



Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Summer 2024

John T. Staton, MEGHP 2024-2025



From the Grand High Priest

Hello Companions. My name is John Staton, and I am the Grand High Priest for the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas. The following is my Masonic Bio.

I was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas to Bill and Ruth Staton on September 1, 1951. I grew up on a 40 acre place near Magazine, Arkansas and attended 12 years of school in Magazine. My sister and brother, and their families, as well as extended family, live in the Magazine area. My wife Ruth Ann and I have been married 52 years and are proud to have four children and 5 grandchildren.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Old Testament from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas in 1974, a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1980, and a Master of Business Administration from Wichita State University in 2000. In the summers and on "breaks" during my early college years, I worked as a carpenter in construction to pay expenses. I spent 29 years working at the Boeing Company in Wichita as an aircraft structural engineer.

I joined the Masonic Lodge at Derby No. 365 in 1996 and became Master in 2004. I joined the Midian Shrine and the Wichita Scottish Rite in 1996. I was in the van drivers unit in the Shrine and made several trips to Saint Louis. I joined Derby Eastern Star #493 in 2001 and have served several times as Worthy Patron. I joined the York Rite in 2002 and have been High Priest of Wichita Chapter No. 33, Illustrious Master of Wichita Council No. 12, and Commander of Mount Olivet No. 12. I am a Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Kansas 2018-2019. I am a Most Illustrious Past Grand Master of the Most Illustrious Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas 2022-2023. I am a past Sovereign of AMD 383, past Excellent Chief of Knight Masons Council no. 53, past Governor of York Rite College No. 125, current Grand Governor of Kansas of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Past Sovereign of Calvary Conclave of the Order of the Red Cross, a member of The Kansas Association of Past High Priests of Kansas, and a past Preceptor of the River Jordan Tabernacle of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests No.38, a member of the Order of Athelstan, past President of the Past Commanders Association of Kansas, a member of the Order of the Silver Trowel of Kansas, a member of the Order of the High Priesthood of Kansas, and a member of the Kansas Priory No. 33 Knights of the York Cross of Honour.



My wife and I are members of Woodlawn United Methodist Church in Derby. We enjoy gardening, travel, doing projects around the house, and playing with the grand kids. I also enjoy hunting and fishing.

The Grand Session for 2024 ended on May 4 with a new slate of Grand Officers installed. The Officers for all three bodies are listed on kansasyorkrite.org website with pictures.

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

Goodland Chapter No. 74 Update

Goodland Chapter No. 74 has been extremely busy! On February 24, 2024, several of the Grand officers from the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery traveled to Goodland to install their newly elected and appointed officers.



Soon thereafter, with the help of Royal Arch Chapters from across the jurisdiction of Kansas, the Chapter hosted a festival to confer the Mark Master and Virtual Past Master degrees on Saturday, April 20, 2024. It was a great day of degree conferrals and 6 new brothers received the degrees. There was even better news to come! Those six brothers have decided they want to complete their York Rite experience and continue through to complete the Chapter and Council degrees and the Commandery Orders.

Congratulations to Goodland Chapter No. 74 and High Priest Michael Colbary for his work! We look forward to seeing more great things coming soon from Goodland Chapter No. 74!





2024 Grand Chapter Convocation Update

The 158th Annual Convocation for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas was held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. Most Excellent Companion Michael Terry opened the Grand Chapter in full form after a public session was held prior to the convocation. Several visitors made comments during the session and those in attendance enjoyed the time together.



Prior to the session, on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, the annual meeting of the Order of the High Priesthood was held and seven Past High Priests received the degree.

There was only one piece of legislation offered at the session, and it was concerning companions being in multiple Grand York Rite lines at the same time. The measure failed after some well educated and received comments from the companions in attendance.

The new officers were installed and are ready to continue their service to the members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas.



There were two appointments made by Grand High Priest John Staton to start the Grand Chapter line this year. Companion Robert Beardsley of Wichita Chapter No 33 will serve as the Excellent Grand Principal Sojourner and Andrew Mosley of Leavenworth Chapter No. 2 will serve as the Excellent Grand Royal Arch Captain. Congratulations to all the officers and we look forward to seeing them around the state this year.



