

PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

*One Hundred Fifty-Ninth
Annual Assembly*

OF THE

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons

OF THE

State of Missouri

HELD

JUNE 13, 2025

KANSAS CITY MARRIOTT COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

159TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS NECESSARY)

Vendor will be on site for the whole event (Roanoke)

Hospitality Room for the whole event (Hyde Park)

Grand Photographers Room (Union Hill)

Grand York Rite Office (Rockhill)

Thursday, June 12, 2025

8:30 p.m. **A Round Table with the General Grand Master - Exploring the Mysteries of the Cryptic Universe** (*Plaza Terrace*)

Friday, June 13, 2025

7:00 a.m. **Registration** – until 11:00 am (*Grand Foyer*)

9:00 a.m. **Opening Ceremonies and Grand Council Reception of Distinguished Guests**

– Open to Ladies and Guests (*Ballroom A*)

Introduction of the Grand Lecturer and the District Deputy Grand Lecturers

Introduction of the District Deputy Grand Masters

Introduction of the 2024-2025 Grand Council Officers

Brief Welcoming Comments by the Grand Master

Reception of the Past Grand Masters of Missouri

Reception of the Out of State Grand Council Officers

Reception of the General Grand Council Officers

Reception of the General Grand Master or Representative & brief remarks

Reception of Grand Lodge Officers

Reception of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri & brief remarks

Presentation of Awards – Lewis & Clark, Grand Council Merit Awards

Presentation of CMMRF Bars

Summary Address of the Grand Master

Necrology: Part of the Grand Masters Address

Grand Chorister Presentation

Dismissal of the Ladies and Non-Member Guests

10:15 a.m. **Formal Opening of the 159th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri**

Preliminary Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address

Report of the Jurisprudence Committee

Report of the Finance Committee

Report of the Grand Treasurer

Report of the Grand Recorder

11:00 a.m. **Election of the 2025-2026 Grand Council Officers**

Routine Business & Additional Committee Reports (as needed)

Report of the Election Committee

Acceptance of the Grand Council Officers Elect

Friday, June 13, 2025 (continued)

- Report of the Grand Master Elect – with Appointments
Report of the Committee on Time and Place
Address of the General Grand Master or Representative
Address of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri
- 11:45 p.m. **Grand Council Closed or Called from Labor until 3:00 pm**
- 12:00 p.m. **Grand Council Lunch and Learn with Chris Ruli**
– Open to All – Special Guest Speaker (*Plaza Terrace*)
- 1:30 p.m. **Order of the Silver Trowel (*Ballroom A*)**
- 3:00 p.m. **Grand Council Resumes Labor** (concludes remaining business, if any)
- 3:30 p.m. **Close of the 159th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri**
- 3:45 p.m. **Installation of the 2025-2026 Grand Council Officers** - Open to All
Pictures immediately following installation
- 6:30 p.m. **Distinguished Guests Banquet/Entertainment and Cash Bar** – Open to All (*Ballroom B*)
- 8:30 p.m. **Grand Commandery Practice** – Grand Commandery Line Officers (*Ballroom A*)
- 9:30 p.m. **“Old Buzzards” Meeting (*Union Hill*)**

**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri
2024-2025 Elected and Appointed Officers**

Matthew D. Ruth.....	Grand Master
Dennis W. Houck.....	Deputy Grand Master
Taz A. Meyer.....	Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Russell S. Hanson.....	Grand Treasurer
Donald MacCormick.....	Grand Recorder
Kevin B. Sample.....	Assistant Grand Recorder
Corey B. Huntsucker.....	Grand Captain of the Guard
Adam M. Iwanow.....	Grand Conductor of the Council
Kevin B. Sample.....	Grand Marshal
Jacob W. Thompson.....	Grand Steward
Shane McNelly.....	Grand Sentinel
William G. Davis, II.....	Grand Chaplain
Christian M. Jessen.....	Grand Organist
Daniel R. Quesenberry.....	Grand Chorister
William G. Snyder.....	Grand Historian
Richard A. Riepe.....	Grand Lecturer
Larry F. Walters.....	Grand Photographer
Debbie L. Hanson.....	Executive Assistant to the Grand Recorder

Regional Deputy Grand Masters

David D. Goring.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 1
Derek W. Pope.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 2
Laurent P. Emile-Ergas.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 3
Steven F. Eberharter.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 4
Glenn B. Parker.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 5
Douglas C. Rose.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 6
Gerald R. Hill.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 7A
William G. "Kip" Davis, II.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 7B

Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers

Joseph P. Elsen, PGM.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 1
Donald E. Gilkerson.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 2
Benjamin R. Caimi.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 3
W. Stuart English.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 4
John C. Caraker.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 5
Chris A. Wehrenberg.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 6
Gerald R. McCoy.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 7A
William J. Sherman.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 7B

Standing Committees**Address of the Grand Master**

Dr. Paul L. Daniels, Chairman
Donald MacCormick
David C. Witte

Credentials

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman
Randy L. Presley
Kevin L. Swain
Todd A. Schulze

Finance & Accounts

Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman
John C. Cross
Grand Council Advancing Line Officers
Russell S. Hanson, Ex-officio
Donald MacCormick, Ex-Officio
Kevin B. Sample, Ex-officio

Jurisprudence

Todd A. Schulze, Chairman
Adam M. Iwanow
Kevin B. Sample
Aaron M. Shoemaker
David D. Goring
William G. Snyder

Returns of Councils

David C. Witte, Chairman
Wayne B. Fryer
Taz A. Meyer
Donald MacCormick

Special Committees**Annual Assembly Planning**

Matthew D. Ruth, Chairman
Russell S. Hanson
Donald MacCormick
Tara Ornsbey
Dennis W. Houck
Kevin B. Sample
Tina L. Woolsey

Charity & Charity Endowment Fund

Corey B. Huntsucker, Chairman
Richard A. Riepe
Dennis W. Houck
Gregory J. Walker

Education Committee

Jacob W. Thompson, Chairman
Randy K. Sanders
Chris A. Wehrenberg
Christopher M. Foeste
Laurent P. Emile-Ergas
Joseph W. Stewart

Endowed Membership

William G. Snyder, Chairman
Russell S. Hanson, Ex-officio
Donald MacCormick, Ex-officio

Examiner

Stanton T. Brown, II, Chairman
Danny D. Smothers
Grand Council Advancing Line Officers

General Grand Council Charity Committee

William G. Snyder, Chairman
Dennis W. Houck

Grand Council Endowed Membership

William G. Snyder, Chairman
Russell S. Hanson
Donald MacCormick

Grand Master's Cryptic Day

Richard A. Riepe, Chairman

Investments

Terry D. Coppotelli, Chairman
Stanton T. Brown, II
Matthew D. Ruth
Michael S. Smith
Taz A. Meyer

Membership and Growth

Corey B. Huntsucker, Chairman
Steven F. Eberharter
Michael J. Estright
Douglas C. Rose
Regional Deputy Grand Masters

Publications Committee

W. Larry Wilson, Chairman
Mark A. Bean
Matthew D. Ruth
Steven F. Eberharter
Roger D. Fleer
Russell S. Hanson
Adam M. Iwanow
Donald MacCormick

Kevin B. Sample
Jacob W. Thompson
Michael S. Smith
Ashley W. Young

Regional York Rite Conferences

Matthew D. Ruth, Chairman
Regional Deputy Grand Masters
Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers

Ritual

Richard A. Riepe, Chairman
Donald MacCormick

Social Media/Communications/Internet

Donald MacCormick, Chairman
Gregory J. Walker

Time and Place

Dennis W. Houck, Chairman

Roger D. Fleer
Russell S. Hanson
Donald MacCormick
Kevin M. Ritter
Ronald L. Skiles

Triennial

Donald MacCormick, Chairman
Todd A. Schulze
William G. Snyder

Youth Activities

Adam M. Iwanow, Chairman
Jeffrey Bodenstein
Larry F. Walters
W. Larry Wilson

Order of Silver Trowel

Roger D. Fleer, Secretary/Treasurer

Living Past Grand Masters

E. Allen Kohler, Honorary1998
Bob L. Detherow..... 1998-1999
Gary A. Phillips 2003-2004
Kevin B. Sample, Honorary2005
Danny D. Smothers..... 2009-2010
James G. Haddox 2010-2011
George M. Merkle..... 2011-2012
William C. Woolsey..... 2012-2013
David C. Witte 2013-2014
Terry R. Struse 2014-2015

William G. Snyder 2015-2016
Todd A. Schulze..... 2016-2017
Joseph P. Elsen..... 2017-2018
Aaron M. Shoemaker 2018-2019
Wayne B. Fryer 2019-2021
Donald MacCormick..... 2021-2022
Michael S. Smith..... 2022-2023
Dr. Paul L. Daniels..... 2023-2024
Russell S. Hanson, Honorary2024
Matthew D. Ruth..... 2024-2025



Matthew David Ruth
Grand Master, 2024-2025

BIOGRAPHY OF THE GRAND MASTER

Matthew David Ruth was born on March 10, 1983, in Newton County, Missouri, to David and Kathy Ruth. He has spent his entire life living in or around Neosho, Missouri. After graduating from Neosho High School in 2001, Matthew continued his education at Crowder College and Missouri Southern (now MSSU).

In 2000, while working at the Ruth family's restaurant, Matthew met Amanda, who would later become his wife. The couple married on June 3, 2006, at the Joplin Scottish Rite Cathedral. They are the proud parents of four sons: Lucas (18, born in 2007), Andrew (10, born in 2014), and twins Oliver and Everett (8, born in 2016).

Matthew has worked in various fields, including collision repair, automotive refinishing, and as a Branch Administrator for Edward Jones Investments, all while pursuing his college studies. In 2009, he became the third-generation franchisee of Sonic #1200, taking over the family business as Operating Partner. December 26th, 2024, marked the 50th year the Ruth family has operated the Sonic Drive-In business in Neosho.

Matthew's journey in Freemasonry began on September 26, 2002, when he was initiated into the Mysteries of Freemasonry. He was Passed to a Fellowcraft on October 24, 2002, and Raised to the Sublime Degree on November 14, 2002, returning full proficiency in all three degrees. Some of his earliest and fondest memories as a child involve his extended family and friends from various lodges and Shrine Clubs, especially with his maternal step-grandfather, Dale T. Lett, who served as Potentate of Abu Ben Adhem Shrine in 1984. GOPHER MORE IN '84!

Matthew has served in various roles of leadership and service within the Masonic community, including as Master of Neosho Lodge No. 247 (2006-2007), DDGL (2007-2014), and Lodge Secretary (2019-present). He became a life member of the A.A.S.R. Valley of Joplin in 2003 and joined the Neosho York Rite bodies in 2004.

He served as the head of all three bodies in 2008-2009 and has been Secretary/Recorder since 2017 and served the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons as DDGHP in 2015-2016. Matthew began his Cryptic journey with the Grand Council as RDGM in 2013-2015 and was appointed Grand Steward by MIC Aaron M. Shoemaker in 2018.

Outside of his Masonic and business commitments, Matthew enjoys driving his 1971 Buick Skylark, researching genealogy, and exploring local history. He is a Director for the Newton County Historical Society and Museum. Matthew is also dedicated to Scouting, serving as Scoutmaster for Troop 34B, home of Beatle Bailey and Camp Swampy. He completed his Wood Badge certification in 2019 and has served as staff on two courses, Troop Guide in 2021, and Senior Patrol Leader in 2022. His oldest son Lucas earned the prestigious rank of Eagle in 2021 and son Andrew will join the Troop in August of 2025.

Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri

District Deputy Grand Lecturer	2007-2014
Grand Sword Bearer	2018-2019
Grand Chaplain	2019-2020
Grand Lodge Education Committee	2010-2016
Chairman.....	2020-2022
Grand Lodge Correspondence Committee.....	2016-2021
Chairman.....	2022-2024
Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee.....	2018-2019
Grand Lodge Membership Committee	2018-2021
Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee.....	2020-2021
Grand Lodge Chartered Lodges Committee	2024+

Missouri Lodge of Research

Publications Committee	2012-2016
Truman Lecture Series Committee	2014-2016
Advancing Line Officer as Tiler	2024+

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Orient of Missouri, Valley of Joplin

32° Prince of Royal Secret	03/29/2003
Knights of St. Andrew, Secretary	2005-2007
Rite Care Committee.....	Dates unknown
Knight Commander of the Court of Honor.....	10/27/2007

York Rite Masonry

Recorder for Neosho Bodies.....	04/16/2017-present
Tyrian Chapter No. 52, Royal Arch Masons, Neosho, Missouri	
Mark Master.....	06/14/2003
Past Master.....	06/14/2003
Most Excellent Master	08/14/2003
Royal Arch.....	08/28/2003
High Priest	2008-2009
Webb City Chapter No. 119 (Transfer)	11/18/2013
Line Officer.....	2014-2015
Lewis and Clark Award.....	2019

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri

District Deputy Grand High Priest.....	2015-2016
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Neosho Council No. 46 Royal and Select Masters

Royal Master	03/31/2005
Select Master.....	03/31/2005
Super Excellent Master	04/18/2005
Master	2008-2009

Adoniram Council No. 63, Royal and Select Masters, Webb City, Missouri (Dual Member)

Charter Master	05/15/2014
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Lewis and Clark Award, Region 5.....	2014
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Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri

Regional Deputy Grand Master	2013-2015
Grand Steward	2018
Grand Marshall	2019
Grand Conductor of the Council.....	2020
Grand Captain of Guard.....	2021
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work.....	2022
Deputy Grand Master.....	2023
GRAND MASTER.....	2024-2025

Neosho Commandery No. 57

Order of the Red Cross	05/16/2005
Order of Malta.....	06/20/2005
Order of the Temple.....	09/19/2005
Commander.....	2008-2009

Lewis and Clark Award, Region 7A.....	2023
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OTHER MASONIC MEMBERSHIPS

Knight of York Cross of Honour

Missouri Priory No. 17	06/20/2015
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Allied Masonic Degrees

Memorial Council No. 420, Carthage..... 09/12/2009

Mysterium Magnum Council No. 543, Neosho

Charter Sovereign Master 05/17/2014

Secretary 10/24/2014-Present

Royal Order of Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord

1st Grade – Ostiarius..... 01/29/20152nd Grade – Lector..... 01/29/20153rd Grade – Fellow 01/29/2015

Order of the Eastern Star

Temple Chapter No. 95, Joplin, Missouri.....10/20/2003(sus.)

Red Cross of Constantine

St. Andrew Conclave, SW Missouri 10/03/2009

Masonic Order of Athelstan

Court of Discovery No. 80..... 08/25/2012

Officer and Degree Team..... 2013-Present

Worshipful Master08/2018-02/2022

York Rite Sovereign College of North America

Ray V. Denslow College No. 180..... 12/29/2012

Knight Masons of the United States of America

Cell Airne Council No. 76 12/29/2012

Transfer to Tipperary Council2023

Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis

Missouri College..... 04/28/2012

Second Order VII..... 11/16/2013

8th Grade Magister 11/07/20159th Grade Magus..... 11/09/2016

Assistant Secretary..... 02/28/2015

Secretary 05/09/2015-present

St. Thomas of Acon

William Riley Probst Chapel No. 106 06/18/2013

Grand College of Rites..... Member

Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor

Sovereign Grand Preceptor's Chapter 02/14/2014

Royal Order of Scotland

Provincial Grand Lodge, USA..... 06/13/2015

Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priest

House of Lords Tabernacle 12/05/2015



DR. JOHN PICKARD, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER. WILLIAM J. VANNIX, GRAND MASTER. WILLIAM C. GLENN, GRAND P.-C. Work.



JACOB THOMPSON, GRAND STEWARD MATTHEW D. RUTH, GRAND MASTER TAZ A. MEYER, GRAND PC WORK

(An excerpt from the 1918 Proceedings of the Grand Council)

On April 21st, 1918, the Grand Council officers made a visit to the gravesite of our founder and first Grand Master, Anthony O'Sullivan. The day was cold, damp, and clouds obscured the sun but a goodly number of Companions responded to the sentimental call. A magnolia wreath bearing a suitable inscription was attached to the obelisk and the ceremony concluded with remarks from the Gr. Master, the Deputy GM, and a poetic sentiment rendered by Companion James Price of Kansas City. The inscription within the wreath was in triangular form and read: "A tribute of esteem to Anthony O'Sullivan, First Grand Master of Missouri, 1864. This spot was visited by the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, April 21, 1918, in testimony that his zeal was being perpetuated."

On January 22, 2025, on a cold and damp day much like the one in 1918, the Grand Council officers set out to recreate the same photo and pay their due respects to our esteemed Companion and carry on the tradition of former years. The monument has weathered quite a bit due to exposure to the elements, but none the less still stands as a testament to our first Grand Master. We would encourage future officers to make the same pilgrimage annually on or near the anniversary of the founding of this Grand Council, May 21, 1864.

ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER

To the Grand Officers, Illustrious Past Grand Masters, and Companions All,

Welcome to the One Hundred Fifty-Ninth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. Firstly, to our out of state Distinguished Guests. We sincerely thank you for your presence here with us today. We recognize the sacrifices of your own resources you have spent to be here. It is both an honor for us and to your respective jurisdictions back at home. We hope you find our hospitality and friendship to be worthy of your time and please know that a door will always be left open for your reception.

My Companions, I have a beautiful piece of work for your inspection. It is difficult to put into words an entire year's worth of activities encompassing accomplishments, the unfulfilled dreams, and the many miles spent traversing the State and several others around us. On top of all that, there is a deep sense of humility and responsibility one must certainly feel to be elevated to such an esteemed position by their companions. My hope is that I have served you well in this temporary position of honor, and I will always cherish the past year that you have given me and hope that I have assisted in creating cherished memories for you as well.

To my counterparts Mike and Bobbie, Most Excellent and Right Eminent Sir, I could not have dreamed of two better men with whom to serve my time. Your calm and steadfast demeanor has served not only as an

example to me, but to the Craft as a whole. The wisdom that can only come from experience and trust that you have earned by your examples was much welcomed to keep me on the right path. I thoroughly enjoyed every chance we 3 had to be together and wished we would have had more opportunities to ***Be in this Together***. I hope I have served the two of you half as well as you have served me, and I am honored to call you my “Ish Sodi” the companions of my choosing or men of my choice.

Necrology

One thing we can always be certain of is that every year some of our companions who walk beside us will be called upon to put down their working tools, and be released from their captivity of the flesh to return to that undiscovered country from who’s born no traveler returns. This year has been no exception.

I now call upon VIC William Kip Davis, Grand Chaplain, to share some encouraging words as a memory to our departed Companions.

Memorial Service

We have lost 70 Companions, friends and Brothers in this time-period along with some tremendous leaders in our Lodges and York Rite Bodies including Past Grand Commander Charles Edward Cooper and Past Grand High Priest and Past Grand Commander Robert William Schlichter.

Our ritual for the Royal Master in Grand Master Hiram Abiff’s soliloquy teaches that we are all mortal and shall be called to the celestial Lodge above at the Great Architect’s bidding and in His time. None of us will escape that “common doom of man”. All are subject to “death” from this life. As Grand Master Hiram explains to Adoniram that we build and walk upon the ashes of those that have gone the way before us and in our deaths, our ashes must in turn contribute. None, no not any, should expect our finality to be otherwise. Adoniram is encouraged to seek the Master’s Word buried for posterity.

The second circumambulation teaches us that whatever we build here may remain, but upon our deaths our skills and thoughts are useless to us. The ability to love, hatred and envy are no more and neither do we contribute further after our demise. We are encouraged to utilize our time while we have the strength and build our good works before our mortal time is rendered final. Again, Adoniram is encouraged to seek the Word in its burial place.

The third circumambulation explains to Adoniram that death is not final, that it is a transition to the Celestial Lodge that God has prepared for us. The Supreme Master of all is aware of our good works throughout mortal life and promises on our transition from death that all that has been promised to eternal joy and happiness. From the grave we will have been unshackled to eternal life. Sadness and sorrow shall plague us no more. With the positive hereafter and eternal life, death should not cause worry or fear but to be seen as a victory, whereas I Corinthians 15:55 “O death, where is thy sting?”

Although in a human manner we shall miss our departed Brethren, but with the knowledge of what is to come, happiness and joy should be cherished. Our good works here and God’s promise to all who keep his fellow man and families in your heart shall bolster our faith in our eternity.

The Royal Master ritual is a lesson all York Rite Masons should understand. The lessons taught in this degree apply to each and every Brother, so he may commit himself to the Charity or Love for one another. Our God is an Awesome God and His guidance and Book of Law shall prevail.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, our Creator of All, we ask that our Brethren, who have come to be with You in your Glorious life hereafter, be held in Your divine arms of eternal love and grace. We are comforted in the knowledge they are there with you and have no pain, no hurt and no worry. Keep us mindful of your plan and your promises. With this faith we endeavor to give to those in need of charity and love. Let us remember the lives of those that have departed from us and the shoes we need to fill and continue our journey in this life. Be with the families of our departed Brethren and keep our focus on that Divine Light you represent, that perfect Lighthouse - to guide and direct our actions to your Glory.

