

# PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS

*One Hundred Sixtieth  
Annual Assembly*  
of the  
*Grand Council of Cryptic Masons*  
of the  
*State of Missouri*

HELD  
JUNE 13, 2026  
Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel  
St. Louis, Missouri





# GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

## 160<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

(subject to modification as necessary)

<i>Salon I</i>	<i>Grand York Rite Office</i>
<i>Salon II</i>	<i>Vendor, Illinois Masonic Regalia</i>
<i>Salon III</i>	<i>Photographers Room</i>
<i>Salon III</i>	<i>Special Meeting Room</i>
<i>Salon IV</i>	<i>Hospitality Room</i>
<i>Salon V</i>	<i>Small Dining Room</i>

### Saturday, June 13, 2026

- 7:00 a.m.     **Registration** – *Council only until 10:30 am (Lobby)*
- 7:30 a.m.     **KYCH Breakfast Meeting**– *(Ballroom B)*  
                  Others, Breakfast – On Your Own
- 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 2025-2026 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  
Summary Address of the Grand Master  
Necrology: Part of the Grand Masters Address  
Grand Chorister Presentation  
Dismissal of the Ladies and Non-Member Guests
- 10:30 a.m.    **Formal Opening of the 160<sup>th</sup> 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 2026-2027 Grand Council Officers**  
Report of the Election Committee  
Acceptance of the Grand Council Officers Elect  
Report of the Grand Master Elect – with Appointments  
Report of the Committee on Time and Place

- Oration of Grand Historian  
Address of the General Grand Master or Representative  
Address of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri  
12:00 p.m. **Grand Council Closed or Called from Labor until 3:00 pm**  
12:00 p.m. **Missouri Lodge of Research with Robert Johnson – Making the Right Choices in Leadership** – Open to All (*Ballroom B*)  
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 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri**  
3:45 p.m. **Installation of the 2026-2027 Grand Council Officers** - Open to All  
Pictures immediately following installation  
6:00 p.m. **Open Seating for Banquet** – Cash Bar (*Ballroom B*)  
6:30 p.m. **Grand York Rite Banquet** – Open to All (*Ballroom B*)  
*Musical Accompaniment by Enchanted Occasions*

**Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri  
2025-2026 Elected and Appointed Officers**

Dennis W. Houck.....	Grand Master
Taz A. Meyer .....	Deputy Grand Master
Corey B. Huntsucker.....	Grand Principal Conductor of the Work
Russell S. Hanson .....	Grand Treasurer
Christopher L. Story.....	Assistant Grand Treasurer
Donald MacCormick.....	Grand Recorder
Adam M. Iwanow .....	Grand Captain of the Guard
Kevin B. Sample .....	Grand Conductor of the Council
Jacob W. Thompson.....	Grand Marshal
Christopher A. Wehrenberg.....	Grand Steward
Rusty L. Morgan .....	Grand Sentinel
Homer I. Markhart, Jr. ....	Grand Chaplain
Christian M. Jessen .....	Grand Organist
Daniel R. Quesenberry.....	Grand Chorister
Matthew D. Ruth.....	Grand Historian
W. Stuart English.....	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
Gary R. Woodruff.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 4
Glenn B. Parker.....	Regional Deputy Grand Master, Region 5
Christopher M. Foeste.....	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
Lloyd G. Lyon.....	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
Homer I. Markhart, Jr. ....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 6
Edward Lee Choate, PGM .....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 7A
Matthew D. Ruth, PGM.....	Regional Deputy Grand Lecturer, Region 7B

**Standing Committees****Address of the Grand Master**

Matthew D. Ruth, Chairman  
Donald MacCormick  
David C. Witte

**Credentials**

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman  
Michael J. Estright  
Randy L. Presley  
Steven F. Eberharter  
Kevin L. Swain

**Finance & Accounts**

Kevin B. Sample, Chairman  
Christopher L. Story  
Grand Council Advancing Line Officers  
Russell S. Hanson, Ex-Officio  
Donald MacCormick, Ex-Officio

**Jurisprudence**

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

**Returns of Councils**

Aaron M. Shoemaker, Chairman  
Wayne B. Fryer  
Christopher A. Wehrenberg  
Donald MacCormick

**Special Committees****Annual Assembly Planning**

Dennis W. Houck, Chairman  
Russell S. Hanson  
Donald MacCormick  
Taz A. Meyer  
Tina L. Woolsey  
Tara Ornsbey

**Charity & Charity Endowment Fund**

Adam M. Iwanow, Chairman  
Christopher A. Wehrenberg  
Corey B. Huntsucker  
Richard A. Riepe  
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  
Douglas C. Rose, Jr.

**Merit Award**

Christopher A. Wehrenberg, Chairman

**Endowed Membership**

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

**Examiner**

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

**Grand Council Endowed Membership**

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

**Grand Master's Cryptic Day**

Corey B. Huntsucker, Chairman  
Kevin B. Sample  
W. Stuart English

**Investments**

Terry D. Coppotelli, Chairman  
Stanton T. Brown, II  
Jacob W. Thompson  
Matthew D. Ruth  
Michael S. Smith

**Membership and Growth**

Gerald R. Hill, Chairman  
Christopher M. Foeste  
Steven F. Eberharter  
Michael J. Estright  
Douglas C. Rose, Jr.  
Regional Deputy Grand Masters

**Publications Committee**

W. Larry Wilson, Chairman

Kevin M. Ritter  
Steven F. Eberharter  
Roger D. Fleer  
Christopher A. Wehrenberg  
Adam M. Iwanow  
Donald MacCormick  
Matthew D. Ruth  
Kevin B. Sample  
Christopher M. Foeste  
Jacob W. Thompson  
Ashley W. Young

**York Rite Conference**

Matthew D. Ruth, Chairman  
Adam M. Iwanow  
Jacob W. Thompson  
Terry D. Coppotelli  
James E. McManigle

**Ritual**

W. Stuart English, Chairman  
Donald MacCormick  
Kevin B. Sample

**Social Media/Communications/Internet**

Donald MacCormick, Chairman  
Gregory J. Walker

**Time and Place**

Taz A. Meyer, Chairman  
Roger D. Fleer  
Russell S. Hanson  
Donald MacCormick  
James E. McManigle  
Terry D. Coppotelli

**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**

Bob L. Detherow..... 1998-1999  
Gary A. Phillips ..... 2003-2004  
Kevin B. Sample, Honorary.....2005  
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, Honorary .....2024  
Matthew D. Ruth..... 2024-2025  
Dennis W. Houck..... 2025-2026



**Dennis W. Houck**  
**Grand Master, 2025-2026**

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE GRAND MASTER**

Dennis Wayne Houck was born on April 10, 1965, to William and Glennetta Houck in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He has two siblings, Sally (Greg) Bronenkant and Tammy (Jeff) Messmer. On July 10, 1993, Dennis married Debra Sue McCarthy in Georgetown, Texas.

Dennis attended Franklin Elementary, Louis J Schultz Middle School, Cape Central Junior High School, and Cape Girardeau Central High School, graduating in June 1983. He also attended Park University in Kansas City, Missouri.

In June 1983, Dennis enlisted in the United States Army as an Infantryman. His duty stations included Fort Benning, Georgia; Wiesbaden, Germany; Mannheim, Germany; Fort Carson, Colorado; and Fort Hood, Texas. In June 2003, Dennis retired from the Army as a Sergeant First Class. His awards include several Army Achievement Medals, Army Accommodation Medals, and a Meritorious Service Medal. He was also awarded the Expert Infantryman Badge and admitted to the Sergeant Morales Club.

After retiring from the Army, Dennis taught in an Army JROTC program in Charleston, Missouri. In 2006, Dennis was employed by the United States Postal Service, where he retired in March 2026

Dennis was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1996. He passed the degree of Fellowcraft on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1997. He was raised to the Sublime degree of Master Mason on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1997, at Neosho Lodge #247. He was affiliated with Harold O Grauel No. 672 on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. Dennis is a Past High Priest of Wilson Chapter No. 75. Past Illustrious Master Cape Council No. 20, and Past Commander of Cape Commandery No. 55. Dennis is also a 32° KCCH in the valley of St. Louis Scottish Rite and a Shriner.

**ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER**

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

Welcome to the One Hundred and Sixtieth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. I would like to welcome all of our out of State Visitors and Distinguished Guests. We thank you for your presence at this year's Grand Assembly. I would also like to welcome the Grand Lodge of Missouri. I hope everyone enjoys the hospitality and friendship that the Grand York Rite of Missouri will provide you with this weekend.

I am very proud and humbled to serve as Grand Master this past year. Thank you for trusting in me to lead the Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. It was an honor to serve. I am not going to list my accomplishments for what went on this year. These were OUR accomplishments. We did it as a team. Our biggest accomplishment was to change from Regional Conferences to a State Conference. I believe in working smarter and not harder. I would like to thank Matt Ruth and Adam Iwanow on their hard work and the success it brought to the York Rite. I enjoyed all the traveling and meeting everyone at their different Councils. I enjoyed going to the different festivals and observing our Ritual being performed. Companions, thank you for letting me serve as your Grand Master. This was an honor I will never forget.

To Most Excellent Companion Kevin Ritter and Right Eminent Commander Ron Skiles, I hope your year was as fulfilling as mine. Kevin, I cherished the time we spent together and grew closer as friends. Ron, you and your family will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

I would also like to thank the regional officers for your steadfast loyalty and dedication to the craft is beyond reproach. Your presence in your different Councils is needed to provide leadership and to keep me informed. Thank you for your ability to communicate effectively.

As my year comes to an end, I must say goodbye to my second family. I will miss the Grand Line Officers, but I assure everybody in this room that you are in great hands. These companions are dedicated to the Cryptic Rite. They will have their own ideas and plans to make our craft better. The upcoming years will be exciting and fulfilling. I am looking forward to seeing what the future holds.

In closing I wish the best for the York Rite in Missouri. I want to see success and growth of our fraternity. I am proud to be associated with such a great organization. As Debbie and I start a new chapter in our life. I want to assure you I will never forget my time as your Grand Master.

### 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 Homer I. Markhart Jr, Grand Chaplain, to share some encouraging words as a memory to our departed Companions.

### Memorial Service

We lost 62 Companions, friends, and Brothers from 01/01/2025 to 05/01/2026 including MIC E. Allen Kohler Honorary Past Grand Master 1998.

We all have an "appointment" with death. As Hebrews 9:27 states, "It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment". While we often try to ignore it, the Bible encourages us to be conscious of life's frailty, not to live in fear, but to live with purpose.

For the Christian, death is described as a departure, like a ship hoisting its anchor and sailing toward a new destination. In 2 Corinthians 5, the Apostle Paul tells us that to be "absent from the body" is to be "at home with the Lord". It is a transition from the land of the dying to the land of the living.

Our current bodies are temporary. They groan, they break down, and they eventually fail. But God has promised an eternal, heavenly body that is indestructible and free from pain. In Christ, we trade the perishable for the imperishable.

Death is a "defeated enemy". Jesus Christ entered the grave and came out the other side, proving that death could not hold Him. Because He lives, we also have the assurance of life. As the Apostle Paul famously said in 1 Corinthians 15, "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? "

We are not free from the pain of death, but we are free from its power. We still weep, as Jesus did at the tomb of Lazarus, because death is unnatural and separation is hard. However, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Our story does not end at the grave; it only begins when we see the Lord our creator face to face.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for the hope that death is not a final wall, but a doorway. Help us to live each day in light of eternity, resting in the victory You won for us on the cross. Strengthen our Spirits, help us trust your plan, and remind us that you are always near.

