



MISSOURI YORK RITE BEACON



*Remembering
M.E.C. E. Allen Kohler
Past Grand High Priest
January 15, 1938 --May 14, 2026*



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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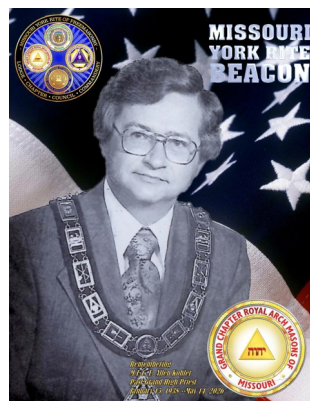
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Page 3	Grand High Priest's Message
Page 4	Grand Master's Message
Page 5	Grand Commander's Message
Page 6	Remembrance of M.E.C. Kohler
Page 8	Allied Masonic Degrees / Missouri In Gathering
Page 9	Grand Session By Law Up Dates
Page 13	Picture This....Grand York Rite Session
Page 18	MIC Dennis Houck Final Official Visit
Page 19	Springfield Chapter Number 15's 175th Anniversary
Page 24	Caldwell Chapter Number 53 Clay Shoot
Page 26	Capitular Education Presentation
Page 28	From the Editor
Page 29	Author's Corner
Page 32	RARA / CMMRF
Page 33	Commandery Charities
Page 34	Grand York Rite Bulletin Board
Page 36	Grand York Rite Grand Officers 2026-2027

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.

Cover Artwork by: REC Larry Wilson & REC Donald MacCormick



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

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



M...E...C... James McManigle
Grand High Priest
of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch



Dear Companions and Brethren All,

I am very humbled to have been elected and installed as your Grand High Priest for the ensuing Capitular Year's 179th Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. This is a great honor, and I will do my best to make you all proud.

This year we have a great line of officers, who are already working hard to improve and grow the Grand Chapter. As well as your local Chapters. Additionally, I wish to welcome to the advancing line V.E.C. John C. Caraker, who was installed as Grand Master of the 1st Veil. John will be doing double duty this year as he is also the Grand Lecture.

Our slogan this year, and it is on my coin, is, "Together Everyone Achieves More", (T.E.A.M.). Working together we can accomplish so much more than trying to do it alone. Will you be part of our T.E.A.M.?

If you missed the Grand Session, you missed a truly wonderful experience. We started with an informal ingathering of the Allied Masonic Degrees. Some exciting things are happening there. Then we moved to the Missouri Rainbow for Girls who did their Legacy Degree, a very impressive ceremony. On Thursday our official program started with the Commandery going first, followed by the Grand Chapter on Friday, and concluding with the Grand Council on Saturday. These meetings were interesting and active. Coming soon to the Grand website will be the listings of new officers and committees. Please be patient as the Grand Secretary has a lot to catch up with after our Grand Sessions.

Oh, on a separate note, the dinner and entertainment were something to behold. I understand that Jimmy "The Fish" is still looking for his duck. Watch out for him, he has friends that are not so nice. IYKYK.

This year we will continue our support of R.A.R.A. with the sale of my Grand High Priest coin. They are only \$20 each and available on the Grand York Rite website or with your friendly District Deputy Grand High Priest. It is an impressive coin and will be pictured in this publication very soon. We will be adding additional fundraising events for our R.A.R.A. charity as this Masonic year continues. Keep an eye out for those future announcements.

Our ritual is what sets us apart from other fraternal organizations. I encourage you all to practice and execute that ritual in the finest manner possible. If we fail to demonstrate our ritual in a serious heartfelt way, those that come to us will fail to see the important and thus eventually fall away. I strongly encourage all our chapter officers to strive and earn their proficiency card in at least one of our ritualistic areas.

For many years our chapters have been struggling with degreasing membership. This problem exists throughout our fraternity. Recruitment is not the only answer. We must work hard to hold on to our current members. Together we need to meet the wishes and desires of our membership in order to retain our Companions within our Chapters. Due to this, I have instructed your committee on Membership and Retention to assist in working on this problem, but in the end, we will need everyone's help.

Together Everyone Achieves More, T.E.A.M. Will you be part of our T.E.A.M.?

Thank you all and May God Bless,

Jim McManigle
Grand High Priest



M.:I.:C.: Taz A. Meyer Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri



Greetings Companions,

As you read this message, we have just recently completed our 160th Annual Assembly, which was held in St. Louis on Saturday, June 13th, as part of the 2026 Grand York Rite Session. I cannot begin to express how humbled and honored I am, that you have elected me to serve as your Grand Master this year. I promise you that I will do my very best to be worthy of the confidence you have placed in me. I am looking forward to working closely with Grand High Priest McManigle and Grand Commander Coppotelli to continue moving York Rite Masonry forward in Missouri this year.

We are poised to have a great year, my Companions. Your Grand Council has an outstanding officer corps that is ready, and able to serve you this year. You will soon see us attending your assemblies and other events, showing our support and serving as a resource for you if necessary. Your council leadership should not hesitate to contact your Regional Deputy Grand Master or Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, whichever might be deemed appropriate for the situation. Regional officers are there to provide assistance and guidance to the councils as needed throughout the year, to ensure their success.

Reflecting on the events of this year's session, I was reminded of goals shared by MIC Matthew Ruth during his year as Grand Master. He was sharing sage advice that had been given to him by a friend and PGM of the Grand Council of Oklahoma, who said, "Everything you do must accomplish three goals:

1. The organization must do something for the good of Masonry.
2. You and your attendees must enjoy themselves.
3. You must make someone wish they had attended."

I think everyone that attended would agree that this year's Grand York Rite Session accomplished all three of these goals!

As we begin this new term, I encourage each of you to be active within your Council. You do not need to be an officer to contribute to its success. Volunteer for a committee. Present an educational offering. Help coordinate an event. And please, don't be afraid to try something different! We all know that you can't keep repeating the same behavior and expect to get different results. Remember Companions, you are members of a "select" group. It's up to you to create an exceptional experience that you and your companions will not want to miss!