Amen

Fraternally submitted,
William G. Davis, II, Grand Chaplain

(Reporting period 01/01/2024-05/01/2025)

Full Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Council
Allison, John Marion	10/27/1944	6/29/2024	24 - Shekinah
Arnold, Bill L.	1/11/1929	4/1/2024	41 - Carthage
Bartley, Troy Elwood	7/4/1966	2/11/2024	42 - John F. Houston
Besheer, Norman Orville	12/21/1928	12/23/2024	45 - Kansas City
Boatwright, Jerry L.	12/20/1939	6/8/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Bray, Glenn Longest	1/9/1948	3/3/2025	24 - Shekinah
Bridges, Wayne L.	9/20/1936	9/4/2024	48 - Jeremiah
Briggs, Marion L.	5/28/1929	4/19/2024	1 - Hiram
Briscoe, Robert Lloyd	1/3/1931	1/23/2025	34 - Centralia
Brumback, Richard D.	10/2/1933	8/5/2024	25 - Zabud
Burkhart, Jerald W.	10/7/1940	4/29/2025	25 - Zabud
Burris, Edward E.	12/11/1925	1/26/2024	24 - Shekinah
Clutter, Thomas H.	2/20/1942	7/6/2024	25 - Zabud
Cooper, Charles Edward	3/2/1956	3/8/2025	44 - Kirksville
Crawford Jr., Thomas Gentry	1/21/1934	1/16/2024	59 - Shelby
Crawford, Scott Smith	8/2/1960	2/3/2024	42 - John F. Houston
Davis, Dennis Wilson	1/1/1945	12/29/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Dixson, Elmer Berton	9/13/1935	7/24/2024	59 - Shelby
Eckert, Claude Melvin	1/30/1933	11/23/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Endsley, Steven Ray	4/9/1980	4/2/2024	24 - Shekinah
Fishback, Bedford Malcom	1/22/1933	8/27/2024	45 - Kansas City
Francis, Lee Lamar	10/14/1933	12/31/2024	20 - Cape
Fryer, Luther Harrison	9/8/1937	2/28/2024	39 - Rolla
Gleason, Cole Douglas	12/1/1954	1/2/2025	44 - Kirksville
Goede, Lionel Joseph	4/9/1935	1/24/2024	48 - Jeremiah
Griffin, Dwight Eugene	7/15/1944	5/4/2024	42 - John F. Houston
Hollingsworth, William Jewell	11/12/1933	12/22/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Howerton, Steven Edward	1/14/1945	6/28/2024	44 - Kirksville
Huggins, Donald Lynn	1/6/1948	1/13/2025	24 - Shekinah
Hurt, Tedd L.	10/31/1970	9/11/2024	49 - Independence
Johnson, Robert J.	7/19/1930	1/7/2024	46 - Neosho
Jones, Carl Donald	10/8/1940	3/21/2025	44 - Kirksville
Keith, Terry Lacy	9/10/1951	1/9/2024	34 - Centralia
Kilgore, Walahn	4/13/1934	4/25/2024	34 - Centralia
Kitchen, Gary Dennie	7/30/1946	2/10/2024	27 - Poplar Bluff
Kolar, Marion	9/29/1926	1/5/2025	25 - Zabud
Kuntz, Richard K.	2/9/1936	3/28/2025	9 - St. Joseph
Libby, Hugh Leander	8/25/1925	4/28/2024	45 - Kansas City
Liberty, Clarence Henry	11/12/1956	2/6/2024	39 - Rolla
Liebi, Arthur Dean	1/1/1955	7/25/2024	32 - Ezra
Matthews, Donald E.	12/12/1934	3/28/2024	32 - Ezra

Maudlin, Lesslie Frank	11/20/1929	8/4/2024	50 - Liberty
McClure, Henry Allen	3/19/1941	1/25/2024	25 - Zabud
McMillian, Orbon Dean	2/13/1931	8/24/2024	50 - Liberty
McVey, Dennis Ray	11/13/1963	5/13/2024	49 - Independence
Mercer, James Hilton	10/31/1941	5/13/2024	25 - Zabud
Miller, Edward A.	1/29/1944	7/2/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Mordecai, Francis Lee	5/28/1940	5/1/2024	34 - Centralia
Nelson, Franz Edward	5/5/1943	9/16/2024	9 - St. Joseph
New, Michael D.	1/1/1951	7/13/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Newman Jr., Lawrence Areon	12/19/1941	3/19/2025	44 - Kirksville
Nutter, Allen W.	12/25/1947	3/12/2025	56 - Lebanon
Pettit Jr., Walter S.	11/11/1926	4/19/2024	25 - Zabud
Pierce, Ted Edward	11/23/1940	4/19/2025	9 - St. Joseph
Pugh, James E.	12/25/1936	1/23/2024	25 - Zabud
Ragan, William David	1/1/1931	1/30/2025	44 - Kirksville
Reed Jr., Harry Clarence	4/30/1926	12/20/2024	40 - York
Ringer, James Arlen	3/6/1936	4/7/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Schlichter, Robert William	8/1/1944	4/12/2025	50 - Liberty
Schnelle, David Paul	1/3/1951	9/2/2024	25 - Zabud
Shoemyer, Robert William	12/1/1930	1/21/2024	59 - Shelby
Stewart, Alfred J.	11/19/1928	8/4/2024	49 - Independence
Sykes, Larry Lee	5/16/1943	12/21/2024	44 - Kirksville
Tharp, Edward Leon	6/14/1943	1/31/2024	39 - Rolla
Vanmeter Sr., William Bryant	6/6/1940	8/6/2024	24 - Shekinah
Wade, Victor Hayden	7/9/1944	2/10/2025	32 - Ezra
Weldy, Jerry M.	6/30/1928	8/20/2024	41 - Carthage
West, Dale Clifton	11/22/1930	3/22/2024	44 - Kirksville
Winburn, Richard C.	9/29/1932	9/25/2024	9 - St. Joseph
Wood, Bobby Dean	12/31/1941	6/27/2024	25 - Zabud

Past Grand Master's

I'd like to take just a moment to acknowledge the Past Grand Masters of this Grand Council. You were right, and I now understand, lol. If this past year is to be seen as even a minor accomplishment, all the credit is to be directed to you. Your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed, and my year would certainly not have been what history will judge it to be if not for the solid foundation and tireless efforts that you had laid down in the past. This year was remarkably smooth, without controversy or any urgently pressing issues that had been left undealt with from the past. This allowed me to dream boldly and focus on positive things that we could share with the companions and set goals I never thought would be accomplished in a single year. I hope that you will accept me as one of your own, and allow me to sit with you as we continue to watch this amazing thing we call Cryptic Masonry flourish in the years to come.

Appointments

Something unique about the Grand Council is that we appoint officers to the bottom of the line, and hope that they continue and someday too, might become Grand Master. This responsibility is not taken lightly by any

Grand Master. I come from a long line of giants among men. MIC Paul Kawakami, Teddie Harrison, Stanton T. Brown, Danny D. Smothers, MPC William G. Snyder, MIC Aaron Shoemaker. To be listed in the annals as a descendent of this line creates feelings of pride but can also be unnerving in living up to the expectations of their legacy. I do not have those concerns for my appointment, VIC Jacob Thompson has already created, at the ripe old age of 35, a lasting name for himself both locally and nationally and I am forever indebted to Megan for allowing him to finally say yes after begging him no less than 3 times to be my Grand Steward. His contributions and impact have already been felt within the Grand Council and today I am pleased to share that each Regional Deputy Grand Master has a hard copy of the Education Series "Into the Crypt" to take back home and use as a resource for discovering the special place that Cryptic Masonry holds within our Craft.

On August 1, 2024, I received the unfortunate resignation of the Grand Sentinel, VIC Patrick Wylie due to health complications and personal family circumstances. I therefore elevated VIC Shane McNelly as Grand Sentinel and kept Patrick on as Assistant. Pat was later able to rejoin me on the road for many adventures and I look forward to many more in the coming years.

On November 16, 2024, I received the resignation of VIC Jim Woods, RDGL for Region 4. Jim is truly a treasure that has been a constant presence in Rolla and I thank him for his service to the Grand Council of Missouri. Taking his place immediately was VIC Stuart English, who is undoubtedly one of the best ritualists in the State. I thank him for his willingness to serve and have no doubt he will be around in various capacities in the future. A full list of Decisions and Dispensations can be found in full in the preliminary proceedings.

Edicts Issued

August 31, 2024 Issued an Edict No. 1, "that the work of the Royal and Select Master degrees shall be conferred in their entirety, including the Historical Lecture, Apron Lecture, and Charge of the Select Master degree to the candidate(s) regardless of the number of candidates present whether it be individually or on multiple candidates, such as, is the case of conferral during a festival".

(Upon my request, the Grand Lecturer called a special school of instruction in July for Regional Deputies to ensure consistency across the State in our ritual. This turned out to be one of the most productive sessions and I would encourage its continuation in subsequent years as new RDGL's take office. During the discussion it was brought to my attention that a very small number of regions, when conferring the Cryptic Degrees at a festival, in an attempt to save time were omitting the explanatory Lectures, historical lectures, and charge of the Royal and Select Master degrees. This is most unfortunate for our new companions as the most important of explanations is contained in our various lectures. I appreciate the Council's doing the right thing and correcting this omission as was relayed to me at the last festival.)

Charters Arrested

I am happy to report that no charters were arrested in this masonic term.

Dispensations Granted

March 13, 2025 Approved the dispensation request of Liberty Council No. 50 to participate in the Snake Saturday Parade while wearing Council Regalia and attire, and displaying the symbols of the Council.

March 18, 2025 Approved the dispensation request of Shekinah Council No. 24 to hold their election of Officers on April 9, 2025

Dispensations Denied

September 14, 2024 Denied the request for dispensation for Jasper Council No. 30 to hold their installation of Officers at a local restaurant.

By Law Changes, Subordinate Councils

June 26, 2024 Approved the By-Laws change for Zabud Council No. 25 increasing their annual dues.
 July 16, 2024 Approved the By-Laws change for Carthage Council No. 41 changing their meeting time to 7:00pm
 October 2, 2024 Approved the By-Laws change for Shekinah Council No. 24 moving their stated assemblies from the fourth Wednesday of the month to the second Wednesday.

Certificate of Good Standing

April 19, 2023 Issued a Certificate of Good Standing for Companion Spencer Adam Getz of Rolla Council No. 39 to the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in Virginia.

Consolidations

July 8, 2024 Approved the consolidation of Bonne Terre Council No. 43 with Cape Girardeau Council No. 20 effective May 1, 2024

Letters of Introduction

March 5, 2025 Issued a Letter of Introduction to the Grand Council of the Order of Royal and Select Masters Of England and Wales and its Districts and Council Overseas requesting MEC William G. Snyder represent the Grand Council at their Annual Assembly.

Visitations

I am happy to report that I was most graciously received and recognized at every Council in the State of Missouri over the past year. This is something I never dreamt in my wildest dreams that I would remotely come close to accomplishing, and my only regret is that I didn't get to visit everyone twice as the hospitality and respect shown to the office of Grand Master was unparalleled. I also wish to express my gratitude to VIC Adam Iwanow for attending the Grand Council of Indiana in April. Adam is a fantastic travel companion so long as you keep him feed with chili cheese dogs from Sonic. A full list of my visits are as follows.

6/7/24	Attended 163rd Annual Conclave of Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
6/8/24	Attended 177th Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
6/13/24	Special Meeting Neosho No. 247
6/16/24	Grand Assembly of Missouri Rainbow Girls
6/18/24	Tyrian Chapter No. 52 Mark Master conferral
6/19/24	Orient Chapter No. 102, Kanas City
6/20/24	Job's Daughters Grand Session, Jefferson City
7/11/24	3rd Degree Neosho Lodge No. 247
7/13/24	Court of Discovery No. 80 Masonic Order of Athelstan, Fayette
7/13/24	Tipperary Council Knight Masons, Fayette
7/16/24	Tyrian Chapter No. 52 Business meeting

7/19/24 Dinner and Room #400 with Grand Council Officers, Jefferson City
7/20/24 Grand Officer School of Instruction & Annual KYCH conferral, Jefferson City
7/21/24 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
7/24/24 Shekinah Council No. 24 with MPC Synder
7/27/24 Reception of SK Bobbie E. White Grand Commander, Liberty
8/1/24 Stated Communication Neosho Lodge No. 247
8/3/24 Masonic Youth Day, Columbia
8/9/24 Reception for Grand Sovereign Stanton T. Brown II, UGIC RCC, Springfield
8/10/24 Reception of MEC Michael L. Dodd, Shelbina
8/14/24 Informal visit to Carthage Council No. 41
8/17/24 Mysterium Magnum Council AMD
8/18/24 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
8/20/24 Official visit to Neosho Council No. 46
8/24/24 SRICF, Columbia
8/26/24 Official visit to Zabud Council No. 25, Springfield
9/2/24 Official visit to Rolla Council No. 39, Rolla
9/5/24 Stated Communication of Neosho Lodge No. 247
9/7/24 Attended Region 7 York Rite Conference, Bolivar
9/7/24 Hosted Grand Council Reception, Neosho
9/15-9/17 Attended 202nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Missouri
9/19-9/20 Represented the Grand Council at the South-Central York Rite Conference, Tulsa OK
9/24/24 Neosho Commandery No. 57
9/28/24 Attended Region 2 York Rite Conference, Lathrop
9/29/24 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
10/3/24 Neosho Lodge No. 247
10/4-10/5 Region 6 York Rite Festival, Poplar Bluff
10/7/24 Official Visit to Kansas City Council No. 45, Kansas City
10/12/24 Court of Discovery No. 80 Masonic Order of Athelstan, Fayette
10/12/24 Tipperary Council Knight Masons, Fayette
10/15/24 Official Visit York Council No. 40, Wentzville
10/17/24 Official visit to Carthage Council No. 41, Carthage
10/19/24 Special Convocation Tyrian Chapter Mysterium Magnum AMD
10/20/24 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
10/21/24 Official Visit to Liberty Council No. 50, Liberty
10/22/24 Visit to Greenfield for meeting with Bert S Lee Council No. 58 Officers.
10/23/24 Official Visit Shekinah Council No. 24, Kansas City
10/24/24 Official Visit to Independence Council No. 49, Kansas City
10/28/24 Official Visit to John F. Houston Council No. 42, Lexington
11/2/24 Region 5 Conferral of MEM/RA Degrees, Webster Groves
11/5/24 Official Visit to Ezra Council No. 32, Jefferson City
11/6/24 Official Visit to Jasper Council No. 30, Joplin
11/7/24 Official Visit to Trinity Council No. 47, Hannibal
11/9/24 Region 3 York Rite Conference, Ivanhoe Masonic Center, Kansas City

11/11/24 Official Visit to Nevada Council No. 65, Nevada
11/14/24 Official Visit to Kirksville Council No. 44, Kirksville
11/15/24 Visited Grand York Rite archives at the Grand Lodge Complex
11/16/24 Region 4 York Rite Conference Jefferson City
11/16/24 DeMolay Legion of Honor St. Louis Preceptory, St. Louis
11/17/24 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
11/19/24 Official Visit to Lebanon Council No. 56, Lebanon
11/20/24 Most Excellent Master Degree Tyrian Chapter No. 52, Neosho
11/25/24 Official Visit to Centralia Council No. 34, Columbia
11/26/24 Official Visit to Shelby Council No. 59, Shelbina
12/3/24 Archival search at Jasper Council No. 30, Joplin
12/4/24 Official visit to St. Joseph Council No. 9 & Installation of Officers, St. Joseph
12/5/24 Neosho Lodge No. 247, Neosho
12/15/24 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
12/17/24 Neosho Commandery Christmas Observance
1/2/25 Stated Communication Neosho Lodge No. 247, Neosho
1/12/25 Installation of Officers Kirksville Council No. 44, Kirksville
1/19/25 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
1/20/25 Official visit to Jeremiah Council No. 48 & Degree Conferral, Webster Groves
1/21/25 2nd Official Visit to York Council No. 40, Wentzville
1/22/25 Visit to O'Sullivan gravesite & Official visit to Hiram Council No. 1, St. Louis
1/23/25 Tyrian Chapter No. 52 Most Excellent Master Degree, Neosho
2/1/25 Mysterium Magnum AMD
2/5/25 Official Visit to Cape Council No. 20
2/16/25 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
3/1/25 Grand Masters' Royal Arch Class, Jefferson City
3/3/25 MPC William G. Snyders Reception at Kansas City Council No. 45, Kansas City
3/6/25 Neosho Lodge No. 247
3/8/25 Kirksville Table Council
3/16/25 Charles Edward Cooper Funeral Service, Kirksville
3/16/25 Grand Officer Zoom meeting
3/18/25 Council Degree Conferrals at Neosho Council No. 46
3/22/25 Grand Masters' Cryptic Day, Columbia
3/24/25 Installation of Officers Zabud Council No. 25
3/29/25 Kansas City Purple Gala at for CMMRF
4/3/25 Neosho Lodge No. 247
4/5/25 Leaders Open DeMolay Golf Tournament, Chesterfield
4/12/25 Court of Discovery No. 80 Masonic Order of Athelstan, Fayette
4/12/25 Knight Masons Tipperary Council, Fayette
4/14/25 Travelled to Grand Council of Indiana with Adam Iwanow
4/15/25 Installation of officers of Neosho Council No. 46
4/25/25 Travelled to Grand Council of Oklahoma with Randy Sanders
4/27/25 Finance and Accounts Prelim Budget meeting on Zoom

4/28/25	Lexington Table Council
5/1/25	Neosho Lodge No. 247
5/5/25	Installation of Officers - Rolla Council No. 39
5/8/25	Official Visit to Poplar Bluff Council No. 27
5/13/25	Visit to the York Rite Time Capsule on 25th Anniversary, Branson
5/17/25	Council Degree Conferrals - Kirksville Festival
5/17/25	3rd Annual Christopher Tilley Bourbon Tasting, St. Louis
5/18/25	Grand Officer Zoom meeting
5/24/25	2nd Annual Regional Deputies Training Workshop, Columbia
5/25/25	Missouri DeMolay Conclave, Cape Girardeau
5/30/25	Red Cross of Constantine St Andrews Conclave, Neosho
5/31/25	Mysterium Magnum AMD, Neosho
6/11/25-6/15/25	Grand York Rite of Missouri, Kansas City

Message

Going into my year I knew I wanted to do things a little differently. I am well aware of my own shortcomings and have learned over a long 26-year career in the Restaurant business that nothing can be accomplished alone. As a leader, it is fundamental to empower those around you and encourage new ideas and their participation. The officers of this Grand Council have far exceeded my expectations in their various projects assigned to them over this past year, and never once was I told they didn't have time or didn't want to follow thru. We actually began work early as I had been made well aware from the advice of previous Grand Master's that once the year began it would be very busy, very quickly, and be over before I knew it. The advancing line officers met on two separate occasions to lay the groundwork of what would become the 2024-2025 term. In August of 2023, we met over lunch and laid out a series of goals we wanted to accomplish. During the Regional Conference in Jackson, MO in September 2023, we all stayed an extra night at a beautiful Airbnb in the countryside and hammered out several goals, made decisions on various committees, and completed the list of Regional appointments. The fellowship we shared on that trip brought us all together with a greater sense of purpose than I think any of us realized at the time, and I thank my officers for their willingness to participate in the planning phases of our term.

Regional Officer Training

One of the most important goals for me this year was to gather all the Regional Deputies together in one place so they could network, share ideas, and I could review with them various duties and expectations. These men are volunteers and we owe it to them to clearly articulate our goals for the year and prepare them for the challenges ahead that they will face. Especially the new ones coming on board. This idea was shared with John Lambros and we began planning early on as to how to execute the idea. John, like me is an Alumni of Wood Badge, the premier adult leader training for Scouting America and we wanted to bring some of that magic to Missouri Grand York Rite. I am thrilled that this tradition was continued on May 23rd for the second year in a row and I strongly urge for its continuation, not only for the benefit of our Reginal officers, but as a lasting legacy to the memory of MEC John Lambros.

Charity

In August, VIC Corey B. Huntsucker reached out with a unique idea to raise money and get people excited for CMMRF month. The Penny Wars were declared and would run through the end of March. This brought in an

additional \$1931.58 in loose change and dollar bills from visiting companions sabotaging boxes on visits to other councils. By March we had reached 6th place in national contributions to CMMRF. I would encourage the continuation of this program, with the modification of using quarters, since pennies are no longer being minted. A special shoutout to Kirksville Council for accumulating 33,515 pts in pennies alone and winning the inaugural Penny Wars.