During the annual banquet, Excellent Companion Justin Crippen was awarded the General Grand Chapter Bronze Award for his dedication and service to Royal Arch Masonry. The new Past Grand High Priest, Michael Terry, received his membership card to General Grand Chapter and his Past Grand High Priest medallion and cord. Lady Sharon Long received the Grand Chapter Sweetheart Award. It was a great session and we look forward to another great session in 2025!





2024-2025 Grand Chapter Officers

The new Grand Chapter Officers were elected, appointed and installed in Manhattan at the Annual Convocation.



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| M.:E.: Grand High Priest | John T. Staton, Wichita #33 |
| R.:E.: Grand King | Patrick C. Carr, Salina #18 |
| R.:E.: Grand Scribe | Gary B. Strout, Leavenworth #2 |
| M.:E.: Grand Treasurer | T. Michael Fegan, Junction City #17 |
| M.:E.: Grand Secretary | Allan D. Jackson, Lawrence #4 |
| E.: Grand Chaplain | Steven DeBerry, Wichita #33 |
| E.: Grand Captain of the Host | Thomas M. Krauss, Hays #68 |
| E.: Principal Sojourner | Robert Beardsley, Wichita #33 |
| E.: Royal Arch Captain | Andrew G. Mosley, Leavenworth #2 |
| E.: Grand Master of 3rd Veil | James York, Iola #8 |
| E.: Grand Master of 2nd Veil | Dan Owens, Wichita #33 |
| E.: Grand Master of 1st Veil | Daron J. Woelk, Hays #68 |
| E.: Grand Sentinel | Frederick R. Kemp, Leavenworth #2 |
| E.: Grand Musician | Dennis Reed, Lawrence #4 |
| R.:E.: DDGHP District #1 | Andrew G. Mosley, Leavenworth #2 |
| R.:E.: DDGHP District #2 | Warren L. Hughes, Iola #8 |
| R.:E.: DDGHP District #3 | Wayne D. Drake, Lawrence #4 |
| R.:E.: DDGHP District #4 | Ronald J. Mozingo, Winfield Chapter #31 |
| R.:E.: DDGHP District #5 | Patrick C. Carr, Salina #18 |



Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Summer 2024

L. Kent Needham, MIGM 2024-2025



From the Illustrious Grand Master

Greetings Companions.

The 2024 Grand York Rite Session for Kansas was held May 1-4, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas annual session was held Friday, May 3rd. It is an honor to have been elected and installed as the Most Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Kansas that day. Many thanks to MIPGM Billy Ray King for asking me to be his appointment to the progressive Grand Council line as the Grand Conductor of the Council. It is also my honor to introduce to you Illustrious Patrick Carr as the incoming Grand Conductor of the Council for 2024-2025. Thank you, Patrick, for accepting my offer to join the progressive Grand Council line.

The Grand Council has several activities planned this year. Coming up quickly is the Great Plains Rendezvous. Cryptic Masons of Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas will come together in Sterling, Colorado on June 22nd to confer degrees and enjoy the friendship and comradery of fellow Companions from other jurisdictions.

Our second event will be the Annual Pike's Peak Cryptic Deposit Inspection. For those joining the expedition, we will meet on Saturday, September 14, for an evening of good food and entertainment at the Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner and Western Show in Colorado Springs, CO. On Sunday, September 15th, we will ride the Cog Railroad to the summit of Pike's Peak to inspect the time capsule. Registration information is available online through the Kansas Grand York Rite website.

In addition to these two events, the Grand Council officers have two significant projects under consideration and review. First, through multiple discussions, it is clear that most, if not all, of our Grand Council officers understand the importance of having a clear vision into the future. They also recognize the need to develop a strategic plan to help navigate the challenges of securing the future of York Rite Masonry and Masonry, in general, in Kansas. In an effort to develop a functional strategic plan, we will be reviewing the strategic plan of the M.:W.: Grand Lodge of Kansas to see if that template can be used to develop a Grand Council strategic plan. At our annual York Rite session, M.:W.: Douglas L. Wilkinson, Grand Master, offered access to the Grand Lodge strategic plan details to see if there might be opportunities to align our goals and activities more closely with those of the Grand Lodge. While our initial goal is to develop a plan for the Grand Council, a broader goal of aligning our goals with those of the Grand Commandery and Grand Chapter of

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Kansas would be a reasonable next step. If we are successful in developing and activating a workable strategic plan for York Rite Masonry in Kansas, we will have taken significant steps to secure the future of York Rite Masonry in Kansas.