Amen

*(Reporting period 01/01/2025-05/01/2026)*

Full Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Council
Bayliff, Larry W.	10/29/36	2/27/25	25 - Zabud
Beck, Edward L.	12/7/45	10/29/25	58 - Bert S. Lee
Bottermuller, Charles A.	5/29/27	6/7/25	32 - Ezra
Bray, Glenn Longest	1/9/48	3/3/25	24 - Shekinah
Briscoe, Robert Lloyd	1/3/31	1/23/25	34 - Centralia
Burkhart, Jerald W.	10/7/40	4/29/25	25 - Zabud
Busey, David L.	4/25/61	7/11/25	9 - St. Joseph
Cooper, Charles Edward	3/2/56	3/8/25	44 - Kirksville
Craft, Columbus	5/11/29	11/19/25	39 - Rolla
Crites, John Enos	12/27/26	1/2/26	20 - Cape
Dever, Casey Roy	6/15/53	9/27/25	50 - Liberty
Eaton, Zelwin B.	6/23/43	7/7/25	44 - Kirksville
Edel, Charles B.	6/17/34	3/9/26	25 - Zabud

Erfurdt Jr., John L.	6/19/42	4/9/26	48 - Jeremiah
Ferrier, Craig Eugene	9/25/53	10/6/25	30 - Jasper
Foreman, Charles Lee	1/1/38	5/8/25	59 - Shelby
Gilstrap, William Everett	10/20/44	10/18/25	46 - Neosho
Gleason, Cole Douglas	12/1/54	1/2/25	44 - Kirksville
Green, Ronnie Edward	11/7/45	8/9/25	48 - Jeremiah
Hardy, James D.	11/2/49	12/3/25	30 - Jasper
Hattaway, James T.	9/12/46	1/8/26	24 - Shekinah
Helton, Russell Burnell	11/13/34	7/19/25	44 - Kirksville
Holmes, Thomas Everett	8/4/49	11/1/25	49 - Independence
Huggins, Donald Lynn	1/6/48	1/13/25	24 - Shekinah
Jackson, William Everett	8/10/39	12/5/25	25 - Zabud
Jeffers, Michael William	6/13/55	3/3/25	24 - Shekinah
Jones, Carl Donald	10/8/40	3/21/25	44 - Kirksville
Jones, David Wayne	12/15/57	8/28/25	41 - Carthage
Kachulis, Paul William	2/12/54	3/22/25	44 - Kirksville
Kolar, Marion	9/29/26	1/5/25	25 - Zabud
Koontz, George William	12/4/28	8/12/25	44 - Kirksville
Kuntz, Richard K.	2/9/36	3/28/25	9 - St. Joseph
Leggans, James Ray	11/24/64	6/6/25	9 - St. Joseph
Leslie, James Nelson	12/9/39	10/13/25	27 - Poplar Bluff
Long, Robert William	1/26/35	4/25/25	34 - Centralia
Lynch, Robert E.	9/14/31	10/5/25	9 - St. Joseph
Malotte, Curtis E	10/18/43	11/20/25	9 - St. Joseph
Mason, Alfred Lavern	5/6/27	4/26/25	20 - Cape
Mathis, Eddie H.	10/4/39	8/6/25	1 - Hiram
McMillian, Dale E.	8/17/26	8/24/25	50 - Liberty
Morgan, Harold E.	11/11/34	11/28/25	25 - Zabud
Morgan, James Clifton	11/4/45	12/25/25	56 - Lebanon
Newman Jr., Lawrence Areon	12/19/41	3/19/25	44 - Kirksville
Nutter, Allen W.	12/25/47	3/12/25	56 - Lebanon
Painter, David Harlen	7/18/47	5/18/25	39 - Rolla
Pierce, Norman Eddy	3/18/29	2/16/25	34 - Centralia
Pierce, Ted Edward	11/23/40	4/19/25	9 - St. Joseph
Quigley, Rodney D.	8/22/45	5/15/25	9 - St. Joseph
Ragan, William David	1/1/31	1/30/25	44 - Kirksville
Ross, Robert W.	12/11/56	6/6/25	20 - Cape
Schlichter, Robert William	8/1/44	4/12/25	50 - Liberty
Sellers, Stephen Wentworth	1/1/26	9/30/25	42 - John F. Houston
Squires, John Patrick	11/24/35	12/13/25	25 - Zabud
Stankey, Robert T.	7/30/46	7/27/25	1 - Hiram
Thompson, Michael Skelton	10/23/49	10/9/25	9 - St. Joseph
Vernon, Jackie Allen	11/4/46	4/30/25	9 - St. Joseph

Vogel, Harry Wayne	7/11/36	12/27/25	9 - St. Joseph
Wade, Victor Hayden	7/9/44	2/10/25	32 - Ezra
Waggoner Sr., James Gilbert	5/16/40	9/6/25	24 - Shekinah
Waite, Steve C.	1/11/42	10/12/25	47 - Trinity
White, Juan A.	9/23/62	1/30/26	1 - Hiram
Wisely, Richard Leroy	12/24/47	2/13/26	49 - Independence

Fraternally submitted,  
Homer I. Markhart Jr., Grand Chaplain

### Edicts Issued

-none-

### Charters Arrested

-none-

### Dispensations Granted

July 3, 2025 Approved the dispensation request of Zabud Council No. 25 to change the date of their September Assembly to September 29.

### Dispensations Denied

-none-

### By Law Changes, Subordinate Councils

February 3, 2026 Approved the By-Laws change for Ezra Council No. 32 changing their meeting time and date to 7:00pm on the first Mondays of February, April, June, August, October, and December, changing election of Officers to April, and increasing dues and fees.

### Certificate of Good Standing

-none-

### Consolidations

December 12, 2025 Approved the consolidation of Bert S. Lee Council No. 58 with Springfield Council No. 25.

### Letters of Introduction

-none-

### Visitations

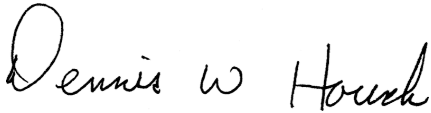
5/24/25 Grand Council Training, Columbia  
5/31/25-6/1/25 Rainbow Girls Grand session, Columbia  
6/3/25 Cape Commandery No. 55  
6/4/25 Cape Council No. 20

6/11/25-6/15/25 Missouri Grand York Rite Session, Kansas City  
 6/17/25 Wilson Chapter No. 75  
 6/25/25 Temple Board Meeting  
 6/26/25-6/27/25 Jobs Daughter Grand Session Jefferson City  
 7/7/25 Missouri Grand York Rite Session PHA, St. Louis  
 7/11/25 Region 6 Zoom Meeting  
 7/16/25 Temple Board Meeting  
 7/18/25 Region 6 Fall Festival Meeting  
 7/17/25 Grand York Rite Planning Session  
 7/19/25 KYCH Conferral  
 7/20/25 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 7/21/25 Excelsior Lodge Meeting at the Veterans Home, Cape Girardeau  
 7/24/25 Region 6 Zoom Meeting  
 7/25/25 Excelsior Chapter DeMolay Ice Cream Stand, Jackson  
 7/31/25 Olin S. McDaniel Allied Masonic Degrees, Cape Girardeau  
 7/31/25 Excelsior Chapter DeMolay Meeting, Jackson  
 8/7/25 Masonic Funeral, Cape Girardeau,  
 8/9/25 Grand Masters Reception, Cape Girardeau  
 8/10/25 Publication Zoom Meeting  
 8/14/25 Official Visit Poplar Bluff Council No. 27  
 8/17/25 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 8/19/25 Official Visit Neosho Council No. 46, Neosho  
 8/20/25 Temple Board Meeting  
 8/24/25 Missouri Grand York Rite Planning Session Zoom Meeting  
 8/25/25 Official Visit Zabud Council No. 25  
 8/25/25 Official Visit Shelby Council No. 59  
 8/31/25 Commandery Practice, Jackson  
 9/2/25 Cape Commandery No. 55, Cape Girardeau  
 9/4/25 Visit Bert S. Lee Council No. 58  
 9/5/25-9/6/25 Missouri State York Rite Conference  
 9/6/25 Grand High Priest Grand Reception  
 9/10/25 Grand Session Planning Meeting  
 9/11/25 Harold O Grauel Lodge No. 672, Cape Girardeau  
 9/16/25 Wilson Chapter No. 75  
 9/16/25-9/20/25 South Central Conference League City, Texas  
 9/21/25-9/22/25 Grand Lodge Annual Communication, Kansas City  
 9/28/25 Installation of Officers Excelsior Lodge No. 441, Cape Girardeau  
 10/1/25 Official Visit Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau  
 10/3/25-10/4/25 Region 6 York Rite Festival, Poplar Bluff  
 10/5/25 After Action Review Zoom Meeting  
 10/8/25 Official Visit to Shekinah Council No. 24, Kansas City  
 10/12/25 Publication Meeting  
 10/16/25 Excelsior DeMolay Meeting  
 10/19/25 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 10/21/25 Wilson Chapter No. 75  
 10/25/25 Installation of Officers Harold O Grauel Lodge No. 672, Cape Girardeau  
 10/25/25 School of Instruction, California  
 11/1/25 DeMolay Legion of Honor Conferral  
 11/4/25 Cape Commandery No. 55, Cape Girardeau  
 11/5/25 Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau

11/7/25-11/7/25 Region 3 Festival, Kansas City  
 11/9/25 Publication Zoom Meeting  
 11/11/25 Grand Session Planning Zoom Meeting  
 11/13/25 Entered Apprentice Degree Conferral Harold O Grauel Lodge No. 672, Cape Girardeau  
 11/6/25 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 11/18/25 Wilson Chapter No. 75  
 11/19/25 Temple Board Meeting  
 11/24/25 Official Visit Centralia Council No. 34, Columbia  
 12/2/25 Region 6 Commandery Christmas Celebration  
 12/3/25 Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau  
 12/6/25 Chili Day Excelsior Lodge No. 441  
 12/6/25 Ron Galemore 50-year pin presentation, Sikeston  
 12/12/25-12/13/25 Texas Grand York Rite Session  
 12/16/25 Official Visit York Council No. 40, Wentzville  
 12/17/25 Temple Board Meeting  
 12/21/25 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 1/12/26 Commandery Funeral Practice  
 1/13/26 Commandery Funeral John Crites  
 1/18/26 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 1/19/26 Official Visit Jeremiah Council No. 48, Webster Groves  
 1/19/2026 Visitation to MIC Anthony O Sullivan's Grave  
 1/27/26 Grand York Rite Session Planning Meeting, Columbia  
 1/30/26 Region 4,6,7 Table Chapter, Lebanon  
 2/2/26 Official Visit Ezra Council No. 32, Jefferson City  
 2/3/26 Cape Commandery No. 55  
 2/4/26 Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau  
 2/9/26 Master Mason Degree Practice  
 2/11/26 Ritual Practice Harold O Grauel No. 672, Cape Girardeau  
 2/12/26 Master Mason Degree Conferral Harold O Grauel No. 672, Cape Girardeau  
 2/15/26 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 2/16/26 Installation of Officers, Poplar Bluff Council No. 27, Poplar Bluff  
 2/17/26 Table Council, Neosho  
 2/18/26 Temple Board Meeting  
 2/21/26 Grand Master Cryptic Day Degree Practice, Jefferson City  
 2/26/26-2/28/26 Louisiana Grand York Rite Session  
 3/3/26 Cape Commandery No. 55, Cape Girardeau  
 3/4/26 Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau  
 3/7/26 Grand Masters Royal Arch Chapter Class, Jefferson City  
 3/8/26 Publication Meeting  
 3/15/26 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 3/23/26 Grand Council Degree Practice  
 3/26/26 Entered Apprentice Degree Conferral Harold O Grauel No. 72, Cape Girardeau  
 3/28/26 Grand Masters Cryptic Day, Columbia  
 4/1/26 Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau  
 4/7/26 Cape Commandery No. 55, Cape Girardeau  
 4/9/26 Poplar Bluff Chapter No. 114, Poplar Bluff  
 4/16/26 Westview Lodge Third Degree  
 4/19/26 Grand Council Zoom Meeting  
 4/20/26 Installation of Officers Jeremiah Council No. 48, Webster Groves  
 4/30/26-5/2/26 Kansas Grand York Rite Session, Manhattan, Kansas

5/2/26	Grand Masters Breakfast, St. Louis
5/4/26	Installation of Officers Rolla Council No. 39, Rolla
5/5/26	Cape Commandery No. 55, Cape Girardeau
5/6/26	Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau
5/14/26	Official Visit Kirksville Council No. 44, Kirksville
5/17/26	Grand Council Zoom Meeting
5/19/26	Installation of Officers Cape Council No. 20, Cape Girardeau
05/23/26-05/24/26	Missouri DeMolay Convention
05/30/256	Missouri Grand York Rite Session, PHA
05/31/26	Missouri Rainbow Girls Session
6/10/25-01/14/26	Missouri Grand York Rite Session, St. Louis

Sincerely and Most Fraternally submitted,



Dennis W. Houck  
Grand Master 2025-2026

*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.: Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master 2025-2026. 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,  
Matthew D. Ruth, PGM, Chairman  
David C. 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, 2025 through March 31, 2026*

While our third year as your Grand Treasurer has been very busy, I am very pleased to have Companion and Sir Knight Christopher L. Story, our Assistant Grand Treasurer, on the Office Team. Christopher is rapidly learning the job of Grand Treasurer and is actively contributing to the management of the workload. 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 paid 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 2025 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 2025 has been filed and the deposit made.

