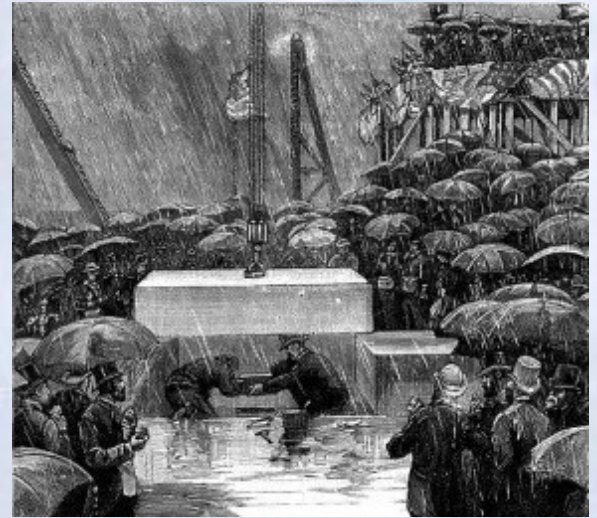
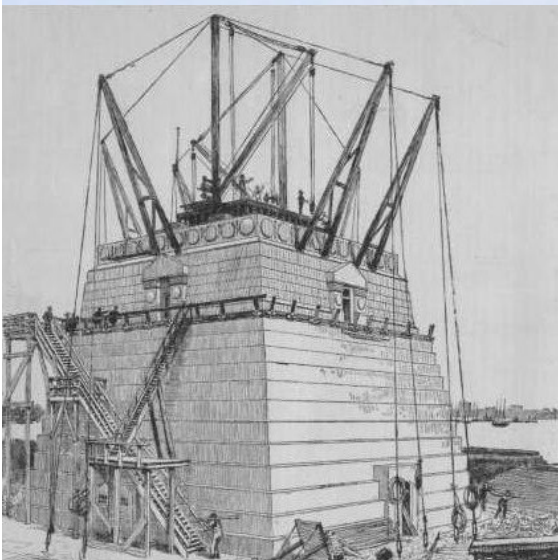




# MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON



- Capitular Development Course
- The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest
- Improvement through Cryptic Freemasonry
- Building of the Statue of Liberty



Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri

Missouri York Rite Beacon is the official publication of the Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri.

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**Submissions:** All submissions of photographs should include a 40 to 50 word article telling who, what, when, where and why. Pictures should be high resolution jpg (s) from a camera (at least 300 dpi). Phone pictures should be set to high resolution.



Articles to be considered for publication should be e-mailed to:

<https://moyorkrite.org/missouri-york-rite-beacon-news-submission-form/>





***M.:E.: O.: Kevin M. Ritter  
Grand High Priest  
of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch  
Masons of the State of Missouri***



Greetings, Companions!

Since my last writing, I have had my first official visit, which was at my home Chapter, Springfield Chapter Number 15. It was a great evening, and I look forward to more visitations in the coming months. I was also able to attend the reception for the Grand Master of the Grand Council, Most Illustrious Companion Dennis W. Houck. It was a great evening and I am glad that I was able to attend and support M.:I.:C.: Dennis.

We have reached the end of August, and Chapters will soon take up their regular activities once again after an excellent summer break. As your Chapters begin meeting again, please remember my message, BE EXCELLENT TO EACH OTHER. You might consider making a renewed effort to learn ritual with your Companions or plan a fundraiser for RARA. Maybe your Chapter may start planning a holiday party or a contribution to one (or more) of our Masonic youth organizations. Or maybe you start small – pick up the phone and call a Companion you have not seen in a while.

The statewide York Rite Conference will be held September 5th and 6th in St. James, Missouri. If you have not already purchased your ticket, time is running out! We are trying a new format this year and would love to have as many Companions and Sir Knights there as possible! Visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-state-grand-york-rite-conference> to get your ticket today!

I'm looking forward to continuing my travels in the coming weeks – an official visit to the Companions of Rolla Chapter No. 32 on September 1st, Statewide Conference on September 5th and 6th, my official reception in Springfield on September 6th, an official visit to Tyrian Chapter No. 52 on September 16th, and the South Central Conference on September 19th and 20th, followed by Missouri Grand Lodge in Kansas City on September 21st and 22nd.

Take care of yourselves, Companions, and BE EXCELLENT TO EACH OTHER!

Fraternally,

Kevin Ritter  
Grand High Priest





*M.:I.:O.: Dennis W. Houck*  
*Grand Master of the Grand Council of*  
*Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri*



Companions,

I get more excited as the newly revamped Grand York Rite Conference draws nearer. It is time for change. It is a time to move forward and make positive changes within our organization. I would like to thank MIC Matt Ruth for leading the Committee to organize the conference. For those who did not know, we will begin on Friday night with appetizers and a social hour. This is so we may better get to know each other and find out what's going on around the state. Let's take this opportunity to learn from each other. Finally, we will have the Stonecutters degree led by M.:E.:C.: Patrick Carr, Grand High Priest of the State of Kansas.

On Saturday, our conference will kick off with the heads of each body sharing with everyone what's will be going on around the state for the ensuing year. This will be followed by the RDGMs briefing us on what's going on in their Regions. We will have a working lunch with a guest speaker which should be concluded by 1:30 p.m.. Most of us will go to MEC Kevin Ritter's Grand High Priest's Reception that evening in Springfield.

VIC Jacob Thompson has delivered part XIV of the Grand Council Education program. I recommend you print it and add it to your Education Books. I cannot express the gratitude I have for Jacob for doing this. Please use those Education Book in your local Councils.

I would like to thank everyone who came to my Grand Reception. We had a great time, great food, and wonderful fellowship. I am glad to see the Companions who brought their wives. It gave us a chance to relax and have fun. I am looking forward to Kevins and Rons' receptions.

As always, I would like to share a Bible quote with you all, it is Luke 7 VS 23. Read, enjoy, and share it with all.

Fraternally Yours in the Cryptic Vault,

MIC Dennis W. Houck  
Grand Master



**CMMRF**

**CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION**





## *SK Terry D. Coppotelli Deputy Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri*



Constantine was the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity and in doing so, he also was influenced by the early church to do charitable works like feeding the hungry, taking care of widows and orphans, and helping the sick. It is said he devoted one quarter of his revenues to the relief of the poor and to other pious purposes.

Throughout history all the major religions have incorporated charitable elements. For example, Judaism considered charity to be a religious obligation to help the poor and help them develop skills. One of the 5 pillars of Islam is mandatory charity. Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism all practice giving alms to both individuals and public works for the community.

Christianity embraces selfless love also known as Agape in Greek describing the purest form of love for others. It represents sacrifice, unconditional commitment and acceptance of others. In the Bible it is described in **John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment: that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."**

What is charity? There are many types of charity such as Charitable institutions, which determine which organizations to fund (USAID), there are public provisions to provide healthcare and housing, food and utility assistance to the poor (Medicaid, WIC, Food stamps, HUD, Obama phone) There are benevolent organizations to provide funding for the Arts, Education, animals, and a plethora of other social improvements for communities. Charity can even include general kindness and lenient judgement of others. Today, however, I would like to discuss our individual attitudes and feelings about charity-voluntarily giving help or money to those in need and serving others.

People give charity for a multitude of reasons, altruistic reasons include the desire to help those in need, to make a tangible difference in the world, some people due to a sense of moral responsibility to those struggling and because it aligns with personal values and beliefs. Studies have shown that sharing with others is an innate characteristic that is displayed among toddlers.

Others do it for more self-serving reasons, such as building reputations, tax benefits, and social connections. We sometimes see this in Masonry, where some are driven in the pursuit of pins, honors, rewards and titles. While the charity and relief it provides is welcomed, remember what is taught in the York Rite College: **Good Works are more worthily performed in secret.**

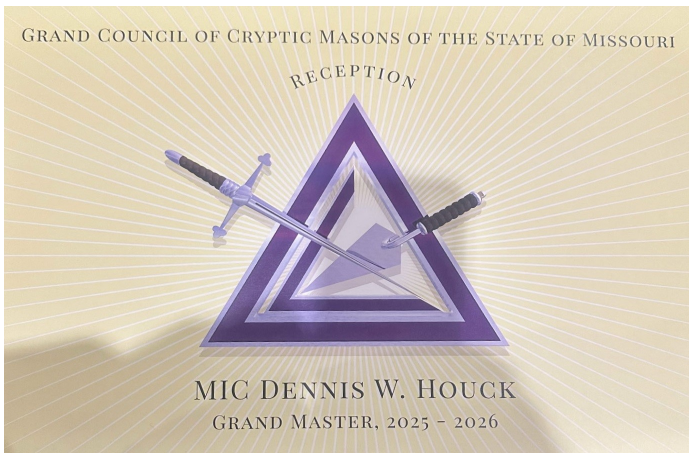
Giving to others feels good. Biologically giving to charity to help someone in need stimulates the orbitofrontal cortex of the brain. This area is responsible for emotion and motivation. People who give to the less fortunate with time, talent or treasure, have increased dopamine levels (happiness hormone) compared to those who have lower dopamine which is more often linked to depression. Studies also show an increase in energy and decrease in stress as well as feelings of euphoria. Who of us wouldn't like to have that? As a result, those people seek out additional opportunities to serve others to continue those feelings.

**Finally, I'd like to leave you with this Matthew 25:35-40**

**American Standard Version**

**"...for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink? And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me."**





On Saturday, August 9, 2025, M.:I.:C.: Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master of the Grand Council was greeted for his official reception at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.



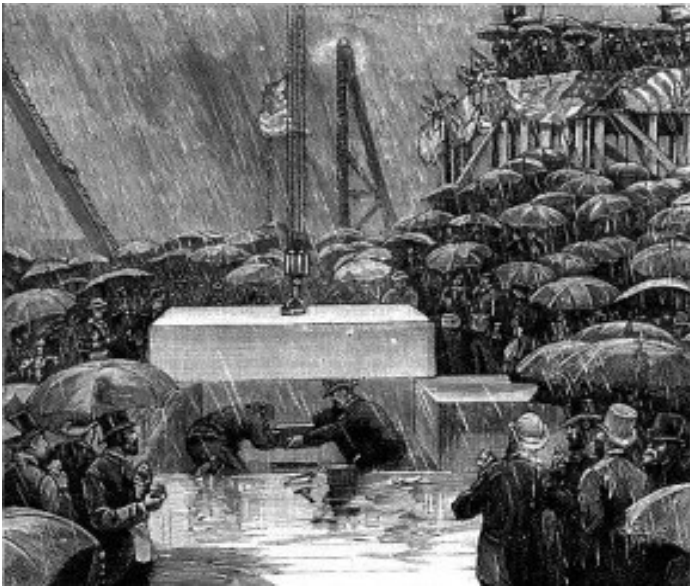






# *Freemasonry and the Building of the Statue of Liberty*

Bedloe's Island, now renamed Liberty Island, is the location of the Statue of Liberty. It was dedicated by New York Freemasons on Tuesday, August 5, 1884. A gift from the French Government. It took four months to reassemble and was originally constructed in France. It took over nine years to build and was then disassembled and transported to the United States in 214 crates.