Youth engagement and CEF Awareness

In September, VIC Adam Iwanow produced what would become the most beautiful tri fold brochure in the history of Cryptic Masonry. This brochure highlighted the Bruce Harmon Hunt charity endowment fund created by MIC Larry Albright in 1993. With 200 brochures in hand, I proceeded to deliver these across the entire state in preparation of commemorating Bruce Hunt's birthday in January of 2025 with a special social media campaign highlighting the history, and recipients of this fund, primarily the Masonic Youth Groups. The result was a reinvigoration of this unique fund with several thousands of dollars collected over past years. The Grand Council also participated in the 2nd Annual Leader's Open for DeMolay and was prominently displayed and contributed to an amazing \$21,000 for Missouri DeMolay. Companions, there is a pool of potential Cryptic Masons out there, and all we have to do is show that we care. These young men truly embody quality over quantity and I would encourage the Grand York Rite of Missouri as a whole to continue exploring ways to engage the Masonic Youth and be the mentor's that future generations so desperately need.

Banner Awards

In November I had completed research and submitted an Article to the Beacon magazine on the Banner award program that ran from 1961-1974. This was the successor to the 7-year point plan instituted in 1953 under MIC Edward Knudsen and would later become the percentage increase certificate. I set out to determine how many of these banners survived. I was amazed at how everywhere I visited I was able to find or locate long forgotten banners tucked away in closets, trunks, or shelves. The banners were adorned with beautiful ribbons telling stories of past achievement and success. Towards the end it became a running joke as these banners would in a sense find me, almost as if the past was begging me to tell its story. I am pleased to bring back an old tradition of commemorating today's assembly with a ribbon in the same design as the Banner award to present as a gift to everyone here today. If I am remembered for just one thing this year, it would be my wish for it to be the rediscovery of this past award and the story of the past officers who contributed to its success. This is how we Preserve our Traditions.

Regional Conferences and their Future

During the fall, I was able to attend 5 out of the 7 conferences held across the State. The conferences have served a variety of purposes in the last several decades with varying degrees of success. There remain some inconsistencies across the Regions, this is not due to any person or person's fault or planning but several times we would find ourselves in a room full of one or two companions along with advancing line officers from all 3 bodies. Don't get me wrong, some of the presentations and content was outstanding, and the fellowship was worth every minute and every expense, but it is my personal feeling that the current structure of this program has long since served its purpose and a more expeditious use of our time and resources could be achieved with a different model. We simply are not reaching our target audience with the current format and it's time to try something new. If it doesn't work, we can always go back to the way it was. I am happy to announce this year all 3 heads will host a State wide conference in the fall of 2025 at the St. James Winery in St. James, Missouri. The message and program of the heads will be recorded and broadcast across the internet for remote viewing or to be played back

at Stated meetings across the state to reach the companions. We will also have a guest speaker and time for the officers to meet with Regional Deputies to execute their goals for the coming year.

Grand Council Finance and Investments

It's been said before, but it deserves repeating again. The scope of work that has been accomplished by MIC Russell Hanson in the amount of time he has done so is astonishing. With the assistance of MIC Kevin B. Sample, MIC Donald MacCormick, and Debbie we have a solid understanding of all Grand Council finances and have stabilized our financial position. In December and again in February the Grand Council Finance and Accounts committee met over several days and I would encourage everyone to take some time to read this report. In short, we have identified surplus funds in the General fund, Charity endowment, and Endowed membership funds and granted authorization for the Grand Treasurer to execute his duty to transfer over \$400k into actual investments at the recommendation of the Investment Committee that will ensure both the longevity of the Grand Council's future finances and integrity of our fiduciary responsibilities that the officers owe to each member. The actions taken this year will lay the groundwork to ensure the continuation of operations as we face a rapidly declining membership in the coming decade and should reduce our reliance on per capita revenue in future years.

Grand Masters' Cryptic Day

On March 22nd the Grand Council hosted the 10th Grand Master's Cryptic Day where MWB Kevin Fuller, along with 26 of his closest Companions were advanced to the rights and honors of a Royal Master, Greeted as a Select Master in the Secret Vault, and Introduced into the Mysteries of a Super Excellent Master. Credit for a fantastic day belongs to RIC Taz A. Meyer. We had excellent discussion and education between the degrees, hosted a table council for CMMRF with a lecture from Comp. Randy Sanders, a member of the Grand Council Education Committee; and unveiled the Grand Councils new regalia. It's been long discussed about replacing our aprons and collars and I thank the advancing line officers on their quick approval on completing this task that would make Chris Tilley proud.

State of the Craft

When I think about the state of the craft and the requirements of this report, I break it down into two Categories - the Grand Council and Subordinate Councils. I feel that the current State of the Grand Council is Strong. We have turned the corner on recent disruptions and addressed all necessary issues that have arisen over the past decade. As I stated earlier this is due to the sacrifices of recent Past Grand Masters that have ensured stability and future success. There is a growing optimism in the York Rite of Missouri, and several people on the outside have remarked to me about how we portray our Rite and the recent enthusiasm that we display to the world. York Rite has historically only captured less than 5% of all eligible Masons and while there is certainly room for growth among those ranks, we must continue to maintain connections with our Craft lodges and ensure their continued success if we are to remain relevant in this fraternity. I would point out that in this year's Statistical Report included in the Grand Recorder's report you will find that we had a net loss of 52 companions, the majority of these were due to Demit. We can eradicate this problem if we commit ourselves to ensuring our members find value in all aspects of Masonry. During my visits to subordinate Councils this year, I saw some excellent programs and I saw a few that could use some improvement. We must continue to encourage local bodies to find a schedule and routine that works well for them. What works good in a large city isn't always optimal for rural areas. Find what works for you. Do something special with Council. I was encouraged to see Councils beginning new traditions such as hosting Table Councils and moving away from festival conferrals. Splitting up the degree work and slowing things down is a good start, as long as we provide value in between.

There were a few Councils that struggled, as if they had forgotten their purpose. My companions we are in the business of initiation by ceremonies that speak to our hearts about eternal truths such as the nature of the human soul and its relation to the Divine Creator. If we aren't conferring the degrees at a meeting, then we need to be exploring the symbolism, allegories, and message behind them, practice them, and share insights with one another about their meanings and how they can improve our lives as well as the lives of others around us. If we focus on that, and this is not exclusive to Cryptic Masonry, but Masonry as a whole, then we will fulfill our mission of spreading light and knowledge to the world.

Appreciation

There were days when it seems we've moved mountains, and others when all I see are the frayed edges of unfinished work—things set aside, postponed, forgotten in the rush of time. Perhaps this is the quiet cost of dreaming boldly: to live in the tension between aspiration and reality. My truest aim this year was singular and sincere, to awaken something in just one person, a deeper sense of purpose, a clearer vision of truth, a belief in the righteousness of our cause. I, too, was once a seeker, lost in questions, searching for meaning, wondering if any of it mattered. That was in 2012, and I met Aaron Shoemaker. And if, through my journey, I can ignite the spark in even one young soul, if I can help them become a beacon for others, then I have fulfilled my part. The final measure of that effort, however, rests not with me, but with time itself.

There is so much more that goes on behind the scenes that anyone can realize, and there are several who volunteer tirelessly and aren't even members. These ladies deserve our deepest appreciation, so next time you pass them in the hallways just tell them Thank you.

If you ever had any doubts about the color of grass on the other side of the fence, I can assure you that Missouri is a leader in creating a truly one-of-a-kind experience with our Sessions. I appreciate the time and financial resources we all contribute to be here this week, and I know some of you are burning up valuable PTO and vacation time away from work, but please know considerable effort goes into making this a premier event in all of Missouri Freemasonry. The vision and dedication of our Grand Recorder is unwavering in ensuring that Missouri Grand York Rite receives the respect it is due.

I owe a debt to each and every one of you for the positive things accomplished this year. It was certainly not because of my own efforts but the collective desire we all share to move the needle of progress just a little bit further, and leave something just a little bit better than we found it. I feel we have done that this past year, and my hope is that you do to. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to be your Grand Master.

Recommendations and Conclusions

That the Grand Recorder work with his counterparts to establish a committee of Past Presiding Officers of all 3 bodies to begin completing the printing of past proceedings for the last 16 years and that a suitable hardbound copy be sent to both the Grand Lodge of Missouri Library as well as the Missouri State Historical Society in Columbia.

That the officers continue to work as a whole toward advancement of programs and accept the responsibility of mentorship that comes with being in a position of leadership. This has never been and should never be a one-man band.

That York Rite Unity should never be taken for granted, and that future officers work towards maintaining and clarifying, even codifying if necessary, joint committees shared across all 3 bodies. Membership, Youth Activities, Publications, and Conferences are just a few examples.

That the Grand Council continue to provide the necessary tools and resources to Subordinate Councils that they may provide value for membership and encourage regular participation of their members.

That we all strive to learn a new part every year, and show the ritual the deep reverence and respect that it deserves.

That the important duty of documenting and preserving the history of Cryptic Masonry in Missouri be vested in the office of Grand Historian, and that they strive to promote and teach others how to properly preserve our sacred treasures.

That the annual training workshop for Regional deputies become a permanent fixture of MOGYR as a tribute to John Samuel Lambros.

That a joint committee be created to grow the Fall State Conference into a premier event featuring in gatherings of various appendant orders and education. We must work smarter and not harder and respect people's commitments to other worthy endeavors on the weekends.

That everything we do, must do something for the good of Masonry. Whether that be Brotherly Love, Relief, or Truth. That our attendees enjoy themselves, and if it's not fun, find a way to make it fun. And lastly, we must make someone wish they had attended. Don't be afraid to show the world how much you enjoy this fraternity. Share photos, tell stories, and invite someone along for the ride.

Closing Remarks

At the end of every Scout Troop meeting, we close with a Scoutmaster minute. This is an opportunity to share a reflection, give words of wisdom, or inspire a young person to contemplate. This last year driving home late at night gave me many times to reflect, and I'm sure I will continue to do so when I get home. I leave you with the words of Rudyard Kipling in his Poem titled "**The Palace**"

When I was a King and a Mason — a Master proven and skilled —
I cleared me ground for a Palace such as a King should build.
I decreed and dug down to my levels. Presently, under the silt,
I came on the wreck of a Palace such as a King had built.

There was no worth in the fashion — there was no wit in the plan —
Hither and thither, aimless, the ruined footings ran —
Masonry, brute, mishandled, but carven on every stone:
"After me cometh a Builder. Tell him, I too have known."

Swift to my use in my trenches, where my well-planned ground-works grew,
I tumbled his quoins and his ashlar, and cut and reset them anew.
Lime I milled of his marbles; burned it, slacked it, and spread;
Taking and leaving at pleasure the gifts of the humble dead.

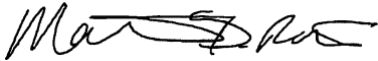
Yet I despised not nor gloried; yet, as we wrenched them apart,
I read in the razed foundations the heart of that builder's heart.
As he had risen and pleaded, so did I understand
The form of the dream he had followed in the face of the thing he had planned.

When I was a King and a Mason — in the open noon of my pride,
They sent me a Word from the Darkness. They whispered and called me aside.

They said — "The end is forbidden." They said — "Thy use is fulfilled.
"Thy Palace shall stand as that other's — the spoil of a King who shall build."

I called my men from my trenches, my quarries, my wharves, and my sheers.
All I had wrought I abandoned to the faith of the faithless years.
Only I cut on the timber — only I carved on the stone:
"After me cometh a Builder. Tell him, I too have known!"

Sincerely and Most Fraternally submitted,



Matthew D. Ruth
Grand Master 2024-2025

Move that this report be accepted and referred to the Jurisprudence Committee and the Committee on the Grand Master's Address.

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Companions, the Committee has reviewed the Address of M.:I.:C.: Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master 2024-2025. The committee finds that the Grand Master has performed in an exemplary manner during his term. He has faithfully discharged the duties of the office of Grand Master and provided an accurate report of his labors and travels.

The committee commends this report to the next Grand Master and his officers. They are encouraged to study this address as well as the preceding addresses.

The Committee recommends approval of the Grand Master's Address as to form and propriety of content.

Fraternally submitted,
Dr. Paul L. Daniel, PGM, Chairman
David V. Witte, PGM

Donald MacCormick, PGM

Move that this report be accepted and referred to the Jurisprudence Committee.

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

GRAND COUNCIL OFFICER REPORTS

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

June 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025

Our second year as your Grand Treasurer has been very busy. However, we still have more work to do in this next year in order to resolve the remaining issues.

Grand Council Clerical Assistant

Lady Debbie Hanson continues to be payed quarterly which aligns with the demands of reporting our Employee to the State and Federal Governments as well as making the requisite deposits/contributions.

The IRS 941 Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return forms for the four quarters of calendar year 2024 have been filed and all deposits made for Social Security, Medicare, and Federal Withholding Tax using the EFTPS portal. Included in those deposits were both the Employee and Employer monetary portions. In addition, the IRS 940 Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return form for calendar year 2024 has been filed and the deposit made.

The IRS 941 Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return form for the first calendar quarter of 2025 has been filed and the deposit made for Social Security, Medicare, and Federal Withholding Tax using the EFTPS portal. Included in that deposit was both the Employee and Employer monetary portions.

The Missouri Division of Employment Security (DES) quarterly unemployment insurance reports for the four quarters of calendar year 2024 have been filed and all contributions, if any, made using the DES web portal. The unemployment insurance report for the first calendar quarter of 2025 has been filed and the contributions, if any, made using the DES web portal.

The Missouri Department of Revenue's (DOR) MO-941 Employer's Return of Income Taxes Withheld for calendar year 2024 has been filed and the withholding tax, additions, interest, and processing fee made using the DOR web portal.

The 2024 W-2 Wage and Tax Statement for Lady Hanson and the 2024 W-3 Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements were filed and accepted by the IRS.

Grand Council IRS Tax Status

The IRS tax exempt status of the Grand Council remains unresolved. I have recommended that the Finance and Accounts Committee work on finding an outside agency to assist with the resolution of the issue.

The Grand York Rite of Missouri IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) for the tax year ending March 31, 2025, was successfully filed and accepted by the IRS.

Grand Council Missouri Certificate of Incorporation

The Grand Council has a Certificate of Incorporation with the Missouri Office of the Secretary of State, with Articles, in all respects, comply with the requirements of Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Law. In addition, the Missouri Grand York Rite has a Certificate of Incorporation with the Missouri Office of the Secretary of State, with Articles, in all respects, comply with the requirements of Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Law. These certificates are required in order to establish business bank accounts in Missouri.

I filed the 2024 Annual Registration Reports for a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation for the Grand Council and the Missouri Grand York Rite, and paid the required registration and processing fees. The reports were accepted by the Missouri Secretary of State's Office.

Recovery of Outstanding Check Money

One issue that was discovered after becoming the Grand Treasurer was a large number of checks that were not deposited by the previous Grand Treasurer from May 2022 through March 2023.

As Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies as well as individuals, have contacted me concerning outstanding checks I have worked with them to obtain replacement checks for their outstanding checks.

In August 2024, Kevin B. Sample volunteered to assist with the recovery of outstanding checks. Kevin was asked to work on the recovery of outstanding Endowed Membership checks (a total of \$13,532.00). There were seventeen outstanding checks across all three Grand Bodies. Between August 2024 and January 2025, all outstanding Endowed Membership checks were replaced and deposited.

In October 2024, I began working on outstanding checks received during May 2022 (a total of \$1,210.00). I began with eight outstanding checks. One outstanding check had already been replaced but the replacement check had not been connected with the corresponding outstanding check. One outstanding check was confirmed as still valid and had been successfully deposited. Two outstanding checks were replaced and the replacement checks were deposited. Of the remaining four outstanding checks, I was able to contact two of the issuers. Only one issuer agreed to send a replacement check, but I have yet to receive the replacement check. The outstanding

checks of the two issuers that could not be contacted and the one issuer that I did contact, but did not agree to send a replacement check, are unrecoverable (a total of the \$397.00).

In January 2025, Christopher L. Story volunteered to assist with the recovery of outstanding checks. Christopher was asked to work on the recovery of outstanding RARA donation checks (a total of 1,161.50). There were seven outstanding checks. Between January 2025 and the date of this report, four outstanding RARA donation checks have been replaced and we are watching for the replacement checks for the remaining two outstanding checks.

In March 2025, Christopher was asked to work on the recovery of outstanding CMMRF donation checks (a total of \$333.75). There were three outstanding checks. Between March 2025 and the date of this report, one outstanding CMMRF donation check has been replaced and we are watching for the replacement checks for the remaining two outstanding checks.

Here is an accounting of the outstanding checks that I have in hand awaiting resolution: July 2022 Charity Fund, 5 checks, \$310.50; July 2022 General Fund, 21 checks, \$3,414.00; July 2022 Supply Fund, 8 checks, \$1,145.00; November 2022 Charity Fund, 1 check, \$160.00; November 2022 Supply Fund, 8 checks, \$1,738.49; January 2023 Charity Fund, 2 checks, 1,200.00; January Supply Fund, 7 checks, \$1,363.34; March 2023 Charity Fund, 2 checks, \$1,573.75; March General Fund, 19 checks, \$9,600.34; and March 2023 Supply Fund, 2 checks, 118.50. This represents a total of \$20, 623.92.

There may, in fact, be more outstanding checks that were not physically recovered, that will be discovered when the records of the period of June 2022 through March 2023 are reviewed.

Recovery of outstanding checks will continue during the next fiscal year.

Long-Term Investment of Funds

One issue that carried over from last year was the investment of certain investable monies in long-term investment instruments.

The investable funds across the Grand Bodies are: Jefferson Bank General Fund Hold accounts (JB GrCH GF Hold, JB GrCO GF Hold, & JB GrKT GF Hold), Jefferson Bank Foundation Fund/Charity Endowment Fund Hold accounts (JB GrCH FF Hold, JB GrCO CEF Hold, & JB GrKT CEF Hold), and Jefferson Bank Endowed Membership Fund Hold accounts (JB GrCH EMF Hold, JB GrCO EMF Hold, & JB GrKT EMF Hold).

The investable select funds are: Jefferson Bank GrCH Palmyra Fund Hold account (JB GrCH PF Hold), Jefferson Bank GrKT Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund Hold account (JB GrKT HLPPF Hold), and Jefferson Bank GrKT Educational Foundation Fund Hold account (JB GrKT EdF Hold).

After significant work by the Finance and Accounts Committees and the Investment Committees, the status of investable monies was determined and an investment plan developed. It was decided that new Capital Group investments would go into the Investment Company of America (AIVSX, aka Am Inv) mutual fund. The purchase limit for Am Inv is \$100,000.00 per day. In addition, the investment level across the Grand Bodies is sufficient that all purchases can be made at Net Asset Value (NAV) so there are no fees.

The Capital Group 1 account (CG1) is a commingled account containing Grand Chapter money, Grand Council money, and Grand Commandery Educational Foundation money. The CG1 account is tied to the Jefferson Bank Grand Chapter General Fund Operating checking account (JB GrCH GF Op) for ACH transfers.

The Capital Group 2 account (CG2) is a Grand Commandery only account. The CG2 account is tied to the Jefferson Bank Grand Commandery General Fund Holding account (JB GrKT GF Hold) for ACH transfers.

The Capital Group 3 account (CG3) is a Grand Commandery Educational Foundation only account. I have not determined what Jefferson Bank Grand Commandery account is tied to the CG3 account for ACH transfers.

In March 2025, I was given approval by the Grand Chapter Investment Committee to invest \$74,722.00 of JB GrCH GF Hold account money in Am Inv funds under the CG1 account. The earmarked money was transferred from the JB GrCH GF Hold account to the JB GrCH GF Op account.

In March 2025, I was given approval by the Grand Council Investment Committee to invest \$175,778.00 of JB GrCO GF Hold account money in Am Inv funds under the CG1 account. The earmarked money was transferred from the JB GrCO GF Hold account to the JB GrCH GF Op account.

During the period of March 18th through March 24th, the earmarked GrCH and GrCO monies in the JB GrCH GF Op account were invested by purchasing shares in the Am Inv Fund under the CG1 account through our Jefferson Bank Financial Advisor.

In March 2025, I was given approval by the Grand Commandery Investment Committee to invest \$231,474.00 of JB GrKT GF Hold account money in Am Inv funds under the CG2 account.

During the period of March 25th through March 27th, the earmarked GrKT money was invested by purchasing shares in the Am Inv Fund under the CG2 account through our Jefferson Bank Financial Advisor.

In April 2025, I was given approval by the Grand Chapter Investment Committee to invest \$149,329.00 of JB GrCH FF Hold account money in Am Inv funds under the CG1 account. In May 2025, the earmarked money was transferred from the JB GrCH FF Hold account to the JB GrCH GF Op account.

In April 2025, I was given approval by the Grand Council Investment Committee to invest \$35,086.00 of JB GrCO CEF Hold account money in Am Inv funds under the CG1 account. In May 2025, the earmarked money was transferred from the JB GrCH CEF Hold account to the JB GrCH GF Op account.