The IRS 941 Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return form for the first calendar quarter of 2026 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 2025 have been filed and all contributions, if any, made using the DES web portal. The unemployment insurance report for the first calendar quarter of 2026 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 2025 has been filed and the withholding tax, additions, interest, and processing fee made using the DOR web portal.

The 2025 W-2 Wage and Tax Statement for Lady Hanson and the 2025 W-3 Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements were filed and accepted by the IRS.

**Grand Council IRS Tax Status**

During the period of June 2025 through March 2026, MIC Donald MacCormick (Grand Recorder, Grand Council of Missouri) worked with Lady April Dodd to complete and submit an IRS Form 1024 (Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a) or Section 521 of the Internal Revenue Code) for the Grand Council of Missouri. The form had to be filed electronically using the Pay.gov Federal web site. On March 15, 2026, Lady Dodd filed the completed Grand Council IRS form 1024 and paid the \$600.00 user fee payment with her personal credit card. Lady Dodd was reimbursed by the Grand Council General Fund with Check Number 9082 in the amount of \$600.00 dated March 31, 2026. On May 7, 2026, MIC MacCormick received a letter from the IRS Dated April 21, 2026, stating that the IRS had determined that the Grand Council was exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(10). The letter further stated that the IRS had reinstated the Grand Council exemption for the period October 15, 2022, to the effective date of the letter under Revenue Procedure 2014-11. The next step in the process for maintaining the exemption will be to file IRS form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) or IRS form 990-EZ (Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) returns for the fiscal years since the reinstatement date of October 15, 2022. The future maintenance of the exemption will be to file an IRS form 990 or IRS form 990-EZ for each fiscal year.

The Grand York Rite of Missouri IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard) for the tax year ending March 31, 2026, 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 2025 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**

The recovery effort of outstanding checks that began in 2024 is expected to continue through the next fiscal year. As of the writing of this report, \$333.75 of stale CMMRF checks have been recovered over the past year. No additional stale CMMRF checks are currently listed as outstanding. A total of \$1,648.51 of stale Supply Fund checks have been recovered over the past year. There are five stale Supply Funds checks totaling \$1,923 listed as unrecoverable. There are six stale Supply Fund checks totaling \$793.82 currently listed as outstanding. A total of \$1,573.00 of stale General Fund checks have been recovered over the past year. There are two General Fund Checks totaling \$194.00 listed as unrecoverable. There are fifteen General Fund checks totaling \$11,248.28 currently listed as outstanding.

Here is an accounting of the outstanding General Fund and Supply Fund checks in hand awaiting resolution: July 2022 General Fund, 10 checks, \$1,927.00; March 2023 General Fund, 17 checks, \$9,321.28; July 2022 Supply Fund, 2 checks, \$110.00; November 2022 Supply Fund, 3 checks, \$83.82; and January 2023, 1 check, \$600.00. This represents a total of \$12,042.10.

There may 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.

### **Status of Liquid Bank Accounts**

A proposed legislative item decided during the 2025 Annual Assembly was to discontinue the Grand Council Leadership Fund program. Following the passage of the proposed amendment to repeal ARTICLE IV - Miscellaneous, SEC. 22 - Revenue of the Grand Council, Paragraph (5) (the Leadership Fund program), a motion from the floor proposed that the former Leadership Fund money be returned to the Grand Council General Fund. The motion passed. Based on the actions taken during the 2025 Annual Assembly and with the approval of the Grand Master as well as the Grand Council Finance Chairman, I withdrew the former Leadership Fund money from Hawthorn Bank (HB) account 1866 in the amount of \$4,209.09 (without fee) in Cashier's Check 208464 on August 7, 2025. The HB account was then closed. On August 12, 2025, the HB check was deposited in the Commercial Trust Company (CTC) Grand Council deposit account. On August 25, 2026, the \$4,209.09 was transferred from the CTC Grand Council deposit account to the Jefferson Bank (JB) Grand Council General Fund Operating account.

A proposed legislative item decided during the 2025 Annual Assembly was to discontinue the Grand Council Triennial Fund program. Following the passage of the proposed amendment to repeal ARTICLE IV - Miscellaneous, SEC. 23 - Triennial Fund, a motion from the floor proposed that the former Triennial Fund money be returned to the Grand Council General Fund. The motion passed. Based on the actions taken during the 2025 Annual Assembly and with the approval of the Grand Master as well as the Grand Council Finance Chairman, I withdrew the former Triennial Fund money from First Mid Bank & Trust (FMB) account 7803 in the amount of \$2,081.19 (without fee) in Cashier's Check 624213 on August 7, 2025. The FMB account was then closed. On August 12, 2025, the FMB check was deposited in the Commercial Trust Company (CTC) Grand Council deposit account. On August 25, 2026, the \$2,081.19 was transferred from the CTC Grand Council deposit account to the Jefferson Bank (JB) Grand Council General Fund Operating account.

On February 19, 2026, with permission from the Grand Master and the Finance Chairman, I withdrew the Grand Council Supply Fund money from Mid America Bank (MAB) account 2713 in the amount of \$27,038.94 (without fee) in Cashier's Check 007287. The MAB account was then closed. On February 26, 2026, I opened the

new Grand Council Supply Fund account 5623 with Jefferson Bank (JB) and deposited the MAB check into the new Supply Fund account. This action was part of the move to consolidate all Grand Council accounts in a single banking system under the Central Bank (JB is part of the Central Bank system) in anticipation of the future change in the Office of the Grand Treasurer.

### **Long-Term Investment of Funds**

An 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 HLPF Hold), and Jefferson Bank GrKT Educational Foundation Fund Hold account (JB GrKT EdF Hold).

On February 20, 2026, the Grand Master of the Grand Council of Missouri received a letter dated February 19, 2026, from the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Missouri officially notifying him that the orderly transfer of Grand Council money out of the Grand Chapter's Capital Group (CG1) account was thereby enforceably required. It was further stated that the transfer of Grand Council money could be accomplished without any transfer fees.

On February 20, 2026, the Grand Master informed me by letter dated February 19, 2026, that I was thereby authorized to facilitate moving the shares of ABALX (a.k.a. American Balanced - Am Bal) mutual fund, AMECX (a.k.a. American Income - Am Inc) mutual fund, and AIVSX ( a.k.a. Investment Company of America - Am Inv) mutual fund attributed to the Grand Council of Missouri from the Grand Chapter's Capital Group 1 (CG1) account to a new Grand Council Capital Group account as soon as the new Capital Group account is ready.

On February 19, 2026, I met briefly with Mr. Russ Bell, Vice President, Financial Advisor, LPL (our Investment Banker) concerning the plan to setup a new Capital Group account for the Grand Council and to move certain shares out of the CG1 (9778) account to the new account. On February 26, 2026, I met with Mr. Bell to work on completing the necessary paperwork for the new account and the planned transfer. All of the Capital Group requirements for the Grand Council's Capital Group (CG4) account were completed on March 13, 2026. However, officially, on March 9, 2026, all Grand Council shares were transferred from the Grand Chapter's CG1 account to the Grand Council's Capitol Group (CG4) account by Mr. Bell.

The Capital Group 4 (CG4) account contains only Grand Council money. Due to the setup of the CG4 account, the CG4 account is tied to the Jefferson Bank (JB) Grand Council Supply Fund account (JB GrCO SF) for ACH transfers. All purchases are facilitated by Mr. Bell. The purchase limit for CG4 investments 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.

On January 26, 2026, I sent an email to VIC Terry D. Coppotelli, Investment Chairman, with a recommendation to move \$51,800.00 of Endowed Membership money from the Grand Council's Jefferson Bank (JB) Endowed Membership Holding account (JB GrCO EMF Hold) to the Investment Company of America (Am Inv) in the Grand Council's Capital Group 4 (CG4) account. On March 5, 2026, I received authorization from VIC Coppotelli to make the investment. On March 24, 2026, \$51,800.00 was transferred from the JB GrCO EMF Hold account (through the JB GrCO GF Hold account due to issues with Capital Group) to the JB GrCO SF account. On March 24, 2026, \$51,800.00 of Am Inv shares were purchased by Mr. Bell in the Grand Council's CG4 account.

### **Grand Treasurer's Office**

Your Grand Treasurer and Assistant Grand Treasurer continue to work diligently to bring transparency to the office. We attended the Grand Council Grand Officer Zoom meetings. During those meetings, we provided

requested financial review briefings to the Grand Officers and answered questions that the Grand Officers asked concerning the finances of the Grand Council.

The duties of the Assistant Grand Treasurer during this past fiscal year were monthly reconciliation of the financial spreadsheets, processing of deposit records, and recovery of outstanding check money. The Grand Treasurer and the Assistant Grand Treasurer plan to continue expanding the duties of the Assistant Grand Treasurer during the next fiscal year.

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Grand Treasurer's Office received thirteen banker boxes of historical paper records from the office of the previous Grand Treasurer. The task of reviewing the mountain of documents is daunting and may require years to complete but remains a goal of the Office.

**Financial Summary of the Grand Council**

**Status of Grand York Rite Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Deposit Account**

COMMERCIAL TRUST COMPANY (CTC)

MGYR Deposit Account		\$33,140.08
Balance May 31, 2025	\$28,369.88	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$11,867.20	
Transfers June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$7,097.00	

**Checking Account**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

MGYR General Fund Checking Account (GF)		\$5,850.00
Balance May 31, 2025	\$248.37	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$40,309.07	
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$34,707.44	

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**Status of Grand Council Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Deposit Account**

COMMERCIAL TRUST COMPANY (CTC)

GrCO Deposit Account		\$12,538.57
Balance May 31, 2025	\$1,406.78	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$52,636.20	
Transfers June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$41,504.41	

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**Status of Grand Council General Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Checking Accounts**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

GrCO General Fund Operating Checking Account (GF Op)		\$36,566.89
Balance May 31, 2025	\$57,999.21	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$22,680.40	
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$44,112.72	
 GrCO General Fund Business Money Market Holding Account (GF Hold)		\$1,338.45
Balance May 31, 2025	\$1,321.95	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$51,816.50	
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$51,800.00	

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Total of GrCO GF Liquid Assets – Checking		\$37,905.34
Total Balance May 31, 2025	\$59,321.16	
Total Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$74,496.90	
Total Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$95,912.72	

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**Status of Grand Council General Fund Long-Term Accounts - March 31, 2026**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

**Capital Group 1 (CG1)[03-31-2025] / Capital Group 4 (CG4)[03-31-2026]**

**Grand Council American Balanced (Am Bal) Contents**

Value of CG1 GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$78,717.92
Contains 47.72% GrCO General Fund	\$37,564.19	
Value of CG4 GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$92,421.03
Contains 47.72% GrCO General Fund	\$44,103.32	

**Grand Council Income Fund of America (Am Inc) Contents**

Value of CG1 GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$123,953.36
Contains 7.69% GrCO General Fund	\$9,532.01	
Value of CG4 GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$143,399.45
Contains 7.69% GrCO General Fund	\$11,027.42	

**Grand Council Investment Company of America (Am Inv) Contents**

Value of CG1 GrCO Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$172,389.10
Contains 100% GrCO General Fund	\$172,389.10	
Value of CG4 GrCO Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$295,900.55
Contains 66.92% GrCO General Fund	\$198,016.65	

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**Total Value of GrCO GF Long-Term Assets on March 31, 2026** **\$253,147.39**  
**Total of All GrCO GF Assets as of March 31, 2026** **\$291,052.73**

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**Status of Grand Council Supply Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Checking Account**

MID AMERICA BANK (MAB)

MAB GrCO Supply Fund Account (SF)		\$0
Balance May 31, 2025	\$25,033.79	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$2,346.72	
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$27,380.51	

**Checking Account**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

JB GrCO Supply Fund Account (SF)		\$27,309.19
Balance May 31, 2025	\$0	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$79,109.79	
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$51,800.60	

\*\*\*\*\*

**Status of Grand Council Charity Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Checking Accounts**

CENTRAL BANK (CB)

GrCO CMMRF Charity Fund Account (CF)		\$1,591.08
Balance May 31, 2025	\$4,720.48	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$5,522.58	
Donations June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$8,651.98	