This project began with a conversation between Édouard René Lefèvre de Laboulaye, a French Senator, and Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, a sculptor and Freemason. Over the years, many fictional stories have been created and passed down through the generations of what that discussion was. However, what we do know is that Bartholdi was commissioned to construct what would become, the Statue of Liberty or Liberty Enlightening the World.

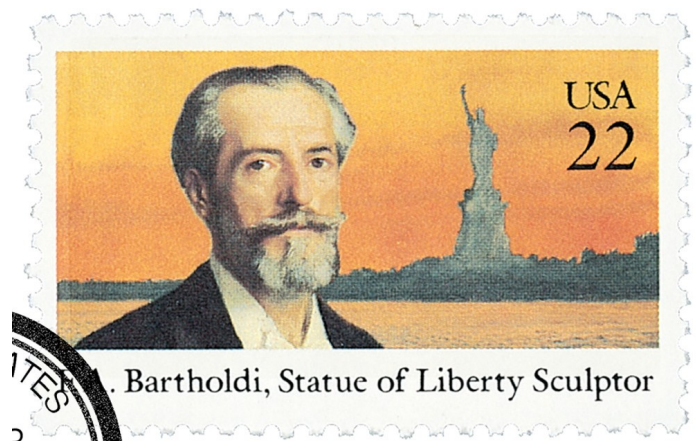
Bartholdi's design for the statue would come from a combination of ideas that came from the Colossus of Rhodes and a proposal of a lighthouse he made to the Egyptian government. That design would be of a huge lighthouse in the form of an ancient Egyptian female fellah or peasant, robed and holding a torch aloft. It was proposed to stand at the northern entrance to the Suez Canal. However, the government would never commission him to build it.

On returning to France, Bartholdi would stop at

the Giovanni Battista Crespi's sculpture Sancarbone, a 76-foot statue of St. Charles Borromeo, in Lago Maggiore, Italy. It was created by hammering out (repoussé) copper sheets and covering an iron framework. Bartholdi would choose copper over bronze or stone due to its cheaper cost, weight, and ease of transportation.

Bartholdi would bring his friend and mentor, architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, into the project. As chief engineer, Viollet-le-Duc proposed designing a brick pier filled with sand within the statue up to the hips, with iron bars like veins of a leaf to which the skin would be anchored. Bartholdi had decided on a height of just over 151 feet (46 m) for the statue, double that of Italy's Sancarbone and the German statue of Arminius, both made in that same method.

Next, Bartholdi would travel to the United State to look for a sight to place his creation and to find public support. Upon arriving into New York Harbor, Bartholdi found Bedloe's Island as a perfect site for the statue. This idea was even more reinforced by the fact that sailing vessels arriving in New York would have to sail past it. In his travel, Bartholdi would visit President Ulysses S. Grant, who assured him that it would be easy to obtain this site for his statue.



Upon return to Paris in 1877, Bartholdi concentrated on completing the head, which was exhibited at the 1878 World's Fair in Paris. Bartholdi would continue his fundraising, by selling models of



the statue of Lady Liberty. Tickets to view the construction at the Gaget, Gauthier & Co. workshop were also offered. The French government would authorize a lottery, and among the prizes were silver plated and a terracotta model of the statue. By the end of 1879, about 250,000 francs had been raised.



The head and arm would be built with the assistance of Viollet-le-Duc, who fell ill in 1879. He soon died, leaving no indication on how he intended to transition from the copper skin to his proposed masonry pier. The following year, Bartholdi was able to obtain the services of innovative designer and builder Gustave Eiffel. Eiffel and his structural engineer, Maurice Koechlin, decided to abandon the pier and instead build an iron truss tower. Eiffel opted not to use a completely rigid structure, which would force stresses to accumulate in the skin and eventually lead to it cracking. A secondary skeleton was attached to the center pylon, which would enable the statue to move slightly in the winds of New York Harbor. Since the metal skin would expand on hot summer days, he loosely connected the support structure to it using flat iron bars and springs, which culminated in a mesh of metal straps, known as "saddles", that were riveted to the skin. In a labor-intensive process, each saddle had to be crafted individually. This was to prevent galvanic corrosion between the copper skin and the iron support structure. Eiffel would then insulate the skin with asbestos impregnated with shellac.

The change in structural material from masonry to iron allowed Bartholdi to change his plans for the statue's assembly. He had originally expected to assemble the skin on-site as the masonry pier was built; instead, he decided to build the statue in France and have it disassembled and transported to the United States for reassembly on Bedloe's Island.

In a symbolic act, the first rivet placed into the

skin, fixing a copper plate onto the statue's big toe, was driven by United States Ambassador to France Levi P. Morton. The skin was not, however, crafted in exact sequence from low to high; work proceeded on several segments simultaneously in a manner often confusing to visitors. Some work was performed by contractors. One of the fingers was made to Bartholdi's exacting specifications by a coppersmith in the southern French town of Montauban. By 1882, the statue was complete up to the waist, an event Bartholdi celebrated by inviting reporters to lunch on a platform built within the statue.

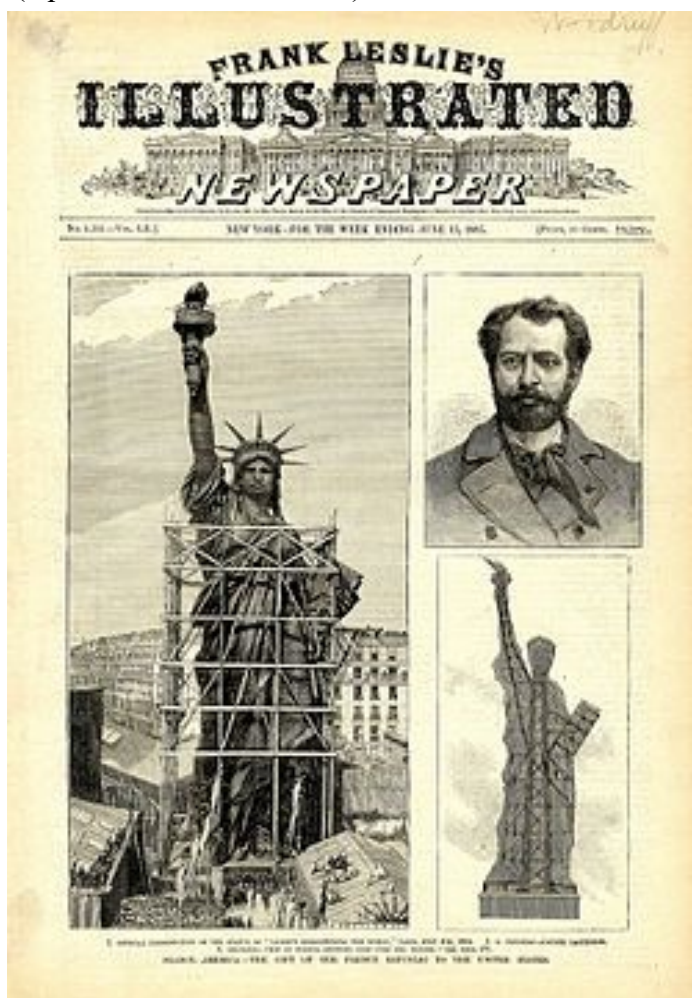


The completed statue was formally presented to Ambassador Morton at a ceremony in Paris on July 4, 1884, and Lesseps announced that the French government had agreed to pay for its transport to New York. The statue remained intact in Paris pending sufficient progress on the pedestal. By January 1885, this had occurred, and the statue was disassembled and crated for its ocean voyage.

America faced great difficulties in obtaining the funding for the construction of the pedestal. The Panic of 1873 had led to an economic depression that persisted through much of the decade. The Liberty statue was not the only such monument/structure that had difficulties raising money. Construction on the Washington Monument would also stall for years. Ultimately it would take over three-and-a-half decades to complete the obelisk.

On June 17, 1885, the French steamer *Isère* arrived in New York with crates holding the disassembled statue. Two hundred thousand people

lined the docks and hundreds of boats put to sea to welcome the ship. On August 11, 1885, the World announced that \$102,000 had been raised from 120,000 donors, and that 80 percent of the total had been received in sums of less than one dollar (equivalent to \$35 in 2024).



Even with the success of the fund drive, the pedestal was not completed until April 1886. Immediately thereafter, reassembly of the statue began. Eiffel's iron framework was anchored to steel I-beams within the concrete pedestal and assembled. Once completed the sections of skin were carefully attached. Due to the width of the pedestal, it was not possible to erect scaffolding, and workers would dangle from ropes while installing the skin sections. Bartholdi had planned to put floodlights on the torch's balcony to illuminate it. However, a week before the dedication, the Army Corps of Engineers vetoed the proposal, fearing that ships' pilots passing the statue would be blinded. Instead, Bartholdi cut portholes in the torch—which was covered with gold leaf—and placed the lights inside them. A power plant was installed on the island to light the torch and for other electrical needs. After the skin was completed, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, co-designer of Manhattan's Central Park

and Brooklyn's Prospect Park, supervised a cleanup of Bedloe's Island in anticipation of the dedication. General Charles Stone claimed on the day of dedication that no man had died during the construction of the statue. This was not true. Francis Longo a thirty-nine-year-old Italian laborer had been killed when an old wall fell on him. Upon completion, the statue's color would be a shiny reddish-brown, but within twenty years it had oxidized to its current greenish color. This was due to a reaction with air, water and acidic pollution, forming a layer of verdigris which protects the copper from further corrosion.

A ceremony of dedication was held on the afternoon of October 28, 1886. President Grover Cleveland, the former New York governor, presided over the event. On the morning of the dedication, a parade was held in New York City. It was estimated that there several hundred thousand to a million people who attended this event.

A nautical parade would begin at 12:45 p.m., and President Cleveland embarked on a yacht that took him across the harbor to Bedloe's Island for the dedication. Lesseps made the first speech, on behalf of the French committee, followed by the chairman of the New York committee, Senator William M. Evarts. A French flag draped across the statue's face was to be lowered to unveil the statue at the close of Evarts's speech, but Bartholdi mistook a pause as the conclusion and let the flag fall prematurely. The ensuing cheers put an end to Evarts's address. President Cleveland spoke next, stating that the statue's "stream of light shall pierce the darkness of ignorance and man's oppression until Liberty enlightens the world". Bartholdi, observed near the dais, was called upon to speak, but he declined. Orator Chauncey M. Depew concluded the with a lengthy address to the distinguished guests.

No members of the general public were permitted on the island during the ceremonies, which were reserved entirely for dignitaries. A scheduled fireworks display was postponed until November 1 due to poor weather. The cornerstone of the Statue of Liberty was laid in a Masonic ceremony. Under the cornerstone was a square hole dug to house a time capsule. In a copper box, officials placed cards of the people present. Copies of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, several medals, a list of the Grand Lodge Masons of the State, the daily papers, and other articles deemed appropriate." Also in there was a coin inscribed with General John Adams Dix's pearls of wisdom: "If any man attempts to haul down the American flag shoot him on the spot!"