During the period of May 5th through May 6th, the earmarked GrCH and GrCO monies in the JB GrCH GF Op account were invested by purchasing shares in the Am Inv Fund under the CG1 account through our Jefferson Bank Financial Advisor.

In May 2025, I was given approval by the Grand Commandery Investment Committee to invest \$12,995.00 of JB GrKT CEF Hold account money in Am Inv funds under the CG2 account. The earmarked money was transferred from the JB GrKT CEF Hold account to the JB GrKT GF Hold account.

In May 2025, I was given approval by the Grand Commandery Investment Committee to invest \$85,013.00 of JB GrKT HLPF Hold account money in Am Inv funds under the CG2 account. The earmarked money was transferred from the JB GrKT HLPF Hold account to the JB GrKT GF Hold account.

In May 2025, the earmarked GrKT CEF and GrKT HLPF monies in the JB GrKT GF Hold account were invested by purchasing shares in the Am Inv Fund under the CG2 account through our Jefferson Bank Financial Advisor.

Grand Treasurer's Office

Your Grand Treasurer has worked diligently to bring transparency to the office. I attended all of the Grand Council Grand Officer Zoom meetings. During those meetings, I provided requested financial review briefings to the Grand Officers and answered questions that the Grand Officers asked concerning the finances of the Grand Council.

During this year, I completed the goal of redeeming all Grand Council Certificates of Deposit (CD) when each CD matured as specified by the Finance and Accounts Committee and the Investment Committee.

Last year, the Grand Treasurer's Office received thirteen banker boxes of historical paper records from the office of the previous Grand Treasurer. As I commented last year, the task of reviewing the mountain of documents is daunting. However, with the significant help of Roger Fleeer, the contents of the boxes have been reviewed once thus far.

Financial Summary of the Grand Council

Status of Grand York Rite Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Deposit Account

COMMERCIAL TRUST COMPANY (CTC)

MGYR Deposit Account		\$2,061.09
Balance May 31, 2024	\$1,765.00	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$29,433.25	
Transfers June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$29,137.16	

Checking Account

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

MGYR General Fund Checking Account (GF)		\$5,755.74
Balance May 31, 2024	\$545.12	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$41,531.28	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$36,320.66	

Status of Grand Council Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Deposit Account

COMMERCIAL TRUST COMPANY (CTC)

GrCO Deposit Account		\$21,659.28
Balance May 31, 2024	\$95.65	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$35,289.46	
Transfers June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$13,725.83	

Status of Grand Council General Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Checking Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

GrCO General Fund Operating Checking Account (GF Op)		\$34,468.00
Balance May 31, 2024	\$44,337.80	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$29,584.35	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$39,454.15	
GrCO General Fund Business Money Market Holding Account (GF Hold)		\$1,318.67
Balance May 31, 2024	\$175,872.21	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$1,224.46	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$175,778.00	

Total of GrCO GF Liquid Assets - Checking		\$35,786.67
Total Balance May 31, 2024	\$220,210.01	
Total Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$30,808.81	
Total Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$215,232.15	

Status of Grand Council General Fund Short-Term Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Value of GrCO GF JB CD1 on May 31, 2024	\$21,533.76
Redeemed November 2024 for	\$21,577.92
Value of GrCO GF JB CD1 on March 31, 2025	\$0

Status of Grand Council General Fund Long-Term Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Capital Group 1 (CG1)

Grand Council Am Bal Contents

Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$72,870.85
Contains 47.72% GrCO General Fund	\$34,773.97	
Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$78,717.92
Contains 47.72% GrCO General Fund	\$37,564.19	

Grand Council Am Inc Contents

Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$111,458.63
Contains 7.69% GrCO General Fund	\$8,571.17	
Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$123,953.36
Contains 7.69% GrCO General Fund	\$9,532.01	

Grand Council Am Inv Contents

Value of GrCO Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$172,389.10
Contains 100% GrCO General Fund	\$172,389.10	

Total Value of GrCO GF Long-Term Assets on March 31, 2024		\$43,345.14
Total Value of GrCO GF Long-Term Assets on March 31, 2025		\$219,485.30

Total of All GrCO GF Assets as of May 31, 2024		\$285,088.91
Total of All GrCO GF Assets as of March 31, 2025		\$255,271.97

Status of Grand Council Supply Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Checking Account

MID AMERICA BANK (MAB)

GrCO Supply Fund Account (SF)		\$25,303.24
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Balance May 31, 2024	\$27,703.20
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Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$1,595.10
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$3,995.06

Status of Grand Council Charity Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Checking Accounts

CENTRAL BANK (CB)

GrCO CMMRF Charity Fund Account (CF)		\$1,142.55
Balance May 31, 2024	\$315.20	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$3,090.31	
Donations June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$2,262.96	

GrCO Charity Endowment Fund Operating Checking Account (CEF Op)		\$765.40
Balance May 31, 2024	\$765.40	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	

GrCO Charity Endowment Fund Holding Checking Account (CEF Hold)		\$43,086.42
Balance May 31, 2024	\$42,854.62	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$231.80	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	

Total of GrCO CEF Liquid Assets – Checking		\$43,851.82
Total Balance May 31, 2024	\$43,620.02	
Total Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$231.80	
Total Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	

Status of Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund Long-Term Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Capital Group 1 (CG1)

Grand Council Am Bal Contents

Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$72,870.85
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$38,096.88	
Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$78,717.92
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$41,153.73	

Total of All GrCO Charity Fund Assets as of May 31, 2024		\$82,032.10
Total of All GrCO Charity Fund Assets as of March 31, 2025		\$86,148.10

Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Checking Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

GrCO Endowed Membership Fund Operating Checking Account (EMF Op)		\$2,018.50
Balance May 31, 2024	\$2,018.00	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$63.00	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$62.50	
GrCO Endowed Membership Fund Holding Checking Account (EMF) Hold		\$43,891.22
Balance May 31, 2024	\$33,255.22	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$10,636.00	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	

Total of GrCO EMF Liquid Assets - Checking		\$45,909.72
Total Balance May 31, 2024	\$35,273.22	
Total Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$10,699.00	
Total Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$62.50	

Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Long-Term Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Capital Group 1 (CG1)

Grand Council Am Inc Contents

Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$111,458.63
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$102,887.46	
Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$123,953.36
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$114,421.35	

Total of All GrCO EMF Assets as of May 31, 2024		\$138,160.68
Total of All GrCO EMF Assets as of March 31, 2025		\$160,331.07

Status of Grand Council Leadership Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Checking Accounts

HAWTHORN BANK (HB)

GrCO Leadership Fund Checking Account		\$4,209.09
Balance May 31, 2024	\$4,201.89	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$7.20	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	

Status of Grand Council Triennial Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Checking Accounts

FIRST MID BANK (FMB)

GrCO Triennial Fund Checking Account		\$2,096.19
Balance May 31, 2024	\$2,096.19	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	

Status of Long-Term Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Capital Group 1 (CG1)

Value of CG1 Mutual Funds on March 31, 2024		\$631,821.36
Contains American Balanced Mutual Fund	\$296,102.60	
Contains Income Fund of America Mutual Fund	\$335,718.76	
Value of CG1 Mutual Funds on March 31, 2025		\$938,888.55
Contains American Balanced Mutual Fund	\$319,861.54	
Contains Income Fund of America Mutual Fund	\$373,353.50	
Contains Investment Company of America Mutual Fund	\$245,673.51	

CG1 American Balanced Fund (Am Bal)

Value of Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$296,102.60
Contains 53.47% GrCH Funds	\$158,326.06	
Contains 24.61% GrCO Funds	\$72,870.85	
Contains 21.92% GrKT EdF Funds	\$64,905.69	
Value of Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$319,861.54
Contains 53.47% GrCH Funds	\$171,029.97	
Contains 24.61% GrCO Funds	\$78,717.92	
Contains 21.92% GrKT EdF Funds	\$70,113.65	

Grand Chapter Am Bal Contents

Value of GrCH Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$158,326.06
Contains 71.76% GrCH General Fund	\$113,614.78	
Contains 28.24% GrCH Endowed Membership Fund	\$44,711.28	
Value of GrCH Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$171,029.97
Contains 71.76% GrCH General Fund	\$122,731.11	
Contains 28.24% GrCH Endowed Membership Fund	\$48,298.86	

Grand Council Am Bal Contents

Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$72,870.85
Contains 47.72% GrCO General Fund	\$34,773.97	
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$38,096.88	

Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$78,717.92
Contains 47.72% GrCO General Fund	\$37,564.19	
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$41,153.73	

Grand Commandery Educational Foundation Am Bal Contents

Value of GrKT EdF Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$64,905.69
Value of GrKT EdF Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$70,113.65

CG1 Income Fund of America (Am Inc)

Value of Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$335,718.76
Contains 29.88% GrCH Funds	\$100,312.77	
Contains 33.20% GrCO Funds	\$111,458.63	
Contains 36.92% GrKT EdF Funds	\$123,947.36	
Value of Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$373,353.50
Contains 29.88% GrCH Funds	\$111,558.03	
Contains 33.20% GrCO Funds	\$123,953.36	
Contains 36.92% GrKT EdF Funds	\$137,842.11	

Grand Chapter Am Inc Contents

Value of GrCH Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$100,312.77
Contains 6.38% GrCH General Fund	\$6,399.95	
Contains 89.82% GrCH Endowed Membership Fund	\$90,100.93	
Contains 3.80% GrCH Palmyra Fund	\$3,811.89	
Value of GrCH Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$111,558.03
Contains 6.38% GrCH General Fund	\$7,117.40	
Contains 89.82% GrCH Endowed Membership Fund	\$100,201.42	
Contains 3.80% GrCH Palmyra Fund	\$4,239.21	

Grand Council Am Inc Contents

Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$111,458.63
Contains 7.69% GrCO General Fund	\$8,571.17	
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$102,887.46	
Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$123,953.36
Contains 7.69% GrCO General Fund	\$9,532.01	
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$114,421.35	

Grand Commandery Educational Foundation Am Inc Contents

Value of GrKT EdF Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$123,947.36
Value of GrKT EdF Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$137,842.11

CG1 Investment Company of America (Am Inv)

Value of Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$0
Value of Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$245,673.51
Contains 29.83% GrCH Funds	\$73,284.41	
Contains 70.17% GrCO Funds	\$172,389.10	
Contains 0% GrKT EdF Funds	\$0	

Grand Chapter Am Inv Contents

Value of GrCH Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025	\$73,284.41
Contains 100% GrCH General Fund	\$73,284.41

Grand Council Am Inv Contents

Value of GrCO Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025	\$172,389.10
Contains 100% GrCO General Fund	\$172,389.10

Grand Commandery Educational Foundation Am Inv Contents

Value of GrKT EdF Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025	\$0
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Total of All GrCO Long-Term Assets as of March 31, 2024	\$184,329.48
Total of All GrCO Long-Term Assets as of March 31, 2025	\$375,060.38

Grand Total of all Grand Council Assets - March 31, 2025	\$555,018.94
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Russell S. Hanson HPGM, Grand Treasurer

*Action Taken: **Passed** / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other*

REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Companions, following this narrative you will find the statistical reports of the Grand Secretary’s office. The statistical reports provide much institutional information as to the overall financial and physical health of the subordinate Councils of the Grand Council of Missouri

Annual Returns – Late: As of the time of this report, the following Councils filed late returns and were assessed penalties: None.

Annual Returns – No Return: As of the date of this report, the following Councils have not filed a return and will be assessed penalties: Bert S. Lee Council No. 58.

Annual Returns – Not Received thirty days prior to Annual Assembly: As of the date of this report, the following Councils filed an annual return, but not later than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convocation, has forfeited all rights and privileges to representation and voting at the Annual Assembly, and will be assessed penalties: Bert S. Lee Council No. 58.

Annual Returns – Financial Statements: The following Councils either failed to submit or filed an incomplete Financial Statement: Ezra Council No. 32

Annual Returns – CMMR and CEF Donations (according to the annual returns): The following Councils reported no contributions to CMMR: Poplar Bluff Council No. 27, Ezra Council No. 32, York Council No. 40, John F. Houston Council No. 41, Trinity Council No. 47, Independence Council No. 49, Lebanon Council No. 56, Bert S. Lee Council No. 58, and Shelby Council No. 59; In contrast, for CMMR, the following Councils were able to meet the goal of at least \$3.65 per member: Jeremiah Council No. 48 with \$3.47 per member, Kansas City Council No. 44 with \$8.79 per member, Rolla Council No. 39 with \$10.01 per member, and Kirksville Council No. 44 knocked it out of the park with \$21.96 per member. No other Council met the \$3.65 per member goal.

For the Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund (CEF), only eight Councils reported contributions to CEF with none reaching \$3.65 per member.

Annual Returns – Bonding: The following Councils reported that the Treasurer and Recorder ARE bonded: St. Joseph Council No. 9; Cape Council No. 20; Zabud Council No. 25; Centralia Council No. 34; Bonne Terre Council No. 43; Kirksville Council No. 44; Trinity Council No. 47; Independence Council No. 49; and Liberty Council No. 50; Although there is no requirement by law that bonds be established, there is a necessity of ensuring the organizational officers who are responsible for your financial health are bonded.

Annual Returns – Inquiries and Examination of Accounts (Financial Reviews): The following Councils did not file an Inquiry and Examination of Accounts as part of their Annual Return or if they did file an Inquiry and Examination of Accounts, it was incomplete: None.

Annual Return Seal Impressions - Article VI, Section 46. Council, Seal of. states "Every chartered Council must have a seal, and all official papers issued by the Council must be attested by impression of the same." Shekinah Council No. 24; Jasper Council No. 30; Ezra Council No. 32; – did not provide seal impression.

Annual Returns - Signatories: The following Councils report that there is not more than one signatory on the accounts of the Council: None.

Annual Returns – Dues: The following Councils reported dues charged each member to be less than that required by Grand Council (\$37.60): None.

Annual Returns – 990 Status: The following Councils did not file evidence of a completed 990 filing: Poplar Bluff Council No. 27; Rolla Council No. 39; Trinity Council No. 47; Jeremiah Council No. 48; Shelby Council No. 59; and Nevada Council No. 65;

Annual Returns – Council Indebtedness: The following Councils reported a negative cash on hand as of December 31, 2024: None.

Annual Returns – Summary: I recommend these reports be reviewed by both Grand Officers and Regional Officers for additional action.

Growth Awards: There were a whopping 111 Greetings during the 2024 calendar year, with an additional 12 reinstatements - what an amazing year!

Grand Council Growth Awards for 5% will be presented to Ezra Council No. 32 (7%); and Nevada Council No. 65 (9%); for 10% and above to Rolla Council No. 39 (10%); and for 20% and above to Poplar Bluff Council No. 27 (26%); and the largest growth goes to Cape Council No. 20 (70%).

In the 2024 calendar year the Grand Council started out with 1,431 members and closed on December 31, 2024 with 1,379 members. With 123 gains in new members and reinstatements, we lost 83 to demits; 27 suspensions; 63 to death; and 2 expulsions. An overall decrease in membership of 52.

Companions, First, allow me to thank those who work with diligence and efficiency to make the Grand York Rite work, with attentiveness and thoughtfulness in all that they do. I thank Debbie for her patience and hard work throughout the year, to Kevin for his guidance and input, to Roger for his collaboration, and to Russell to whom the three Grand Bodies owe a debt of gratitude in his work in deciphering and re-architecting the finances of all three Grand York Rite Bodies.

The amount of work that goes into planning a Grand Session can be daunting but the tireless combined efforts of Debbie, Kevin, Roger, Tina, and Tara have pulled together an outstanding Grand Session this year - thank you!

We are meeting this year in Kansas City, where it has been more than 30 years since the Grand Session was held in this city. It remains our goal not to hold the Grand Sessions more than two consecutive years in the same location. We will continue to scout new locations around the State and continue to present the Grand York Rite Sessions as a celebration of the Missouri York Rite.

I recommend to all to review the statistical reports of our Chapters, they provide an accurate overview on the overview health of the Royal Arch in Missouri.

As the need to offer more and integrated digital service the need to add additional talent is necessary. If there are those who are professionally experienced in WordPress, design, and social media please reach out to me, we will put your skills and experience to work.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve

Fraternally and Most Respectfully submitted,

Donald MacCormick, PGM, Grand Recorder

Kevin B. Sample, HPGM, Assistant Grand Recorder

Move that these reports be accepted, subject to correction, and referred to the appropriate committees and to the Grand Officers for follow-up action as deemed necessary.

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

Annual Statistical Report – Start: 01/01/2024 End: 12/31/2024
Grand Council of MissouriTotal Working Councils = 25

The following is a recapitulation of membership activity during the specified reporting period.

Total number members on last return =	<u>1,413</u>
Total number GREETED =	<u>60</u>
Total number AFFILIATED =	<u>51</u>
Total number REINSTATED =	<u>12</u>
Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>
Total Gain (+)	<u>123</u>
Total number DIMITTED =	<u>83</u>
Total number SUSPENDED =	<u>27</u>
Total number DECEASED =	<u>63</u>
Total number EXPELLED =	<u>2</u>
Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>
Total Loss (-)	<u>175</u>
Net Gain (Net Loss) =	<u>(52)</u>
Total number members (including Dual/Plural) =	<u>1,379</u>

2024 Annual Returns

No.	Council	Location	Chartered	EIN	Stated Assemblies	Annual Return Received	2023 Membership	Created	Admitted	Reinstated	Add Adjustment	Total Gains	Dimitted	Suspended	Deceased	Expelled	Del Adjustment	Total Losses	2024 Net Gain / Loss	2024 Total Year End Membership
1	Hiram	St. Louis	July 17, 1883	23-7550888	4th Wednesday	45687	41	2	2	0	0	4	3	0	1	1	0	5	-1	40
3	Marion	At Large	June 9, 2016		Grand Session	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	October 7, 1871	23-7550889	1st Wednesday	45696	157	2	0	3	0	5	0	2	9	0	0	11	-6	151
20	Cape	Cape Girardeau	October 6, 1871	23-7550890	1st Wednesday	45773	50	1	34	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	85
24	Shekinah	Kansas City	April 27, 1892	23-7550891	3rd Wednesday	45734	39	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	4	-3	36
25	Zabud	Springfield	April 25, 1894	44-0520296	4th Monday	45691	149	7	0	2	0	9	8	12	10	0	0	30	-21	128
27	Poplar Bluff	Poplar Bluff	April 24, 1895	23-7550893	2nd Thursday	45762	23	2	5	0	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	1	6	29
30	Jasper	Joplin	April 25, 1900	23-7550895	1st Tuesday	45716	32	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	-1	31
32	Ezra	Jefferson City	April 23, 1902	23-7550896	1st Monday	45787	55	-6	0	0	0	6	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	59
34	Centralia	Columbia	April 28, 1908	23-7550897	4th Monday	45714	90	3	0	0	0	3	1	3	3	0	0	7	-4	86
39	Rolla	Rolla	April 10, 1922	23-7144150	3rd Monday	45698	82	15	0	0	0	15	1	2	4	0	0	7	8	90
40	York	St. Charles	April 10, 1922	23-7550902	4th Tuesday	45734	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-1	21
41	Carthage	Carthage	April 10, 1922	23-7550903	3rd Thursday	45712	27	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	3	-1	26
42	John F. Houston	Lexington	April 10, 1922	38-4024549	1st Wednesday	45706	43	3	1	0	0	4	0	2	3	0	0	5	-1	42
44	Kirksville	Kirksville	April 22, 1929	23-7550906	2nd Thursday	45720	96	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	4	-2	94
45	Kansas City	Kansas City	April 24, 1944	23-7550907	1st Monday	45698	65	1	1	1	0	3	2	0	5	1	0	8	-5	60
46	Neosho	Neosho	April 22, 1946	23-7550908	3rd Monday	45692	46	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	48
47	Trinity	Hannibal	April 25, 1949	23-7550909	1st Thursday	45745	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
48	Jeremiah	Webster Groves	April 24, 1950	23-7144151	3rd Monday	45717	66	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	3	-1	65
49	Independence	Independence	April 24, 1950	23-7550910	4th Thursday	45691	93	7	2	1	0	10	22	2	6	0	0	30	-20	73
50	Liberty	Liberty	April 24, 1950	23-7550911	3rd Monday	45714	73	4	1	0	0	5	6	1	2	0	0	9	-4	69
56	Lebanon	Lebanon	May 9, 1990	43-1697678	3rd Tuesday	45716	57	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	57
58	Bert S. Lee	Springfield	May 17, 2001	90-0053587	1st Thursday		17	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	17
59	Shelby	Shelbina	February 28, 2006	90-0324713	4th Tuesday	45693	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	-3	39
65	Nevada	Nevada	June 3, 2023	37-2072900	2nd Monday	45716	23	1	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	25
	TOTAL						1396	60	51	12	0	123	48	27	63	2	0	140	-17	1379