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JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

GrCO Charity Endowment Fund Operating Checking Account (CEF Op)		\$7,765.40
Balance May 31, 2025	\$7,765.40	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$0	
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$0	

GrCO Charity Endowment Fund Holding Checking Account (CEF Hold)		\$2,037.22
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Balance May 31, 2025	\$1,444.02
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$593.20
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$0

<b>Total of GrCO CEF Liquid Assets - Checking</b>		<b>\$9,802.62</b>
Total Balance May 31, 2025	\$9,209.42	
Total Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$593.20	
Total Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$0	

**Status of Grand Council Charity Endowment Fund Long-Term Accounts - March 31, 2026**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

**Capital Group 1 (CG1)[03-31-2025] / Capital Group 4 (CG4)[03-31-2026]**

**Grand Council American Balanced (Am Bal) Contents**

Value of CG1 GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$78,717.92
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$41,153.73	
Value of CG4 GrCO Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$92,421.03
Contains 52.28% GrCO Charity Endowment Fund	\$48,317.71	

**Grand Council Investment Company of America (Am Inv) Contents**

Value of CG1 GrCO Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025		\$0
Value of CG4 GrCO Am InV Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$295,900.55
Contains 13.36% GrCO Foundation Fund	\$39,532.31	

<b>Total of GrCO CEF Long-Term Assets as of March 31, 2026</b>		<b>\$87,850.02</b>
<b>Total of All GrCO CEF Assets as of March 31, 2026</b>		<b>\$97,652.64</b>
<b>Total of All GrCO Charity Fund Assets as of March 31, 2026</b>		<b>\$99,243.72</b>

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**Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Checking Accounts**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

GrCO Endowed Membership Fund Operating Checking Account (EMF Op)		\$2,018.50
Balance May 31, 2025	\$2,018.50	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$62.50	

Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$62.50
GrCO Endowed Membership Fund Holding Checking Account (EMF Hold)	\$4,271.72
Balance May 31, 2025	\$43,891.22
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$12,243.00
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$51,862.50

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Total of GrCO EMF Liquid Assets - Checking	\$6,290.22
Total Balance May 31, 2025	\$45,909.72
Total Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$12,305.50
Total Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$51,925.00

**Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Long-Term Accounts - March 31, 2026**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

**Capital Group 1 (CG1)[03-31-2025] / Capital Group 4 (CG4)[03-31-2026]**

**Grand Council Income Fund of America (Am Inc) Contents**

Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025	\$123,953.36
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$114,421.35
Value of GrCO Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026	\$143,399.45
Contains 92.31% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$132,372.03

**Grand Council Investment Company of America (Am Inv) Contents**

Value of GrCO Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025	\$0
Value of GrCO Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026	\$295,900.55
Contains 19.72% GrCO Endowed Membership Fund	\$58,351.59

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<b>Total Value of GrCO EMF Long-Term Assets on March 31, 2026</b>	<b>\$190,723.62</b>
<b>Total of All GrCO EMF Assets as of March 31, 2026</b>	<b>\$197,013.84</b>

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**Status of Grand Council Leadership Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Checking Accounts**

HAWTHORN BANK (HB)

GrCO Leadership Fund Checking Account	\$0
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Balance May 31, 2025	\$4,209.09
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$0
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$4,209.09

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**Status of Grand Council Triennial Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

**Checking Accounts**

FIRST MID BANK (FMB)

GrCO Triennial Fund Checking Account		\$0
Balance May 31, 2025	\$2,091.19	
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$0	
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	\$2,091.19	

\*\*\*\*\*

**Grand Total of all Grand Council Assets - March 31, 2026** **\$627,158.05**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Summary of Grand Council Long-Term Account - March 31, 2026**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

**Capital Group 4 (CG4)**

Value of CG4 Mutual Funds on March 31, 2026		\$531,721.03
Contains American Balanced Mutual Fund	\$92,421.03	
Contains Income Fund of America Mutual Fund	\$143,399.45	
Contains Investment Company of America Mutual Fund	\$295,900.55	

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**CG4 American Balanced (Am Bal) Contents**

Value of Am Bal Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$92,421.03
Contains 47.72% General Fund	\$44,103.32	
Contains 52.28% Charity Endowment Fund	\$48,317.71	

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**CG4 Income Fund of America (Am Inc) Contents**

Value of Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$143,399.45
Contains 7.69% General Fund	\$11,027.42	
Contains 92.31% Endowed Membership Fund	\$132,372.03	

**CG4 Investment Company of America (Am Inv) Contents**

Value of Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026		\$295,900.55
Contains 66.92% General Fund	\$198,016.65	
Contains 13.36% Charity Endowment Fund	\$39,532.31	
Contains 19.72% Endowed Membership Fund	\$58,351.59	

Fraternally Submitted,

Russell S. Hanson HPGHP, Grand Treasurer

VIC Christopher L. Story, Assistant 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, it has been another busy term in the Grand Recorder's office. I would like to start this report by expressing my thanks to April Dodd for her hard work, diligence, and attention to detail in assisting us in the filing of 1024's with the IRS in order to get the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery back in compliance with the IRS. Our non-profit status, as a 501 (c)(10), has been re-instated with the effective date of October 15, 2022, the original date of revocation. All three bodies are now once again tax-exempt. Individual donors to each of the three Grand Bodies can once again deduct contributions made exclusively for charitable purposes as specified in IRC Section 170(c)(4) and meet the other specifications of section 170. As the regulatory landscape continues to become more integrated and complex, we will be reviewing our processes of statutory filing requirements, and may engage external experts to do so, to review our compliance, and ensure we remain compliant in the future.

In reviewing the costs of the Grand Assembly it may be necessary at some point to charge a registration fee to ease the burdens of hosting. We do not expect that to happen soon, the costs of the Grand York Rite Sessions for the next two years in Springfield are likely the lowest we have seen for several years. But, it may be necessary in the future. The meeting space used in each facility is free, but it is supported for a minimum number of room occupancies and meals purchases.

A couple of years ago Russell and Debbie Hanson announced their retirement from their duties with the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery. Lady Tara L. Ornsbey will step into Debbie's shoes in 2 years and has been working with Lady Debbie this year, documenting processes, and preparing to take on an ever-increasing workload as training and familiarization progresses. Simultaneously we are examining those processes and preparing to simplify or automate them where possible. We thank Lady Tara for stepping up.

We were saddened to process the consolidation this year of Bert S. Lee Council No. 58 with Zabud Council No. 25 on December 12, 2025. It is sometimes necessary to consolidate, but it is always a loss especially for an organization with such an exalted history as Bert S. Lee.

**Growth Awards**

This year our growth awards are based on a slightly different calculation from past years. This year we have decided to base Council Growth awards on those factors that we can control, such as suspension, demits, and exaltations. We have no control when someone is called home, so deaths will not be a factor in this year's calculations.

There were 79 Greetings, 22 affiliations, and 14 reinstatements during the 2025 calendar year, leading to an overall loss in membership of 38 (demitted 52, suspended 37, deceased 64). If we remove those who passed in 2025, there is an overall growth of the living of 26

Growth Awards for 2025-2026 are as follows:

1. Trinity Council No. 47	38%
2. Kirksville Council No. 44	13%
3. Cape Council No. 20	12%
4. Hiram Council No. 1	10%
5. Zabud Council No. 25	9%
6. Kansas City Council No. 45	8%
7. Rolla Council No. 39	7%
8. Lebanon Council No. 56	5%
9. Shelby Council No. 59	5%
10. Poplar Bluff Council No. 27	3%
11. Jasper Council No. 30	3%
12. Ezra Council No. 32	2%

Fraternally and Most Respectfully submitted,  
Donald MacCormick, PGM, 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: 1/1/2025 End: 12/31/2025**

Total Working Councils = 24

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

Total number members on last return =		<u>1,379</u>
Total number GREETED =	<u>79</u>	
Total number AFFILIATED =	<u>22</u>	
Total number REINSTATED =	<u>14</u>	
Total number ADD ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Gain (+)		<u>115</u>
Total number DEMITTED =	<u>52</u>	
Total number SUSPENDED =	<u>37</u>	
Total number DECEASED =	<u>64</u>	
Total number EXPELLED =	<u>0</u>	
Total number DELETE ADJUSTMENT =	<u>0</u>	
Total Loss (-)		<u>153</u>
Net Gain (Net Loss) =		<u>(38)</u>
Total number of members (including Dual and Plural)		<u>1,341</u>

**Statistical Reports:** The following reports represent the Tabular Returns of the Councils.

**2025 Annual Returns**

No.	Council	Location	Chartered	EIN	Stated Assemblies	Annual Return Received	2024 Membership	Greeted	Admitted	Reinstated	Add Adjustments	Total Gains	Dimitted	Suspended	Deceased	Expelled	Del Adjustment	Total Losses	Gain / Loss	2025 Total Year End Membership	
1																					
2	1	Hiram	St. Louis	July 17, 1883	23-7550888	4th Wednesday	9-Feb-26	40	7	1	0	0	8	4	0	2	0	0	6	2	42
3	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
4	9	St. Joseph	St. Joseph	October 7, 1871	23-7550889	1st Wednesday	9-Feb-26	151	2	0	0	0	2	1	4	15	0	0	20	-18	133
5	20	Cape	Cape Girardeau	October 6, 1871	23-7550890	1st Wednesday	1-Apr-26	85	10	1	0	0	11	1	0	4	0	0	5	6	91
6	24	Shekinah	Kansas City	April 27, 1892	23-7550891	3rd Wednesday	14-Mar-26	36	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	4	0	0	8	-7	29
7	25	Zabud	Springfield	April 25, 1894	44-0520296	4th Monday	25-Feb-26	128	9	14	6	0	29	6	12	5	0	0	23	6	134
8	27	Poplar Bluff	Poplar Bluff	April 24, 1895	23-7550893	2nd Thursday	27-Feb-26	29	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	29
9	30	Jasper	Joplin	April 25, 1900	23-7550895	1st Tuesday	24-Feb-26	31	2	1	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	4	-1	30
10	32	Ezra	Jefferson City	April 23, 1902	23-7550896	1st Monday	24-Feb-26	59	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	-1	58
11	34	Centralia	Columbia	April 28, 1908	23-7550897	4th Monday	23-Feb-26	86	4	1	0	0	5	1	3	5	0	0	9	-4	82
12	39	Rolla	Rolla	April 10, 1922	23-7144150	3rd Monday	19-Feb-26	90	9	0	0	0	9	0	3	1	0	0	4	5	95
13	40	York	St. Charles	April 10, 1922	23-7550902	4th Tuesday	28-Feb-26	21	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	20
14	41	Carthage	Carthage	April 10, 1922	23-7550903	3rd Thursday	23-Feb-26	26	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	5	-4	22
15	42	John F. Houston	Lexington	April 10, 1922	38-4024549	1st Wednesday	14-Feb-26	42	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	-2	40
16	44	Kirksville	Kirksville	April 22, 1929	23-7550906	2nd Thursday	28-Feb-26	94	13	0	4	0	17	3	2	10	0	0	15	2	96
17	45	Kansas City	Kansas City	April 24, 1944	23-7550907	1st Monday	7-Feb-26	60	5	2	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	2	5	65
18	46	Neosho	Neosho	April 22, 1946	23-7550908	3rd Monday	6-Feb-26	48	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	4	-2	46
19	47	Trinity	Hannibal	April 25, 1949	23-7550909	1st Thursday	27-Feb-26	8	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	11
20	48	Jeremiah	Webster Grove	April 24, 1950	23-7144151	3rd Monday	19-Feb-26	65	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	1	0	0	5	-1	64
21	49	Independence	Independence	April 24, 1950	23-7550910	4th Thursday	22-Jan-26	73	1	0	2	0	3	3	2	2	0	0	7	-4	69
22	50	Liberty	Liberty	April 24, 1950	23-7550911	3rd Monday	28-Feb-26	69	2	0	0	0	2	4	2	4	0	0	10	-8	61
23	56	Lebanon	Lebanon	May 9, 1990	43-1697678	3rd Tuesday	3-Apr-26	57	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	59
24	59	Shelby	Shelbina	February 28, 2006	90-0324713	4th Tuesday	27-Feb-26	39	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	40
25	65	Nevada	Nevada	June 3, 2023	37-2072900	2nd Monday	17-Feb-26	25	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	24
26		TOTAL						1362	79	22	14	0	115	36	38	63	0	0	137	-22	1340