Fraternally,

Taz A. Meyer
Grand Master



***S.K. Terry Coppotelli, Right Eminent
Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery
of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri***



Greetings Sir Knights,

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about pencils. The first wood-cased pencils were invented in 1560 by Italian inventors Simonio and Lyndiana Bernacotti. Their basic design has remained largely unchanged, with the eraser perhaps the most significant addition. The pencil has long been (and remains) an indispensable part of everyday life. Americans use more than 2 billion pencils each year, yet most of us give little thought to this simple, reliable tool.

There is an old television show, *How It's Made*, that many people have probably watched at some point. Each week, it featured everyday objects such as nails, razor blades, buttons, and more, and showed how raw materials were transformed through a complex, unseen process into the familiar items we use every day. The show could draw you in for hours, revealing the surprising amount of work behind things you had never given much thought.

One episode focused on pencils. It began in the forest, explaining which types of wood work best, then moved to quarries to show where graphite and other materials come from. The episode also visited rubber plantations, where latex is extracted from trees and later processed into erasers, and explained how the paint is chosen and applied. It even covered why some pencils are labeled "No. 2" instead of "No. 3." In just ten minutes, you realize how much work goes into creating something so ordinary, something you might use to finish a crossword puzzle or keep score at a baseball game.

I had that same revelation this week in St. Louis. In 2012, I attended my first Grand Session, and I have been to every one since. At each session, I would arrive, check into my room, pick up a copy of the Proceedings, watch the ceremonies, share the meals, usually find something to complain about, and then head home. This year, after seeing how much unseen work goes into a Grand Session, I have an entirely new perspective. Planning begins years before the event itself. Venues contacted, contracts reviewed, meals selected, agendas created, reports compiled, finances checked, altars moved, Proceedings printed, flags procured, and entertainment is arranged. The list goes on and on. Like any major production, so much happens behind the scenes, carried out by people we may never think to thank. Yet without their efforts, this annual opportunity for fellowship would not happen. To say I am humbled by the work that made our York Rite Grand Session a success is an understatement. Scores of officers, York Rite Masons, wives, friends of the fraternity, out-of-state guests, families, and individual attendees all helped make it possible and meaningful. I will tell the truth: I was exhausted when it was over.....and I am already looking forward to the next one. Thank you to all of you for choosing me as your Grand Commander, and I will be seeing you very soon.

Fraternally Yours,

Terry Coppotelli

*Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons
of the State of Missouri*



E. Allen Kohler
Grand High Priest 1976-1977

Born
January 15, 1938
Huntsville, Missouri

Died
May 14, 2026
Huntsville, Missouri

*As a tribute of respect, the Subordinate Chapters will
drape their Charters in mourning for a period of thirty days.*



Fondly Remembering M.E.C. E. Allen Kohler

Companions and Sir Knights,

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of M.E.C. E. Allen Kohler, Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri 1976-1977, Honorary Past Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri 1998, and Honorary Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar 1995.

M.E.C. Kohler, aged 88, went to be with his Lord and Savior on May 14, 2026, with family by his side. He was born on Saturday, January 15, 1938 in Huntsville, Missouri, to Estele and Anna (Hackley) Kohler. He attended public school in Huntsville and graduated from the Huntsville High School in 1955. After which, M.E.C. Kohler attended Moberly Area Community College and completed his education at the University of Missouri in the School of Business Administration 1959. While attending Mizzou he became a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Alpha Kappa Psi fraternities.

During high school, Allen was employed by the Farmers and Merchants Bank, Huntsville, and continued his employment in the bank while attending Junior College. While attending the University of Missouri, he was employed by the Exchange National Bank, Columbia. After graduation he continued working for the Columbia Bank and was employed by Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. for 4 years. In 1965, he returned to the Farmers and Merchants Bank, and retired from the bank.

M.E.C. Allen served 6 years in the Missouri Army National Guard, 175th Military Police Battalion, Company C, Moberly, where he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1966 after serving as Communications Chief and Supply Sergeant.

Additionally, he was a volunteer fire fighter for the Huntsville Volunteer Fire Department; Fire Chief for the West Randolph Rural Fire Association; and consultant to Westran Fire Protection District. He was a faithful member of the Huntsville First Baptist Church serving in many roles throughout the years. Allen began representing the City of Huntsville in 1985 on the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission (CCWWC) Board of Directors until 2016. Allen served as vice- president and president of the CCWWC Board of Directors where he represented the Commission at State meetings and Washington, D.C. as a lobbyist.

As a member of the Huntsville Lion's Club, he served as President and Treasurer. He attended many State Wide events and was elected District 26C Governor in 1966. 2005-2006 he was elected District 26M-6 Governor for Lion's International. Allen's passion for shooting sports helped develop the Huntsville Lion's Club shooting sports facility north of Huntsville. He served as President of the Huntsville Community Club; Treasurer of the Huntsville Merchants Association; and Treasurer of the Huntsville Cemetery Trust Fund.

Allen's Masonic activities spanned more than 60 years. He was raised in Huntsville Lodge Number 30 where he served as Worshipful Master for two terms, 1969 and 1971. He served as Junior Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Missouri 1973-74; he was elected Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri in 1976; charter member of the Bruce Harmon Hunt York College; Director of the Masonic Home of Missouri; Worthy Patron of the Dorothy Chapter Number 131, O.E.S; Ararat Shrine of Kansas City; Treasurer of Coon Creek Shrine Club; Order of the High Priesthood; Missouri Association of Past Commanders; and 32 degree member of the Columbia Valley of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

M.E.C. Kohler will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Fraternally Yours,

Grand York Rite Office

Allied Masonic Degrees of Missouri

STATE IN-GATHERING 2026



DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

VENUE:



LOCATION: CANTERBURY HILL WINERY & RESTAURANT,
HOLTS SUMMIT, MO.

ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES OF MISSOURI STATE IN-GATHERING



RESERVATIONS

Tickets must be purchased on Zeffy

EVENT INQUIRIES

mruth@mocryptic.org



Grand Session By-Laws Updates

The follow are the changes to the By Laws of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri. This should not be considered the exact verbiage of the Constitution and By Laws of those Grand Bodies. Instead, this should be considered an informational guide to changes. Actual law should be obtained from the Grand By Laws of those bodies through the Grand York Rite Office and/or its webpages.