2024 Annual Returns (cont.)

No.	Council	% of Growth	Grading Fees	Per Capita	2023 Debts	Dues Cards	Dues Cards Postage Fees	Total Per Capita, Fees & Debts	Remissions, Inability to Pay	Remissions, 50-year	Living Life Members	Credit for Remissions and Life Members	GC Council Endowed Mbrs & Not Endowed	General Grand Council Credit	2023 Credits	Total Credits
1	Hiram	-2.44%	\$14.00	\$1,104.00	\$0.00	\$25.15	\$9.33	\$1,152.48	2	1	5	221	6	15	0	\$235.80
3	Marion	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
9	St. Joseph	-3.82%	\$14.00	\$4,167.60	\$0.00	\$66.57	\$11.63	\$4,259.80	7	16	27	1380	0	0	0	\$1,380.00
20	Cape	70.00%	\$7.00	\$2,346.00	\$0.00	\$40.35	\$11.63	\$2,404.98	0	8	6	386	1	2.5	0	\$388.90
24	Shekinah	-7.69%	\$0.00	\$993.60	\$0.00	\$22.49	\$8.73	\$1,024.82	1	4	2	193	0	0	0	\$193.20
25	Zabud	-14.09%	\$49.00	\$3,532.80	\$0.00	\$61.25	\$15.83	\$3,658.88	23	24	24	1960	3	7.5	0	\$1,967.10
27	Poplar Bluff	26.09%	\$14.00	\$800.40	\$0.00	\$22.11	\$15.83	\$852.34	2	0	3	138	1	2.5	0	\$140.50
30	Jasper	-3.13%	\$0.00	\$855.60	\$0.00	\$20.59	\$8.18	\$884.37	0	1	14	414	0	0	0	\$414.00
32	Ezra	7.27%	\$42.00	\$1,628.40	\$0.00	\$30.85	\$9.73	\$1,710.98	0	5	7	331	0	0	0	\$331.20
34	Centralia	-4.44%	\$21.00	\$2,373.60	\$0.00	\$41.49	\$10.48	\$2,446.57	4	17	29	1380	0	0	0	\$1,380.00
39	Rolla	9.76%	\$105.00	\$2,484.00	\$0.00	\$44.53	\$4.73	\$2,638.26	1	3	29	911	2	5	0	\$915.80
40	York	-4.55%	\$0.00	\$579.60	\$0.00	\$16.79	\$7.93	\$604.32	0	0	8	221	1	2.5	0	\$223.30
41	Carthage	-3.70%	\$7.00	\$717.60	\$0.00	\$18.31	\$7.38	\$750.29	2	6	4	331	0	0	0	\$331.20
42	John F. Houston	-2.33%	\$21.00	\$1,159.20	\$0.00	\$24.01	\$8.13	\$1,212.34	7	2	5	386	0	0	0	\$386.40
44	Kirksville	-2.08%	\$7.00	\$2,594.40	\$0.00	\$46.43	\$13.43	\$2,661.26	0	21	12	911	1	2.5	0	\$913.30
45	Kansas City	-7.69%	\$7.00	\$1,656.00	\$0.00	\$31.99	\$1.13	\$1,696.12	0	3	3	166	0	0	0	\$165.60
46	Neosho	4.35%	\$21.00	\$1,324.80	\$0.00	\$26.29	\$9.83	\$1,381.92	3	3	3	248	1	2.5	0	\$250.90
47	Trinity	0.00%	\$0.00	\$220.80	\$0.00	\$11.09	\$6.63	\$238.52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00
48	Jeremiah	-1.52%	\$7.00	\$1,794.00	\$0.00	\$33.89	\$10.93	\$1,845.82	0	1	14	414	3	7.5	0	\$421.50
49	Independence	-21.51%	\$49.00	\$2,014.80	\$0.00	\$39.97	\$11.63	\$2,115.40	1	3	18	607	0	0	0	\$607.20
50	Liberty	-5.48%	\$28.00	\$1,904.40	\$0.00	\$38.45	\$15.23	\$1,986.08	3	5	16	662	0	0	0	\$662.40
56	Lebanon	0.00%	\$0.00	\$1,573.20	\$0.00	\$30.09	\$9.73	\$1,613.02	0	2	8	276	1	2.5	0	\$278.50
58	Bert S. Lee	0.00%	\$0.00	\$469.20	\$295.56	\$14.89	\$7.98	\$787.63	0	0	6	166	0	0	0	\$165.60
59	Shelby	-7.14%	\$0.00	\$1,076.40	\$0.00	\$22.87	\$8.13	\$1,107.40	0	1	0	27.6	0	0	0	\$27.60
65	Nevada	8.70%	\$7.00	\$690.00	\$0.00	\$17.55	\$7.33	\$721.88	0	1	2	82.8	0	0	0	\$82.80
	TOTAL	-1.22%	\$420.00	\$38,060.40	\$295.56	\$748.00	\$231.52	\$39,755.48	56	127	245	####	20	50	0	\$11,862.80

2024 Annual Returns (cont.)

No.	Council	Amount Owed Grand Council	Late Fees	Total Amount Owed Grand Council	Paid	2nd Payment	Date 2nd Payment	Total All Payments	2024 Credits	2024 Debits	Cash on Hand 12/31/24	Real Estate & Investments	Paraphernalia
1	Hiram	\$916.68	\$0.00	\$916.68	\$916.68	\$0.00		\$916.68		\$0.00	\$5,229.91	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
3	Marion	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	St. Joseph	\$2,879.80	\$0.00	\$2,879.80	\$2,879.80	\$0.00		\$2,879.80			\$19,684.07	\$135,774.85	\$200.00
20	Cape	\$2,016.08	\$30.00	\$2,046.08	\$2,016.08	\$0.00		\$2,016.08		\$30.00	\$5,942.66	\$0.00	\$0.00
24	Shekinah	\$831.62	\$15.00	\$846.62	\$831.62	\$0.00		\$831.62		\$15.00	\$82.06	\$0.00	\$0.00
25	Zabud	\$1,691.78	\$0.00	\$2,213.49	\$2,213.49	\$0.00		\$2,213.49			\$1,883.25	\$14,021.76	\$7,000.00
27	Poplar Bluff	\$711.84	\$30.00	\$741.84	\$714.34	\$0.00		\$714.34		\$27.50	\$1,437.22	\$0.00	\$0.00
30	Jasper	\$470.37	\$0.00	\$470.37	\$470.37	\$0.00		\$470.37			\$2,410.28	\$17,573.66	\$100.00
32	Ezra	\$1,379.78	\$45.00	\$1,424.78	\$1,379.78	\$0.00		\$1,379.78		\$45.00		\$0.00	\$2,600.00
34	Centralia	\$1,066.57	\$0.00	\$1,066.57	\$1,066.57	\$0.00		\$1,066.57	0		\$959.43	\$8,400.00	\$25,000.00
39	Rolla	\$1,722.46	\$0.00	\$1,722.46	\$1,722.46	\$0.00		\$1,722.46		\$0.00	\$10,421.53	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
40	York	\$381.02	\$15.00	\$396.02	\$381.02	\$0.00		\$381.02		\$15.00	\$622.72	\$0.00	\$500.00
41	Carthage	\$419.09	\$0.00	\$419.09	\$419.09	\$0.00		\$419.09	0		\$7,170.34	\$0.00	\$350.00
42	John F. Houston	\$825.94	\$0.00	\$825.94	\$825.94	\$0.00		\$825.94			\$2,305.08	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
44	Kirksville	\$1,747.96	\$15.00	\$1,762.96	\$1,747.96	\$0.00		\$1,747.96		\$15.00	\$15,295.09	\$12,138.09	\$2,000.00
45	Kansas City	\$1,530.52	\$0.00	\$1,530.52	\$1,530.52	\$0.00		\$1,530.52		\$0.00	\$2,652.83	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
46	Neosho	\$1,131.02	\$0.00	\$1,131.02	\$1,131.02	\$0.00		\$1,131.02			\$3,539.81	\$500.00	\$5,000.00
47	Trinity	\$238.52	\$15.00	\$253.52	\$230.21	\$0.00		\$230.21		\$23.31	\$1,361.29	\$0.00	\$0.00
48	Jeremiah	\$1,424.32	\$0.00	\$1,424.32	\$1,424.32	\$0.00		\$1,424.32		\$0.00	\$4,349.28	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
49	Independence	\$1,508.20	\$0.00	\$1,508.20	\$1,508.20	\$0.00		\$1,508.20		\$0.00	\$10,959.93	\$11,000.00	\$500.00
50	Liberty	\$1,323.68	\$0.00	\$1,323.68	\$1,323.68	\$0.00		\$1,323.68		\$0.00	\$6,924.39	\$60,869.48	\$1,200.00
56	Lebanon	\$1,334.52	\$0.00	\$1,334.52	\$1,334.52	\$0.00		\$1,334.52			\$3,077.29	\$0.00	\$1,850.00
58	Bert S. Lee	\$622.03	\$0.00	\$622.03	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$622.03		\$0.00	\$0.00
59	Shelby	\$1,079.80	\$0.00	\$1,079.80	\$1,079.80	\$0.00		\$1,079.80		\$0.00	\$1,614.18	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
65	Nevada	\$639.08	\$0.00	\$639.08	\$639.08	\$0.00		\$639.08	0		\$1,268.22	\$0.00	\$500.00
	TOTAL	\$27,892.68	\$165.00	\$28,579.39	\$27,786.55	\$0.00		\$27,786.55	0	\$792.84	\$109,190.86	\$260,277.84	\$66,300.00

2024 Annual Returns (cont.)

No.	Council	Uncollected Dues	Indebtedness	Total Value of Council	Annual Dues	CMIMR Donations	CEP Donations	Treasurer Bonded	Recorder Bonded	Audited	990
1	Hiram	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,229.91	\$93.00	\$287.50	\$128.35	N	N	Y	Y
3	Marion	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	N	N
9	St. Joseph	\$676.50	\$0.00	\$156,335.42	\$37.60	\$71.10	\$71.10	Y	Y	Y	Y
20	Cape	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,942.66	\$50.00	\$90.30	\$0.00	Y	Y	Y	N
24	Shekinah	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$82.06	\$0.00	\$58.40	\$0.00	N	N	Y	Y
25	Zabud	\$5,160.00	\$0.00	\$28,065.01	\$120.00	\$101.15	\$33.25	Y	Y	Y	Y
27	Poplar Bluff	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,437.22	\$38.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	Y	N
30	Jasper	\$164.00	\$0.00	\$20,247.94	\$38.00	\$25.25	\$0.00	N	N	Y	Y
32	Ezra	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,600.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	Y	Y
34	Centralia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,359.43	\$52.70	\$112.70	\$90.35	Y	Y	Y	Y
39	Rolla	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,921.53	\$41.40	\$901.15	\$78.70	N	N	Y	N
40	York	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,122.72	\$62.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	Y	Y
41	Carthage	\$75.20	\$0.00	\$7,595.54	\$37.60	\$21.90	\$35.00	N	N	Y	Y
42	John F. Houston	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,305.08	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	Y	Y
44	Kirksville	\$496.00	\$0.00	\$29,929.18	\$62.00	\$2,064.51	\$0.00	Y	Y	Y	Y
45	Kansas City	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,652.83	\$48.00	\$527.10	\$0.00	N	N	Y	Y
46	Neosho	\$0.00	\$145.62	\$8,894.19	\$39.00	\$72.62	\$73.00	N	N	Y	Y
47	Trinity	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$1,471.29	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	Y	N
48	Jeremiah	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,349.28	\$77.60	\$225.55	\$56.40	N	N	Y	N
49	Independence	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,459.93	\$64.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	Y	Y	Y	Y
50	Liberty	\$1,155.00	\$0.00	\$70,148.87	\$55.00	\$13.00	\$0.00	Y	Y	Y	Y
56	Lebanon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,927.29	\$48.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	Y	Y
58	Bert S. Lee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	N	N
59	Shelby	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,614.18	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N	N	Y	N
65	Nevada	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,768.22	\$42.00	\$22.35	\$0.00	N	N	Y	N
	TOTAL	\$7,836.70	\$145.62	\$443,459.78	\$1,202.00	\$4,594.58	\$566.15				

Membership Count 01		Parameter: Missouri, Cryptic Masonry						As of: 06/01/2025 12:12AM	
	Active Members	Petitioner	Candidate	Active no DOB	Active with DOB	*Average Age	Active Local Bodies	US Mailable	
Missouri	1,380	3	12	8	1,372	67.2	25	1,370	
1 - Hiram	47				47	60.7	1	47	
3 - Marion						.0	1		
9 - St. Joseph	142				142	73.8	1	142	
20 - Cape	84				84	69.5	1	83	
24 - Shekinah	33				33	61.5	1	33	
25 - Zabud	124	1	6		124	69.4	1	123	
27 - Poplar Bluff	29			5	24	66.0	1	29	
30 - Jasper	32				32	67.5	1	31	
32 - Ezra	59			2	57	68.8	1	59	
34 - Centralia	88				88	71.4	1	87	
39 - Rolla	92				92	64.4	1	92	
40 - York	21				21	65.2	1	21	
41 - Carthage	26				26	66.8	1	26	
42 - John F. Houston	43		1		43	67.8	1	43	
44 - Kirksville	98	1			98	67.7	1	97	
45 - Kansas City	64	1	1		64	57.5	1	64	
46 - Neosho	48			1	47	63.8	1	47	
47 - Trinity	10				10	66.4	1	10	
48 - Jeremiah	64				64	66.0	1	64	
49 - Independence	71				71	68.5	1	70	
50 - Liberty	65				65	68.2	1	65	
56 - Lebanon	58		2		58	62.1	1	57	
58 - Bert S. Lee	17		1		17	63.7	1	16	
59 - Shelby	40		1		40	67.1	1	39	
65 - Nevada	25				25	67.2	1	25	
Total Members	1,380	3	12	8	1,372	67.2	25	1,370	
Total Plural Members	25								
Total People	1,355								

Average Age - Parameters: Missouri, Cryptic Masonry

As of 6/1/2025 12:18:57 AM

Council	Active No	Active DOB	Avg. Age	18-29		30-39		40-49		50-59		60-69		70-79		80-89		90-99		100+		Totals	
				#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Missouri	8	1372	67.2	21	1.5	68	5.0	139	10.1	220	16.0	255	18.6	340	24.8	248	18.1	75	5.5	6	0.4	1372	100.0
1 - Hiram	0	47	60.7	2	4.3	5	10.6	6	12.8	9	19.1	10	21.3	8	17.0	5	10.6	2	4.3	0	0.0	47	3.4
9 - St. Joseph	0	142	73.8	1	0.7	2	1.4	5	3.5	12	8.5	33	23.2	34	23.9	41	28.9	14	9.9	0	0.0	142	10.3
20 - Cape	0	84	69.5	0	0.0	2	2.4	9	10.7	13	15.5	14	16.7	26	31.0	13	15.5	6	7.1	1	1.2	84	6.1
24 - Shekinah	0	33	61.5	0	0.0	5	15.2	5	15.2	7	21.2	3	9.1	5	15.2	7	21.2	1	3.0	0	0.0	33	2.4
25 - Zebud	0	124	69.4	0	0.0	4	3.2	15	12.1	24	19.4	16	12.9	25	20.2	28	22.6	10	8.1	2	1.6	124	9.0
27 - Poplar Bluff	5	24	66	0	0.0	1	4.2	4	16.7	5	20.8	3	12.5	4	16.7	7	29.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	1.7
30 - Jasper	0	32	67.5	0	0.0	3	9.4	1	3.1	4	12.5	7	21.9	10	31.3	6	18.8	1	3.1	0	0.0	32	2.3
32 - Ezra	2	57	68.8	1	1.8	1	1.8	5	8.8	8	14.0	13	22.8	17	29.8	8	14.0	4	7.0	0	0.0	57	4.2
34 - Centralia	0	88	71.4	1	1.1	5	5.7	7	8.0	8	9.1	15	17.0	22	25.0	18	20.5	10	11.4	2	2.3	88	6.4
39 - Rolla	0	92	64.4	1	1.1	7	7.6	12	13.0	17	18.5	16	17.4	20	21.7	14	15.2	5	5.4	0	0.0	92	6.7
40 - York	0	21	65.2	2	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	28.6	3	14.3	8	38.1	1	4.8	1	4.8	0	0.0	21	1.5
41 - Carthage	0	26	66.8	0	0.0	3	11.5	3	11.5	3	11.5	3	11.5	7	26.9	5	19.2	1	3.8	1	3.8	26	1.9
42 - John F. Houston	0	43	67.8	1	2.3	2	4.7	3	7.0	3	7.0	14	32.6	12	27.9	5	11.6	3	7.0	0	0.0	43	3.1
44 - Kirksville	0	98	67.7	1	1.0	8	8.2	8	8.2	15	15.3	15	15.3	22	22.4	26	26.5	3	3.1	0	0.0	98	7.1
45 - Kansas City	0	64	57.5	2	3.1	6	9.4	14	21.9	12	18.8	15	23.4	10	15.6	4	6.3	1	1.6	0	0.0	64	4.7
46 - Neosho	1	47	63.8	3	6.4	2	4.3	7	14.9	8	17.0	5	10.6	11	23.4	8	17.0	3	6.4	0	0.0	47	3.4
47 - Trinity	0	10	66.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	10.0	2	20.0	3	30.0	2	20.0	2	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.7
48 - Jeremiah	0	64	66	0	0.0	4	6.3	6	9.4	12	18.8	12	18.8	20	31.3	10	15.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	64	4.7
49 - Independence	0	71	68.5	0	0.0	3	4.2	7	9.9	11	15.5	13	18.3	19	26.8	14	19.7	4	5.6	0	0.0	71	5.2
50 - Liberty	0	65	68.2	2	3.1	2	3.1	5	7.7	12	18.5	10	15.4	19	29.2	9	13.8	6	9.2	0	0.0	65	4.7
56 - Lebanon	0	58	62.1	4	6.9	0	0.0	12	20.7	8	13.8	15	25.9	11	19.0	8	13.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	58	4.2
58 - Bert S. Lee	0	17	63.7	0	0.0	1	5.9	0	0.0	6	35.3	5	29.4	4	23.5	1	5.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	1.2
59 - Shelby	0	40	67.1	0	0.0	1	2.5	1	2.5	12	30.0	6	15.0	16	40.0	4	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	40	2.9
65 - Nevada	0	25	67.2	0	0.0	1	4.0	3	12.0	3	12.0	6	24.0	8	32.0	4	16.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	1.8
Total	8	1372	67.2	21	1.5	68	5.0	139	10.1	220	16.0	255	18.6	340	24.8	248	18.1	75	5.5	6	0.4	1372	100.0

GRAND HISTORIAN REPORT

(No Report Available at Time of Printing)

William G. Snyder, PGM, Chairman

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

(from the floor)

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman of the Committee on Credentials reported that there was a quorum and Constitutional Number present to proceed with business, reporting that there was present: 111 voting members, 15 non-voting members, and all Constituent Councils were represented.

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman
Todd A. Schulze

Randy W. Presley
Kevin L. Swain

*Action Taken: **Passed** / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Companions, the Committee on Finance and Accounts have reviewed the Grand Council budgets and actuals from recent years and used that to inform the creation of the working budget for the 2025-2026 Cryptic year. The committee has reviewed each line item, and asked many questions of the Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and the grand line officers. The committee acknowledges that the Grand Officers and Grand Office do have to spend money in order to continue to operate in support of Cryptic Masonry in our jurisdiction.

Of critical importance, through the efforts of the Grand Treasurer, we are now fully aware of all monies in all accounts and the Grand Treasurer is actively working with the Investment Committee, with the approval of the Finance and Accounts Committee and the Grand Master, to move excess funds into real long-term investments which are managed by the new Investment Committee. A business decision was made this year regarding investment accounts that feed the general fund annually, that we will NOT forecast earnings from year to year to use as general fund income as may be deemed more traditional in the development of annual budgets. However, instead, earnings from those investment accounts such as the General Fund Investment Account and the Endowed Membership Investment Account will be calculated in April of each year to determine real earnings from the previous reporting period and those earnings, being real earned income, will be used as income items for the following year's budget. For example, the earnings from the General Fund Investment Account from April 2025 through March 2026 will be used for the 2026-2027 budget.

As those earnings and calculations are not available for this year's budget, they have been left blank at \$0.00. However, please understand that this in no case means that we are not earning money in those investment accounts, we are simply not able at this time to determine the earnings from the previous reporting period with such accuracy as is needed and should be expected from the membership, and, we needed to develop a starting point following the movement of those excess funds into new or revised investment accounts during this past year. This starting point, or what we have termed "base" amounts, have been determined this past year and we are starting from there. The same can be said for the Endowed Membership Investment Account, which will be more proactively engaged during the next reporting year. Even though the proposed budget below shows a deficit, we anticipate it will be closer to zero at the end of the year.