**2025 Annual Returns (cont.)**

No.	Council	% of Growth	Greeting Fees	Per Capita	2024 Debits	Total Per Capita, Fees & Debits	Remissions	Remissions, 50-year	Living Life Members	Credit for Remissions and Life Members	GG Council Endowed Mbrs & Not Endowed or 50-Yr Mbrs	General Grand Council Credit	2024 Credits	Total Credits
1	Hiram	5%	\$ 49.00	\$ 1,155.00	0.00	\$ 1,204.00	3	2	6	\$ 302.50	3	\$ 7.50	0.00	310.00
3	Marion	0%	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	0	0	0	\$ -	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	St. Joseph	-12%	14.00	\$ 3,657.50	0.00	\$ 3,671.50	5	16	26	\$ 1,292.50	0	0.00	0.00	1,292.50
5	Cape	7%	70.00	\$ 2,502.50	0.00	\$ 2,572.50	0	7	6	\$ 357.50	1	2.50	0.00	360.00
6	Shekinah	-19%	7.00	\$ 797.50	0.00	\$ 804.50	0	4	1	\$ 137.50	0	0.00	0.00	137.50
7	Zabud	5%	63.00	\$ 3,685.00	0.00	\$ 3,748.00	16	26	28	\$ 1,925.00	4	10.00	0.00	1,935.00
8	Poplar Bluff	0%	0.00	\$ 797.50	0.00	\$ 797.50	0	0	3	\$ 82.50	0	0.00	0.00	82.50
9	Jasper	-3%	14.00	\$ 825.00	0.00	\$ 839.00	0	1	13	\$ 385.00	0	0.00	0.00	385.00
10	Ezra	-2%	7.00	\$ 1,595.00	0.00	\$ 1,602.00	0	4	8	\$ 330.00	0	0.00	0.00	330.00
11	Centralia	-5%	28.00	\$ 2,255.00	0.00	\$ 2,283.00	5	15	27	\$ 1,292.50	0	0.00	0.00	1,292.50
12	Rolla	6%	63.00	\$ 2,612.50	0.00	\$ 2,675.50	0	3	21	\$ 660.00	2	5.00	0.00	665.00
13	York	-5%	0.00	\$ 550.00	0.00	\$ 550.00	0	1	7	\$ 220.00	1	2.50	0.00	222.50
14	Carthage	-15%	0.00	\$ 605.00	0.00	\$ 605.00	1	5	3	\$ 247.50	0	0.00	0.00	247.50
15	John F. Houston	-5%	0.00	\$ 1,100.00	0.00	\$ 1,100.00	4	3	4	\$ 302.50	0	0.00	0.00	302.50
16	Kirksville	2%	91.00	\$ 2,640.00	0.00	\$ 2,731.00	0	17	10	\$ 742.50	1	2.50	0.00	745.00
17	Kansas City	8%	35.00	\$ 1,787.50	0.00	\$ 1,822.50	2	2	3	\$ 192.50	0	0.00	0.00	192.50
18	Neosho	-4%	14.00	\$ 1,265.00	0.00	\$ 1,279.00	0	4	2	\$ 165.00	1	2.50	0.00	167.50
19	Trinity	38%	21.00	\$ 302.50	0.00	\$ 323.50	0	1	0	\$ 27.50	0	0.00	0.00	27.50
20	Jeremiah	-2%	28.00	\$ 1,760.00	0.00	\$ 1,788.00	2	1	13	\$ 440.00	3	7.50	0.00	447.50
21	Independence	-5%	7.00	\$ 1,897.50	0.00	\$ 1,904.50	1	3	14	\$ 495.00	0	0.00	0.00	495.00
22	Liberty	-12%	14.00	\$ 1,677.50	0.00	\$ 1,691.50	1	5	14	\$ 550.00	0	0.00	0.00	550.00
23	Lebanon	4%	14.00	\$ 1,622.50	0.00	\$ 1,636.50	0	2	9	\$ 302.50	0	0.00	0.00	302.50
24	Shelby	3%	14.00	\$ 1,100.00	0.00	\$ 1,114.00	0	0	0	\$ -	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Nevada	-4%	0.00	\$ 660.00	0.00	\$ 660.00	1	1	2	\$ 110.00	0	0.00	0.00	110.00
26	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>\$ 553.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,850.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$37,403.00</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>\$ 10,560.00</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$10,600.00</b>

**2025 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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$27,892.68</b>	<b>\$165.00</b>	<b>\$28,579.39</b>	<b>\$27,786.55</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$27,786.55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$792.84</b>	<b>\$109,190.86</b>	<b>\$260,277.84</b>	<b>\$66,300.00</b>

2025 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	2025 Credits	2025 Debts	Cash on Hand 12/31/24	Real Estate & Investments	Paraphernalia	Indebtedness	Total Value of Council	Annual Dues	Greeting Fees	CMR Donations	CEF Donations	Recorder Bonded	Recorder Bonded	990	
1	Hiram		\$897.10	\$ 897.10	897.10	0.00		897.10	0.00		4,581.84	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	\$ 5,581.84	93.00	100.00	232.20	265.70	N	N	Y	Y
3	Marion	\$ -		\$ -	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N	N	N	N
9	St. Joseph	\$ 2,379.00	0.00	\$ 2,379.00	2,387.60	0.00		2,387.60	0.00		10,309.08	159,101.59	42,000.00	0.00	52,309.08	27.50	10.00	49.40	42.10	Y	Y	Y	Y
20	Cape	\$ 2,212.50	0.00	\$ 2,212.50	2,235.30	0.00		2,235.30	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N	N	Y	N
24	Shekinah	\$ 667.00	15.00	\$ 682.00	679.40	0.00		679.40	0.00	2.60	235.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.19	42.50	7.00	255.65	42.00	N	N	Y	Y
25	Zabud	\$ 1,813.00	0.00	\$ 1,813.00	1,819.40	0.00		1,819.40	0.00		5,569.84	8,730.92	7,000.00	0.00	21,300.76	120.00	30.00	1,087.07	30.00	Y	Y	Y	Y
27	Poplar Bluff	\$ 715.00	0.00	\$ 715.00	717.60	0.00		717.60	0.00		639.51	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	2,139.51	41.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N	N	Y	N
30	Jasper	\$ 454.00	0.00	\$ 454.00	590.40	0.00		590.40	0.00		1,479.49	20,826.45	100.00	0.00	22,405.94	39.00	33.00	18.60	0.00	N	N	Y	Y
32	Ezra	\$ 1,272.00	0.00	\$ 1,272.00	1,276.60	0.00		1,276.60	0.00		3,957.16	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	8,957.16	45.00	20.00	53.65	0.00	N	N	Y	Y
34	Centralia	\$ 990.50	0.00	\$ 990.50	994.00	0.00		994.00	0.00		5,411.21	9,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	39,411.21	73.00	80.00	748.20	284.25	Y	Y	Y	Y
39	Rolla	\$ 2,010.50	0.00	\$ 2,010.50	2,017.60	0.00		2,017.60	0.00	0.00	9,447.54	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	10,947.54	48.40	20.00	128.65	385.40	N	N	Y	Y
40	York	\$ 327.50	0.00	\$ 327.50	328.70	0.00		328.70	0.00	15.00	268.42	0.00	500.00	0.00	768.42	62.60	50.00	46.00	6.75	N	N	Y	Y
41	Carthage	\$ 357.50	0.00	\$ 357.50	357.50	0.00		357.50	0.00		3,761.25	0.00	350.00	0.00	4,111.25	38.00	20.00	18.25	20.00	N	N	Y	Y
42	John F. Houston	\$ 797.50	0.00	\$ 797.50	800.40	0.00		800.40	0.00		2,234.11	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	3,234.11	55.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	N	N	Y	Y
44	Kirksville	\$ 1,986.00	0.00	\$ 1,986.00	1,992.90	0.00		1,992.90	0.00	15.00	15,295.09	12,282.41	2,500.00	0.00	30,077.50	65.00	75.00	1,378.37	31.90	N	N	Y	Y
45	Kansas City	\$ 1,630.00	0.00	\$ 1,630.00	1,630.00	0.00		1,630.00	0.00	0.00	1,201.01	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	9,201.01	48.00	50.00	805.66	23.00	N	N	Y	Y
46	Neosho	\$ 1,111.50	0.00	\$ 1,111.50	1,115.50	0.00		1,115.50	0.00		3,439.77	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	8,439.77	37.50	75.00	222.62	173.00	N	N	Y	Y
47	Trinity	\$ 296.00	0.00	\$ 296.00	297.60	0.00		297.60	0.00	23.31	1,746.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,746.08	55.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N	N	Y	N
48	Jeremiah	\$ 1,340.50	0.00	\$ 1,340.50	1,345.30	0.00		1,345.30	0.00		3,734.84	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	6,734.84	77.50	50.00	247.45	0.00	N	N	Y	N
49	Independence	\$ 1,409.50	0.00	\$ 1,409.50	1,409.50	0.00		1,409.50	0.00	0.00	13,121.73	11,758.80	6,000.00	0.00	30,880.53	52.60	50.00	56.25	0.00	Y	Y	Y	Y
50	Liberty	\$ 1,141.50	0.00	\$ 1,141.50	1,145.60	0.00		1,145.60	0.00		8,680.49	87,072.92	2,000.00	0.00	97,753.41	50.12	60.00	212.00	125.00	Y	Y	Y	Y
56	Lebanon	\$ 1,334.00	30.00	\$ 1,364.00	1,334.00	0.00		1,334.00	0.00	30.00	2,992.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,992.63	48.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N	N	Y	N
59	Shelby	\$ 1,114.00	0.00	\$ 1,114.00	1,118.00	0.00		1,118.00	0.00		1,334.53	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,334.53	45.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	N	N	Y	Y
65	Nevada	\$ 550.00	0.00	\$ 550.00	550.00	0.00		550.00	0.00		1,186.44	0.00	500.00	0.00	1,686.44	42.00	30.00	78.20	22.35	N	N	Y	Y
	TOTAL	\$25,909.00	\$942.10	\$ 26,851.10	\$ 27,040.00	\$ -		\$ 27,040.00	\$-	\$ 85.91	\$100,627.25	\$ 149,671.50	#####	\$ -	\$363,248.75	\$ 1,255.72		\$ 5,638.22	\$1,451.45				