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri

ARTICLE II Grand Officers

Section 9B. Grand Historian. A Grand Historian shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest. The duties of the Grand Historian shall be to collect and assemble historical data pertinent to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons State of Missouri. Such data shall be published annually in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter. The Grand Historian will be free to determine his choice of historical data to be compiled each year. The Grand Historian shall be free to publish his assembled data in other publications of Masonic character without prior approval of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. The Grand Historian will receive no Compensation. The honorary title of the Grand Historian will be Very Excellent Companion or the highest honorary title held by that individual in the Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE VXIII Dues

L. The Grand Secretary shall annually remit to the secretaries of participating subordinate chapters their prorated portion of the earnings of the Endowed Membership fund minus per capita. This is provided that no earnings shall be distributed on any Endowed Membership until after January 1 of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Secretary.

The Endowed Membership Fund shall establish as the Base Principal those funds received by the Grand Secretary from subordinate chapters for the purchase of an Endowed Membership. As new memberships are purchased the Base Principal will increase. At no time shall the fund draw down below this Base Principal.

Distribution of the Investment Growth in the fund shall follow these guidelines. The Investment Committee shall, as soon as practical after January 1 of each year, advise the Endowed Membership Committee the amount of gain or loss in the investments of Endowed Membership Fund.

Any gains accrued will be distributed as follows: First, the current Per Capita will be paid for all living Endowed members by the Grand Chapter. Second, from the remaining funds, 30% will be retained in the Endowed Membership Fund to fortify the continued growth of the fund and become part to the Base Principal. Third, the remaining 70% will be distributed to the subordinate Chapters on a prorated basis for the total number of endowed members, living and deceased that are/were members of that Chapter.

ARTICLE XXIX Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS)

Section 223. Chapter Secretary Responsibilities

D. Secretaries and IT Representatives shall log in to MMS no less than monthly to maintain access credentials and to make any approved membership changes. **This section has been deleted from the bylaw by a vote of the membership.**

Standing Resolution No. 16

Whereas, Excellent Companion William Gene Snyder has served the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri with particular dedication and sense of responsibility for many years, and

Whereas, Excellent Companion Snyder continued his Masonic service and was advanced to the office of General Grand Master of the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International, and

Whereas, he has done much to advance the aims and preserve the traditions of York Rite Masonry, and

Whereas, his international service has reflected admirably on the Grand York Rite of Missouri, and

Whereas, his admirable and self-sacrificing example of honor and courage, placing the welfare of the Order above all personal ambition, will remain in perpetuity an inspiration to all who wear the apron of Missouri Capitular Masonry,

Therefore, be it resolved, that Excellent Companion William Gene Snyder be invested with the rank and dignity of Honorary Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, with all honors and privileges thereto appertaining.

Standing Resolution No. 17

Presented verbally from the floor by MEC Kevin B. Sample, HPGHP, that REC Donald MacCormack, be made a Honorary Past Grand High Priest, for his leadership and work for the Grand York Rite of the State of Missouri. It passed and was accepted by a vote of the membership.

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the States of Missouri

ARTICLE VXI

Endowed Membership (Renamed 5/19/05)

12. The Grand Recorder shall annually remit to the recorders of participating constituent Councils, their prorated portion of the earnings of the Endowed Membership Fund minus per capita. This is provided that no earnings shall be distributed on any Endowed Membership until January 1 of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Recorder.

The Endowed Membership Fund shall establish as the Base Principal those funds received by the Grand Recorder from subordinate Councils for the purchase of an Endowed Membership. As new memberships are purchased the Base Principal will increase. At no time shall the fund draw down below this Base Principal.

Distribution of the Investment Growth in the fund shall follow these guidelines. The Investment Committee shall, as soon as practical after January 1 of each year, advise the Endowed Membership Committee the amount of gain or loss in the investments of Endowed Membership Fund.

Any gains accrued will be distributed as follows: First, the current Per Capita will be paid for all living Endowed members by the Grand Council. Second, from the remaining funds, 30% will be retained in the Endowed Membership Fund to fortify the continued growth of the fund and become part to the Base Principal. Third, the remaining 70% will be distributed to the subordinate Councils on a prorated basis for the total number of endowed members, living and deceased that are/were members of that Council.

ARTICLE XIX

Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) SEC 148. Council Recorder Responsibilities

D. Recorders and IT Representatives shall log in to MMS no less than monthly to maintain access credentials and to make any approved membership changes. This section has been deleted from the bylaw by a vote of the membership.

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri

ARTICLE XII - Endowment Fund

Section 229. Grand Commandery Endowed Membership.

E. Distribution. The net income, minus per-capita, from such fund shall be distributed annually to the endowed Commanderies prior to January 1. This is provided that no income shall be distributed on any endowed membership until January 1, of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Recorder. The Grand Commandery shall be entitled to no more of the net income from the endowed membership than the aforesaid per-capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), or 50% of the net income (less Grand Encampment per-capita), whichever is less. (Amended 05/16/08, Repealed ??/??/??) **This section has been deleted from the bylaw by a vote of the membership.**

ARTICLE XII - Endowment Fund

Section 229. Grand Commandery Endowed Membership.

J. Continued Income. Following the death of an endowed member of a Missouri Commandery, 30% of the net income from that endowed membership shall be retained and added to the fund's principal to provide for growth of the fund. The remainder of the net income, minus per-capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), shall be distributed to the endowed Commanderies. The Grand Commandery shall be entitled to no more of the remaining net income from the endowed membership than the aforesaid per capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), or 50% of the remaining net income (less Grand Encampment per-capita), whichever is less. (Adopted 05/20/00, Amended 05/16/08, Repealed ??/??/??) **This section has been deleted from the bylaw by a vote of the membership.**

ARTICLE XII - Endowment Fund

Section 229. Grand Commandery Endowed Membership.

K. Distribution and Continued Income. The Grand Recorder shall annually remit to the recorders of participating constituent Commanderies, their prorated portion of the earnings of the Endowed Membership Fund minus per capita. This is provided that no earnings shall be distributed on any Endowed Membership until January 1 of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Recorder. The Endowed Membership Fund shall establish as the Base Principal those funds received by the Grand Recorder from constituent Commanderies for the purchase of an Endowed Membership. As new memberships are purchased the Base Principal will increase. At no time shall the fund draw down below this Base Principal.