Our second project is to review the committee structure of the Grand Council. It has been noted that several of the committees either have outlived their usefulness or are not functioning as anticipated. My charge to the committee chairman is to review the purpose of their committee, document their activities and at the end of the year, we will have established a description of the purpose and activities of the committee or will have a recommendation to discontinue the committee as it serves no current purpose.

As you can see, we have 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. This promises to be a fun but challenging year.

One final thought for consideration, servant leadership is an important concept in which many Masons strongly believe. As we gain knowledge and progress into positions of influence in life as well as in Masonry, it is critically important that we remember we are in these positions to serve. To serve effectively, we must remain humble. In a recent sermon at church, our minister offered several tips on how to remain humble. First, turn down the opportunity to be in the limelight. Second, reflect on how you got into the current position of responsibility. Third, always look for opportunities to serve others. Finally, redirect praise. You can rest assured many people influenced and supported you as you achieved your successes along the way. Give them the credit and praise.

Again, it is an honor to serve you. Be safe in your summer travels and we will see you down the road.

Respectfully,

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

2024 Grand Council Communication

The 157th Annual Assembly for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas was held on Friday, May 3, 2024, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. Most Illustrious Companion Gary Mason opened the Grand Council in full form after a public session was held prior to the convocation. There were several visitors who came from around the county and they made comments during the session. Those who were able to be in attendance enjoyed the short Grand Council meeting.



After the session was closed, the annual conferral of the Order of the Silver Trowel was held and seven Past Illustrious Masters received the degree. Companion Jamie Carwell provided another excellent, and moving, conferral as King David.

There was only one piece of legislation offered at the session, and it was concerning companions being in multiple Grand York Rite lines at the same time. The measure was removed before the meeting.

The new officers were installed and are ready and able to continue their service to the members of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas. Most Illustrious Companion L. Kent Needham appoint Illustrious Companion Patrick C. Carr to the office of Grand Conductor of the Council. Congratulations to all the officers! They are ready to serve your Council as needed during this next Cryptic year.



During the annual banquet, Illustrious Companion Justin Crippen was awarded the Cryptic Mason of the Year award for his dedication and service. The new Past Most Illustrious Grand Master, Gary Mason, received his membership card to

General Grand Council and his Past Most Illustrious Grand Master medallion and cord.

Lady Adriane Carr received the Grand Council Lady of the Council award. Tish Green, with the Wichita Bethel of Job's Daughters, received the



General Grand Council Youth Leadership Award. A great time was had by all who were in attendance.





2024-2025 Grand Council Officers

The new Grand Chapter Officers were elected, appointed and installed in Manhattan at the Annual Convocation.



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| M.:I.: Grand Master | L. Kent Needham, Lawrence #14 |
| R.:I.: Deputy Grand Master | Gary B. Strout, Leavenworth #1 |
| R.:E.: Grand Prin. Cond. Work | Robert B. Haynes, Junction City #22 |
| M.:I.: Grand Treasurer | T. Michael Fegan, Junction City #22 |
| M.:I.: Grand Secretary | Allan D. Jackson, Lawrence #14 |
| I.: Grand Chaplain | Kelly J. Long, Ellsworth #9 |
| I.: Grand Captain of the Guard | Wayne D. Drake, Lawrence #14 |
| I.: Grand Cond. Of Council | Patrick C. Carr, Ellsworth #9 |
| I.: Grand Marshal | Justin D. Crippen, Wichita #12 |
| I.: Grand Cust. Of the Work | Warren Hughes, Iola #8 |
| I.: Grand Sentinel | Frederick R. Kemp, Leavenworth #1 |
| I.: Asst. Grand Sentinel | Thomas R. Krauss, Jericho #26 |
| I.: Grand Organist | Dennis Reed, Lawrence #14 |
| M.:I.: Arch Master | Wayne H. Rolf, Leavenworth #1 |
| M.:I.: Arch Master | H. Wayne Rector, Leavenworth #1 |
| R.:I.: Arch Master | Jame L. Carwell, Washington #2 |