**Average Age - Parameters: Missouri, Cryptic Masonry**

As of 5/25/2026 6:56:54 PM

Council	Active		Avg. Age	18-29		30-39		40-49		50-59		60-69		70-79		80-89		90-99		100+		Totals	
	No DOB	DOB		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>67.2</b>	18	1.4	70	5.3	140	10.5	217	16.3	244	18.3	313	23.5	253	19.0	72	5.4	6	0.5	1333	100.0
1 - Hiram	0	42	61.5	1	2.4	5	11.9	4	9.5	10	23.8	10	23.8	6	14.3	4	9.5	2	4.8	0	0.0	42	3.2
9 - St. Joseph	0	130	75.2	1	0.8	1	0.8	5	3.8	9	6.9	27	20.8	32	24.6	39	30.0	16	12.3	0	0.0	130	9.8
20 - Cape	1	89	68.7	0	0.0	2	2.2	12	13.5	15	16.9	12	13.5	23	25.8	17	19.1	7	7.9	1	1.1	89	6.7
24 - Shekinah	0	28	61.1	0	0.0	4	14.3	5	17.9	7	25.0	2	7.1	3	10.7	6	21.4	1	3.6	0	0.0	28	2.1
25 - Zabud	0	131	68.6	1	0.8	4	3.1	14	10.7	27	20.6	21	16.0	25	19.1	27	20.6	10	7.6	2	1.5	131	9.8
27 - Poplar Bluff	0	30	62.9	1	3.3	1	3.3	4	13.3	9	30.0	4	13.3	5	16.7	6	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	2.3
30 - Jasper	0	30	68.1	0	0.0	3	10.0	1	3.3	4	13.3	7	23.3	7	23.3	7	23.3	1	3.3	0	0.0	30	2.3
32 - Ezra	2	58	68.4	0	0.0	2	3.4	6	10.3	8	13.8	13	22.4	17	29.3	8	13.8	4	6.9	0	0.0	58	4.4
34 - Centralia	0	80	71.7	1	1.3	4	5.0	7	8.8	5	6.3	14	17.5	22	27.5	19	23.8	6	7.5	2	2.5	80	6.0
39 - Rolla	0	100	62.9	1	1.0	11	11.0	12	12.0	22	22.0	14	14.0	21	21.0	14	14.0	5	5.0	0	0.0	100	7.5
40 - York	0	20	66.1	1	5.0	1	5.0	0	0.0	5	25.0	3	15.0	7	35.0	2	10.0	1	5.0	0	0.0	20	1.5
41 - Carthage	0	23	69.1	0	0.0	3	13.0	1	4.3	3	13.0	1	4.3	8	34.8	5	21.7	1	4.3	1	4.3	23	1.7
42 - John F. Houston	0	41	67.3	1	2.4	3	7.3	2	4.9	4	9.8	9	22.0	13	31.7	6	14.6	3	7.3	0	0.0	41	3.1
44 - Kirksville	0	97	68.3	1	1.0	8	8.2	7	7.2	14	14.4	15	15.5	23	23.7	26	26.8	3	3.1	0	0.0	97	7.3
45 - Kansas City	0	64	57.9	1	1.6	7	10.9	16	25.0	11	17.2	14	21.9	9	14.1	5	7.8	1	1.6	0	0.0	64	4.8
46 - Neosho	1	45	65.1	2	4.4	2	4.4	5	11.1	11	24.4	5	11.1	9	20.0	8	17.8	3	6.7	0	0.0	45	3.4
47 - Trinity	0	10	63.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	2	20.0	3	30.0	2	20.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.8
48 - Jeremiah	0	63	65.6	0	0.0	2	3.2	10	15.9	13	20.6	10	15.9	17	27.0	10	15.9	1	1.6	0	0.0	63	4.7
49 - Independence	0	68	67.4	0	0.0	3	4.4	8	11.8	9	13.2	16	23.5	16	23.5	13	19.1	3	4.4	0	0.0	68	5.1
50 - Liberty	0	60	67.4	2	3.3	2	3.3	5	8.3	9	15.0	13	21.7	14	23.3	11	18.3	4	6.7	0	0.0	60	4.5
56 - Lebanon	0	59	62.8	4	6.8	0	0.0	11	18.6	8	13.6	17	28.8	11	18.6	8	13.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	59	4.4
59 - Shelby	0	40	68.0	0	0.0	1	2.5	1	2.5	10	25.0	6	15.0	16	40.0	6	15.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	40	3.0
65 - Nevada	0	25	68.1	0	0.0	1	4.0	2	8.0	2	8.0	8	32.0	7	28.0	5	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>67.2</b>	18	1.4	70	5.3	140	10.5	217	16.3	244	18.3	313	23.5	253	19.0	72	5.4	6	0.5	1333	100.0

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

### PRELIMINARY REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

*(from the floor)*

Phillip W. Engel, Chairman  
Michael J. Estright

Randy W. Presley  
Steven F. Ebertharter

**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, it is with great satisfaction to report that, at last, all the Grand Council's surplus funds have been turned over to the Investment Committee, and all these funds have been placed in investments as designated by the Committee. A special thank you to the Junior Past Illustrious Master, current Illustrious Master, and current Grand Treasurer for accomplishing this long-awaited task. The end of May will mark the closure of this fiscal year. At that time, the invested dollar benchmark will then be set so that we can give periodic updates on investment performance.

In addition to the funds that were allocated prior to involvement of the Investment Committee, the remainder of surplus funds have also been placed in the Capitol Groups funds, with the majority in the Investment Company of America (ICA). This fund has existed for over 80 years, and its objective is long term growth and income. Since its inception in 1934, it has averaged a rate of return of 12.3%. *CAUTION: It is critical to understand that returns will fluctuate.* The average bear market (defined as a 20% reduction in value) occurs approximately every 4 years, with the last one occurring in 2022.

There are several things that could be done to make our ongoing management of surplus funds more efficient. First, the Grand Council Finance and Accounts Committee needs to establish how often it will be moving earnings from the investment account to the operating account. This amount should become evident and consistent over time. Once established, a cash balance in the operating account will prevent us from being forced to liquidate investments during a down market.

Another strategy that should be examined is to utilize the Capitol Groups Money Market Fund to park the Chapter Operating Funds, which are currently held in Jefferson Banks Money Market Account. Although this Money Market Fund is held within an investment firm, it is comprised of the same securities that back a Money Market account, however it generates several times the interest. While there is no bylaw preventing this, there has been hesitation by the Chapter to do this.

Lastly, consideration should be given to changing the Grand Council bylaws as to the Treasurers' responsibilities when it comes to the investments. No money should be removed from the Investment Account by anyone other than the Grand Recorder. Due to the sometimes dynamic and fast pace of the stock market, the Investment Committee should be able to speak to, and if necessary, have trades executed independently. A second option would be better utilization of a non-banking Financial Advisor (FA). Our process of working with the current bank FA is cumbersome due to restrictions placed on us due to FINRA, Jefferson Banks regulations, and our By-law requirements.

A non-bank FA could be given freedom and discretion to manage our portfolio independently under our general instructions and goals. It feels we are limited in the choices we have now. While American Funds new purchases are not charged a commission, the internal expenses charged yearly (12b-1 fees) tend to run higher than some alternatives.

Terry D. Coppotelli, Chairman  
Jacon W. Thompson

Stanton T. Brown, II  
Matthew D. Ruth

*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 2026-2027 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.

I would direct your attention to last year’s report of this committee, the reports of the Grand Treasurer, and the report of the Investment Committee regarding investments and investment strategies, accounting practices, and business/operating decisions. All residual general fund monies have been transferred into long-term investments as directed.

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.

**2025-2026 INTERIM RECAPITULATION**

The Committee on Finance and Accounts submits the recapitulation of the 2025-2026 Budget vs. the report of income and expenses provided by the Grand Treasurer as of April 30, 2026.

<b>Income</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Recapitulation</b>
Per Capita, Membership & Greeting Fee	\$ 23,884.70	\$ 27,661.43
Per Capita, Endowed Membership	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Investment Income	\$ -	\$ -
Grand Session, Meal Income	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,494.50
Miscellaneous	\$ 250.00	\$ 820.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,134.70</b>	<b>\$ 30,976.65</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
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	\$ 3,614.58
Employment Taxes	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,152.08
Bonding Insurance	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Financial Review Committee	\$ 100.00	\$ -

Office Expenses	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,679.64
Printing Services	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,194.55
Office Shared Expenses	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,500.00
Storage Shared Expenses	\$ 360.00	\$ 900.00
General Grand Council Per Capita	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,870.00
Annual Assembly (estimated)	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Grand Officer Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 16.00
Past Grand Master Jewel	\$ 100.00	\$ 24.95
Triennial	\$ 50.00	\$ -
MMS Support	\$ 600.00	\$ 561.39
Web Master	\$ 250.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,774.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,791.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,387.19</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 31,134.70</b>	<b>\$ 30,976.65</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 35,791.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,387.19</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (4,656.30)</b>	<b>\$ (2,410.54)</b>

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

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

### 2026-2027 BUDGET

The Committee on Finance and Accounts and Grand Council Officers met on April 19, 2026, and approved the following proposed budget for the 2026-2027 Cryptic year. The committee hereby submits this proposed working budget for your consideration and approval.

<b>Income</b>	
Per Capita, Membership & Greeting Fee	\$ 22,422.50
Per Capita, Endowed Membership	\$ -
General Fund Investment Income	\$ 8,600.00
Grand Session, Meal Income	\$ 7,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,272.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
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	\$ 1,200.00
Bonding Insurance	\$ 100.00
Grand Lecturer Expenses	\$ 100.00
Financial Review Committee	\$ 100.00
Office Expenses	\$ 5,500.00
Printing Services	\$ 1,300.00

Office Shared Expenses	\$ 1,800.00
Storage Shared Expenses	\$ 900.00
General Grand Council Per Capita	\$ 2,500.00
Annual Assembly	\$ 9,000.00
Grand Officer Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
Past Grand Master Jewel	\$ 100.00
Triennial	\$ 1,500.00
MMS Support	\$ 600.00
Web Master	\$ 250.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 38,200.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 38,272.50</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 38,200.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 72.50</b>

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

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

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,  
Kevin B. Sample, Chairman  
Russell S. Hanson, Ex-Officio  
Christopher L. Story

Grand Council Advancing Officers  
Donald MacCormick, Ex-Officio

*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.

A timely submitted proposal in writing concerning an amendment to the Grand Council Bylaws was presented to the jurisprudence committee. Upon review, the proposed legislation conflicted with the Constitution of the Grand Counsel and was not in due form for consideration by the Grand Council. The Grand Council Jurisprudence Committee wishes to advise the Companions that if proposers have questions about their proposed legislation, they should bring this to the attention of the Grand Recorder and Jurisprudence Committee chairman prior to the submission deadline as required by the Grand Council Bylaws, pursuant to Article XV, section 137. Submitted proposals for amendments to the Grand Council Constitution may be presented for consideration of the Grand Council, provided the amendment is found to be in due form by the Jurisprudence Committee and

written notice of the amendment was provided in the preceding Annual Assembly, pursuant to Article III, section 9.

The Committee on Jurisprudence wishes to thank 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 Dennis W. Houck, 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 2026 GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

### PROPOSAL No. 1

#### PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONRY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

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

#### ARTICLE VXI

#### Endowed Membership (Renamed 5/19/05)

12. The Grand Recorder shall annually remit to the recorders of participating constituent Councils, their prorated portion of the earnings of the Endowed Membership Fund minus per capita. This is provided that no earnings shall be distributed on any Endowed Membership until January 1 of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Recorder. ~~When an Endowed Member dies, the Grand Council will continue to receive his per capita, less 20% and his Council will continue to receive his prorated earnings, less 20%. The retained 20% will be added to the Fund's principal to provide for growth in the Fund. Prorated earnings shall be based on the members' council dues that existed at the time the individual entered the Endowed Membership Program. Per capita shall be the per capita that existed at the time the individual entered the Endowed Membership program.~~

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

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

Any gains accrued will be distributed as follows: First, the current Per Capita will be paid for all living Endowed members by the Grand Council. Second, from the remaining funds, 30% will be retained in the Endowed Membership Fund to fortify the continued growth of the fund and become part to the Base Principal. Third, the

remaining 70% will be distributed to the subordinate Councils on a prorated basis for the total number of endowed members, living and deceased that are/were members of that Council.

*Statement of purpose*

The purpose of this amendment is to clearly define, protect, and strengthen the long-term structure and distribution methodology of the Endowed Membership Fund of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri.

This proposal formally establishes the concept of a protected Base Principal, defined as all funds received from subordinate chapters for the purchase of Endowed Memberships. The amendment ensures that this Base Principal shall continually increase as new Endowed Memberships are purchased and shall never be reduced. This safeguard preserves the perpetual nature of the Endowed Membership Program and protects the integrity of the funds entrusted to the Grand Council.

Additionally, this amendment provides a clear and orderly framework for the annual distribution of investment growth. It:

- Establishes the priority payment of current Per Capita for all living Endowed Members to the Grand Council.
- Retains thirty percent (30%) of remaining gains within the Endowed Membership Fund to strengthen and fortify its continued growth.
- Distributes the remaining seventy percent (70%) to subordinate Councils on a prorated basis for all endowed members, living and deceased, affiliated with each chapter.

By clearly defining principal protection, distribution priorities, and proportional allocation methods, this amendment promotes financial transparency, stability, and responsible stewardship. It ensures the Endowed Membership Fund remains perpetual, equitable, and beneficial to both the Grand Council and its subordinate Councils for generations to come.

Fraternally submitted,

Donald MacCormick, PM  
Russell S. Hanson, PM

Kansas City Council No. 45  
Centralia Council No. 34

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION AT THE 2026 GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

**PROPOSAL No. 2**

**PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE 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 XIX  
Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS)**

**SEC 148. Council Recorder Responsibilities**

~~D. Recorders and IT Representatives shall log in to MMS no less than monthly to maintain access credentials and to make any approved membership changes.~~

*Statement of purpose*

The purpose of this amendment is to provide reasonable flexibility in the administrative use of the Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) system by removing an unnecessary mandatory monthly login requirement for Council Recorders and IT Representatives. While maintaining accurate and timely membership records is essential, requiring monthly system access regardless of whether membership transactions or updates are pending places an administrative burden on local Councils without any benefit. Many Councils experience periods in which no membership activity occurs, making routine mandatory logins unnecessary.