Distribution of the Investment Growth in the fund shall follow these guidelines. The Investment Committee shall, as soon as practical after January 1 of each year, advise the Endowment Fund Committee the amount of gain or loss in the investments of Endowed Membership Fund. Any gains accrued will be distributed as follows. First, the current Per Capita will be paid for all living Endowed members by the Grand Commandery. Second, from the remaining funds, 30% will be retained in the Endowed Membership Fund to fortify the continued growth of the fund

and becomes part of the Base Principal. Third, the remaining 70% will be distributed to the constituent Commanderies on a prorated bases for the total number of endowed members, living and deceased that are/were members of that Commandery. Added to the bylaws by a vote of the membership.

Item 4

ALTERNATE/SHORT FORM TACTICS FOR OPENING WHICH MAY BE USED BY CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSOURI.

Accepted by a vote of the membership. Due to it being ritual based. The context of that ritual will not be posted in this informational article.

★ WELCOME TO THE ★

TRIENNIAL 2026

★★ LEADERSHIP. INTEGRITY. SERVICE. ★★

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hosted by

Triune Chapter
... *No. 23* ...

Monday, October 5th, 2026
@ 6:00 PM
Shrine Building
607 S. Sturgeon, Montgomery City, MO



Room Rate Of \$103
Includes Breakfast
Buffet on Friday &
Saturday Morning

Registration Fee
\$40

Ladies' Program At
Clinton Presidential
Library

Hospitality Room
For Food &
Fellowship

Make Your Hotel
Reservations
Before
08/18/2026

Conference
Registration
Deadline
09/04/2026

SOUTH CENTRAL YORK RITE CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 18 - 19, 2026
WYNDHAM GRAND

Executive Center-Little Rock

3201 Bankhead Drive, Little Rock, AR, 72206

Make plans now to attend the 2026 South Central York Rite
Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, on September 18 - 19, 2026.

Join your fellow leaders of the York Rite for an exciting program
where exchanging ideas, sharing successes, and enjoying food &
fellowship will be the top priority. We will have activities for the
lady in your life! Bring her along for a couple of carefree days and
fun.

More details and registration information will be available in
mid-2026 on the General Grand Chapter's website –
ggcrami.org/regionalconferences
For more information contact Thomas Flowers at 501-208-3133 or
gsr@aryorkrite.org.

See you in Little Rock!



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Picture This....

Grand Commandery Session 2026



Grand Chapter 2026



Grand Assembly 2026



Grand Session Gathering 2026





M.I.C. DENNIS W. HOUCK MAKES FINAL OFFICIAL VISIT PRESENTATION GIVEN ON 61ST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The May 14, 2026, stated assembly of Kirksville Council Number 44 R. & S.M. marked the final official visit of M.I.C. Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons.

The evening began with an excellent dinner of gumbo, prepared by Comp. Christopher W. Boyer, followed by the opening of Kirksville Council by I.C. Matthew N. Moore, Master, and his officers. After the regular order of business, V.I.C. Ashley W. Young delivered a presentation on the 100th anniversary of the 61st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of the State of Missouri (now the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri). The 61st Annual Assembly was held in Kirksville on April 26, 1926.

Following the presentation, our companions assembled were honored to formally receive M.I.C. Houck and his Grand Officers. Accompanying M.I.C. Houck were: R.I.C. Taz A. Meyer, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council; V.I.C. David D. Goring, Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region One of the Grand Council; V.I.C. Gerald R. Hill, Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region Seven A of the Grand Council; and M.I.C. Joseph P. Elsen, Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer for Region One and Past Grand Master of the Grand Council.

M.I.C. Houck delivered inspiring remarks of appreciation to the companions in attendance. Following his remarks, the Grand Master closed Kirksville Council in due form.



Photo 1: V.I.C. Young delivering his presentation on the 100th anniversary of the 61st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council.



Photo 2: front row, from left: V.I.C. Young, Treasurer and Past Master, and Past Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 1; R.I.C. Meyer; M.I.C. Houck; I.C. Moore; V.I.C. Hill; and V.I.C. Goring.

Middle row: from left: I.C. Jeffrey L. Knight, Chaplain and Past Master; Comp. Kirby R. Cundiff, Deputy Master of Kirksville Council; M.I.C. Elsen; I.C. Jeremy A. Lloyd, Past Master of Kirksville Council; I.C. David D. Powell, Marshall/Past Master.

Back row: from left: I.C. William J. King, Recorder and Past Master of Kirksville Council; Comp. Nicholas B. Hatfield, Captain of the Guard of Kirksville Council; Comp. Boyer; Comp. J. Thomas Hensley, Jr.; Comp. Tommy L. Cotton; and I.C. Loren D. Lloyd, Past Master of Kirksville Council.



Photo 3: from left: I.C. Moore; R.I.C. Meyer; M.I.C. Houck; M.I.C. Elsen; V.I.C. Hill; and V.I.C. Goring.

Springfield Chapter Number 15

175th Anniversary and Rededication Celebration

Assembled by: V.E.C. Greg Walker



On May 16, 2026 Springfield Chapter Number 15, located in Springfield, Missouri, celebrated its 175th anniversary with a rededication ceremony by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. The event was well attended with over 50 members and guests in attendance. A commemorative coin was struck for the event. And if there are any unsold coins, they will be made available at this year's Grand Session.

Springfield Chapter Number 15, Royal Arch Masons, was organized on the second day of October, 1850, with thirteen members, receiving a Charter from the Grand Chapter of the State of Missouri, February 13, 1851, with John Dade, High Priest; J. W. Chenoweth, King; R. B. Johnson, Scribe, and G. W. Jeffries, Secretary. And like unto the earlier Masonic Lodges in the county, it suffered many reverses, and upon the opening of the Civil War ceased to hold regular communication until after the close of hostilities. On May 21, 1866, the



companions again assembled and resuscitated the dead body, giving it a new life, from which time the Chapter has grown abundantly and is now recognized as one of the leading Chapters of the state and from whose membership several of the grand officers of the state have been chosen.