YOU ARE CORDIALLY  
INVITED TO THE OFFICIAL  
RECEPTION OF



MEC KEVIN M. RITTER  
GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF  
ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI



SATURDAY

6

6:00 PM

SEPT

1930 W CATALPA ST  
SPRINGFIELD, 65807

Please RSVP VEC Greg Walker at  
[springfielddyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:springfielddyorkrite@gmail.com)

# ***Improving Yourself through Cryptic Freemasonry***

Illustrious Companions,

Today, we gather to explore the Royal Master and Select Master degrees within the Cryptic Council of Freemasonry. These degrees offer profound symbolic teachings and lessons that resonate deeply with our personal and Masonic journeys. Understanding and reflecting on these degrees can lead to personal growth and a more profound commitment to our families, fraternity, and communities.

## **Royal Master Degree**

The Royal Master Degree focuses on themes of patience, preparation, and the foresight needed to navigate life's challenges. The degree portrays Hiram Abiff's commitment to preserving the secrets of the Temple, emphasizing the importance of wisdom and foresight.

**Life Application:** The degree teaches us about the virtue of patience. In our personal and professional lives, it reminds us to be patient and prepared, even when success seems far off. It encourages us to act with foresight—anticipating challenges and opportunities alike.

**Personal Growth:** By internalizing these lessons, we become better planners and decision-makers. We learn the value of diligence and readiness, qualities that are essential for leading a fulfilled life.

## **Select Master Degree**

The Select Master Degree elaborates on the theme of secrecy and the protection of valuable knowledge. It highlights the importance of selectivity and discernment in safeguarding what is precious.

**Life Application:** This degree teaches us about discretion and the judicious use of knowledge. It reinforces the idea that information and our personal resources must be used wisely and protected diligently.

**Personal Growth:** By practicing discretion and discernment in our lives, we enhance our ability to make thoughtful decisions. Whether in our families, workplaces, or Lodge, being selective in our commitments

helps us prioritize effectively and contribute meaningfully.

## **Improving Ourselves as Masons**

The teachings from these degrees encourage us to exhibit traits such as patience, foresight, secrecy, and wisdom. Embodying these traits in our everyday lives ensures not only self-improvement but also strengthens our interactions with others.

**In Our Families:** By exercising patience and foresight, we become pillars of support for our families, guiding them with wisdom and preparing for future challenges.

**In Our Fraternity:** As Masons, the lessons of discretion and the safeguarding of knowledge help build trust and unity within the Lodge. We contribute to a supportive and progressive Masonic environment.

**In Our Communities:** By applying these teachings, we serve as role models, displaying moral and ethical behavior that reflects positively on the fraternity. We become agents of positive change and ambassadors of Masonic values.

## **Conclusion**

The Royal Master and Select Master degrees are not just ritualistic ceremonies but treasures of wisdom that can enhance our lives profoundly. Through careful application of their lessons, we grow as individuals, strengthen our bonds with our families, and fortify our fraternity.

Remember, by embracing the teachings of these degrees, we not only uplift ourselves but also contribute to a legacy of strength, integrity, and wisdom within our families and communities.

Let us commit to these principles and continue to cultivate a life of honor and purpose. Thank you, and may we all strive to embody the noble lessons of the Royal and Select Master degrees in our daily lives.

Thank you my Companions,

Brandon Lewis,  
Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters  
Prince Hall Affiliation





**You are invited to the  
203rd Annual Communication  
of the Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.M.  
of the State of Missouri**

**To be held at:**

**Sheraton Kansas City Hotel  
Crown Center  
2345 McGee Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108**

**September 21st—22nd, 2025**

**All Missouri Master Masons in attendance  
must have register by July 31, 2025**

***REGISTRATION NOW  
CLOSED***



Capitular Education 2025-2026

Greg Walker, Chairman

Committee:

REC Donald MacCormick, VEC Lloyd Lyon, VEC Nick Young,

VEC Doug Rose, VEC James Bell

Companions all,

This month we have the second of four readings from the Degree of Mark Master. We hope the first section prompted good discussion among your members and the same continues with this section.

### **Grand Chapter Capitular Education Series - August 2025**

The Mark Master Degree section is full of information and teachings, and we have broken it into four sections. For this month, you are provided the following to read and discuss in your Chapter meetings:

- Rejection of the Stone
  - ◊ *This would be a great opportunity to discuss the symbolic relation between the rejection of the keystone to the rejection of Jesus by his own people.*
- “An Imposter!”
- The Challenge
  - ◊ *Question: Does your Chapter prompt the Candidate in giving the proper dueguard and penal sign at this point in the degree? If so, why? If not, why? Discuss.*
- Transition to Master Mason
- The Engraver’s Chisel and Mallet
- The Circumambulations
- The Obligation

### **Our education series will follow this schedule:**

August 2025 - Mark Master Degree, continues

September 2025: Mark Master Degree, continues

October 2025: Mark Master Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question

November 2025: Past Master Degree, with quiz and open ended question

December 2025: Most Excellent Master Degree

January 2026: Most Excellent Master Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question

February 2026: Royal Arch Degree

March 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues

April 2026: Royal Arch Degree, continues

May 2026: Royal Arch Degree, completion including quiz and open-ended question

June 2026: Wrap up of education for the year and a short expose on a passage of scripture from the Royal Arch Degree ritual from the role of Jeshua, the High Priest.

This schedule may not fit all Chapters perfectly, but it is suggested that your members come prepared with a copy of The Beacon in hand, print or digital, to your meetings so that they may take part in the group readings and discussion that follows.



# Capitular Development Course

## Rejection of the Stone

The Junior and Senior Overseer pass the stone, but the Master Overseer calls a council of Overseers, and they collectively decide to reject the stone as neither being oblong nor square, nor having the mark of any of the workmen upon it. It appears the Overseers are neither familiar with stones which are not square, nor with the mark of Hiram Abif, since the keystone bears his name. The reason is revealed later in the ceremony, when King Solomon explains that this work was assigned to Grand Master Hiram Abif himself, and since he is usually responsible for the Designs, it is not until some Craftsmen look at the Trestleboard themselves that they see the 'Peculiar Stone' and Hiram's mark.



They heave the stone over among the rubbish. The act of 'heaving the stone over' suggest it as thrown over a wall. In early days, there is a tradition that if a workman offered up a faulty piece of work it was the workman who was heaved over the wall where he presumably fell to his death! In the Middle Ages, the stone was carried away on a bier, as though dead! If we are taught to be particularly significant to us. However, in this case the lesson that the stone is in fact the most important in the edifice and yet is discarded by those not recognizing its true worth is of particular importance.

## "An Imposter!"

Following this, the Fellowcraft depart to receive their wages. Interestingly, while we are told in the

Blue Lodge that Entered Apprentices earned no wages, but received food, clothing and lodging while they trained, Fellowcraft received corn, wine and oil as wages. Now we see how the Mark Master Mason is paid in specie, a penny a day, received on the sixth hour of the sixth day of the week, or Friday before the Sabbath. Traditionally, in ancient times the Jews would divide the daylight hours into twelve equal periods, which means an hour was not necessarily sixty minutes. So, the implication is, that work ceased around the middle of the daylight period, giving the workmen time to gather up their belongings, collect their wages, and be home before sundown.



*A half shekel used as Temple tax*

In the Degree, the Brethren assemble to receive their wages twice, and on each occasion a different important lesson is taught. In the Mark Degree, we receive an explanation of something said by the Senior Warden of his duties in Blue Lodge: "...to pay the Craft their wages if any be due." Now we see him practice that duty; by repairing to his apartment (this simply means a room in the Temple. To pay the Craft their wages, which as we have learned, was one penny a day, or presumably six pennies a week. Remember this is all symbolic!

The Craftsmen thrust their hand through and opening to receive them, with their fourth and fifth fingers curled over a picture of their mark. This mark was compared to those in the Book of Marks, and if it was listed the coin was placed between their index and third fingers, which they then withdrew from the opening. In some older Lodges, you can find a circular opening covered by a panel in the Inner Door. However, it is more customary to have a

wicket, which is a custom box, or a vertical panel of latticework with a circular or triangular hold cut into it, so the Brethren can see the action.



*Figure 25 - Mark Degree Wicket used by the Senior Warden in English Mark Lodges*

This first time the Candidate is not carrying a mark, so when he thrusts his hand through the opening it is seized and he is threatened with the loss of his right hand, a terrible penalty for a man making his living through the use of his hands. Remember, he is not just losing his livelihood: even in the Arabic cultures nowadays the left hand is seen as inferior and used for the more unclean roles such as cleaning oneself in the bathroom. He will now have to perform all his activities—including eating and greeting colleagues—with his ‘unclean’ hand.

### **The Challenge**

The Candidate is conducted to the Right Worshipful Master (in some rituals, the Senior Deacon drags the Candidate by his right ear), who challenges the Candidate, firstly by asking for someone to vouch for him, and then to prove himself a Fellowcraft by the grip and Password. Since the Candidate is clearly not yet a Mark Master he neither has the correct grip nor the password. Requiring a Brother to vouch for him recalls an earlier version of the ritual, still practiced in Ancient Chapter No. 1, New York, when the Conductor of the now blindfolded Candidate is asked: “Has he made suitable proficiency in the preceding Degrees to entitle him to this, and is he vouched for?” The Conductor replies: “He has, and I vouch for him.”

He is told to return to the Quarries and this time to return with a suitable specimen of his work to pass the Overseers’ tests and to entitle him to receive the correct grips, signs and words to entitle him to receive wages. This he does, his work, being ‘an oblong or a square’, is accepted, and he is given permission to proceed in the Degree. And yet the

fact that he never claimed the work to be his own is never considered. His crime, it appears, was to reach for something which it is not yet his right to aspire to: he must prove himself proficient in his existing duties before being granted access to higher wisdom.

Given that the Degree has a pass grip and word, and a real grip and word, it would be logical to expect the pass grip and word to be given here, as a reward for his work, and that he would give these to the Deacon in order to be admitted to the next part of the Degree. This is how all pass grips and words work in Blue Lodges in other countries. Strangely, however, the pass grip and word are given in the next section, immediately prior to the real grip and word. This is probably something which became confused at an early time in the ritual’s history and has never been rectified.

### **Transition to Master Mason**

All the preceding work has been a preamble to the actual Degree itself. Indeed, the Mark Degree is unusual in that it contains both a prologue and an epilogue. Prior to the Degree itself we have the scenes where the Candidate presents work not his own, is chastised for this, then returns with work accepted as his. Following the Degree, during the Lodge Closing, we have the further scene in which the Workmen discuss their wages, and the Right Worshipful Master issues his challenge to them.

At this point it is assumed that a passage of time has taken place. The Fellowcraft has proven himself by providing a suitable specimen of his work, and has been raised to the Degree of Master. To denote this, he now wears his apron as a Master Mason.

He is again blindfolded and a cable tow placed four times about his body, and importantly, divested of metallic substances once again. He undergoes the usual challenges at the door, to emphasize that this Degree is a continuation of the Degrees he has received in Blue Lodge.