This amendment does not diminish the responsibility of Recorders and IT Representatives to promptly process approved membership changes. Rather, it removes a rigid procedural requirement that does not materially improve record accuracy or system integrity. By adopting this amendment, the Grand Council promotes efficient administration, respects the time of its officers, and maintains practical oversight of membership reporting.

Administrative requirements should serve a clear operational purpose and not impose obligations that do not contribute to improved governance or recordkeeping.

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 the adoption of the new investment policy within the last several years, there is a much better understanding of terms, definitions and goals and protection of our processes and procedures and thereby are better enabled to accurately measure performance and compliance with established parameters.

The committee has been given access to the dropbox account where all financial transactions of the Cryptic Council are archived and recorded. 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 Treasurer on a monthly basis. Opportunities to ask questions concerning the detailed financial transactions are given to all participants to discussed 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.

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.

As has been mentioned in previous reports by this committee 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” Treasures 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 continue to be to make regular reports concerning annual registrations and filings for State and Federal authorities to the Grand Master, the Financial Review Committee, and Grand Recorder and also be included in his annual report.

3. We still recommend that an outside audit be performed by an auditing company. This would be for the sake of transparency, protection of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, 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 an investment policy that has greatly enhance the safety and transparency of our accounting system. We are optimistic that continued improvements will continue.

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 total of \$ 16,724.60 to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. Putting us into fifth place in the General Grand Council jurisdictional rankings. We were down over \$6,500 from last year, but overall donations were down throughout the General Grand Council jurisdiction.

New and creative means of fundraising are being established throughout the state. Many thanks to everyone who is participating in this effort. May councils are seeing rapid growth in their Table Council evening donations. Make the events a big deal, invite outsiders to attend these functions. Do not keep our amazing charity a secret.

In the arena of the Charitable Endowment Fund, the hard work of our finance and investment committees will allow us to make greater and more consistent contributions to the Masonic Youth groups and other designated charities.

Again, 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.
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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.

- e. 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. Add Charitable Endowment Fund to the constituent council annual dues notices. The Grand Secretary has a great template.
- 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.
  - b. 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.

Adam M. Iwanow, Chairman  
Corey B. Huntsucker

Christopher A. Wehrenberg  
Richard A. Riepe

*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 year marked some changes in the qualifications for the scoring of the Council Merit Award. Most notably with doing away with the regional conferences, points for regional conference attendance and visitation were replaced with attending the State York Rite Conference. Upon further review, this section will most likely be revised in the upcoming year.

Unfortunately there were fewer submissions this year. The Committee would like to encourage all Councils to fill out the Awards form, even if they don’t qualify for an award. Doing so gives the current and incoming Illustrious Masters and Recorders, as well as other officers an opportunity to assess their individual bodies and identify areas for improvement. It also identifies areas where RDGM’s and RDGL’s can assist in strengthening the Councils in their respective regions.

Last year, there were 17 Councils that were awarded Merit Awards - this year only 13 were received by the May 1st Deadline. One did not qualify. Follow up emails were sent to Recorders for those Councils that did not submit and responses were updated, adding one. There were 6 Bronze, 7 Silver, and no Gold-level awards.

Regions 3 and 4 submitted 3 each, Region 6 submitted 2, and all other Regions submitted one.

The Grand Council Merit Award Committee would like to congratulate the following Councils and their Illustrious Masters for achieving the requirements for the 2025-2026 Grand Council Merit Award:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Illustrious Master</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Tier</b>
Neosho Council No. 46	Jonathan Martin Turner	7B	2525	Silver
Centralia Council No. 34	Franklin Lukenbill	4	2270	Silver
Kirksville Council No. 44	Craig A. Nowell	1	2195	Silver

Cape Council No. 20	Rusty Allen Morgan	6	2130	Silver
Rolla Council No. 39	Johnnie Eugene Bryamt	4	2155	Silver
Poplar Bluff Council No. 27	Douglas C. Rose, Jr.	6	2025	Silver
Kansas City Council No. 45	Connor Duncan Mac Cormick	3	2010	Silver
Independence Council No. 49	William Robbins Jennens	3	1760	Bronze
Zabud Council No. 25	Randy Wayne Presley	7A	1650	Bronze
Liberty Council No. 50	Budd Craig Gilfillen	2	1580	Bronze
Hiram Council No. 1	Alexander Joseph Urban	5	1460	Bronze
Shekinah Council No. 24	Mitchell Eugene Carter	3	1395	Bronze
Ezra Council No. 32	Allen John Rehmer	4	1100	Bronze

**2025-2026 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 .....	- .....
Region 2 .....	- .....
Region 3 .....	- .....
Region 4 .....	- .....
Region 5 .....	- .....
Region 6 .....	- .....
Region 7A .....	- .....
Region 7B .....	- .....

**2025-2026 Membership Increase Awards**

1-10% Increase.....	Centralia Council No. 34
1-10% Increase.....	Ezra Council No. 32
1-10% Increase.....	Jasper Council No. 30
1-10% Increase.....	Poplar Bluff Council No. 27
1-10% Increase.....	Shelby Council No. 59
1-10% Increase.....	Lebanon Council No. 56
1-10% Increase.....	Rolla Council No. 39
1-10% Increase.....	Kansas City Council No. 45
10% or higher Increase .....	Zabud Council No. 25
10% or higher Increase .....	Hiram Council No. 1
10% or higher Increase .....	Cape Council No. 20
10% or higher Increase .....	Kirksville Council No. 44
30% or higher Increase .....	Trinity Council No. 47 .....38%

Fraternally submitted,  
Christopher A. Wehrenberg, Chairman

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

## REPORT OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN

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

As of this reporting we currently have 82 years worth of Grand Council proceedings digitized and available to download on the website for research purposes. We anticipate having this project completed by the end of this year.

Our next project will be to publish a Revised edition of the Ray V. Denslow pamphlet “History of Missouri Councils 1864-1949” and include history from 1950-1999.

On December 16, 2025 I was invited to speak and present a historical presentation for Liberty Council No. 50 celebrating their 75th Anniversary. This was a fantastic evening hosted by Ill. Comp. Bud Gilfillen and everyone in attendance received a commemorative lapel pin replica of their Anniversary banner made for the event.

VIC Jacob W. Thompson has been the most helpful this year in compiling biographies of all past Grand Masters, as well as a spreadsheet listing familial lineage of appointments, Decisions, Edicts, and Recommendations, and biographies for 55 of Past Grand Masters. We hope to have these in a published volume for sale by the end of next year.

In addition to these documents, he has produced a total of 9 historical papers for the “Into the Crypt” education series which are all available on the website to download.

The Vault Project, the digital preservation and training program, continues to evolve with services presently being offered by Neosho Council 46 to the Newton County Historical Society as a test pilot program. To date we have completed 2 projects with more requests coming in. We haven’t advertised the service yet and so far the requests have come by word of mouth. We plan to acquire additional scanners through grant programs and launch a full service project in 2027. We are also working with a variety of Colleges to develop print material as well as video demonstrations on the preservation of various materials. If any Council wishes to receive training, participate in this program, or have a historical presentation of their Council they are encouraged to get a hold of me to schedule a time for a seminar.

Lastly, we hope to expand these services to the Missouri Lodge of Research by the end of 2027 and create a partnership program offered to all Missouri Lodges.

Fraternally Submitted  
Matthew D Ruth, Chairman

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

## ORATION OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN

As we assemble here today we thought it would not only be fruitful but possible entertaining to look back at roughly 100 years ago and see what our past Companions were doing as they assembled themselves for the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly of Royal & Select Masters

### **April 26, 1926 Kirksville MO**

Remarks welcoming all the companions was given by MIC David M. Wilson on behalf of Solomon Council which held the unique distinction of having never worked under dispensation but rather being chartered instantly on petition in 1894, Wilson being their first Master.

Much of the address of then Grand Master Bernal Tatman could be mistaken as being written about today’s world. Many of the same issues facing our companions of the past are with us in the present. His focus was on the “*moral vigor and intellectual leadership*” of being a ROYAL and SELECT man. Having briefly touched upon the past accomplishments of many distinguished masons of the Revolutionary Era he asked this question.

***“Whether Freemasonry is devoting itself with equal energy and ability to the problems of today”*** stating that ***“our order is committed to the support of enlightened government by the people, to uphold the law of the land, and combatting the forces that undermine religion and our free institutions.”*** Much of the anxiety and woes of the moral decay of the day was directed towards the rapidly evolving mechanical age which can be compared to today’s advancement of technology in the field of Artificial General Intelligence.

He went on to state that ***“A direct responsibility rests upon Freemasonry in connection with these problems. It is our duty to aid American children in receiving more light from the Holy Bible that rests upon our altar. Are we speaking with one clear voice on the public school or are we broadcasting our several views from many stations and obtaining no result but static?”***

Another similar issue following the First Great War was the issue of unrestricted immigration and how we as a Craft might contribute to the preservation of American ideals by promoting the brotherhood of man on a lofty plane. Closing out his address was a stanch and emotional defense of the now repealed 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment know then as Prohibition. I’ll leave you to peruse at your own pleasure. The main controversy of the session was the removal of the Grand Recorder’s Office from St. Louis, which was deemed unauthorized and unsolicited by any one person and that the location be designated in the By-Laws and approved by the voting delegates and the property of the Grand Council that was removed by returned immediately. This was resolved with an amendment later that same day. It’s interesting to note in his recommendations MIC Tatman asked ***“Why occupy our time in roll calls and request for reports for a purely ornamental and honorary position of Grand Representatives that are not always forthcoming, and if there is real service to be performed let us make it more effective.”***

### **Some interesting facts in 1926**

- Membership at the time was 12,483 members spread across 21 Councils.
- The Grand Chapter that year had reported an increase in 68, Grand Commandery net increase of 6, and the Grand Council saw an increase of 683.
- The 3 Councils with the largest increase were presented Silver bowls, they being Shekinah Council No. 24, Zabud Council No. 25, and Fidelity Council No. 35.
- The Necrology service noted the passing of MIC Robert Stevenson, PGM 1903, GL in 1904, and Grand Recorder from 1905-1923.
- Almost every Council exemplified the work at every visit of the Grand Master who was accompanied by the Grand Lecture on every visit but one.
- In attendance was Most Puissant Comp Bert S. Lee from Springfield, MO then General Grand Master of GCCGMI, an occasion which would not be repeated until 2023 by MPC William G. Snyder.

Following the Session, the attendees were treated to a banquet at the College followed by a conferral of the “Newly Revised” Super Excellent Master degree in the Kirk Auditorium by MPC Bert S. Lee and a cast of Past Grand Master’s. This is believed to be the first conferral of the revised degree under MPC Lee as GGM.

Fraternally Submitted  
Matthew D. Ruth, PGM  
Grand Historian

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

The Committee on Education continues its efforts in aiding Royal and Select Masters in Missouri to push onward in their experiences within the Secret Vault. At the direction of Most Illustrious Companion Dennis W. Houck our Committee continued several past initiatives and executed several new programs during the A. : Dep. : 3025-3026 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:

### **Council Education Series**

The committee worked this year to continue the Education Series begun under Most Illustrious Companion Ruth and worked to produce no less than 12 individual education pieces that Councils could access and use in the Stated Assemblies or other activities. These programs were meant to take various forms and be provided to Council Education Officers, Masters, Recorders, and Regional Officers. It is worth noting, and with appreciation that last year's program was collected in a bound form and presented to Regional Officers by Most Illustrious Companion Houck.

1. Ish Sodi
2. Early Leaders of the Grand Council Series- Part II
3. Early Councils of the State- Weston Council No. 2, Royal and Select Master
4. Alpha & Omega: A beginning and an End
5. The Royal Arch & Council- Confusion in the Work
6. Ahishar, Zabud, and the Mysterious Number Nine
7. James McLachlan- the unlikely Grand Master
8. Gedaliah- Overlooked & Yet Pivotal-but which one?
9. Early Leaders of the Grand Council Series- Part III
10. Two Out of Three Ain't Bad
11. Early Leaders of the Grand Council Series- Part IV
12. Early Councils of the State- Marion Council No. 3, Royal and Select Master

A sincere thanks to Committee Member VIC Wehrenberg who contributed to the labor authoring one piece and allowing for its inclusion in this series. The most recent cycle brings the total number of the educational program for Councils to 36 potential education pieces over the life of this program since its inception in 2024. If we then consider those which are multipart we are truly creating the potential of over 61 separate programs. That is the equivalent of a program a month for five plus years. Far exceeding the needs of any council when most meet far less than that annually. These programs were distributed 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 MIC MacCormick continuing to labor in extending this Committees reach and helping to place material in an easily attainable format for the Craft.