Countdown to America's 250th Anniversary

**Past Grand High Priests
from Springfield Chapter Number 15**



M.E.C. John W. Chenoweth, 1856-57



M.E.C. Corona H. Briggs, 1894-95



M.E.C. Charles F. Leavitt, 1875-76



M.E.C. Russell L. Wilcox, 1951-52



M.E.C. Walter W. Doyle 2004-05



M.E.C. Kevin M. Ritter

Photographs not Available for the following Past Grand High Priests from Springfield Chapter:

M.E.C. Marcus Boyd, 1858-59

M.E.C. Allan McDowell, 1893-94

M.E.C. H.L. Bosworth, 1899-1900

M.E.C. Leonard V. Bowers, 1963-64

M.E.C. Thomas E. Blankenship, 1978-79



Springfield Masonic Building

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**REAL MEN WEAR
FEZZES!**

Caldwell Chapter Number 53

1st Annual Clay Shoot for R.A.R.A.

The first annual Sporting Clays for R.A.R.A. proved to be a tremendous success! Hosted by the Companions of Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M. on Saturday, May 30th, A.D. 2026, at Little Fox River Sporting Clays outside Memphis, Missouri, the event brought together twenty attendees and fifteen shooters in support of Royal Arch Research Assistance (R.A.R.A.), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing research and solutions for Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD).



The day began at 8:00 a.m. as V.E.C. Craig A. Nowell, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the participants, followed by a prayer from E.C. Matthew N. Moore, and a safety and housekeeping briefing from Range Master and owner Dave, just before 9:30 a.m.



Following a spirited morning of competition, lunch was served at noon and featured brisket and pulled pork with sides, desserts, and drinks. During lunch, V.E.C. Nowell announced the match results:

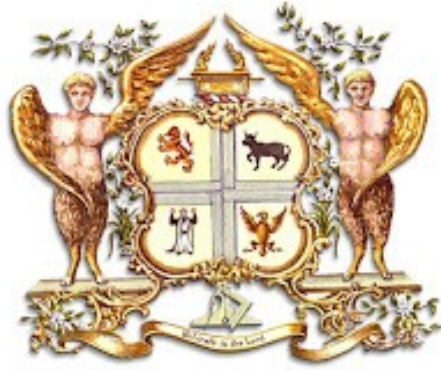
- Team “Made in the 80’s” – Mr. Ryan Kirkpatrick, Comp. Christopher W. Boyer, Comp. Nicholas B. Hatfield, and Mr. Aaron Emel — claimed top honors with a score of 129.
- Mr. Emel earned recognition as “Top Shooter” with an impressive score of 40.
- Comp. Boyer was recognized as the “Top York Rite Shooter” with a score of 37.
- Ms. Sophia was honored as “Top New Shooter” with a score of 20.
- V.E.C. David D. Powell received recognition as “Dead Last but Still Dangerous.”



The event raised \$365.00 in net proceeds for R.A.R.A., and all participants expressed interest in returning next year!







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,

The last, and final, installment of education for this Capitular year focuses on the scripture from the Royal Arch degree as given by Jeshua, the High Priest. I have had the opportunity and honor to serve in this role many times and this one particular scripture confounded me. There are parts that were easy to figure out, but there is one line in particular that seemed out of place, almost as if it were taken out of context. Out of my own desire to find out more, I present to you a brief discussion on Zechariah 4:6-10.

Grand Chapter Capitular Education Series - June 2026 Royal Arch Degree

Zechariah Chapter 4:6-1, “This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit. Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain, and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven.”

v. 6 - Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.—This verse is easy to understand, though difficult for many to abide by. Some things simply can only be achieved with the grace of the Grand Architect.

v.7 - Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. Here we see a direct connection to the Royal Arch degree, that of rebuilding the Temple. Again, pretty simple to understand.

v.8 - Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying... Isn't it nice to know that the people responsible for translating the Bible also had to use a transition statement???

v.9 - The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; Again, a simple statement for those who know the story of the Royal Arch degree. The Grand Architect has given Zerubbabel the authority and power to rebuild the Temple and that is what he is going to do.

v.10 -For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven." And then we get to this verse. What in the name of holy water are they talking about? Not only is it confusing, it is also difficult to read and commit to memory. If I, as a Royal Arch Mason of many years, do not understand this verse, how is a brand new candidate going to be expected to understand it?

Breaking down this verse into small sections we find this literally refers to the building of the second Temple and the large number of people who were upset with the overall size and look of the building when compared to the original (for who hath despised the day of small things?). But not the Grand Architect. The construction was being carried out according to his plan. Many complained that it did not compare to the

original (for who hath despised the day of small things?). But not the Grand Architect. The construction was being carried out according to his plan. Many complained that it did not compare to the grandeur of the Temple of Solomon, but remember they were working with fewer people, less financial support, and the lack of master builders due to the fact they had been in bondage for so long. Even in the early hours of the dawn, the light on the horizon is small and pale, yet we know that soon it will increase in brilliancy. Do we despise the dawn? Of course not. For we know what is to come. Those who despised the reduced size and plain look of the second Temple could not see the end, therefore they were upset about it.

As the building progressed, the larger picture began to emerge. Maybe those who once murmured against the size of the building changed their minds? (For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerrubabel...) It took some time, but I finally figured out what the “plummet” referred to. We have all seen it since the second degree in symbolic Lodge. It is definitely not a spelling error and definitely does not mean a sharp decline or drop off. This spelling refers to the plumb. And when the people saw Zerrubabel himself using the plumb to ensure all was upright, they gained hope and comfort in his leadership.

Finally, the number seven is sacred in religion and in Masonry. We see it everywhere in our teachings and rituals. This last section could refer to seven different Master Overseers assisting Zerrubabel, the master builder, with the overall design and structure of the building (...with those seven.) There is also a connection to the candlestick with its seven symbolic branches. One religious historian asks us to consider that this could also refer to the seven rows of stone, measured by the plummet, which created a solid foundation. Another belief is that this line refers to the seven churches of Asia, representative of the whole church of Christ.