The cost of the annual assembly continues to increase – we have adjusted the anticipated cost to cover that expense.

One point the committee feels needs to be clarified is the Youth Organizations line item which has been removed from the below list of expenses. The annual donation to the youth organizations is derived from the Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund based on the annual earnings from that Investment Account and via submitted and approved report for that purpose from the Grand Council Charity and Charity Endowment Fund Committee, not the General Fund. Historically, when the Charity Endowment Fund was its infancy, the Grand Council “subsidized” this donation with additional money from the General Fund. In the future, should such the need arise, this line item can be added back to provide for “additional” money for this purpose.

One final point for the edification of the Grand Council Officers and all concerned, regarding recapitulation, an annual recapitulation of the budgeted income and expenses from the previous year must be reported. This has not been accomplished in quite some time due to lack of information and clarity. Now that we have a clear understanding of all income and expenses through the efforts of the Grand Treasurer, this reporting is provided below. Understand, the very detailed reports of the Grand Treasurer clearly define all monies coming and going through his hands, some of those being general fund related, and some not. For the purpose of recapitulation, we are only looking at how our income and expenses played out with regard to the approved budget. It should be clearly noted that while very minor variances in spending may be overlooked, no officer or committee has the authority to grossly overspend the approved budget without approval of both the Finance and Accounts Committee and the Grand Master, and such modification provided to the Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer. As the finances of the Grand Council are reviewed monthly with the Grand Treasurer, it is incumbent on all involved to ensure we do not get in such a case without going through a process to “amend” the budget throughout the year, which would then need to be ratified by this Grand Council at its Annual Assembly.

Additionally, should an interim recapitulation report be provided, as indicated below through April 9, 2025, it is incumbent upon this committee to submit an annual recapitulation for the entire reporting period at the next annual assembly.

2024-2025 INTERIM RECAPITULATION

The Committee on Finance and Accounts submits the recapitulation of the 2024-2025 Budget vs. the report of income and expenses provided by the Grand Treasurer as of April 9, 2025.

Income	Budgeted	Recapitulation
Per Capita, Membership & Greeting Fee	\$24,127.80	\$24,031.41
Per Capita, Endowed Membership	-	-
General Fund Interest Income	-	-
Grand Session, Meal Income	\$6,000.00	\$6,708.43
Miscellaneous	\$250.00	\$637.53
Total	\$30,377.80	\$31,377.37
Expenses		
Grand Master Stipend	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Grand Treasurer Stipend	\$1,000.00	-
Grand Recorder Stipend	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Clerical Assistant Salary	\$5,000.00	\$3,976.03
Employment Taxes	\$800.00	\$1,457.34
Bonding Insurance	\$100.00	\$100.00
Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$100.00	-
Financial Review Committee	\$100.00	-
Office Expenses	\$5,000.00	\$4,709.72
Printing Services	\$1,300.00	\$1,220.68
Office Shared Expenses	\$1,800.00	\$1,650.00
Storage Shared Expenses	\$360.00	\$360.00

General Grand Council Per Capita	\$3,200.00	\$2,995.00
Annual Assembly	\$8,000.00	\$11,613.81
Grand Officer Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$2,764.32
Past Grand Master Jewel	\$100.00	\$604.45
Supply Fund Contribution	-	-
Triennial Fund	\$50.00	-
Youth Organizations	\$900.00	\$500.00
Emerging Leaders Fund	\$80.00	-
MMS Support	\$600.00	-
Web Master	\$250.00	-
Miscellaneous	\$250.00	\$1,245.00
Total	\$35,990.00	\$39,196.35
Total Income	\$30,377.80	\$31,377.37
Total Expenses	\$35,990.00	\$39,196.35
Balance	\$(5,612.20)	\$(7,818.98)

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

2025-2026 BUDGET

The Committee on Finance and Accounts and Grand Council Officers met on April 27, 2025, and approved the following proposed budget for the 2025-2026 Cryptic year. The committee hereby submits this proposed working budget for your consideration and approval.

Income	
Per Capita, Membership & Greeting Fee	\$23,884.70
Per Capita, Endowed Membership	-
General Fund Interest Income	-
Grand Session, Meal Income	\$7,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$250.00
Total	\$31,134.70
Expenses	
Grand Master Stipend	\$3,000.00
Grand Treasurer Stipend	\$1,000.00
Grand Recorder Stipend	\$3,000.00
Clerical Assistant Salary	\$5,000.00
Employment Taxes	\$500.00
Bonding Insurance	\$100.00
Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$100.00
Financial Review Committee	\$100.00
Office Expenses	\$5,000.00
Printing Services	\$1,300.00
Office Shared Expenses	\$1,800.00
Storage Shared Expenses	\$360.00
General Grand Council Per Capita	\$2,600.00
Annual Assembly	\$9,000.00
Grand Officer Expenses	\$1,000.00
Past Grand Master Jewel	\$100.00

Supply Fund Contribution	\$600.00
Triennial Fund	\$50.00
Emerging Leaders Fund	\$81.00
MMS Support	\$600.00
Web Master	\$250.00
Miscellaneous	\$250.00
Total	\$35,791.00
Total Income	\$31,134.70
Total Expenses	\$35,791.00
Balance	\$(4,656.30)

(Move for the adoption of this portion of the report)

The committee wishes to thank the Grand Treasurer for all his efforts in providing detailed monthly reports for review by this committee and the Grand Council Officers.

Fraternally submitted,
Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman
Russell S. Hanson, Ex-Officio
Kevin B. Sample, Ex-Officio

Grand Council Advancing Officers
Donald MacCormick, Ex-Officio

Move the acceptance of this portion of the report, subject to audit.

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

Move the acceptance of the report as a whole, subject to correction and audit.

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

To the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

The Jurisprudence Committee has reviewed the Dispensations granted and By-Laws changes approved for subordinate Councils and all other relevant matters pertaining to the business of the Craft acted upon by the Grand Master. In our opinion, the Grand Master has complied with the statutory duties, responsibilities, and inherent powers of his office. Our Grand Master is to be commended for his specific interest and attention to the Craft.

During the Grand Session in 2024, timely submitted proposals for amendments to the Grand Council Constitution were proposed in writing, published in the proceedings and laid over until the 2025 Grand Session, pursuant to Art. III section 9 of the Constitution of this Grand Council. Adoption of any amendment to the Grand Council Constitution requires an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds vote of the eligible members present.

The Committee on Jurisprudence thanks the Grand Master for the honor and privilege of being selected to serve this Grand Council during the past year. His recommendations will be referred to the appropriate committees for review and we express the hope for his continued successes in the years ahead.

Our congratulations to Most Illustrious Companion Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master, for a successful year. In our estimation, you have performed your duties and responsibilities in an exemplary manner.

Fraternally submitted,

Todd Alan Schulze, Chairman
Kevin Brian Sample
William Gene Snyder

Adam Michael Iwanow
Aaron Michael Shoemaker
David Darrell Goring

Move that this section of the Report of the Jurisprudence Committee be received, approved and printed in the Proceedings.

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION AT THE 2025 GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

PROPOSAL No. 1

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~, additions appear underlined)

ARTICLE IV. Miscellaneous

~~SEC. 23. Triennial Fund. The Committee on Finance shall annually include in its budget a sum equal to \$0.06 per member as of the last statistical report, as a Triennial Fund; the fund to be used to aid in defraying the actual expenses only of the three principal officers of the Grand Council and the Grand Recorder. The Grand Recorder shall receive only half of such amount paid to the Grand Council officers and a similar amount from the Grand Chapter or their legally appointed proxies in attendance at the triennial meetings of the General Grand Council, so long as this Grand Council may remain a member thereof. (Amended 5/2/97) All unused funds shall be used to help defray the expenses of any of the Past Grand Masters who may attend the meetings of the General Grand Council; these unused funds to be divided equally between the Past Grand Masters who may attend the triennial meeting; provided, however, that no Past Grand Master shall receive more than his actual expenses so incurred and, further, that any such funds not so used shall be returned to the general fund of the Grand Council~~

Statement of purpose

The amount of funds collected each year for the Triennial has no real material affect on the costs of attending the Triennial. Currently all attendees pay their own fees and travel. The removal of Article IV, Section 23 will remove the Triennial Fund completely.

Fraternally submitted,
Donald MacCormick, PIM Kansas City Council No. 45

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

PROPOSAL No. 2

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF
CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~, additions appear underlined)

**ARTICLE IV
Miscellaneous**

SEC. 22. Revenue of the Grand Council.

~~(5) Effective July 1, 2013, each Chartered Council shall assess and pay a fee of ten cents (\$0.10) for each dues paying member name on the books on December 31st of each year to provide for a fund to assist in the development and training of future leaders within the Grand Council and constituent councils by supporting attendance at Grand Encampment and Grand Council leadership training programs as may be available within the Southwest Region or its successor area that includes Missouri. (Amended 5/16/13)~~

Statement of purpose

The amount of funds collected each year for the leadership training programs has no real material affect, and all attendees pay their own fees and travel. The removal of Article IV, Section 22 (5) will remove the assessment for the leadership training program and terminate the Leadership Training Fund.

Fraternally submitted,
Donald MacCormick, PIM Kansas City Council No. 45

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

PROPOSAL No. 3

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF
CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~, additions appear underlined)

**CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I.
Assemblies of the Grand Council**

SEC. 5. Grand Officers, Elective and Appointive. The elective officers of this Grand Council shall be a

Grand Master
Deputy Grand Master
Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Grand Treasurer
Grand Recorder ~~and~~

~~Grand Captain of the Guard.~~ A majority of the votes cast shall elect, and all such elected officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and installed. The appointive officers of this Grand Council shall be a

Grand Captain of the Guard,
Grand Conductor of the Council,
Grand Marshal,
Grand Steward,

Grand Chaplain,
Grand Sentinel,
Grand Organist and Grand Chorister. They shall serve for one year under the Grand Master making the appointment, and such appointment shall in no way be construed to be prerequisite to election to any elective office at some future time.

Statement of Purpose

To democratize the election of Grand Officers and shorten the line.

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

PROPOSAL No. 4

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF
CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

(Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~, additions appear underlined)

**BYLAWS ARTICLE I.
Grand Council**

SEC. 5. Of Whom Composed. The Grand Council shall consist of the following members:

- (1) Grand Master
- Deputy Grand Master
- Grand Principle Conductor of the Work
- Grand Treasurer and
- Grand Recorder ~~and~~
- ~~Grand Captain of the Guard~~

A majority of votes cast shall elect, and such elected officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and installed. The appointive officers of this Grand Council shall be a

- Grand Captain of the Guard
- Grand Conductor of the Council
- Grand Marshal
- Grand Steward
- Grand Sentinel
- Grand Chaplain, and
- Grand Organist

Statement of Purpose

Fraternally submitted,
Donald MacCormick, PM, Kansas City Council No. 45

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RETURNS OF COUNCILS

(See Reports of Grand Recorder)

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

To the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

The progress of the Investment committee is proceeding well. With a relatively new Grand Treasurer elected, numerous changes have been made in investigating, locating and identifying funds for which there were confusing or insufficient records available. The committee has been given access to the Dropbox account where all financial transactions of the Cryptic Council are archived and recorded.

The process developed by the previous Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer is extremely detailed and still is in use today. All warrants issued, invoices received, monies received and invoices paid are scanned and made a part of the record. The budgets and proceedings appear to have been checked by the office staff and the heads of the bodies to make sure they were properly authorized. Bank statements are regularly reconciled. Outstanding checks and monies received but not yet deposited are shown on the reconciliation of the General Ledger, Income and Expense statements and the bank statements. The committee finds that the York Rite office staff properly notated receipt of checks and properly notated on their records the sources and gave credit to the various bodies, issued warrants when payables were due to be paid and in all other respects did their job in a professional and efficient way. They are to be commended for their continued dedication and loyalty.

The Grand Council officers who compose this committee have been given unfettered access to the records and attendance at the regular Zoom financial meetings conducted by the Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer and Assistant Grand Recorder on a monthly basis. Opportunity to ask questions concerning the detailed financial transactions are given to all participants to discuss in these meetings and any concerns or questions may be expressed by anyone on this meeting. Based on this and the results of the sample transactions traced during the examination of the records in the Dropbox account where these records are archived, the committee can express confidence that the Income and Expense as well as the budget and balance sheets reflect the financial position of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons for the current year as far as known balances are revealed.

As has been mentioned in previous reports by this committee and by previous reports of other committees along with committee reports in this preliminary proceedings report, there have been recommendations made to try to strengthen the safety and security of our record keeping and ensure the proper management of the recordkeeping and accounting integrity. We believe significant progress has been made in documenting procedures to cross check entries made and communications on investment advice. Some previous recommendations are “in progress” or in other ways being addressed. We would like to continue to recommend the following:

Recommendations:

1. That a “final” Treasurer’s financial report be issued as of the close of the fiscal year and distributed to appropriate individuals and committees. Since the preliminary report published for the Grand York Rite session usually is an interim report due to the timing of statements and reconciliation, there is a gap between what was shown as ending balances in the interim report and the previous years beginning balance. It can be difficult to account for the difference in the preliminary report ending balance and the beginning balance for the next year.
2. Part of the Grand Treasurer’s responsibility should be to make regular reports concerning annual registrations and filings for State and Federal authorities to the Grand Master, the Financial Review Committee and the Grand Recorder and also be included in his annual report.
3. In light of a recent (within the last year) transfer of responsibilities, we recommend that an outside audit be performed by an auditing company. This would be for the sake of transparency, protection of the

outgoing Treasurer, protection of the Incoming Treasurer, protection of staff personnel and to review any other weaknesses in our accounting system.

In conclusion, the committee is satisfied with the progress made in developing internal controls and, when approved, an investment policy that will greatly enhance the safety and transparency of our accounting system. We are optimistic that continued improvements will be accomplished shortly.

The committee would like to thank our Most Illustrious Grand Master for the opportunity to serve in this capacity for his year.

Fraternally submitted.

Stanton T. Brown, II, Chairman
Grand Council Advancing Line

Danny Smothers

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ANNUAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING

(No Report Available at Time of Printing)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHARITY AND CHARITY ENDOWMENT FUND

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Missouri Cryptic Masons, Councils, Commanderies, and various business and non-masonic individuals contributed a record high of \$23,260.11 to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. New and creative means of fundraising are being established throughout the state. Many thanks to everyone who is participating in this effort.

A few recommendations:

1. The CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI does not provide any language directing the contributions from councils, individuals, or businesses to go through the Grand Council.
 - a. Your donations should go directly to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation to ensure proper credit.
 - b. The Grand Council bylaws do not direct the Grand Treasurer to issue a check to CMMRF quarterly.
 - i. If the Grand Council intends to receive money from individuals, councils, and businesses, those funds should be tracked at every step, from the donor to the CMMRF. Tax receipts should be generated from the Grand Council to the individual, council, or business.
 - ii. For donations forwarded through the Grand Council, the Grand Treasurer needs to issue a check from the Grand Council to CMMRF monthly. If we intend to receive outside (non-masonic) donations, we cannot be irresponsible with their money, for example, late in issuing a tax receipt for their records. We will lose donors if we do not treat them as respected benefactors.
 - iii. The Grand Council needs to establish and provide the amount of money to keep the “CMMRF Operations” account open. All other funds need to be forwarded to CMMRF monthly as stated above.
2. The Penny-A-Day should be done away with. We need to get our thinking up. \$3.65 per month would be better. Maybe give options to your members; a Dime-A-Day, a Quarter-A-Day. Commit to something larger.

3. M.:I.:C.: Brian Ragain, the Grand Master of Oklahoma, now serves as the Philanthropy Manager for CMMRF, and is working on getting the recurring payment system corrected through CMMRF. This will allow companions to “set it and forget it” with their donations.
4. If you host Table Councils, encourage the fines to be paper money instead of quarters. If everyone brought 20 one-dollar bills instead of a roll of quarters, you automatically double your donation amount.
5. When you speak to potential donors. Sell the purpose and solution of CMMRF, not the name or who we are. “Stem Cells Save Lives” is the slogan started in 2025. Work from the solution backward to CMMRF.

Companions, keep up the hard work, it is showing through the growing contributions in the state of Missouri. If you have any questions or need any assistance in promoting the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation, do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Charity Committee.

Corey B. Huntsucker, Chairman
Dennis W. Houck

Richard A. Riepe
Gregory J. Walker

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MERIT AWARDS

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

The Grand Council Merit Award Committee would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Regional Deputy Grand Masters, the Illustrious Masters, Recorders, Councils and their respective members for their outstanding work, their diligence and above all their demonstrated dedication to the craft.

This Committee met with the specific and intentional purpose of not only recommending but implementing and executing necessary, impactful and frankly long-overdue changes and revisions to the Grand Council Merit Award application and process. These changes have been sourced from recommendations from across the Grand Council membership and examples and best practices from across Freemasonry both within and beyond the Jurisdiction of Missouri. With the launching of the new Grand Council Merit Award for the 2024 – 2025 term, this Committee is truly excited concerning its content, impact and potential.

This Committee is expecting the Regional Deputy Grand Masters and Councils to see a significant difference and – more importantly – improvement in the content, assessment and opportunity to not only attain the Grand Council Merit Award but actually be recognized and appropriately evaluated for their hard work, dedication and passion for York Rite and Royal and Select Masonry. However, the Grand Council Merit Award should not be considered a static document and is – and will be – subject to change based on the needs, growth and development of the Grand Council, as well as from feedback and recommendations from the membership concerning how to improve this form and application. This award belongs to the Councils and, as such, should represent considerations from the Grand Council, its Regions and Councils.

This Committee and its members take the firm stance that the Grand Council Merit Award is an important fixture in the Grand Council infrastructure and remains an essential asset to the Councils in serving as an objective benchmark of Council performance and opportunity for improvement.

The Grand Council Merit Award Committee takes distinct pleasure in congratulating the following outstanding Councils and Illustrious Masters for achieving the requirements for the 2024-2025 Grand Council Merit Award:

Council	Illustrious Master	Region	Points	Tier
Rolla Council No. 39	Gary Ray Woodruff	4	3395	Gold
Kansas City Council No. 45	Mark Russell Franklin	3	3015	Gold
Kirkville Council No. 44	Craig Arnold Nowell	1	2690	Silver
Independence Council No. 49	Gregory Adam Walters	3	2275	Silver

Cape Council No. 20	Christopher Allen Wehrenberg	6	2130	Silver
Poplar Bluff Council No. 27	Douglas Chester. Rose, Jr.	6	1935	Bronze
Liberty Council No. 50	Larry Fred Walters	2	1825	Bronze
Hiram Council No. 1	Samuel R. Lemmons	5	1350	Bronze
Lebanon Council No. 56	Jackie Wayne Wells	7A	1325	Bronze
Trinity Council No. 47	Jeff Williams	1	1250	Bronze
Jasper Council No. 30	Derik Campbell	7B	1210	Bronze
Jeremiah Council No. 48	Rick Bauer	5	1160	Bronze
Neosho Council No. 46	Patrick Henry Wylie	7B	1135	Bronze
Shekinah Council No. 24	Mitchell Eugene Carter	3	1128	Bronze
Zabud Council No. 25	James Horace Arnold	7A	1115	Bronze

2025 Lewis and Clark Awards

The Lewis and Clark Award is awarded to usually one Companion in each Region who has been recognized by his peers in distinguishing himself in service to Cryptic Masonry.

Region 1	Craig Arnold Nowell	Kirksville Council No. 44
Region 2	Jesse Dale Morrison	Liberty Council No. 50
Region 3	Mark Russell Franklin	Kansas City Council No. 45
Region 4	Johnnie Eugene Bryant.....	Rolla Council No. 39
Region 5	John Charles Caraker.....	Jeremiah Council No. 48
Region 6	Homer I. Markhart, Jr.....	Cape Council No. 20
Region 7A	Randy Wayne Presley	Zabud Council No. 25
Region 7B	Martin Wray Eador.....	Nevada Council No. 65

2025 Membership Increase Awards

5-10% Increase.....	Ezra Council No. 32	7%
5-10% Increase.....	Nevada Council No. 65	9%
10% or higher Increase	Rolla Council No. 39	10%
10% or higher Increase	Poplar Bluff Council No. 27.....	20%
10% or higher Increase	Cape Council No. 20	70%

Fraternally submitted,
Adam M. Iwanow, Chairman
Corey B. Huntsucker
Jacob W. Thompson

Dennis W. Houck
Taz A. Meyer

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

The Committee on Education continues to make pushes for expanded programming and opportunities for Royal and Select Masters in Missouri and Cryptic Masonry in General. At the direction of Most Illustrious

Companion Matthew D. Ruth, as well as the joint decision of our committee, several efforts and new programs were launched during the A. :.Dep.: 3024-3025 term.