### **The Engraver’s Chisel and Mallet**

This time he is received on the edge of the engraver’s chisel, under the pressure of the mallet. He is told that this is to teach him that the moral precepts of the Degree should make a deep and lasting impression upon him. This appears to be another link with the first three Degrees, since instruments are not used to challenge the Candidate in the rest of the Capitular Degrees; also, the gavel (or mallet is a Working Tool of the Entered Apprentice Degree. It is also uniquely the only time two instruments are used in concert. One should also note that the Engraver’s Chisels are a set of chisels





with much finer blades than those used for shaping regular stones. These are used for ornamentation and the more subtle work of engraving-in the case of the Keystone the circle and mark of Hirm Abif. The fact that he is now called to a higher and rarer work is reflected in the subtlety of the tools with which he is challenged and presented. This is not the last time he will be challenged, since he will soon move from a position of workman to one of Overseer or Supervisor, where he will be challenged one final time, and this time by an object which is 'neither oblong nor square', so show that he is truly passing to a new level of development.

Later he is explicitly informed that these are also the Working Tools, and that they are used by Master Masons to "cut, carve, mark and indent their work." This is reminiscent of the Entered Apprentice Obligation. The key word is indent. Up to now the Masons has been told to create perfect ashlars. How he is introduced to a more refined tool than the common chisel used for breaking raw stone out of the quarries: he is presented with the engraver's chisel, and implement used to cut into the perfect ashlar, in order to place his mark upon it. He is told this to symbolize the refining work of the chisel upon the rough stone, as education refines the mind and ultimately leads him to aspire to the summit of human knowledge.

The description of the mallet is similar to that given for the gavel in the Entered Apprentice Degree, and could suggest it was a carry-over from that Degree.

### **The Circumambulations**

The ceremony continues with the circumambulations. As the Blue Lodge Degree saw the blindfolded Candidate make one, two and three circles about the Altar and past the Senior Officers, so in the Mark Degree he now makes four. His circumambulations are invariably accompanied by pertinent readings from Scripture. Each time he passes the East he halts and gives the due guard and sign of the preceding Degrees; the fourth time he comes to fidelity since he does not yet know the due

guard and sign of the fourth (i.e. Mark) Degree.



**Cliff at Joppa or Jaffa**

By proving himself in each of the preceding Degrees he is indication his mastery over those Degrees, and his worthiness to be received into the next level in the American Degrees.

The first scriptural reference comes from Chronicles, and is a description of the transportation of the wood by sea to Joppa. This sets up the pass grip and word.

The next three come from the prophet Ezekiel, Chapter 44, verses 1-5. In a way it is an extraordinary passage to use, since Ezekiel prophesied the destruction of the temple, which has not yet been built in the Mark Degree, and how the Prince, High Priest and People must behave to avoid God's wrath. However, the most important part is verse 5, which give rise to the true grip and word of the Degree.

Following the scriptural readings, he is challenged by the Junior and senior Wardens, as in the preceding Degrees.

### **The Obligation**

The Obligation follows the usual structure. Here much is made of the mark, which is to be expected as a central them of this Degree. There are three parts to this section. Firstly, he agrees to receive another Brother's mark and grant his request for a loan, or at least to return it with its price, which is a half shekel of silver. Secondly, he promises not to alter the mark he selects once recorded. Thirdly, he promises he will not lend or sell it, nor pledge it a

second time.

This would appear to be a vestige of what might have been a promise made in operative Masonry. It would be important that a Mason didn't cheat by putting someone else's mark on his work. Why would he do this, if his mark ensured his payment? Perhaps it might dissuade him from putting the mark of an enemy upon a poorly executed piece of work in order to get him into trouble? Certainly, one can also see how a Mason fallen upon hard times might be tempted to lend or pledge his mark to another person, since that person could then use it to obtain wages himself, perhaps at a different work site. Finally, one can also see how a Mason might use the mark as a sign of destitution, in order to obtain welfare from fellow Masons.



**Mason's Mark found at Rosslyn Chapel**

From a speculative viewpoint, however, the lessons are not to claim work not your own; to extend charity to your Brothers; and to be steadfast in your convictions. As the ritual claims, a Mason's mark was synonymous with his name, so he would no more alter, change, lend or sell his mark than he would his own name.

The penalties may give a Candidate pause for

thought. Although a relatively recent development in Freemasonry, the addition of the word 'symbolic' to our Blue Lodge penalties may lead to surprise when the penalties of the American Rite are not 'symbolic' but 'actual.' Of course, they are never carried out, which gives the lies to people who claim the Masons once carried out their penalties. The cutting off of the hand was already enacted in the ritual. However, the cutting off of the ear may refer to an earlier part of ritual now lost over time. The Due Guard, being the cutting off of the ear, may also reference the act of dragging the Candidate by the ear to the Master when he is detected as an imposter, as is practiced in some Lodges.



**Rosslyn Chapel**



Greetings all,

Well, the Grand Secretary finally caught up to me and reminded me that I was getting wordy again. Sigh, I guess I knew I wouldn't get away with it forever. So, I have been given a smaller section this month. Oh well, it is what it is, let's get going.

This month, your Beacon Magazine has received numerous wonderful articles to share with you all. This is a testament to your ability to share so many wonderful ideas and information. Thank you very much for your dedication to the craft: Capitular Development Course, The Grand College of America Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Improving yourself through Cryptic Freemasonry, the Building of the Statue of Liberty, and so much more.

Thank you Companions and Sir Knights for all your support of this magazine. It is because of you that we continue on in our mission.

Well, I guess it is time to wrap it up and join the rest of the world now. Until next time, may the Blessing of Heaven shine down on you and your family, and we will be seeing you on down the trail.

Peace be with you all,

The Editor





# Job's Daughters

*Today's Young Ladies  
Following the Trail to become Tomorrow's Leaders*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**DEMOLAY**  
**Missouri**



*Today Young Man  
Is tomorrow's Leaders*

# *Retention Corner*

*By: VIC Gerald Hill*

Welcome to the first edition of the Retention Corner. I guess the first question we should ask is, how do we retain members?

This is a difficult question. One that may not have one simple answer for it. We may have the greatest plans in place to recruit members, but do we have the same plans in place to keep them.

Just like everyone has a different draw to Freemasonry, our Brethren have different reasons for staying and leaving. Some choices are beyond our control, such as family and/or vocations. Others could be a direct result of what we do or not do. We may never get the feedback as to why they left, but we should always follow up on our members. This is the rationale behind the Delinquency report, and why we appoint a committee to follow up on our delinquent membership. Please be diligent with these committees for they provide us with important data and may result in a reversal of a demit or suspension. However, if we are pro-active, we may not have to appoint those committees to begin with.

Retention must begin with the only person we truly have control of, that of ourselves. We must start with an "Honest and Objective Self-Assessment". This is often hard for we are emotional creatures who are naturally subjective. Many years ago, I witnessed a motivated newly made Brother who had completed a project that had been pushed around for a while. Upon completion, he got yelled at, told to undo his acceptable work, all because it was should have been done by another member who it was his profession. Because of this, we lost a Brother. He has never been seen again. Upon reflection, I believe we could have kept such a good man if this was handled differently. So....

- "Only after one has conducted frank and humble evaluation of oneself is he truly a man."

When I had a day job, we were always doing some kind of self-assessment tool such as Myers Briggs©. The beginning of this month I attended The York Rite Leadership Program at the DeMolay International building in Kansas City, Missouri, on Personal Effectiveness. At this class, I was introduced to a new tool for my toolbox. It was a Psycho-Geometrics test which was developed by Dr. Susan Dellinger Ph.D. If you haven't done one, many of these classes can be found free online. These can give you great insight into your

preferences and Comfort Zone.

My challenge to you would be to not accept being put into a box. You may fall back into your box when stress and pressure hit you but strive to do the things that you are not comfortable with. Never tell yourself that you are not good at something. Eat that elephant one bite at a time. Get your introvert out in a crowd. Get your extrovert in a good book. Get out there and take a few assessments, challenge yourself, and grow!

Next let us talk about our power of "Observation". Over the years this has become my superpower and is a heck of an accomplishment for a spoiled only child. However, just like I mentioned above stress or pressure to get something done I may miss non-verbal cues from others. Luckily in those situations I get punched or elbowed by the wife. Observation is an important part of communicative skills when interacting with others and needs to be practiced. Picking up verbal and non-verbal cues from others will allow you to build rapport, interpret messages better, and to even help prevent or solve conflicts. It will give you insights into where others fit into activities in your organization. Observation is key in group development when you take those reigns of leadership.

Along with observation comes "Active Listening". It is very important to receive the complete message from the speaker. Once we receive the complete message, we need to solicit feedback from the sender to make sure we understand it. So often our emotions, perspective, and experiences allow our thoughts to stray before the message is received. Base human nature is to solve problems or force our opinion on other people, especially when dealing with our significant other. Often this causes a breakdown in communication.

My close-out for this edition is, we have all traveled a rough and rugged road, our very own labyrinth of human life. We have attained our knowledge, our beliefs, and have formed our own understanding of the world. Our own understandings often changes with each new experience and is the same as no one else's. That means we must "Check Our Perceptions". Ask questions and get feedback. No one thinks exactly like us, no one has had the same experiences as us. But then, we like to segregate ourselves into groups, sports teams, denominations, political parties, etc. My charge to you is to check your perceptions of others and get to know that person. The structure of Freemasonry is accepting of all, it is we who limit ourselves.

Knowing yourself and building good relationships are a key to retention. God Bless.





# **The Grand College of America**

## **Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests**

**Assembled through the resources of: <https://hraktp.org/>**



The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests is an honorary and invitational organization with membership limitations. It cannot be applied for. Members are selected and extended invitations on the basis of outstanding performance as a Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar. The order has historic roots in England that trace back to 1786 with references back to 1686 the traditional year of revival. The "Priestly Order" was referred to within the ceremonies of "The High Knights Templar" in Ireland in 1755. There are records of the conferral of this Order in the United States during the 1800s but the authority is unknown. The Grand College of America, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests was formed in the United States in 1931. The limit of Regular Members in a Tabernacle is 33. The number of Tabernacles in a state is dependent on the number of active Commanderies in each state.

The Order should not be confused with the System of "Temple Clerics" established in 1767 by Johann-Augustus VON STARCK who probably took his inspiration from the degree of Magnus Sacerdos Templarium or Cleric of the Temple, fourth and last degree of the system created in Russia by Count MELESINO, an Officer of Greek origin who had joined the Tsar forces. Count MELESINO in his time possibly took his inspiration from a Higher Degree brought into Russia by Baron de TSCHOUDY, a native of Metz, France, who in 1760 was Orator of a Lodge in Petersburg.....

It is not clear when the Order first appeared, but the date is probably between 1770 & 1780 in Ireland firstly, and then in Bristol in a particular version of the Sovereign Rose Croix Princes of the Mountains of Calvary and of Herodom, (VII° Degree of the Baldwyn Rite).

At that time, it was customary, when a Lodge had too few members holding a particular degree to work it autonomously, to join with another or several other Lodges and thus form a Union Band in order to able confer the Degree.

In the early years of the 1800s, the degree was known in Lodges on the Eastern coast of England . . . and then Scotland, by means of the Early Grand Rite, but only on reaching Newcastle upon Tyne did it achieve a haven where to settle and survive with

some stability. Thus, was formed the Illustrious Order of Knights Grand Cross of the Holy Temple of Jerusalem.