Our ritual cuts off the remainder of verse 10, which concludes with, “They are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.”, referring back to the “seven”, as the infinite providence of the Great Architect. His omniscience is the compasses of the world. He oversaw the construction of this new Temple and it was good in his sight.

And there it is. I am not sure this explanation will make that line any easier to commit to memory, but at least we now have an explanation of a random set of verses which accompany our ritual in the Royal Arch degree. I, for one, will have a much clearer idea the next time I am asked to fill the role of Jeshua and the confidence to answer the candidate’s question regarding that line, if it is ever asked.



Above: Illustration of the Temple of Solomon



Right: Illustration of Zerrubabel's Temple

Our education series will follow this schedule:

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.

From the Editor...

Greetings Companions and Sir Knights,

We are fresh out of Grand Session and are hitting the road already. As you can see, we are doing this issue a little differently. Normally, with the June issue, we have the Grand Officers on the Cover of the Beacon Magazine. However, with the passing of a Grand Officer, we are reserving the cover to honor him. M.E.C. E. Allen Kohler was our oldest living Past Grand High Priest, and his council will be greatly missed. A remembrance article can be found at the beginning of this magazine. Below is a wonderful photo of the Grand Officers assembled by M.E.C. / M.I.C. Donald MacCormick.

In this issue we will cover a wide variety of subjects. Everything from the passed bylaws of each body to Royal Arch Education from the your Education Committee. Pictures from various events to messages from the Grand Officers.

Please take a look at the ads in this issue. You will find some wonderful events that are in the upcoming days. So, don't miss out.

Once again, your Grand Officers have chosen me to be you Editor and Head of Publication. It is a great honor to have this honor bestowed upon me and every member of this committee. Thank you, and we will attempt to remain informative and entertaining. Keep your eyes open in the future as with new committee members, exciting changes might be around the corner.

I think that we will keep this short for this month. I hope that you all have a fun and prosperous summer. That your family and friend create some wonderful memories, and we will be seeing you all down that dusty trail.

Editor



Writer's Corner

Did you know that the Grand York Rite of Missouri has several books on its website that can be read electronically for free. Here is a list of such books for the Council with hyperlinks to those locations. Enjoy the free stuff.—Editor

The Story of Missouri Councils



RAY V. DENSLOW

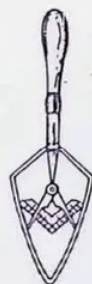
The organization of the Missouri Lodge of Research has given impetus to the study of Missouri Masonic history, resulting in the writing of many lodge histories. The impetus has not yet reached Missouri councils, probably for the lack of source material which is necessary for the writing of any history.

Much of this material is in the archives of the Grand Council, or available to the writer in some other form. In the hopes of making this information available to those interested in the history of Cryptic Masonry, we have accumulated a sufficient amount of material about each Missouri Council so that those interested may write the history of their own

council.

Many distinguished Freemasons have been identified with Cryptic Masonry. Missouri had an important part in the organization of the General Grand Council, U. S. A., and several Missourians have played important parts in the organization by holding official position or by place on committees.