A summary of our various actions is below including a brief explanation of projects the Education Committee will be working on in the coming year:

Missouri York Rite Beacon Submissions

In the 2023-2024 term the Missouri York Rite Beacon debuted through the efforts of the Publications Committee. The Grand Master directed your Committee to begin work on creating content for this digital publication and providing it to the Editor on at the least a quarterly basis. The following pieces were submitted directly on behalf of the Committee:

1. The Sacred Number Nine- MIC Christopher E. Tilley (posthumously published)
2. The Royal Arch & Council- Confusion in the Work
3. Leadership and Disgrace: William H. Mayo- Missouri's first national Masonic Leader

Additionally, Committee Member, Comp. Randy Sanders was published in the Beacon at various times with: "Parroting the Ritual", "The Spiritual Aspects of Ritual" and several successive articles.

The Committee wishes to extend a sincere thank you to Illustrious Companion W. Larry Wilson, Chairman, and the Publications Committee as a whole for affording space in the publication.

Council Education Series

The committee worked to produce no less than 24 individual education pieces that Councils could access and use in the State Assemblies or other activities. These programs were meant to take various forms and be provided to Council Education Officers, Masters, Recorders, and Regional Officers.

1. Royal & Select Master Overview
 - a. Produced as a 4-part PowerPoint. Sections including:
 - i. History of the Council Degrees and Missouri Cryptic Masonry
 - ii. Royal Master Degree
 - iii. Select Master Degree
 - iv. Super Excellent Master Degree
 - b. Degree sections cover the allegory and afford time to work through symbols as well as words, signs and tokens
2. Questions from the Crypt
 - a. A discussion starter document
 - b. 9 prompts to encourage a discussion, recommend a topic for an education, or provide a focus for an education in the council in general
3. The Circle of Perfection
 - a. A brief discussion on the symbolism of the Circle of Perfection and how it relates to Cryptic Masonry
4. Anthony O'Sullivan, our First Cryptic Grand Master
5. Squaring the Super Excellent Circle
 - a. An exploration of the concept of the Square, Circle, and Triangle in the SEM Degree
6. Early Leaders of the Grand Council
7. Early Origins of Hiram Council No. 1
8. Vaults, Arches, and More
 - a. PowerPoint exploring the Vault and Arch traditions prominent in Freemasonry
9. The Stone of Foundation- A Consideration
10. General Grand Masters of the Grand Council from Missouri
11. Three by Three: a Comparison of the Cryptic and Royal Arch Degrees
12. Adoniram: Who?
13. Ahishar: Asleep on the Job

14. Zabud: Friend
15. Cherubim-What are they anyway?
16. What's in an Apron? The Traditional Aprons of the Council
17. The Cryptic Calendar
18. Zedekiah, Last King of Judah
19. The Nine Arches of and to the Vault
20. Hiram's Soliloquy
21. The Sword and Trowel: Armed and Laboring
22. Early Concerns of the Craft- Extracts from GM Addresses
23. What's in Your Ark?
24. Jeremy Ladd Cross: Father of Cryptic Masonry in the United States?

In total we have created what amounts to 24 separate potential education pieces. If we then consider those which are multi-part, we are truly creating the potential of over 35 separate programs. A sincere thanks to Committee Members: Very Illustrious Companion Wehrenberg and Illustrious Companion Foeste who both contributed to the labor. Companion Wehrenberg authored several items individually and allowed for inclusion in this series and Companion Foeste did likewise.

These programs were distributed in sets of two via email from the Grand Recorder to the entire membership and Missouri Grand York Rite distribution. Further they are now hosted on the Missouri Grand York Rite page under documents and housed there for the access of Companions. We appreciate Most Illustrious Companion Donald MacCormick laboring to help place this material in such a fashion it is widely attainable for the Craft.

Programming outside of the Norm

A brief note of thanks to Most Illustrious Companion Matthew D. Ruth and Right Illustrious Companion Taz Meyer, who oversaw the Grand Masters Cryptic Day. We applaud both for the inclusion of an educational program during the day and offer a further special thanks to Companion Randy Sanders for speaking as part of that effort. We hope such efforts continue and the Committee stands ready to see them to fruition.

Additionally, we extend a thank you to the Regional Officers of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery from the Kansas City area who afforded an invitation to Comp. Sanders to be one of the keynote speakers during their November Regional Conference.

Communication with, and reporting of, Council Education Officers

As a primary responsibility of the Education Committee, we should be working to aid constituent councils in the proliferation of material and as a support mechanism to create meaningful content for each council. This was in part addressed through the Cryptic Education Series. Yet there is another aspect to this function. Council Education Officers. Council Education Officers are required as part of the Merit Award Program and provide a direct resource to facilitate education. These officers are to be reported in MMS. While not taking the opportunity to frequently communicate directly to CEOs, the Committee did seek to verify entrance of said officers, we hope each Council will appoint and utilize a companion in that role. The Committee feels strongly that sound programming and experiences based in educational opportunities develops fellowship and improves the health of the Council and its adjoining bodies. We hope in the coming years to develop greater channels for education with CEOs and aid in programming initiatives as they may express a need for.

In Closing

The Education Committee believes that the above courses of action and programs will provide for the continuation of positive experiences and programming in councils that is meaningful and builds an exemplary experience and environment for our subordinate Councils as well as Jurisdiction as a whole to grow in and with for the next year.

We respectfully support and advocate the implementation and expansion of our Companions experience within the Fraternity through Masonic Education that is effective, engaging, broad, and working to reach each

Council, Companion and Body withing the American Rite that desires it. Masonic Education matters. In such warm feelings and efforts, we are reminded of the words of Most Illustrious Companion H.C. Christopher, in his Address of 1889, who told the companions then, and which still stands now,

The mere fact that these degrees have, in the face of many obstacles, maintained the place they have in the system is an evidence that they are entitled to a high place in the minds of all who are admitted to a knowledge of the mysteries which they unfold and explain, and it is only for us to value them as we ought and they will become aggressive in our hands, and will achieve results of which we may all be proud.

Let each then ask himself: Is there nothing that I can do that will be to the interest of Cryptic Masonry? Can I not by some personal effort do something to advance those interests? While results are only achieved by combined effort, yet this can only come from individual enthusiasm.

Let us then return to our respective stations and see if we cannot do something towards so desirable an end.

Again, please do not hesitate to reach out to the committee at any time (mocrypticedu@gmail.com) if we can be of assistance to you or your Council or if you just have thoughts or feedback to share.

We hereby submit this report in the hopes that our efforts will gain the approbation of the Grand Council as we seek to assist the Craft in their search for Greater Light through Masonic Education within the Secret Vault of the Select and Worthy.

Fraternally submitted,
Jacob W. Thompson, Chairman
Christopher M. Foeste
Randall K. Sanders

Laurent P. Emile-Ergas
Chris A. Wehrenberg
Joseph W. Stewart

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

The number of Grand Council Endowed Memberships increased by four members during the 2024-2025 Grand Council year. A total of \$3,500.00 was received from those four new Endowed members. The Grand Council Endowed Membership database contains a total of 576 members of which 246 are listed as living.

Financially, the Grand Council (GrCO) Endowed Membership Fund (EMF) has the following money.

Status of Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund Long-Term Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Capital Group 1 (CG1)

Grand Council Am Bal Contents

Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$72,870.85
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$38,096.88	
Value of GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$78,717.92
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$41,153.73	

Total of All GrCO Charity Fund Assets as of May 31, 2024	\$82,032.10
Total of All GrCO Charity Fund Assets as of March 31, 2025	\$86,148.10

Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2025

Checking Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

GrCO Endowed Membership Fund Operating Checking Account (EMF Op)		\$2,018.50
Balance May 31, 2024	\$2,018.00	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$63.00	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$62.50	
 GrCO Endowed Membership Fund Holding Checking Account (EMF) Hold		\$43,891.22
Balance May 31, 2024	\$33,255.22	
Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$10,636.00	
Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$0	

Total of GrCO EMF Liquid Assets – Checking		\$45,909.72
Total Balance May 31, 2024	\$35,273.22	
Total Receipts June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$10,699.00	
Total Expenditures June 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$62.50	

Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Long-Term Accounts

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Capital Group 1 (CG1)

Grand Council Am Inc Contents

Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2024		\$111,458.63
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$102,887.46	
Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$123,953.36
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$114,421.35	

Total of All GrCO EMF Assets as of May 31, 2024	\$138,160.68
Total of All GrCO EMF Assets as of March 31, 2025	\$160,331.07

Fraternally Submitted,

Fraternally submitted,
William G. Snyder, PGM Chairman
Donald MacCormick, PGM

Russel S. Hanson, HPGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP

(No Report Available at Time of Printing)

Fraternally submitted,
William G. Snyder, Chairman
Donald MacCormick

Russel S. Hanson

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENTS

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Companions a true financial picture of the Grand York Rite of Missouri's fiscal state is now available. In March of 2025 surplus funds were passed to the Investment Committee for action. In consultation with the Finance and Accounts committee, these funds were bundled as one (while tracking their pro rata apportionment) and placed into the Capitol Groups Investment Company of America Mutual fund. This mutual fund has existed for over 80 years and seeks to provide long-term growth of capital and income with a focus on future income over high current yield.

Looking forward, the Investment Committee will further examine opportunities for a more individualized approach for each Grand Council fund need.

Fraternally submitted,
Terry D. Coppotelli, Chairman
Matthew D. Ruth
Tax A. Meyer

Stanton T. Brown, II
Michael S. Smith

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION AND GROWTH

(No Report Available at Time of Printing)

Fraternally Submitted,
Corey B. Huntsucker, Chairman
Michael J. Estright
Regional Deputy Grand Masters

Steven F. Ebertharter
Douglas C. Rose

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL YORK RITE CONFERENCES

(No Report Available at Time of Printing)

Fraternally submitted,
Matthew D. Ruth, Chairman

Regional Deputy Grand Masters

Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE GRAND LECTURER

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

I wish to thank each of our Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer's for their willingness to put in the travel and long hours to keep our craft alive and thriving. Our ritual is vitally important to the entire Craft! Remember we are the preservers of valuable secrets. Learn the ritual and make it yours. Then from mouth to ear we each can pass Masonic knowledge to others. My travels and visitations are as follows:

- 06/05/24: Installation of Cryptic Council Officers.
- 06/06/24: A general invitation to the DDGM's as well to the School of Instruction.
- 06/09/24: Attended the Sunday morning Worship service, at the Grand Session, with both the past and current Illustrious Masters.
- 06/09/24: Attended the Grand Officers Breakfast and meeting.
- 06/19/24: Attended Orient Chapter No. 102. Most Illustrious Companion Matthew D Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri and others from Tyrian Chapter No. 52 were present.
- 06/20/24: Attended Butler Lodge No. 254 for a 60-year service pin presentation to WB Jim Bartlett
- 06/26/24: Attended - Kansas City Valley of Scottish Rite
- 06/29/24: Harry S Truman York Rite Sovereign College in Buckner
- 06/29/24: Charlemagne Council No. 79 Knight Masons
- 07/01/24: Master of the First Veil in Royal Arch degree at Wyoming Chapter #43 in Pleasant Hill
- 07/05/24: Attended Oriental Commandery No. 35, KCMO
- 07/13/24: Mary Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, Buckner
- 07/16-17: Spent with Robert Schlichter at University of Missouri Medical Center, Columbia
- 07/17/24: Orient Chapter No. 102, KCMO
- 07/20/24: School of Instruction for Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers, Jefferson City
- 07/20/24: KYCH in Jefferson City
- 07/24/24: Shekinah Council No. 24, KCMO
- 07/27/24: Bobbie E White, Grand Commander's Reception, Liberty
- 07/30/24: Santa Fe Council No. 417, AMD KCMO
- 08/02/24: Oriental Commandery No. 35, KCMO
- 08/05/24: Kansas City Royal Arch Chapter No. 28 and Kansas City Cryptic Council No. 45, KCMO
- 08/09/24: Reception for Stanton T Brown II, RCC in Springfield
- 08/10/24: Annual meeting of the RCC of Missouri in Springfield
- 08/21/24: Orient Chapter No. 102, KCMO
- 08/24/24: St. Thomas of Acon, Columbia
- 08/29/24: Yeoman of York, in Liberty
- 08/31/24: Harry S Truman York Rite Sovereign College in Buckner
- 08/31/24: Charlemagne Council No. 79 Knight Masons in Buckner
- 09/07/24: Region 7, District A York Rite Conference in Bolivar
- 09/07/24: Reception for Most Illustrious Matthew Ruth, Grand Master of the Cryptic Council of Missouri held in Neosho
- 09/15-17: Grand Lodge of Missouri

- 09/23/24: Master of the First Veil in Royal Arch degree at Wyoming Chapter #43 in Pleasant Hill
- 10/03/24: Palestine Commandery No. 17 in Independence
- 10/04-05: Region 3 York Rite Festival held in Independence
- 10/07/24: Kansas City Royal Arch Chapter No. 28 and Kansas City Cryptic Council No. 45, KCMO
- 10/12/24: The Grand Court of the Masonic Order of Athelstan, Court of Discovery No. 80 held in Fayette
- 10/15/24: York Council No. 40 in Wentzville
- 10/17/24: Carthage Council No. 41 in Carthage
- 10/21/24: Liberty Council No. 50 in Liberty
- 10/23/24: Shekinah Council No. 24 in KCMO
- 10/24/24: Independence Council No. 49 in Independence
- 10/29/24: Santa Fe Council No. 417, AMD KCMO
- 11/04/24: Ezra Council No. 32 in Jefferson City
- 11/05/24: Jasper Council No. 30 in Joplin
- 11/07/24: Palestine Commandery No. 17 in Independence
- 11/09/24: Region 3 York Rite Conference, KCMO
- 11/11/24: Nevada Council No. 65 in Nevada
- 11/20/24: Orient Chapter No. 102, KCMO
- 11/25/24: Centralia Council No. 34 in Columbia
- 12/02/24: Kansas City Royal Arch Chapter No. 28 and Kansas City Cryptic Council No. 45, KCMO
- 12/06/24: Oriental Commandery No. 35, KCMO
- 12/14/24: RCC Annual Assembly, Mary Conclave Installation, in Buckner
- 12/16/24: Kansas City York Rite Christmas dinner at Taj Mahal, KCMO
- 01/06/25: Kansas City Royal Arch Chapter No. 28 and Kansas City Cryptic Council No. 45, KCMO
- 01/09/25: Independence Royal Arch No. 12
- 01/15/25: Orient Chapter No. 102, KCMO
- 01/23/25: Independence Council No. 49 in Independence
- 01/27/25: Kansas City York Rite Audit, KCMO
- 02/03/25: Kansas City Royal Arch Chapter No. 28 and Kansas City Cryptic Council No. 45, KCMO
- 02/06/25: Palestine Commandery No. 17 in Independence
- 02/13/25: Independence Royal Arch No. 12
- 02/17/25: Kansas City Commandery No. 10, KCMO
- 02/27/25: Independence Council No. 49 in Independence
- 03/01/25: Grand Master's Royal Arch Class in Jefferson City
- 03/22/25: Grand Master's Cryptic Council Day in Columbia
- 03/27/25: Independence Council No. 49 in Independence
- 03/29/25: Purple GALA for CMMRF in KCMO
- 03/31/25: King Solomon in Most Excellent Master Segree at Wyoming Chapter No. 43 in Pleasant Hill
- 04/03/25: Palestine Commandery No. 17 in Independence

Fraternally submitted,
Richard A. Riepe, Chairman

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RITUAL

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

There were three main topics brought to the attention of the ritual committee this year.

Question 1

The question arose concerning the placement of the sword and trowel upon the altar for the opening of a cryptic council meeting. There was some question concerning when these two items were to be placed upon the altar. Just like the Bible, Square and Compass they should be placed upon the altar before a Council of Cryptic Masons meeting is opened, not during the meeting

Question 2

The question was asked at our Regional Deputy Grand Lecturers School of Instruction by Taz A. Meyer. In the Royal Master Degree after the obligation and after the sign with which you will salute the Illustrious Master on entering or retiring from the Council of Royal Masters is given (at the top of page 31 in the ritual) the following statement is made. The sign of recognition of this degree is as follows. The question asked was, "What is the sign of recognition of this degree?"

After some discussion, some thought it should be an endless Circle symbolic of a ring without a beginning or an ending to go along with Alpha and Omega. Nowhere in this degree is a circle exemplified. What is exemplified is a broken triangle in memory of the passing of Hiram Abiff. King Solomon and the conductor of the council (King of Tyre) meet in the Sanctum Sanctorum shortly after the death of Hiram Abiff and place themselves in a position to give the Master's Word, when they realize that one of their number was missing and they immediately placed their hands on each other's shoulders, and give the password of this degree.

The sign of recognition of this degree is the "broken triangle" and should be exemplified by Solomon King of Israel and Hiram King of Tyre.

Question 3

The last item is a carryover from 2021-2022 when Most Illustrious Companion Donald MacCormick was the seated Grand Master. We had discovered in Missouri Cryptic Council rituals, dated from 1900 to 1960, a beautiful closing that for no apparent reason was dropped from use. We believe that this closing should be made available, at least as an optional ending, to all of Missouri Councils. It is an excellent teaching tool. If we do not use it, it may become lost forever.

Fraternally submitted,
Richard A. Riepe, Chairman
Taz A. Meyer

Donald MacCormick

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GRAND MASTERS CRYPTIC DAY

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

March 22, 2025 was a wonderful day for Cryptic Masonry! With well over 100 in attendance and 27 candidates for the Super Excellent Master Degree, what a day. I wish to thank Taz A. Meyer, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work, for orchestrating all three degrees. It takes a lot of work and dedication to fill all of the parts for each of these degrees, especially the Super Excellent Master degree. Thank you Taz for a job well done.

My heartfelt thanks for Centralia Council No. 34 for hosting this event. The props, paraphernalia, and costuming were as always outstanding. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A special thanks to all the candidates who made a special effort to be there for that special day. What outstanding degree work they did receive.

For the rest of us our work is cut out. We need to mentor these new Cryptic Council companions. We must show them how they may apply the secrets of cryptic masonry to their personal lives, their families, and their councils that they might benefit the most. Our search for further light and Freemasonry never ends.

At a Table Council during our lunch break we raised over \$1,000 for CMMRF and coin sales over \$500 for Give Kids the World Village. Thank you to everyone who participated. We thank you for your generosity. May God bless each of you.

Fraternally submitted,

Richard A Riepe, Chairman
Grand Master's Cryptic Day

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Companions, the website as a communications tool and document sharing system continued to be stable this year. We did change hosting plans to provide for additional security and backups, and switched to a newer, more flexible and lower-cost calendaring system.

We continue to add content such as Past Grand Officers, Information on Palmyra Chapter No. 2, updated information on our supported charities, added digital versions of Past Proceedings (and many more still to be scanned), built out Chapter, Council, and Commandery Education pages with downloadable books, and educational material, and added interactive maps to find local York rite bodies.

We to encourage everyone to subscribe to the Grand York mailing lists so that timely event notices and updates can be shared with all. The subscription link can be found at: <https://moyorkrite.org/join-the-mailing-list/>

The Events Calendar is open to everyone to post their events of import, Official Visits by Grand Officers, and especially degree work, all of which will be moderated and if approved by the committee members, posted usually in less than 24 hours. We will be adding a feature this year to allow RSVP's to specific events, and the ability for members to edit and correct the events they have posted.

I would direct everyone to the very useful forms and documents located in the Document Library. If you find something missing, let us know and we will bring it up to date and post it for everyone's use.

Our social media platform continues to grow in reach and content. We continue encourage all Councils to send event information, pictures of newly Greeted Companions and Degree Teams, and events to share with everyone.

We continue to add interactive online forms to make the filing of reports, Distinguished Chapter Awards, Communications, Event requests, and Missouri Beacon submissions. We will continue to increase our ability move away from paper forms to electronic communications. We are actively looking to add to the team and are searching for a new webmaster with skills in WordPress, Design, and Communication. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to the Grand Secretary/Recorder.

Fraternally submitted,
Donald MacCormick, Chairman / Web Master

Gregory J. Walker

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Companions, the committee has determined that the 160th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons will be held at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, 10700 Pear Tree Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63134 on Saturday June 11, 2026.

Fraternally submitted,
Dennis W. Houck, Chairman
Roger D. Fleer
Kevin M. Ritter

Donald MacCormick
Russell S. Hanson
Ronald L. Skiles

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Your Publication Committee would like to thank MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri 2024-2025, for his successful year and programs. Additionally, we would like to thank the craft for the opportunity to serve you this year. As our venture into the Beacon Magazine continues for the Grand York Rite of Missouri, it has come with favorable results from the Missouri craft and Freemasons worldwide. Just as a reminder, the Beacon Magazine began its publication right after our 2023 Grand Session and has continued to improve in its appearance and functionality over the past couple of years. We now have added hyperlinks to this publication. So, when you drag your mouse or finger over certain parts of the magazine, and click on those sections, you will be directed to addition information, via the internet. As this return is made, we have other ideas that will be appearing in future issues of your magazine. So, keep your eyes open on future issues.