After a first period in history, from 1820 to 1830, it seems the Order almost completely disappeared except in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. A re-birth was attempted by some Brethren, in the years 1850-1870 in the Manchester region. This renewal died almost as fast as it had started. By the end of the 19th century, the Illustrious Order of Knights Grand Cross of the Holy Temple of Jerusalem controlled a number of Degrees, probably inherited from the "Antients" Grand Lodge.

The Order was maintained in The Royal Kent Tabernacle in Newcastle, which originated at least in 1809, together with several other Degrees. The complete series amounted to some forty or so Degrees, many of which have totally disappeared. This Tabernacle has been working the Red Cross of Babylon along with the Royal Arch from 1822, and the Cryptic Degrees of Royal, Select, and Super-Excellent Masters since 1830.

When in 1893, Cryptic Mason members of the Royal Kent Tabernacle petitioned, rather belatedly, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in London, founded in 1873, the then Grand Recorder, Charles Fitzgerald MATIER discovered to his surprise that other Degrees were also worked there.

Forty-one odd Degrees where being communicated without any central warranting authority. Paramount amongst them was the Order of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests or Order of Holy Wisdom. Eighteen of them seemed to descend from the Early Grand Rite of Scotland and five only could be traced to the United States. Another six were mere Side Degrees conferred without fee or registration, while the remainder can now only be found in the United States, without the least trace of them in England.

On the 1st of January 1897, an agreement was reached placing the Order of Knight Templar Priests with an imposing array of other Degrees under the jurisdiction of The Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees. While the Tabernacle in Newcastle retained the right to confer the rank and dignity of Knight Grand Cross of the Holy Temple of Jerusalem, a privilege it still possesses but

scarcely exercises.

In 1920, Colonel C.W. NAPIER-CLAVERING became Grand Master of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees who, renouncing the prerogatives of the Grand Council over the Order of The Secret Monitor, brought to a happy end thirty seven years of feud, and recommended to the Royal Kent Council, heir to the similarly titled Tabernacle, to erect itself as a Grand College for England, Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown of The Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests. This was done on either 23rd May 1923 or 15th May 1924, the date being uncertain. The Allied Grand Council officially resigning all claims over the Order on 17th November 1924. In the United States, the first mention of this order dates back to 1829, in Rhode Island State.



Member's Jewel

Five Tabernacles were subsequently constituted between 1840 and 1931, but none remained active for long. On the 31st of October 1931, the Knight-Priest Sidney Clifton Bingham of Christchurch, New Zealand, having had no news from his English Grand College for several years, thought it must have closed down. He therefore admitted to the Order John Raymond Shute II, John Edward Allen

and Luther Thompson Harstell Jr., three Knights Templars from North Carolina. He justified his action by quoting Article 3 of the Antient Constitutions of 1813, which Article permitted such an act in case of emergency. He also granted three Warrants, constituting Tabernacles in North Carolina.

On the 14th of May 1933, the Preceptors of these three Tabernacles met at a Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, and agreed to form themselves into a Sovereign Body, which they did on the 27th of the same month, constituting the Great Priory of America, Priestly Order of the Temple.

In 1934 the Knight-Priests learned that the Order they had thought extinct was in fact still active in England. Seeking an exchange of representatives, they were informed that the circumstances of their Constitution were considered irregular.

A delegation was sent to England during 1935, and it was suggested to the English Body that they might Regularize the American Grand College.

John Edward Allen, an American Knight-Priest, was in consequence received on the 16th of August 1935 by the Royal Kent Tabernacle (T.I.). He was Installed and presented with a Warrant to form the United States Tabernacle, Number 9.

On his return to the United States, he re-consecrated the existing Tabernacles using the English ritual, and on the 27th of October 1935 qualified all adherents of the previously organized Tabernacles.

The actions of the American Great Priory were confirmed, and at the Annual Ingathering of 1936 the Patent confirming English recognition could at last be displayed. It was explained that the English Jurisdiction was entitled the "Grand College for England of the Order of Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, or Order of Holy Wisdom" and a similar nomenclature was adopted for America.





# Picture This....



Companion Lahiri Powell's wife Denise receiving the General Grand Chapter's Sweetheart Award. Presented by REC Jim McManigle, Grand King.



On Saturday, July the 19th, we celebrated an Investiture of new members into KYCH Missouri Priory Number 17, Jefferson City Masonic Temple.









I O R G

FUTURE

PAST

With roots in the  
past while shaping  
our young ladies  
into the leaders of  
tomorrow.

*PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE  
SHAPING AND SUPPORTING  
SHRINER'S HOSPITALS*







Ladies and Gentlemen,

Imagine a world where every sound is a puzzle, where understanding the spoken language is a daily struggle. This is the reality for millions of people living with Central Auditory Processing Disorder, or CAPD. What dyslexia is to the eyes, CAPD is to the ears. People with CAPD have excellent hearing, but their ears and brain don't fully coordinate. Something interferes with the way the brain recognizes and interprets those sounds, especially that of human speech.

For 50 years, Royal Arch Research Assistance, better known as RARA, has been at the forefront of CAPD research. We work tirelessly to improve upon the challenges of this reality. We are not only a charity; we are a beacon of hope, a catalyst for change, and a driving force in the world of auditory research.

Our approach is unique. We don't just fund projects; we invest in people. We focus on supporting researchers, setting them on lifelong paths to conquering CAPD. It's like planting a forest instead of just a tree – we're cultivating an entire ecosystem of scientific expertise.

We are proud to partner with the Hearing Health Foundation, the largest nonprofit funder of hearing research in the United States. For 65 years, they have been instrumental in developing cochlear implant technology, improving upon the hearing aid, and successful ear surgeries. Their Hearing Restoration Project is an international team of scientists working collaboratively to discover new ways to regenerate hair cells in the human ear and restore hearing.

We also work closely with Autism Speaks,

whose Autism Response Team provides invaluable support to families affected by both autism and CAPD. They offer guidance on everything from diagnosis and education to advocacy and adult services.

The impact of our work is nothing short of transformative. We have made groundbreaking discoveries about the intricate dance between the ear and the brain. We have developed innovative diagnostic tools that can identify CAPD earlier than ever before. We have pioneered treatments that are changing lives daily.

Today, I'm excited to announce our new regional approach to furthering our mission. By uniting chapters across regions, we're amplifying our impact like never before. Imagine the power of collaborative events, shared resources, and a united front in the fight against CAPD. This approach will allow us to raise more awareness, fund more research, and ultimately help more people affected by CAPD.

Picture a child who once struggled to understand their teacher, now thriving in school. Envision a veteran who had difficulty processing sounds after service, rediscovering the joy of conversation.

These aren't just feel-good stories; they're the real-world impact of the cutting-edge research we fund.

As we look to the future, the potential is boundless. We're on the cusp of revolutionary advancements in CAPD understanding and treatment. Imagine a world where CAPD can be identified in infancy, where personalized treatments are readily available, where the challenges of auditory processing no longer limit anyone's potential.

For those of you eager to get involved in this exciting new chapter of RARA's journey, I encourage you to reach out to Companion Steven Bright. He can provide more detailed information about our regional initiative and guide you on how to make a significant impact in your area.

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Now, I invite each of you to consider donating today. Your generosity will fuel the research that brings hope to millions. Whether it's spare change or a substantial gift, every contribution moves us closer to our goal. Remember, when you support RARA, you're not just funding research – you're rebuilding bridges between people. You are restoring the joy of a grandparent hearing their grandchild's laughter, the confidence of a child raising their hand in class, the relief of a veteran enjoying a quiet conversation with friends.

Together, we can turn up the volume on CAPD research and create a symphony of change. Thank you for your attention and remember: in the grand concert of making a difference, every voice matters – especially those we're helping to be heard."

VEC Steven Bright  
Chairman on RARA  
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons  
of the State of Missouri



Please send your R.A.R.A. contributions to your Chapter Secretary to forward to the Grand Secretary. Otherwise, send your R.A.R.A. contributions to the address at the bottom of this page.

Certificates are for contributions of \$25.00, \$50.00, and \$100.00. A \$1000.00 contribution receives a very impressive pin with a keystone in the center. Additional contributions of \$500.00 add a small diamond to the pin. Certificates and pins are awarded to both individual donors and donating organizations. Donations are IRS deductible.

Other than the pin, a greater incentive might be that the research you have funded in part might very well have brought a better life to some one who were affected with CAPD, an important learning disability.

**Contributions can be made out to Grand Chapter of Missouri with RARA in the memo section and sent to:**

**RARA, MGYR Office**  
**107 S. Williams Street**  
**Fayette, MO 65248**

## *Pin Award\**

### *Qualifying Donation Levels*



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*Silver Keystone Pin -  
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*Gold Keystone Pin -  
\$500*



*RARA Diamond Pin -  
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*RARA Breast Badge -  
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with a \$10.00 check and get started now!





## Commit to CMMRF

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

### Dime War for CMMRF

The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons has launched its newest game of Dime War for CMMRF. This is an initiative and fun way to boost donations to CMMRF and foster Councils to visit each other. Here is how it will work:

### Dime War for CMMRF!

Starting at Grand Session, and ending on March 31, 2026:

- Each dime contributes one point.
- All paper and coin money count as negative points for your council.
- Refer to the rules below for the values of different coins and paper money.
- The Council with the highest positive points (or the least negative points) will be proclaimed the victor! The prize is yet to be decided.
- It's highly encouraged to "sabotage" other councils with money that is not valued at a dime.
- Under no circumstances can money be removed from the jar.
- Each Council must have their box easily accessible during assemblies and events.

You may "sabotage" any council at any event; assembly, degree work, festival, regional conference, GL/RDGL School of Instruction, Table Council (money doesn't contribute to the table council total), Purple Galas, etc. Whenever you visit another council, bring your money to fill their jar.

### Rules:

- A dime is worth 1 point (10¢ = +10 point).
- All other money deducts points from your team.

\$1 bill = -100 points

\$5 bill = -500 points

\$10 bill = -1000 points

Penny = -1 point

Nickel = -5 points

Quarter = -25 points

- Money cannot be removed from any jar for any reason.
- Rolled coins must be unrolled and placed as loose change in the box to be counted towards your total.
- The Council with the most positive or least negative points will be declared the WINNER!!!
- Sabotaging other councils' jars with silver coins and paper money is encouraged.

So join in with us and let us see who can collect the most money and show everyone which council has it to be the best. In the process we will be helping one of the best charities out there CMMRF. Good luck all and let the games begin!!!



This is what a \$2000.00 donation to CMMRF looks like, Russell Hansen winning donation. Thank you for donating your hair MIC Matt. (Grand Banquet).