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA of CRYPTIC MASONRY

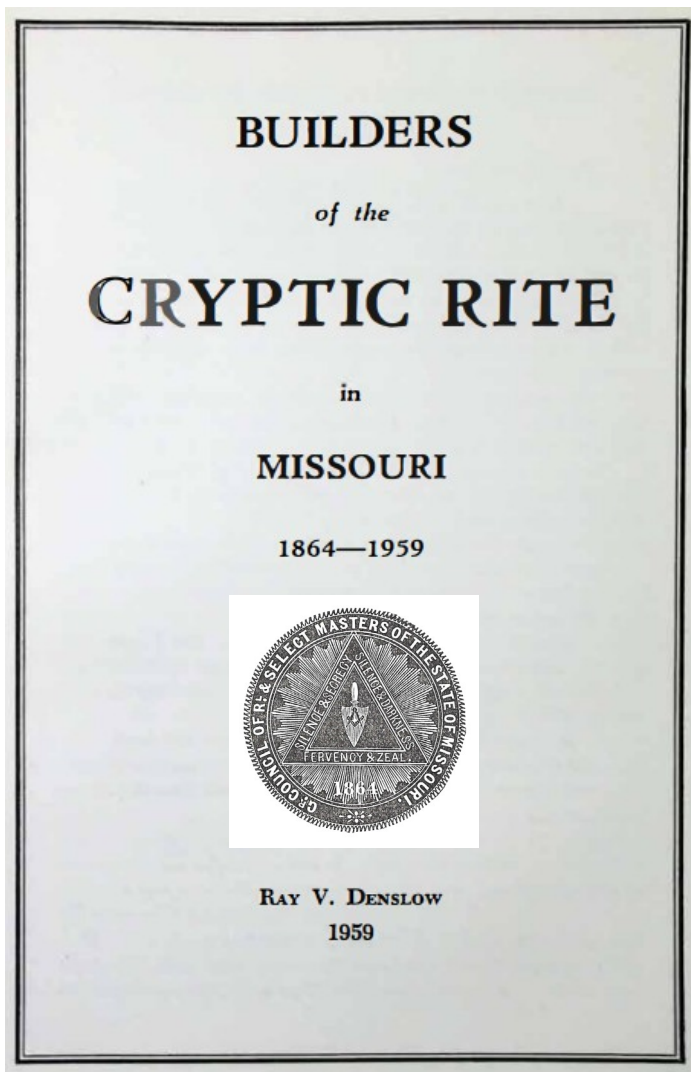


By RAY V. DENSLOW
1950

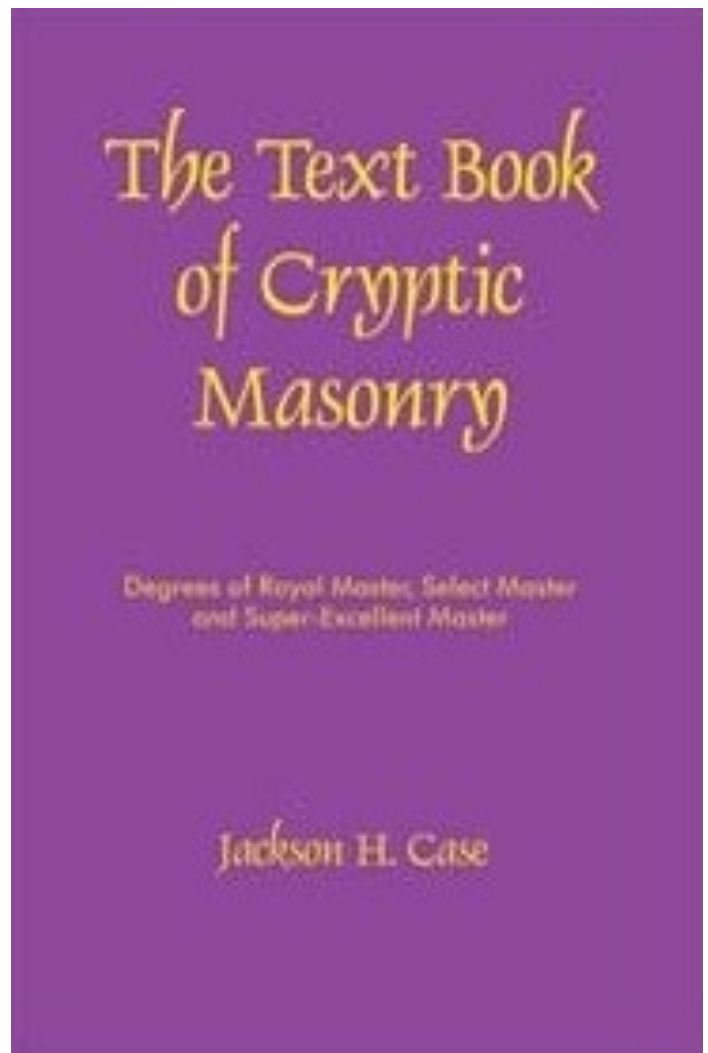
*Written and Printed for The Grand Council,
Royal & Select Masters of Missouri*

The Encyclopedia of Cryptic Masonry (1950) is a definitive reference work by Masonic scholar Ray V. Denslow that explores the history, symbols, and rituals of the Cryptic Rite—a branch of the York Rite of Freemasonry

Cryptic Masonry focuses on the symbolism of a secret vault or crypt beneath the Temple.



In your Masonic advancement do not overlook the degrees of the Cryptic Rite; they are necessary to a proper understanding of Ancient Craft Masonry.



There are no more beautiful degrees in all Freemasonry than those of the Cryptic Rite.

For many years it was an "orphan" so far as the American or York Rite was concerned. But today, its beauty and ritualistic value is being quite generally recognized and it is being made mandatory in many jurisdictions for those who wish to advance in Freemasonry.

A reading of the biographies in this pamphlet will convince the reader that those who have served as the head of Grand Council have been active Freemasons engaged in all branches of the fraternity and who work, not for personal recognition, but for the advancement of the Rite.

Grand Council, at its 1959 assembly, voted to print and distribute these pamphlets so that Masonic students everywhere might have this historical information available.

There are now available biographies of the heads of Grand Lodge (1947); Grand Council (1958); Grand Chapter (1958), and Grand Commandery (1958).

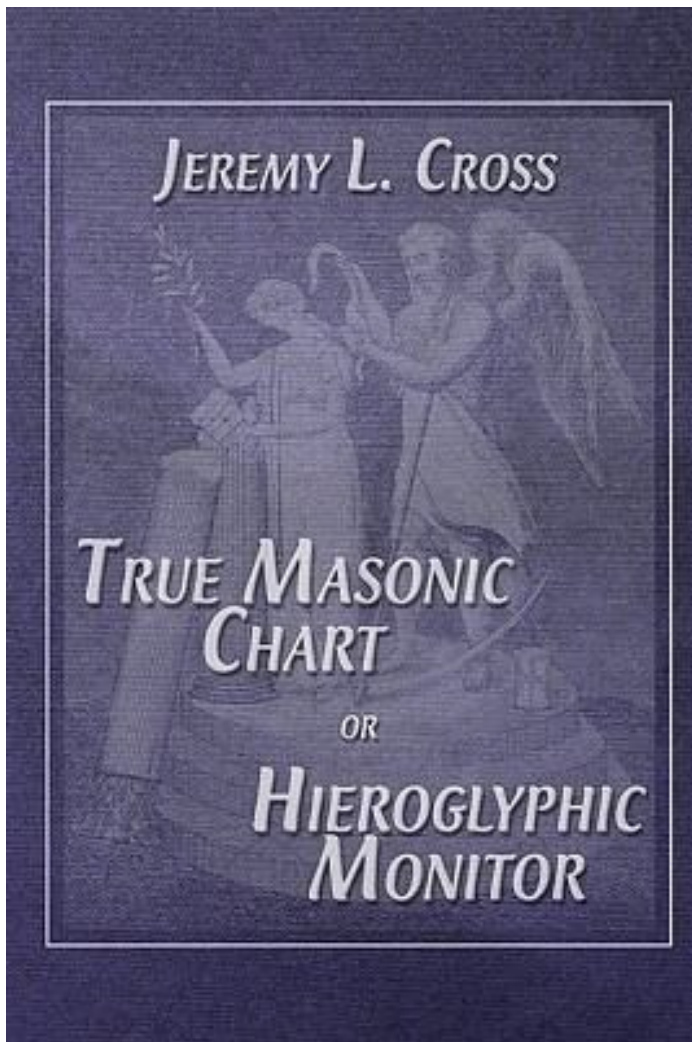
The present work has been compiled as a "Text Book" for Officers and Companions of Councils of Royal and Select Masters.

That Such a Manual has long been needed, will be acknowledged by all conversant with Cryptic Masonry.

The Manuscript was submitted to our late M. P. Rev. Charles H. Platt, G.M., for his examination, and received his unqualified approval.