Your magazine continues to bring in numerous authors, present a wide variety of articles, and has attempted to promote not only our Masonic youth groups, but that of the different Masonic Bodies throughout the state of Missouri. From the support of our Grand Officers, we have been able to add to the magazine the latest news and scholarship information available about the Royal Arch, Cryptic Masons and the Knights Templar, along with the Allied Masonic Degrees and other appendant Masonic groups.

I am proud to say the original concept of a quarterly publication has been discarded for a monthly publication. This is due to your interest, support, and wonderful articles that you have been sending this office. Your enthusiasm and support have ensured that your magazine will remain a monthly publication for years to come.

Thank you my Brethren, Companions and Sir Knights for your continued support and enthusiasm into your magazine. If anyone wishes to submit any articles and/or information to future issues, that material may be uploaded at:

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

Additionally, all past issues of this publication may be found on our website at:

<https://moyorkrite.org/york-rite-beacon-publications/>

Fraternally submitted,
W. Larry Wilson, Chairman
Matthew D. Ruth
Roger D. Fleer
Adam M. Iwanow
Kevin B. Sample
Michael S. Smith

Mark A. Bean
Steven F. Eberharter
Russell S. Hanson
Donald MacCormick
Jacob W. Thompson
Ashley W. Young

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TRIENNIAL

(No report received at time of printing).

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

This is an exciting time for the Missouri Grand York Rite and our Missouri Masonic Youth. The energy and excitement surrounding the desire to bring the Missouri Masonic Youth groups and the Missouri Grand York Rite bodies closer together is unparalleled.

2024 - 2025 Masonic Youth Convention, Grand Assembly & Grand Session

- Missouri DeMolay's 2025 Annual Convention was held in Cape Girardeau on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University Friday, May 23 – Monday, May 26.
- Missouri Rainbow's 2025 Grand Assembly was held on Friday May 30 – Monday June 2 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia.
- Missouri Job's Daughters 2024 Grand Session was convened on Wednesday, June 19–Sunday, June 23 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City.

Companions and Sir Knights, during the respective Masonic Youth Annual and Grand Sessions, your leaders, MEC Michael L. Dodd – Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; MIC Matthew D. Ruth – Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri and Sir Knight Bobbie E. White – Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri represented you and the Grand York Rite in exemplary fashion.

Missouri DeMolay Partnership – Leaders Open Sponsorship & Success

In April, Missouri DeMolay held its second-annual Leaders Open in Chesterfield Missouri at the Top Golf facility and complex. Most Illustrious Companion Matthew D. Ruth, the Grand Line Officers and Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri were proud to be one of the keynote and event sponsors capturing the

Leaders Open Polo Sponsorship. The Grand Council of Missouri logo was worn and will be worn by over 100 Masonic, Masonic Youth & non-Masonic attendees and spectators. More excitingly, through our generous support, Missouri DeMolay was able to raise \$21,000 for their events, programming and the young men of Missouri DeMolay.

The Grand York Rite is paving the way for the future of our Masonic Youth One of the big questions presented to this Committee by your Grand York Rite leaders was, “how can we increase our presence and exposure within our Masonic Youth Groups?” As a result, this Committee has been coordinating actively and directly with the Masonic Youth Groups and with the Grand York Rite leaders concerning opportunities for organizational unique awards, presentations, programs, sponsorships, etc. We are excited about the future of the mutual relationship between the Grand York Rite and our Masonic Youth. As the Committee continues to meet and additional conversations are coordinated, the Committee will be presenting opportunities to the Grand York Rite and Masonic Youth leaders.

Fraternally Submitted,

Adam M. Iwanow, Chairman
Larry F. Walters

W. Larry Wilson

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REGIONAL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER REPORTS

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 1

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

It has been a pleasure to serve MIC Matthew D. Ruth Grand Master, and the companions of Region 1 of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri as Regional Deputy Grand Master during the Year of our Lord 2024/2025; Year of the Deposit 3024/3025. The following is a report on my activities thus far this year, and of those I have planned for the remainder of the year. My report excludes my activities in the other bodies of the American or York Rite of Freemasonry (i.e. the Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery) and other appendant bodies.

- June 6th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I was installed as Regional Deputy Grand Master during the One Hundred Fifty-Eighth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield.
- July 20th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council School of Instruction held in Jefferson City.
- July 21st, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- August 24, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the Kirksville York Rite Family Picnic held at 1000 Hills State Park, Kirksville.
- September 28th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the Region 2 York Rite Conference of the Grand York Rite of Missouri at the Masonic Temple in Lathrop.
- October 20th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- October 22nd, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I made my official visit to Shelby Council No. 59 R. & S.M. at the Masonic Temple in Shelbina.
- November 7th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the stated assembly of Trinity Council No. 47 R. & S.M. wherein MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri was received by the companions of Trinity Council and Shelby Council for the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Official Visit.
- November 16th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the Region 4 York Rite Conference of the Grand York Rite of Missouri at the Masonic Temple in Jefferson City.
- November 23rd, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended and presented at the Region 1 York Rite Conference of the Grand York Rite of Missouri in my capacity as Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 1 of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri at the Masonic Temple in Shelbina.
- November 26th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the stated assembly of Shelby Council No. 59 R. & S.M. wherein MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri was received by the companions of Shelby Council for the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Official Visit.
- December 5th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I made my official visit to Trinity Council No. 47 R. & S.M. at the Masonic Temple in Hannibal.
- December 15th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- January 12th, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended, and assisted with, the Joint Installation of Officers for Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M.; Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M.; and Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T. (the York Rite bodies of Kirksville) at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville. The officers were honored to be installed by MEC Michael L. Dodd, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri; and Sir Knight Bobbie E. White, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.
- February 13th, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I made my official visit to Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M. at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville.

- March 8th, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I assisted with the organization and preparation of, as well as attended, a Table Council fundraiser for the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation (CMMRF) hosted by Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M. at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville. MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri was in attendance.
- March 22nd, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Master's Cryptic Day at the Masonic Temple in Columbia. I was honored to be able to participate as a cast member to assist with the conferral of the Cryptic Degrees. Two companions from Region 1 were greeted as a Select Master during the event.

Planned activities for the remainder of the year:

- May 18th, 2024 A.D. | 3024 A.Dep.: I plan to attend the Grand Council Officers Meeting online, if invited.
- May 24th, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I plan to attend the Grand York Rite of Missouri Regional Officer Training at the Masonic Temple in Columbia.
- June 13th, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I plan to attend the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. I plan to attend the entire Annual Sessions of the Grand York Rite of Missouri.
- Based upon the efforts of the companions of Region 1, we have a large number of newly exalted Royal Arch Masons, in waiting, to be greeted as Select Masters later this year in their respective Councils. This increase in membership gives me hope that Region 1 will continue to grow and evolve. I am additionally proud of the companions of Region 1 with their very successful fundraising efforts for CMMRF.

Again, it has been an honor to serve the companions of Region 1.

Fraternally Submitted,
David D. Goring, RDGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 2

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

I am happy to report that region 2 is thriving and growing. This year I made my official visit to Liberty Council No. 50 on 10/21/2024, to John F Houston Council No. 42 on 08/26/2024 and St Joseph No. 9 on 10/02/2024. I was able to make several visits to all of them at different times and enjoyed my time with each Council. I am very proud of the Companions in this region. Everyone showed improvements in both growth and spirit. All the Councils took in new members, conducted good meetings, and had great fellowship.

Region 2 pulled together this year and held a Regional Table Chapter, Table Council and Table Commandery. Trying something new this year brought all three bodies together as a Region.

Region 2 for the first time hosted a Regional Table Council. This event was held at Lexington on Monday April 28th. This event was well attended from a larger number of the region. This event allowed us to collect more for charity.

Fraternally Submitted,
Derek W. Pope, RDGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 3

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

It is with sincere pride and enthusiasm that I submit this year's annual report on behalf of the three Cryptic Councils of Region 3: Kansas City Council No. 45, Independence Council No. 49, and Shekinah Council No. 28.

Across the region, our Companions have demonstrated remarkable dedication, unity, and commitment to the Craft. Whether through degree work, education, charitable efforts, or fraternal gatherings, each Council has shown up and contributed in meaningful ways to the success of Cryptic Masonry in Missouri.

Kansas City Council No. 45

This has been a vibrant and productive year for Kansas City Council No. 45. The Council remained deeply engaged in its mission to provide light and preserve the legacy of Cryptic Masonry through the following:

- **Educational Enrichment:** Every meeting featured excellent educational presentations focused on the symbolism and deeper meanings of the Cryptic degrees, enhancing the spiritual and intellectual value of our gatherings.
- **Regional Conference & Grand Council Participation:** Our Companions showed up in force at both the Region 3 Conference and the Annual Grand Council Assembly, ensuring our presence and voice were well-represented.
- **CMMRF Table Council:** Hosted a successful Table Council in support of CMMRF, featuring a powerful presentation by Companion Bill Snyder. This well-attended event raised \$750 for medical research.
- **Communication & Engagement:** Regular trestle boards were sent out via email, significantly contributing to member engagement, retention, and a sense of unity among the Companions.
- **Degree Work:** Members were consistent participants and supporters of degree conferrals throughout the region.

Independence Council No. 49

Independence Council No. 49 had a truly impactful year marked by growth, service, and tradition:

- **York Rite Festival Participation:** The Council conferred the degrees during the York Rite Festival, helping to raise 13 new members into our beloved Rite—an outstanding contribution to the growth of the Craft.
- **Honoring Legacy:** Presented Companion Ralph Cantrell with his 50-Year York Rite Service Pin, a milestone recognizing half a century of faithful service.
- **Strong Meetings:** Attendance remained consistently strong, allowing the Council to perform full-form openings at each of their meetings, upholding the solemnity and dignity of our ritual.

Shekinah Council No. 28

Shekinah Council No. 28 made their mark with quality contributions and significant recognition:

- **CMMRF Purple Gala:** Hosted the region's primary CMMRF fundraiser, the Purple Gala, a well-received event that brought the community together in support of medical research.
- **Charitable Involvement:** The Illustrious Master participated in a charity steak cook-off, and the Council carried out their annual Thanksgiving basket drive, providing food and care to those in need during the holidays.
- **Distinguished Guests:** This year, Shekinah Council was honored to receive both the General Grand Master of Cryptic Masons International and the Grand Master of the State of Missouri—a rare and meaningful recognition of the Council's enduring efforts and fraternal spirit.

Conclusion

Region 3 continues to be a thriving hub of Cryptic Masonry, thanks to the tireless efforts and good spirits of our Companions. Each Council brings its unique strengths and energy to the region, and together, they embody the

highest ideals of our tradition. We look forward to building upon this momentum in the coming year with continued fellowship, service, and Light.

Fraternally Submitted,
Laurent Paul Emile Ergas, RDGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 4

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

Greetings Companions. I am pleased to present this report for Region 4 of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri.

Region Four has seen some growth in Companions this year. The Region had the opportunity to participate in degree conferrals in Poplar Bluff and in the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Missouri's 10th Annual Grand Master's Cryptic Day on 22 March 2025 at Columbia. During this event the Companions from Region Four assisted in Greeting seven new Cryptic Masons into Region Four Councils. Centralia Council No. 34 greeted two new Cryptic Masons this year and Rolla Council No 39 greeted five new Cryptic Masons this year. I hope we continue to grow as we educate our craft masonry lodges on York Rite Freemasonry.

The region conducted its Regional Conference on 16 November 2024 at the Jefferson City Masonic Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. It was a great success with over 40 Companions, Masons and family members in attendance. During the conference they had presentations from representatives of each Masonic body providing information and masonic education on the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Shrine. VEC Michael Estright presented the Blue Lodge presentation given by York Rite members to Blue Lodges within our region, which has shown success in recruiting new members. There was a presentation on the Coyote Hill Foster Care Ministries by Mr. Joe Knight which was very well presented. Companion Johnnie Bryant, Deputy Master of Rolla Council No 39, and Excellent Companion Allen Ward, High Priest of Rolla Chapter #32 gave an excellent presentation on Membership Recruitment. They provided several best practices on recruiting membership and improving membership involvement in their Chapters and Councils. Illustrious Companion Gary Woodruff, Illustrious Master of Rolla Council No. 39, gave an excellent presentation on Membership Restoration, followed by remarks from our Most Illustrious Grand Master Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri.

During the year there were several fundraisers for CMMRF within the region. Most were conducted during the Council's Assembly. Also, the councils within the region participated in the Penny Wars. As I traveled, I enjoyed watching visiting members of other Councils "stuff" penny war boxes with dollars, quarters, and dimes to handicap that council.

During this year we had several Companions within the region travel on a regular basis around the region and to other regions to visit and participate in council activities. I had the opportunity to travel with these companions and found the fellowship of their company and the company of the Companions within councils we visited to be exceptional. It was a pleasure to participate in each Councils ritual and attend their business Assemblies. These visits gave me a better appreciation for the various Councils and Regions that I had the privilege of visiting. I would like to thank my traveling Companions for allowing me to travel with them on their journeys.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Regional Deputy Grand Master of Region Four. Our region has had an increase in its members and the Companions have demonstrated a true desire to be a Cryptic Mason. As I traveled throughout the region, I was impressed to see how dedicated the Companions were within the region and how eager they were to perform their duties as Cryptic Masons. They demonstrated a strong drive and determination to make their Councils the best that they can be. It was a pleasure sitting in each Council as they opened, conducted regular business, or conferred degrees. I would like to personally thank each Companion for their service to Cryptic Masonry and may the Great Architect bless each of you and your families.

Fraternally Submitted,
Steve F. Eberharter, RDGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 5

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

York Rite Masonry in Region 5 overall is doing well. Jeremiah Council No. 48 and Hiram Council No. 1 have seen growth and increasing membership. York Council No. 40 continues to struggle getting enough people to open. They are looking to draw Freemasons from Warren and Lincoln counties and are actively looking at solutions. Congratulations to Hiram Council No. 1 and Jeremiah Council No. 48 on their efforts.

Fraternally Submitted,
Glenn B. Parker, RDGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 6

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

On 05 November 2024, I conducted my official visit to Cape Council No. 20. They opened in the long form with 9 Cryptic Masons Members, 1 Visitor from Poplar Bluff Council No. 27 and 1 Grand Officer in attendance. Chris Wehrenberg and Chris Foeste continue to build an excellent Education program. Cape will continue to have great leadership within the Council that could advance to the Regional and Grand line with Homer Market, Dr., John Cross, Chris Wehrenberg and Chris Foeste. I have seen a drastic improvement in ritual from the 2023-2024 year to 2024-2025.

On 14 November 2024, I conducted my official visit to Poplar Bluff Council No. 27. They opened in the short form with 6 Cryptic Masons Members, 2 Visitors from Cape Council No. 20 and 1 Grand Officer in attendance. Poplar Bluff continues to grow with the great support from Bill Humble, Dennis Houck and Chris Wehrenberg. Poplar Bluff Council No. 27 received the 2023-2024 Grand Council Growth award by increasing its membership by 10%. They continue to work on ritual, mostly short from opening. However, they share a tremendous relationship with Cape Council No. 20 for shared resources and education material. Chris Wehrenberg has been an amazing asset to Missouri Grand Council, Region 6 and Cape Council No. 20.

In the past 24 months, Region 6 has hosted two York Rite festivals and has plans for October 2025.

In addition, Cape and Poplar Bluff York Rite bodies continue to present our mission to other Masonic Bodies in Southeast Missouri.

Fraternally Submitted,
Douglas Chester Rose, Jr., RDGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 7A

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

It has been a great honor to serve MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master, as the Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 7A and also the Companions of this region this past year.

The Region has brought in new members in Zabud No. 25 and Lebanon No. 56 and hopefully some interest was sparked toward the same in Bert S. Lee #58. The Penny Wars seemed to be a great success and the final tally should be in these proceedings.

- June 6, 2024: Installed as Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 7A of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons at Grand Session.
- July 1, 2024: Visited Rolla Council No. 39 in Region 4.
- July, 18 2024: Visited Stockton Lodge No. 283 near Greenfield York Rite Bodies and spoke about York Rite talked to one brother who had received the first two Chapter degrees who seemed interested once he completed Master of the lodge.
- July 20, 2024: Attended a Ritual School of Instruction in Jefferson City held by the Grand Lecturer of Cryptic Masons.
- August 5, 2024: Attended Zabud Council No. 25 practice for the official visit of MIC Matthew D. Ruth.
- August 26, 2024: Conducted my Official Visit of Zabud Council No. 25 followed by MIC Matt. D. Ruth's Official visit. Zabud Council shows great zeal and are an active Council with younger members.
- September 2, 2024: Visited Rolla Council No. 39 for official visit of the Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, Matthew D. Ruth.
- September 7, 2024: Facilitated a Leadership training on Cognitive Biases at Region 7A Conference in Bolivar followed by a presentation on Cryptic masonry by VIC Kip Davis, RDGM 7B.
- September 17, 2024: Conducted my Official Visit of Lebanon Council No. 56, strong Council with many Past Illustrious Masters filling stations.
- September 24, 2024: Visited Lamar Lodge No. 292 near Greenfield York Rite Bodies and spoke about York Rite. Gave contact information to a man soon due a 50 Year pin from his home state who was Jr. Past Master of the Lodge.
- October 5, 2024: Managed Candidates for the Council degrees held at Region 6 conference and festival in Popular Bluff, Missouri.
- October 22, 2024: Visited Washington Lodge No. 87 near Greenfield York Rite Bodies and spoke about York Rite. The Worshipful Master and others seemed to show some interest in York Rite.
- November 19, 2024: Attended official visit of the Grand Master, MIC Matthew D. Ruth at Lebanon Chapter No. 56.
- March 22, 2024: Attended Grand Master's Cryptic Day in Columbia, Missouri.
- April 10, 2024: Represented the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons on behalf of Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master, for the Informal Opening of the Grand Court of Missouri Order of the Amaranth in Springfield. I brought greetings and Spoke on CMMRF, specifically the creating of new blood vessels and its direct links to Diabetes treatment. The Amaranth Diabetes Foundation sponsors research grants through ADA to find a cure for the disease.

Fraternally Submitted,
Gerald R. Hill, RDGM

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGL FOR REGION 7A

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

I wish to thank the last 7 Past Grand Masters for allowing me to serve the Missouri Grand York Rite Cryptic Council as the RDGL for 7A. MIC Edward Choate, Past Grand Master of Illinois and Past Grand Lecturer for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons has agreed to serve as RDGL for 7A for the 2025-2026 year and he is well qualified to serve in this capacity.

It has certainly been an honor and a privilege for me to work with many fine Companions in Region 7A and the Grand Council. May the new incoming officers have a great year and I know that the Grand Council is in good hands!

Fraternally Submitted,
Gerald R. McCoy, RDGL

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other

REPORT OF THE RDGM FOR REGION 7B

To the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri,

It has been a great honor to serve MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master, as the Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 7A, and also the Companions of this region this past year.

The Region brought in new members in Zabud Council No. 25 and Lebanon Council No. 56 and hopefully some interest was sparked toward the same in Bert S. Lee Council No. 58. The Penny Wars seemed to be a great success and the final tally should be in these proceedings.

- June 6, 2024: Installed as Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 7A of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons at the Grand Assembly.
- July 1, 2024: Visited Rolla Council No. 39 in Region 4.
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- August 26, 2024: Conducted my Official Visit of Zabud Council No. 25 followed by MIC Matt. D. Ruth's Official visit. Zabud Council No. 25 shows great zeal and are a very active Council with younger members.
- September 2, 2024: Visited Rolla Council No. 39 for an Official Visit of the MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master of the Grand Council.
- September 7, 2024: Facilitated a Leadership training on Cognitive Biases at the Region 7A Conference in Bolivar followed by a presentation on Cryptic Masonry by VIC Kip Davis, RDGM 7B.
- September 17, 2024: Conducted my Official Visit of Lebanon Council No. 56, strong Council with many Past Illustrious Masters filling stations.
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- November 19, 2024: Attended official visit of the MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master at Lebanon Chapter No. 56.
- March 22, 2024: Attended Grand Master's Cryptic Day in Columbia, Missouri.
- April 10, 2024: Represented the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons on behalf of MIC Matthew D. Ruth, Grand Master, for the Informal Opening of the Grand Court of Missouri Order of the Amaranth in Springfield. I brought greetings and Spoke on CMMRF, specifically the creating of new blood vessels and its direct links to Diabetes treatment. The Amaranth Diabetes Foundation sponsors research grants through ADA to find a cure for the disease.

Fraternally Submitted,
Gerald R. Hill, RDGM

*Action Taken: **Passed** / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other*

REPORT OF THE ORDER OF SILVER TROWEL

(No report received at time of printing).

Action Taken: Passed / Failed / Withdrawn / Amended / Tabled / Other