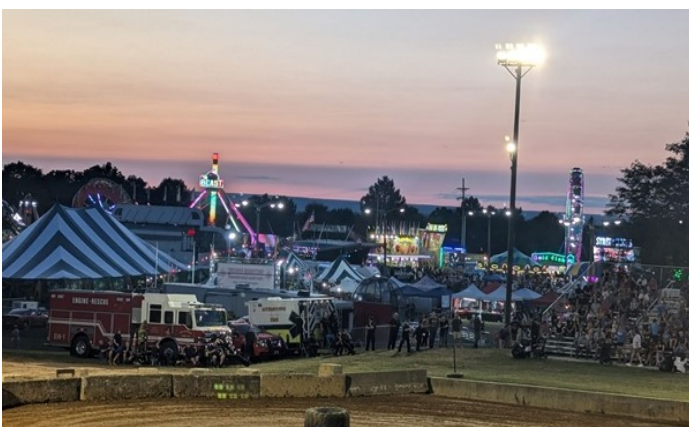


## *Lebanon York Rite Fair Kitchen*

By: VEC Jeff Stokes

For over a decade, the Lebanon York Rite bodies have been a staple of the Laclede County Fair—not just for their brotherly fellowship, but for the unmistakable aroma wafting from their bustling kitchen. Each summer, the members of the Lebanon, Missouri York Rite set up shop at the fairgrounds, donning cooking aprons instead of aprons of office, and serving up hearty meals and hometown hospitality to thousands of fairgoers.

This year was no exception. With more than 2,500 patrons passing through the kitchen doors, the 2025 Lebanon York Rite Fair Kitchen recorded over \$9,000 in total sales—a 5% increase from the previous year. From early morning prep to the last customer of the evening, the kitchen served as a hub of energy, good food, community connection, and



most importantly, air conditioning!

But the numbers tell only part of the story. The real success lies in the dedication of the many York Rite members who volunteered their time and talents to make the kitchen thrive. Whether manning the grill, taking orders, or keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes, these Companions and Sir Knights demonstrated the spirit of Masonic charity and teamwork.



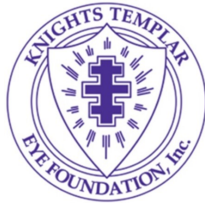
Proceeds from the kitchen will be divided among the local York Rite bodies—Chapter, Council, and Commandery—and their respective charitable causes. Ensuring that the impact of a burger or biscuit sold at the fair reaches far beyond the fairgrounds.



As the kitchen closed its doors for another year, the Lebanon York Rite reflected on more than a decade of tradition and service—and looks forward to many more years of feeding both the body and the spirit.







The mission of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is to provide assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need for surgical treatment without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, or national origin provided they are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from current government agencies or similar sources and to provide funds for research in curing diseases of the eye. This includes the correction of strabismus (cross-eyes) in children up to the age of 16 years.

Funds for the operation of the Eye Foundation are obtained in part from an annual assessment of each Knight Templar, contributions made by Masons from throughout the Masonic Family, fund-raising activities, memorials, wills and bequests, and donations from endowment funds or similar sources. Special award programs for contributions include the Grand Master's Sword of Merit (\$25,000), Golden Chalice (\$10,000), Grand Master's Club (\$1,000), Grand Commander's Club (\$1,000 in \$100 annual installments), Patron Certificate (\$100), Associate Patron Certificate (\$50), and Life Sponsor (\$30). Those who are designated as a Life Sponsor or above are relieved from the annual assessment.

Since 1956, over \$98 million has been spent on approved cases, and applications have been received from 80,000 people. Research Grants totaling in excess of \$9.2 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Genetics.

Application for assistance from the Foundation can be made through a Knight Templar who is a member of one of over 1,200 Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Encampment. Information is available from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., 1000 East State Parkway, Suite I, Schaumburg, IL 60173, Phone (847) 490-3838; Fax (847) 490-3777. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is a co-sponsor of the Seniors Eye Care Program (formally known as the National Eye Care Project) with Eye Care America, a Public Service Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The Seniors Eye Care Program helps those persons 65 years or over who do not have an Ophthalmologist. Anyone wishing to contact the Seniors Eye Care Program may do so by calling 1-800-222-EYES and telling them you were referred by a Knight Templar.

The Knight of Siloam special award program in Missouri was created by Sir Knights J. Edward Blinn, REPGC, and Danny L. Ferguson, REPGC, during the 93-94 Templar year as a means of recognizing those Missouri Sir Knights who make substantial contributions to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and to encourage others to do so. A special medal and patent is presented to those who donate \$500.00 or more to KTEF either in a lump sum or in installments. The jewel is designated as a meritorious service jewel and may be worn on the Knight.



The Knights Templar Educational Foundation, Division of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri, provides financial assistance in the way of low cost student loans to college juniors and seniors, as well as trade school students.



The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund is used to pay the expenses of sending a Minister to the Holy Land under the provisions of the Grand Encampment. The Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Commandery can provide more information about qualifying Ministers.

The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund is an endowment, the interest of which is used to generate income for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund (above). Commandery Recorders are to ask each Sir Knight on their annual dues statement to remit at least \$3.65 towards the Holy Land Endowment Fund, and Commanderies are encouraged to have fund raisers to generate money for this fund.



# ***Upcoming Events***

## **August 2025**

- Friday, August 15, 2025 - Saturday, August 16, 2025:** Red Cross of Constantine - Missouri Annual State Conclave, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Chesterfield, Missouri
- Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.:** Masonic Home of Missouri Board of Directors Meeting, Masonic Center, Columbia, Missouri
- Sunday, August 17, 2025- Tuesday, August 19, 2025:** Scottish Rite – 2025 Supreme Council Biennial Session, Washinton Hilton, Washington, DC
- Monday, August 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.:** Rolla Commandery No. 59 Rolla Masonic Center, Rolla, Missouri
- Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.:** Order of St. Thomas of Acon - Immanuel Chapel No. 10, Columbia Masonic Temple, Columbia, Missouri
- Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** Springfield Preceptory Yeomen of York – Springfield, Missouri
- Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.:** Knight Masons - Limerick Council No. 88, Mehlville, Missouri
- Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.:** Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis Summer Colloquium. Columbia, Missouri
- Tuesday August 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** Red Cross of Constantine, Springfield Masonic York Rite Temple, Springfield, Missouri
- Tuesday August 26, - Sunday, August 31, 2025:** Central States Shrine Association 2025 Ceremonial, Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Des Moines, Iowa
- Saturday August 30, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.:** Knight Masons – Charlemagne Council No. 79, Buckner Masonic Temple, Buckner, Missouri

## **September 2025**

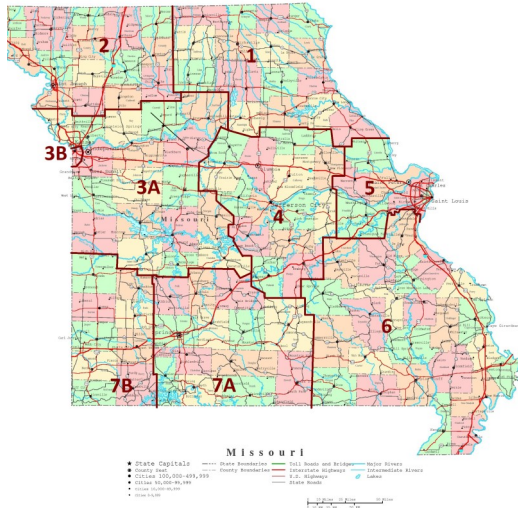
- Monday September 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.:** Rolla Chapter No. 32 and Rolla Council No. 39 meeting, Rolla Masonic Center, Rolla, Missouri
- Friday September 5 - Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** Statewide York Rite Conference, St. James, Missouri
- Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** Official Reception of Grand High Priest, Springfield, Missouri
- Monday September 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.:** Rolla Commandery No. 59 meeting, Rolla Masonic Center, Rolla, Missouri
- Friday, September 19 – Saturday, September 20, 2024:** 68th South Central Regional York Rite Conference, League City, Texas
- Sunday, September 21 - Monday, September 22, 2025:** 203rd Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Kansas City, Missouri
- Monday September 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.:** Rolla Chapter No. 32 - Mark Master and Past Master degrees conferral, Waynesville Masonic Center, Waynesville, Missouri
- Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.:** Red Cross of Constantine - Mary Conclave, Buckner, Missouri

## **October 2025**

- Friday, October 3 - Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** York Rite Festival - Region 6, Poplar Bluff Masonic Lodge, Poplar Bluff, Missouri
- Monday, October 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:** Triune Chapter No. 93 Annual Fish Fry & RARA Fund Raiser, Mid-MO Shrine Club, Montgomery City, Missouri
- Monday October 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.:** Rolla Chapter No. 32 (Past High Priest Night)/Rolla Council No. 39 meeting, Rolla Masonic Center, Rolla, Missouri



# Missouri Grand York Rite Bulletin Board



## Interactive Maps for Local York Rite Bodies

Exciting news all!!! The Grand York Rite of Missouri has now added interactive maps for Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies to help you easily find a meeting location, and find directions to assist you in planning your travels. We hope they help

You can find those maps at the following webpages:

<https://moyorkrite.org/royal-arch-chapters-in-missouri/>

<https://moyorkrite.org/councils-in-missouri/>

<https://moyorkrite.org/commanderies-in-missouri/>

## Your Help is Needed!!!

Did you know that you can make changes to your own MMS Profile Page? You can!

Simply click this link: <https://www.masonic-web.com/mms/memberbio/default.aspx> and use your membership number which can be found on the side of any of your York Rite dues cards with your name and date of birth. You have only one Profile Page which links to each Chapter, Council, and/or Commandery where you have a membership.

The information on your Profile Page helps us

stay in contact with each of you. Please carefully check the information on your Profile Page:

- Full name: First, Middle, and Last Name (No Abbreviations) with any prefix or suffix.
- Birth location: City and State.
- Current Address: Where mail comes.
- Phone Numbers: Home and/or Cell.
- Email Addresses: Home and/or Work.
- Spouse's name: First, Middle, and Last Names.
- Her Date of Birth: Month and Day (We like to send birthday cards!)
- Your children's Names: First and Last Names
- **Information about your job** (Optional)

Our office will not share this information with any person, business, or other institution. This is YOUR Profile Page. Thank you for your time.

## Past Grand Officers

History is a wonderful thing. It reminds us of our great accomplishments and mistakes. Either way, we learn something from both. However, below are links to our Past Grand High Priest, Past Grand Masters, and Grand Commanders here in Missouri. Take a look, one of them might be a relative you did not know had been honored by these great positions.

Past Grand High Priests:

<https://moyorkrite.org/past-grand-high-priests/>

Past Grand Masters:

<https://moyorkrite.org/past-grand-masters/>

Past Grand Commanders:

<https://moyorkrite.org/past-grand-commanders/>

**Companions:**

**Presenting Part XIV of the Grand Council Education Series! Included is the Early Leaders of the Grand Council - Part 2 (PDF)**

The Grand Council Education Series can be found on the Grand Council Cryptic Vault on the Grand York Rite Website at <https://moyorkrite.org/council-education-materials/>

**Please present these at your Council and discuss.**

**By the Mysterious Alarm,**

**Jacob W. Thompson, Grand Steward**

## Grand Officers Coins for Sale

The Grand York Rite has numerous items for sale. One of which is the Grand Officers coins. For a small donation of \$20.00 you may obtain their coin or \$60.00 for all three coins through our Grand York Rite Offices (660) 248-5100.



2025-2026

**MEC Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest Coin**



2025-2026

**MIC Dennis W. Houck Grand Master Coin**



2024-2025

**SK Ronald L. Skiles, Right Eminent Grand Commander Coin 2024-2025**

These coins are in limited production. So, hurry and purchase one now as they will soon be out of stock. All donations go to the Grand Officer's charity. Thank you for your consideration.