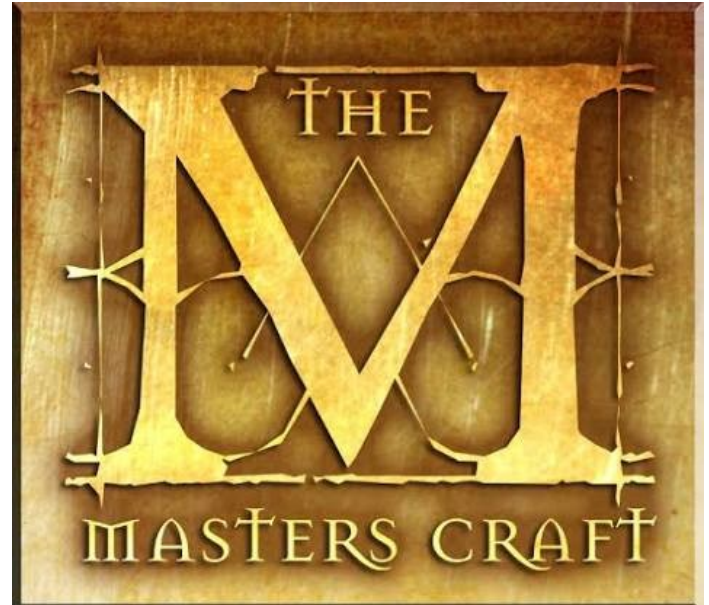
It has been arranged in strict conformity to the work as approved by him, and adopted by the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York, and is respectfully submitted to the fraternal consideration of Cryptic Companions, wheresoever dispersed.

Jackson H. Chase, 33
Albany, N.Y. 1869



Jeremy L. Cross, born in New Hampshire in 1783, was an eminent Masonic scholar and lecturer who studied directly under Thomas Smith Webb and played a significant role in disseminating Webb's adaptation of William Preston's work throughout all Masonic jurisdictions in the United States. His True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor is perhaps the best representation of that work, in that it contains elaborate illustrations specifically developed to accompany Webb's lectures. Apart from providing the foundation for the engravings in Masonic monitors in the centuries that followed,

Cross invented a number of composite symbols still utilized in Masonic lectures today, perhaps the most significant being the broken column and weeping virgin that appear on the cover.



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Masonic Lodge
Collars
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.





GRAND CHAPTER OF MISSOURI FOUNDATION

The Grand Chapter Education Endowment Foundation was created to serve as an investment vehicle to generate income from its investments to be used for religious, educational, and charitable gifts. The proceeds of this endowment have been used to make charitable donations to just about every conceivable charity around the world. Today, the primary recipients of these proceeds of this endowment tend to be Missouri DeMolay, Missouri Rainbow for Girls, and Missouri Job's Daughters, all Masonic Youth Organizations, as well as any special charity of the Grand High Priest's choosing including state and local charities.

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

The primary charity of the Grand Chapter is Royal Arch Research Assistance (RARA) a philanthropy of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International.

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

Chapter Secretaries are to ask each member on their annual dues statement to remit at least \$3.65, (only a penny-a-day), towards RARA.



GRAND COUNCIL CHARITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Since 1993 the Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund (CEF) has been disbursing funds designated for charitable purposes. Contributions have been made annually to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF), the Missouri DeMolay, Missouri Job's Daughters, Missouri Rainbow for Girls, and other worthy charities as designated by the sitting Grand Master. Council Recorders are to ask each member on their annual dues statement to remit at least \$3.65 (a penny-a-day) towards CMMR. "Penny-a-Day" stickers are available for each contributor's dues card.

CRYPTIC MASONS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) is the primary philanthropy of the Grand Council and of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International. The Foundation funds research at Indiana University School and the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine.

The life-changing work and research of CMMRF, the research, therapies and cures into Heart Disease, Diabetes, Blindness, Regenerative Medicine, Leg Circulation, Wound Healing, Arthritis, Stroke, and more benefits everyone from current patients and generations to come.

Council Recorders are to ask each member on their annual dues statement to remit at least \$3.65 towards CMMRF, and Councils are encouraged to have fund raisers to generate money for this fund.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

*Somewhere in the world,
someone goes blind every 5 seconds*

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. is committed to support research that can help launch the careers of clinical and basic researchers focused on the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children. Grants supported by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. are awarded to impact the care of infants, children, and adults. Clinical and basic research on conditions that may be potentially preventable or correctable such as amblyopia, cataract, glaucoma, optic nerve hypoplasia, nystagmus, retinopathy of prematurity, and hereditary diseases that occur at birth or within early childhood, such as retinoblastoma, is encouraged. Proposals for support of basic research on eye and visual system development also are welcome.

We have learned over past decades that our efforts in funding pediatric ophthalmology research have been the primary reason that we have had fewer and fewer children with strabismus (crossed eyes) to treat. Our research dollars have helped develop new, non-surgical treatments for this problem, and additional research and endowment programs are all being funded as well by your faithful support.

Every donation will assist in making a tremendous difference in the lives of children by helping the Foundation to fulfill its mission. Sir Knights, aside from his salvation, there is no greater gift for man on this earth than the gift of sight.

Through your generous contributions, lives are being changed; research is being funded, which is allowing mankind to lead more fruitful and blessed lives.

KNIGHT OF SILOAM

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 Templar uniform. Friends and relatives may honor any Sir Knight with the Knight of Siloam by making a like donation in his honor.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation provides scholarship funds to High School students through accredited technical school/college/university post graduate program students. These scholarships may be renewable but reapplication for such is required annually.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE OPERATING FUND

The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Operating 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.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Missouri Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund is an endowment, the interest of which is used to generate income for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Operating 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.



Missouri Grand York Rite Bulletin Board

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://movorkrite.org/past-grand-high-priests/>

Past Grand Masters:

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

Past Grand Commanders:

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



Chapters in Missouri

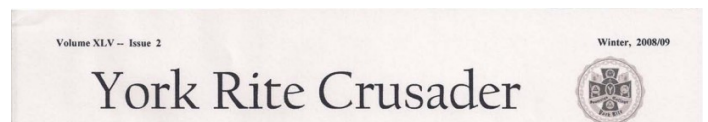
Councils in Missouri

Commanderies in Missouri

UPCOMING
events



Free On-line Masonic Magazines



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.



2026-2027

MEC James E McManigle Grand High Priest Coin



2025-2026

MIC Taz A. Meyer Grand Master Coin



2024-2025

SK Terry D. Coppotelli, 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.

Locations of Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies Plus Interactive Maps

(Click on banner below)



