning to elect and install their new Officers for 2024. Get out and attend and visit their Installations and meetings and get involved with their degree work in the local lodges. Who knows? You might even get new members to join the York Rite because of your presence and zeal for the work in the Blue lodge.

Christmas will be here before you know it, so while you are enjoying the Christmas spirit with family and friends, be safe wherever you are. Also remember December 25th is the birthday of our Savior the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, A Merry Christmas and a Happy and a joyous New Year.

Gary Mason
M.:I.: Grand Master 2023-2024



Grand Council Awards

The Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Council has the ability to bestow several awards. These awards are given at the discretion of the Most Illustrious Grand Master at the annual communication each year. While it is his purveyance to make the awards, it is up to each Companion within the Council to nominate worthy candidates for these honors and awards.

Cryptic Mason of the Year

This is an annual Grand Council award which is intended to recognize the leadership and commitment of one Companion Cryptic Mason whose work and resolve stands out from the rest. This nomination can be made by any Cryptic Mason in Kansas and can be done with an email to the Grand Recorder detailing why the Companion is worthy of the award and honor.



Youth Advocate Award

This award is intended to recognize those who labor providing services to the youth of Kansas. It is a General Grand Council award and is not intended solely for Cryptic Masons. This award can be given to any person, masonic affiliated or not, who demonstrates a commitment to helping youth and guiding them throughout their lives. More information, and the link to download the nomination form, can be found here: [Youth Advocate Award – Cryptic Masons International](#).

Lady of the Council Award

This is intended to honor and recognize the support the ladies provide to Cryptic Masons and Councils. The General Grand Council has designed this token as a small appreciation to the ladies for all they do to further the causes and precepts of Cryptic Masonry. We all need the support from our ladies and this award is intended as a way for each of us to do this. More information, and the link to download the nomination form, can be found here: [Lady of the Council – Cryptic Masons International](#).





2024 Grand Council Communication

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will hold their annual meeting on Friday, May 3, 2023, at 1:00 PM at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. This is slightly different format than previous years where the meetings of the several Grand York Rite bodies rotated their meeting schedules and days. The afternoon session will start with the Grand Council meeting and will conclude before the annual banquet. The annual banquet will be held on Friday evening as usual.

This event is opened to all Cryptic Masons and constituent Council officers are encouraged to attend and have their votes counted. This is a fantastic time to hear from others within the jurisdiction of Kansas concerning what they are doing for cryptic masonry.

2023 South Central Grand Council Update

The 2023 South Central meeting of Cryptic Masons was held in September in Branson, Missouri. Kansas was well represented at the meetings and a fantastic time was had by all who attended. The Grand Council of Missouri went above and beyond to offer a superior masonic experience for everyone who could attend. At the meeting, the General Grand Master of Cryptic Masons International, William “Bill” Schneider, presented a new program for the constituent Grand Councils. This program involved pairing up a U.S. Grand Council with one from Europe. Kansas was selected to pair up with the Grand Council of Portugal to exchange ideas and information. This should shed a new light on cryptic masonry across Europe and America. The next South Central meeting will be held September 20-21, 2024, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It is open to any Cryptic Mason and it is a good time to learn from our Companions in the region and to make long-lasting friendships and connections.





The Sword and the Trowel

The emblematic sword and trowel are used and referred to in many of the different Masonic degrees and appendant bodies, but nowhere is it more prominent than when used in the Council of Cryptic Masons in the York Rite.

It has been said the Israelites who were engaged in the rebuilding of the temple executed their labors with the sword in one hand and the trowel in the other. This reference is in the Biblical account which stated while they were engaged in building the temple for the Great Architect of the Universe, they should also be ever ready to engage in battle. The symbolism of the sword as displayed in this form of operative masonry is in reference to the need to defend their lives, land, liberty and religion from those who would invade, steal and oppress them. The trowel's use is that of every operative mason who is engaged in construction. Simply put, it is used to spread cement and to make the building solid and sturdy in its constituent make up.

In speculative masonry, we are admonished in the Masters degree to use the trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love, by whose use will unite us into a sacred society of brothers. By this unity, we are encouraged to have no enmity or quarrel, since we are all united in one common goal, the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment and the advancement of the great purposes of masonry among ourselves and the world.

In the Council, both the sword and trowel are prominent. In the various degrees of the Council, the sword is used to demonstrate the need to be ever on guard against those who would betray our trusts and confidence and the trowel is there to remind us to continually strive to build relationships with those in our midst. By building these strong relationships we can rest assured the sword should never have to make an appearance in our defense.

Both the sword and the trowel serve important roles in masonic ritual and symbolism. They appear in several degrees and bodies to serve a specific purpose, but their ultimate purpose should be to remind us to be ever vigilant against the enemies of masonry. Those enemies would use their power, authority and influences to deprive mankind of truth and knowledge. The true mason should be mindful of these interlopers who seek to block the minds of the people from free thought and free speech. It is our duty as masons to continue the great advancement of our Rites. By looking to both the sword, as the implement of knowledge and truth, and the trowel, as a symbol of perseverance, we should be able to strive toward our ultimate goal of spreading light and knowledge to all who desire to seek after it. This will enable us to bring both knowledge and enlightenment to the world around us and by doing so, will free the minds of the people from oppression.