## Distinguished Chapter Award

Chapter Secretaries and current High Priests will soon be able to access the updated Distinguished Chapter Award Form, which will include the new addition of the Chapter Proficiency Ritual Card section.

Every proficiency card newly earned or renewed will earn **100 points for the Chapter**. These points are unlimited.

This is being added to highlight one of MEC Ritter's goals for the year - his own goal of earning his Part 1 Ritual Card.

The Chapter Proficiency Ritual card plan can be found on the [moyorkrite.org](http://moyorkrite.org) website.

Chapter Proficiency Certificate Plan:

<https://moyorkrite.org/DocsChapter/Chapter%20Proficiency%20Certificate%20Plan%202023.pdf>



### ILLINOIS MASONIC REGALIA

Website - [www.illinoismasonicregalia.com](http://www.illinoismasonicregalia.com), Etsy shop link on Website.  
Business Owner - John Grant 402-321-2317

Your one stop shop for all your Masonic merchandise! We offer a variety of items for your Masonic Lodge, Ceremonies or to show off your Masonic Pride. Lapel Pins, Car Emblems, Decals, Daggers, Swords, Rings, Ties, Bow Ties, Cravats, Bolo Ties, Pocket Watches, Watches, Briefcases, Rod Toppers, Tablet Covers, Coins, Garment Bags, Wallets, Tie Bars, Tie Chains, Button Covers, Officer pins and much much more!

Masonic Lodge  
Collars  
Aprons  
Apron Briefcases



York Rite  
Collars  
Aprons  
Medals/Jewels



Most items can be customized. Aprons personalized under the flap or make your own design. Decals or metal name plates for your briefcases. Nametags of all shapes and designs. Please contact us with your orders or to set up at one of your events.



# MISSOURI YORK RITE BY REGIONS

## Region 1 Chapters

**Hannibal Chapter No. 7**  
1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Hannibal Masonic Temple**  
1102 Central Avenue  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
**Roger McGregor, Secretary**  
[mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com](mailto:mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com)

**Caldwell Chapter No. 53**  
2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Kirkville Masonic Temple**  
217 East Harrison  
Kirkville, MO 63501  
**William J. King, Secretary**  
[kvorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kvorkrite@gmail.com)

**Shelbina Chapter No. 99**  
4th Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.  
**Shelbina Masonic Lodge**  
313 South Center  
Shelbina, MO 63468  
**Darrell A. Wilham, Secretary**  
[kwilham@centurytel.net](mailto:kwilham@centurytel.net)

**Putnam Chapter No. 123**  
4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Unionville Masonic Lodge**  
106 South 15th Street  
Unionville, MO 63565  
**Loren D. Lloyd, Secretary**  
[lorenlloyd69@gmail.com](mailto:lorenlloyd69@gmail.com)

## Region 1 Councils

**Kirkville Council No. 44**  
2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.  
Dark June, July, and August  
**Kirkville Masonic Temple**  
217 E. Harrison  
Kirkville, MO 63501  
**William J. King, Recorder**  
[kvorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kvorkrite@gmail.com)

**Trinity Council No. 47**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Hannibal Masonic Temple**  
1102 Central Avenue  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
**Roger McGregor, Recorder**  
[mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com](mailto:mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com)

**Shelby Council No. 59**  
4th Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.  
**Shelbina Masonic Lodge**  
313 South Center  
Shelbina, MO 63468  
**Darrell A. Wilham, Recorder**  
[kwilham@centurytel.net](mailto:kwilham@centurytel.net)

## Region 1 Commanderies

**Excalibur Commandery No. 5**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Hannibal Masonic Temple**  
1102 Central Avenue  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
**Roger McGregor, Recorder**  
[mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com](mailto:mccgregorclan1985@gmail.com)

**Ely Commandery No. 22**  
2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.  
**Kirkville Masonic Temple**  
217 East Harrison  
Kirkville, MO 63501  
**William J. King, Recorder**  
[kvorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kvorkrite@gmail.com)

## Region 1 Commanderies

**Malta Commandery No. 72**  
4th Tuesday at 9 p.m.  
**Shelbina Masonic Temple**  
313 S. Center  
Shelbina, MO 63468  
**Darrell A. Wilham, Recorder**  
[kwilham@centurytel.net](mailto:kwilham@centurytel.net)

## Region 2 Chapters

**Liberty Chapter No. 3**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**Liberty Masonic Temple**  
10 East Franklin  
Liberty, MO 64068  
**Don Gilkerson, Secretary**  
[gilkersondon@yahoo.com](mailto:gilkersondon@yahoo.com)

**Lexington Chapter No. 10**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Lexington Masonic Temple**  
126 1/2 North 11th Street  
Lexington, MO 64067-0283  
**Lloyd G. Lyon, Secretary**  
[lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com)

**Mitchell Chapter No. 14**  
1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**St. Joseph Masonic Center**  
605 Robidoux Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
**James Jeffers, Secretary**  
[jimjeffers25@gmail.com](mailto:jimjeffers25@gmail.com)

## Region 2 Councils

**St. Joseph Council No. 9**  
1st Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.  
Dark in June, July, & August  
**St. Joseph Masonic Center**  
605 Robidoux Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
**James Jeffers, Recorder**  
[jimjeffers25@gmail.com](mailto:jimjeffers25@gmail.com)

**John F. Houston No. 42**  
4th Monday at 8:15 p.m.  
**Lexington Masonic Temple**  
126 1/2 North 11th Street  
Lexington, MO 64067-0283  
**Lloyd G. Lyon, Secretary**  
[lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com)

**Liberty Council No. 50**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Liberty Masonic Temple**  
10 East Franklin  
Liberty, MO 64068  
**Don Gilkerson, Recorder**  
[gilkersondon@yahoo.com](mailto:gilkersondon@yahoo.com)

## Region 2 Commanderies

**DeMolay Commandery No. 3**  
4th Monday at 9:30 p.m.  
**Lexington Masonic Temple**  
126 1/2 North 11th Street  
Lexington, MO 64067-0283  
**Lloyd G. Lyon, Recorder**  
[lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonyorkrite@gmail.com)

## Hugh DePayens Commandery No. 4

1st Wednesday at 9:00 pm  
**St. Joseph Masonic Center**  
605 Robidoux Street  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
**James Jeffers, Recorder**  
[jimjeffers25@gmail.com](mailto:jimjeffers25@gmail.com)

**Liberty Commandery No. 6**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Liberty Masonic Temple**  
10 East Franklin  
Liberty, MO 64068  
**Don Gilkerson, Recorder**  
[gilkersondon@yahoo.com](mailto:gilkersondon@yahoo.com)

## Region 3 Chapters

**Independence Chapter No. 12**  
2nd Thursday at 7 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**Independence Masonic Temple**  
120 South Pleasant  
Independence, MO 64050  
**Larry Walters, Secretary**  
[larryfred61@gmail.com](mailto:larryfred61@gmail.com)

**Kansas City Chapter No. 28**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Ivanhoe Masonic Temple**  
8640 Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
**Donald MacCormick, Secretary**  
[kcworkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kcworkrite@gmail.com)

**Wyoming Chapter No. 43**  
1st Monday @ 7:30 p.m. Except  
September on 2nd Monday.  
**Jewel Lodge No. 480**  
1480 Broadway  
Pleasant Hill, MO 64080  
**Lance Cramer, Secretary**  
[cramelance773@gmail.com](mailto:cramelance773@gmail.com)

**Orient Chapter No. 102**  
3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.  
**Kansas City Masonic Temple**  
903 Harrison Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
**Corey Huntsucker, Secretary**  
[yorkmason903@gmail.com](mailto:yorkmason903@gmail.com)

## Region 3 Councils

**Shekinah Council No. 24**  
4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Kansas City Masonic Temple**  
903 Harrison Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
**Corey Huntsucker, Recorder**  
[yorkmason903@gmail.com](mailto:yorkmason903@gmail.com)

**Kansas City Council No. 45**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Ivanhoe Masonic Temple**  
8640 Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
**Donald MacCormick, Recorder**  
[kcworkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kcworkrite@gmail.com)

**Independence Council No. 49**  
4th Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Independence Masonic Temple**  
120 South Pleasant  
Independence, MO 64050  
**Larry Walters, Recorder**  
[larryfred61@gmail.com](mailto:larryfred61@gmail.com)

## Region 3 Commanderies

**Kansas City Commandery No. 10**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Ivanhoe Masonic Temple**  
8640 Holmes  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
**Donald MacCormick, Recorder**  
[kcworkrite@gmail.com](mailto:kcworkrite@gmail.com)

**Palestine Commandery No. 17**  
1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Independence Masonic Temple**  
120 South Pleasant  
Independence, MO 64050  
**John D. Toynton, Recorder**  
[johntoynton@yahoo.com](mailto:johntoynton@yahoo.com)

**Oriental Commandery No. 35**  
1st Friday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Kansas City Masonic Temple**  
903 Harrison Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
**Corey Huntsucker, Recorder**  
[yorkmason903@gmail.com](mailto:yorkmason903@gmail.com)

## Region 4 Chapters

**Columbia Chapter No. 17**  
2nd Monday Odd Months at 6:30 p.m.  
and even at 7:30 p.m.  
**York Rite Masonic Temple**  
#3 North Masonic Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202  
**Russel S. Hanson, Secretary**  
[hansonr@missouri.edu](mailto:hansonr@missouri.edu)

**Rolla Chapter No. 32**  
3rd Monday at 7:00 pm  
Dark July & August  
**Rolla Masonic Temple**  
400 East 2nd Street  
Rolla, MO 65401  
**Steven F. Eberharter, Secretary**  
[sfeberharter@gmail.com](mailto:sfeberharter@gmail.com)

**Jefferson City Chapter No. 34**  
1st Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark July & August  
**Jefferson City Masonic Temple**  
3211 Masonic Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
**Harold Coots, Secretary**  
[hfcoots@gmail.com](mailto:hfcoots@gmail.com)

## Region 4 Chapters

**Triune Chapter No. 93**  
1st Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
No meeting if falls on Holiday falls on  
first Monday.

**Montgomery Lodge #246**  
2nd and Sturgeon Street  
Montgomery City, MO 63361  
**Phillip Engel, Secretary**  
[hilltop@socket.net](mailto:hilltop@socket.net)

## Region 4 Councils

**Ezra Council No. 32**  
1st Monday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Jefferson City Masonic Temple**  
3211 Masonic Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
**Harold Coots, Recorder**  
[hfcoots@gmail.com](mailto:hfcoots@gmail.com)

# MISSOURI YORK RITE BY REGIONS

## Region 4 Councils

**Centralia Council No. 34**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**York Rite Masonic Temple**  
#3 North Masonic Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202  
[Kevin Sample, Recorder](#)  
[Kevin.Sample63@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin.Sample63@gmail.com)

**Rolla Council No. 39**  
Dark in July & August  
3rd Monday at 7:50 p.m.  
**Rolla Masonic Temple**  
400 East 2nd Street  
Rolla, MO 65401  
[Steven F. Eberharter, Recorder](#)  
[sfeberharter@gmail.com](mailto:sfeberharter@gmail.com)

## Region 4 Commanderies

**St. Graal Commandery No. 12**  
2nd Monday Odd Months at 6:30 p.m.  
and even at 7:30 p.m.  
**York Rite Masonic Temple**  
#3 North Masonic Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202  
[Russel S. Hanson, Recorder](#)  
[hansonr@missouri.edu](mailto:hansonr@missouri.edu)

**Prince of Pride No. 29**  
3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Jefferson City Masonic Temple**  
3211 Masonic Court  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
[Harold Coots, Recorder](#)  
[hfcoots@aol.com](mailto:hfcoots@aol.com)

**Rolla Commandery No. 59**  
3rd Monday at 8:40 p.m.  
**Rolla Masonic Temple**  
400 East 2nd Street  
Rolla, MO 65401  
[Steven F. Eberharter, Recorder](#)  
[sfeberharter@gmail.com](mailto:sfeberharter@gmail.com)

## Region 5 Chapters

**St. Charles-Missouri Chapter No. 1**  
2nd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**St. Charles Masonic Temple**  
2051 Collier Corporate Parkway  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
[Philip R. Cary, Secretary](#)  
[Stcharlesmissourino1ram@yahoo.com](mailto:Stcharlesmissourino1ram@yahoo.com)

**Bellefontaine Chapter No. 25**  
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Saint Louis Masonic Center**  
15977 Clayton Road  
Ballwin, MO 63011-2146  
[Michael S. Smith, Secretary](#)  
[mikessmith66@gmail.com](mailto:mikessmith66@gmail.com)

**Oriental-Rabboni Chapter No. 78**  
1st Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Webster Groves Masonic Temple**  
12 East Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
[Michael Gmoser, Secretary](#)  
[secretary@or78ram.org](mailto:secretary@or78ram.org)

**Keystone Chapter No. 146**  
2nd Monday @ 10:00 a.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Freedom Masonic Temple**  
4557 LeMay Ferry Road  
Mehlville, MO 63129  
[David L. Jacobi, Secretary](#)  
[oket14@scbglobal.net](mailto:oket14@scbglobal.net)

## Region 5 Councils

**Hiram Council No. 1**  
4th Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.  
**Masonic Center of St. Louis**  
15977 Clayton Road  
Ballwin, MO 63011  
[Christopher Newbold, Recorder](#)  
[hiramcouncil1stl@gmail.com](mailto:hiramcouncil1stl@gmail.com)

**York Council No. 40**  
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Jan, Feb, May, June, Sept, Oct  
**Wentzville Masonic Temple**  
602 Meyer Road  
Wentzville, MO 63385  
[Michael S. Smith, Recorder](#)  
[mikessmith66@gmail.com](mailto:mikessmith66@gmail.com)

**Jeremiah Council No. 48**  
3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Webster Groves Masonic Temple**  
12 East Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
[Terry Coppotelli, Recorder](#)  
[terry\\_coppotelli@hotmail.com](mailto:terry_coppotelli@hotmail.com)

## Region 5 Commanderies

**Ivanhoe Commandery No. 8**  
1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**St. Charles Masonic Temple**  
2051 Collier Corporate Parkway  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
[Michael S. Smith, Recorder](#)  
[mikessmith66@gmail.com](mailto:mikessmith66@gmail.com)

**Ascalon Commandery No. 16**  
1st & 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Saint Louis Masonic Center**  
15977 Clayton Road  
Ballwin, MO 63011-2146  
[Roger Fleer, Recorder](#)  
[fleerogerr@gmail.com](mailto:fleerogerr@gmail.com)

## Region 6 Chapters

**Wilson Chapter No. 75**  
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
Dark in July & August  
**Excelsior Lodge No. 441**  
204 South High Street  
Jackson, MO 63755  
[Christopher Foeste, Secretary](#)  
[chris.foeste@gmail.com](mailto:chris.foeste@gmail.com)

**Poplar Bluff Chapter No. 114**  
2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Poplar Bluff Masonic Temple**  
2303 North Main Street  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
[Devin R. Scott, Secretary](#)  
[mmmaprez@yahoo.com](mailto:mmmaprez@yahoo.com)

## Region 6 Councils

**Cape Council No. 20**  
1st Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Excelsior Lodge No. 441**  
204 South High Street  
Jackson, MO 63755  
[Christopher M. Foeste, Recorder](#)  
[chris.foeste@gmail.com](mailto:chris.foeste@gmail.com)

**Popular Bluff Council No. 27**  
2nd Thursday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Poplar Bluff Masonic Lodge**  
2303 North Main Street  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
[Devin R. Scott, Recorder](#)  
[mmmaprez@yahoo.com](mailto:mmmaprez@yahoo.com)

## Region 6 Commanderies

**Cape Girardeau Commandery#55**  
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Excelsior Lodge No. 441 Building**  
204 South High Street  
Jackson, MO 63755  
[John C. Cross, Recorder](#)  
[jcross\\_math@yahoo.com](mailto:jcross_math@yahoo.com)

**Poplar Bluff Commandery No. 67**  
3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m.  
**Poplar Bluff Masonic Temple**  
2303 North Main Street  
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901  
[Tony DePriest, Recorder](#)  
[poplarbluffyorkrite@gmail.com](mailto:poplarbluffyorkrite@gmail.com)

## Region 7A Chapters

**Bolivar Chapter No. 5**  
3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Bolivar Masonic Temple**  
261 South Killingsworth Avenue  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
[Randy W. Presley, Secretary](#)  
[pantherdad2772@gmail.com](mailto:pantherdad2772@gmail.com)

**Springfield Chapter No. 15**  
4th Monday at 7 p.m.  
Except in December, 2nd Monday  
**Masonic York Rite Temple**  
1930 West Catalpa  
Springfield, MO 65807  
[Gregory J Walker, Secretary](#)  
[gregoryjwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjwalker@gmail.com)

**Greenfield Chapter No. 38**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Washington Masonic Temple**  
#5 South Allison  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
[G. Timothy Black, Secretary](#)  
[tblack@penningtonseed.com](mailto:tblack@penningtonseed.com)  
IT rep: Billy Cooper

**Lebanon Chapter No. 64**  
3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Laclede Masonic Temple**  
191 West Second Street  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
[Gerald R. Hill, Secretary](#)  
[flwabic@gmail.com](mailto:flwabic@gmail.com)

## Region 7A Councils

**Zabud Council No. 25**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Masonic York Rite Temple**  
1930 West Catalpa  
Springfield, MO 65807  
[Gregory K. Walker, Recorder](#)  
[gregoryjwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjwalker@gmail.com)

**Lebanon Council No. 56**  
3rd Tues at 7:00 p.m.  
**Laclede Masonic Temple**  
191 West Second Street  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
**Gerald R. Hill, Recorder**  
[flwabic@gmail.com](mailto:flwabic@gmail.com)

**Bert S. Lee Council No. 58**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
Dark in July & August  
**Washington Masonic Temple**  
#5 South Allison  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
[G. Timothy Black, Recorder](#)  
[tblack@penningtonseed.com](mailto:tblack@penningtonseed.com)

## Region 7 A Commanderies

**St. John's Commandery No. 20**  
4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Masonic York Rite Temple**  
1930 West Catalpa  
Springfield, MO 65807  
[Gregory J. Walker, Recorder](#)  
[gregoryjwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryjwalker@gmail.com)

**Constantine Commandery No. 27**  
1st Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Washington Masonic Temple**  
#5 South Allison  
Greenfield, MO 65661  
[G. Timothy Black, Recorder](#)  
[tblack@penningtonseed.com](mailto:tblack@penningtonseed.com)

**Lebanon Commandery No. 33**  
3rd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
**Laclede Masonic Temple**  
191 West Second Street  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
[Gerald R. Hill, Recorder](#)  
[flwabic@gmail.com](mailto:flwabic@gmail.com)

**St. Elmo Commandery No. 43**  
3rd Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Bolivar Masonic Temple**  
301 South Killingsworth Avenue  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
[Randy Presley, Recorder](#)  
[pantherdad2772@gmail.com](mailto:pantherdad2772@gmail.com)

## Region 7 B Chapters

**Tyrian Chapter No. 52**  
3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.  
**Neosho Masonic Temple**  
4080 LaQuesta Drive  
Neosho, MO 64850  
[Matthew D. Ruth, Secretary](#)  
[matt.ruth@rocketmail.com](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)

**Nevada Chapter No. 56**  
2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Nevada Masonic Lodge**  
221 West Walnut  
Nevada Mo 64722  
**Gary L. Jones, Secretary**  
(417) 667-7549

**Meridian Sun Chapter No. 61**  
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Carthage Masonic Temple**  
1339 Oak Street  
Carthage, MO 64836  
[Chad E. Wagoner, Secretary](#)  
[cwagoner1865@gmail.com](mailto:cwagoner1865@gmail.com)

**Joplin Chapter No. 91**  
1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Joplin Scottish Rite Building**  
505 South Byers  
Joplin, MO 64801  
[Royce P. Wahl Jr., Secretary](#)  
[jrwahl\\_jyr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.net)

## Region 7 B Councils

**Jasper Council No. 30**  
1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Joplin Scottish Rite Building**  
505 South Byers  
Joplin, MO 64801  
[Royce P. Wahl Jr., Recorder](#)  
[jrwahl45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrwahl45@sbcglobal.net)



# MISSOURI YORK RITE BY REGIONS

## Region 7B Councils

**Carthage Council No. 41**  
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Carthage Masonic Temple**  
1339 Oak Street  
Carthage, MO 64836  
[Chad E. Wagoner, Recorder](mailto:cwagone1865@gmail.com)  
[cwagone1865@gmail.com](mailto:cwagone1865@gmail.com)

**Neosho Council No. 46**  
3rd Tuesday of each quarter at 8:00 p.m.  
**Neosho Masonic Temple**  
4080 LaQueta Drive  
Neosho, MO 64850  
[Matthew D. Ruth, Recorder](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)  
[matt.ruth@rocketmail.com](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)

**Nevada Council No. 65**  
2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Osage Masonic Lodge Building**  
221 West Walnut  
Nevada Mo 64722  
[IT: Courtney Black](mailto:courtney28@sbcglobal.net)  
[courtney28@sbcglobal.net](mailto:courtney28@sbcglobal.net)

## Region 7 B Commanderies

**O'Sullivan Commandery No. 15**  
2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Osage Masonic Lodge Building**  
221 West Walnut  
Nevada, MO 64772  
**Gary Jones, Recorder**  
No e-mail address

**Jasper Commandery No. 31**  
3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
**Criterian Masonic Temple**  
1339 Oak Street  
Carthage, MO 64836  
[Chad E. Wagoner, Secretary](mailto:cwagone1865@gmail.com)  
[cwagone1865@gmail.com](mailto:cwagone1865@gmail.com)

**Ascension Commandery No. 39**  
1st Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.  
**Joplin Scottish Rite Building**  
505 South Byers  
Joplin, MO 64801  
[Royce P. Wahl Jr., Recorder](mailto:jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.net)  
[jrwahl\\_jyr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrwahl_jyr@sbcglobal.net)

**Neosho Commandery No.57**  
3rd Tuesday at 9:00 p.m.  
**Neosho Masonic Temple**  
4080 LaQueta Drive  
Neosho, MO 64850  
[Matthew D. Ruth, Recorder](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)  
[matt.ruth@rocketmail.com](mailto:matt.ruth@rocketmail.com)

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