### **Communication with/ and reporting of Council Education Officers**

The Committee continues to seek ways to implement support mechanism that foster 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 into MMS. In the past the reporting of these officers was not always fully followed through with. We hope each Council will appoint and utilize a companion in that role. The Committee feels strongly that sound programing 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 continues to believe that engaging companions with active programming and experiences that are 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 Ill. Comp. William Richardson, in his Address of 1895, who told the companions then, and which still stands now,

*Our assemblies should be schools of the noblest human virtues and of the gentlest human feelings—our membership a great wreath of human kindness and love, and while we are working assiduously to build in strength, let us not forget to brighten the chain of friendship, and may the Cryptic virtues be our talisman to guide us in an example worthy of imitation toward our uninformed Companions and brethren, and let it be written over the doors of our secret vault, Cryptic Masons have found the word which has made them true to their God, their neighbor and themselves, and as we gather yearly in these assemblies for the good of the Craft in Missouri, let us prove by our actions and deliberations, that we are endeavoring to build characters which shall redound to the praise and glory of the higher Degrees of ancient Craft Masonry, and at the same time, have not lessened our duty to the symbolic foundation of the beautiful structure, but that in our advancement to the higher Degrees we have been made better men and Masons.*

Again, please do not hesitate to reach out to the committee at any time ([mocrypticedu@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Chris A. Wehrenberg  
Douglas C. Rose, Jr.

Christopher M. Foeste  
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 eleven members during the 2025-2026 Grand Council year. A total of \$15,268.00 was received from those eleven new Endowed members. The Grand Council Endowed Membership database contains a total of 585 members of which 248 are listed as living.

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

### **Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Liquid Accounts - March 31, 2026**

#### **Checking Accounts**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Operating Checking Account (EMF Op) = \$2,018.50

Balance May 31, 2025	= \$2,018.50
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	= \$62.50
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	= \$62.50

Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Holding Checking Account (EMF Hold) = \$4,271.72

Balance May 31, 2025	= \$43,891.22
Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	= \$12,243.00
Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	= \$51,862.50

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Total of Grand Council EMF Liquid Assets - Checking = \$6,290.22

Total Balance May 31, 2025	= \$45,909.72
Total Receipts June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	= \$12,305.50
Total Expenditures June 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026	= \$51,925.00

**Status of Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund Long-Term Accounts - March 31, 2026**

JEFFERSON BANK (JB)

**Capital Group 1 (CG1) 03-31-2025 / Capital Group 4 (CG4) 03-31-2026**

**Grand Council Income Fund of America (Am Inc) Contents**

Value of Grand Council Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025	= \$123,953.36
Contains 92.31% Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund	= \$114,421.35

Value of Grand Council Am Inc Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026	= \$143,399.45
Contains 92.31% Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund	= \$132,372.03

**Grand Council Investment Company of America (Am Inv) Contents**

Value of Grand Council Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2025	= \$0
Value of Grand Council Am Inv Mutual Fund on March 31, 2026	= \$295,900.55
Contains 19.72% Grand Council Endowed Membership Fund	= \$58,351.59

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Total Value of Grand Council EMF Long-Term Assets on March 31, 2026 = \$190,723.62

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**Total of All Grand Council EMF Assets as of March 31, 2026 = \$197,013.84**

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 MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION AND GROWTH**

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

When appointed to chair this committee I saw a great opportunity to put my before-retirement job experience as a Kirkpatrick Gold Certified professional and DOTMLPF Analysis experience teaching the Staff & Faculty of Ft. Wood to good use. I looked at our program and saw a great Recruiting tool in our Grand Master's Invitational, Great support of our Charities, and Great Ritual opportunities to interest those joining York Rite. The only gap I saw was one of the hardest ones to correct. Why were members leaving. Limited in the amount of data available and in order to help fill this gap I wanted to focus on relationships, group dynamics, and development. Basically our philosophy of "Making Good Men Better".

First up the committee developed a "Health and Dynamics Observation checklist" to assist Councils in growing and retaining lasting members. The base checklist was built by Chris Foeste with open ended questions added to each evaluation area by other committee members. These questions allow RDGM's to start a conversation/discussion with individual Councils on retaining members and fostering a healthy Council.

The RDGM's performed a field test of the evaluation instrument on their official visits to the Councils in their Region and gave their feedback.

From the feedback provided, the Committee requests to have this checklist available on the Grand York Rite website as a "Job Aid" for New and existing Regional Deputies to know what to look for and for the local Council Officers to use to be able to do a self-assessment on their Councils. We feel the checklist is lengthy and is tough to cover multiple areas during a single visit. It however has a strong value in making Officers and Deputies aware of what a healthy Council should look like. Healthy Councils retain members. We feel there should be no requirement to submit the observation checklist to Grand Council but to be available for use as desired.

The committee spearheaded by the Chairman published 8 group/personal development type articles in a column called "Retention Corner" in the Beacon online magazine. I thank my committee members who provided input and ideas for these submissions.

It has been our pleasure to assist Grand Council and to serve MIC Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master as members of this committee.

Fraternally Submitted,

Gerald R. Hill, Chairman  
Christopher M. Foeste  
Steven F. Eberharter

Michael J. Estright  
Douglas C. Rose, Jr.  
Regional Deputy Grand Masters

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

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE STATEWIDE YORK RITE CONFERENCE

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

The committee scouted several locations throughout the summer and settled on St. James, MO for its convenient location and adequate facilities; we had several representatives from all 3 bodies communicating over the Slack app as well as multiple Zoom calls to determine the format and programs. The committee thanks everyone who provided input and creating a successful event.

September 5<sup>th</sup> 2025, Friday evening, St. James Winery, Public house Brewery

- MEC Patrick C. Carr, Grand High Priest of Kansas conferred the “Stonecutter Degree” on the participants following the social hour from 6pm-7pm.
- We ordered \$750 worth of appetizers, (this cost was factored into the Saturday ticket price)
- Pre-sold tickets to the event were 63 @ \$20 each. I believe we had a few cash buyers at the door.
- \$1250 gross revenue of which \$300 was presented to the Grand High Priest for R.A.R.A., \$300 was presented to the Grand Master for CMMRF, \$300 was presented to SK Terry Coppotelli, Deputy Grand Commander for KTEF. Patrick C. Carr received \$300 to cover certificates, pins, and stickers and his fuel.
- There was no charge for the space Friday evening.

September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, Saturday morning 9am, St. James Winery, Public house Brewery

The event was sold out with an additional 8 attendees present via Zoom

MEC Kevin M. Ritter, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri was introduced and after receiving Grand Honors provided an overview of his message and programs for the year. The companions then heard reports from the following District Deputy Grand High Priests VEC Craig Nowell Region 1, VEC Michael Estright Region 2, VEC Tom Stevenson Region 5, VEC Douglas Rose Jr. Region 6, VEC Randy W. Presley Region 7A, and VEC Derik Campbell Region 7B.

MIC Dennis W. Houck Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri was introduced and after receiving the Grand Honors shared an overview of his message and programs for the year. The companions then heard reports from Regional Deputy Grand Masters VIC David Goring Region 1, VIC Derek W. Pope Region 2&3, VIC Gary R. Woodruff Region 4, VIC Glenn B. Parker Region 5, VIC Christopher M. Foeste Region 6, VIC Gerald Hill Region 7A, and VIC William “Kip” Davis Region 7B.

Sir Knight Terry Coppotelli, Deputy Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri was introduced and received hearty applause. SK Terry provided updates on Grand Commandery programs and gave an inspirational message on leadership. The Sir Knights in attendance then heard reports from Regional Grand Commanders SK David D. Goring Region 1, SK William R. Jennens Region 3, SK Russell A. Bradshaw Region 4, SK Christopher A. Wehrenberg Region 6, and SK Christopher L. Story Region 7A.

Following Lunch, the companions listened to a presentation by MEC Patrick C. Carr GHP on his latest book “Working Tools; Your Guide to a fulfilling Masonic Lodge Experience” followed by a Q&A.

All presentations were recorded and later uploaded to the moyorkrite.org website and shared across social media. The Committee wishes to express our deepest appreciation to Comp. Josh Kelley out of Springfield for offering his technical support in recording the audio and video as well as VIC Adam Iwanow for assisting in the scouting and planning phase of the event.

The space was a flat \$500; We sold 70 tickets @\$40 which brought in \$2800. The cost of the lunch was \$17 each for 75 meals for a total of \$1275. We paid 12% gratuity and the final bill came to \$2813.74

- \$4060 ticket sales
- \$2025 food
- \$500 meeting space.
- \$900 donations to charities
- \$300 for Stonecutter
- \$60 1 disputed charge refund
- \$300 gratuities

I wish to thank Most Excellent Companion Kevin M. Ritter, Most Illustrious Companion Dennis W. Houck, and SK Skiles and Coppotelli for their confidence in allowing me to serve as chairman for the inaugural event replacing the old Regional conference schedule with a more productive event.

Fraternally submitted,  
Matthew D. Ruth, Chairman  
Jacob W. Thompson  
James E. McManigle

Adam M. Iwanow  
Terry D. Coppotelli

*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,*

It has been an honor to serve the Grand Council as the Grand Lecturer for the past year. I know I have learned a lot in my travels, and hopefully everyone else did too. I attended Rolla Council on July 7, when the Grand Master made his Official Visit. I also served the Grand Council as the RDGL for Region 4. I made my Official Visit, with the RDGM, to Rolla Council on August 4th. On August 25th, the RDGM and I made our visit to Centralia Council. On August 9, I attended MIC Houck's Reception in Cape Girardeau.

September 5 and 6 was the York Rite Conference in St. James. This new format provided the Companions and Sir Knights from all over the state an opportunity to come together and share ideas and enjoy Masonic Fellowship. I hope this event continues. On September 21 and 22 I attended the Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

On October 3 and 4, I attended the York Rite Festival in Poplar Bluff. On October 25, the Grand Council hosted a School of Instruction in California, MO. It was well attended and I believe we all left with considerably more knowledge than we previously had.

On November 3, the RDGM and I made our visit to Ezra Council. On November 24, I attended Centralia Council when the Grand Master made his Official Visit.

On February 2, the Grand Master made his Official Visit to Ezra Council. It was an honor to have him visit my home Council.

March 28 was Cryptic Day in Columbia. The event was well attended, and the cast did a tremendous job. Seventeen candidates received all three Cryptic Degrees in full form. I was proud to be a part of this event.

I received reports from Regions 4, 6, and 7B. Although there is always room for improvement, I feel most Companions are making an attempt to learn the ritual. I hope the Companions understand the importance of our ritual. Without it, we are just another fraternity.

It also affords me great pleasure in announcing and congratulating the following Companions who tested successfully on a range of ritual proficiencies.

Part 1, Complete Opening and Closing of a Council in the Select Master Degree

Joseph P. Elsen,                      Shelby Council No. 59 (Renewal)  
Homer I. Markhart, Jr.              Cape Council No. 20

Part 3, Section B Royal Master Degree Lecture  
Tom G. Cupples                      Hiram Council No. 1

Part 4, Section B Select Master Degree History  
Christopher A. Wehrenberg      Cape Council No. 20  
Tom G. Cupples                      Hiram Council No. 1

Part 4, Section C Select Master Degree Apron Lecture  
Christopher A. Wehrenberg      Cape Council No. 20  
Tom G. Cupples                      Hiram Council No. 1

Part 4, Section D Select Master Degree Charge  
Tom G. Cupples                      Hiram Council No. 1

Part 5, Section E Super Excellent Master Degree Lecture  
Tom G. Cupples                      Hiram Council No. 1

Thank you Companions, for allowing me to serve you as your Grand Lecturer. Thank you, MIC Dennis, for having the confidence to allow me to serve the Council in this important position.

Fraternally submitted,  
W. Stuart English, 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,*

The Committee on Ritual made no revisions to the Ritual this year. The Grand Master did provide a token to each Council to be used during the exchange between King Solomon and the Conductor of the Council in the Royal Master Degree.

Fraternally submitted,  
W. Stuart English, Chairman  
Kevin B. Sample

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,*

The special assembly was opened in due and proper form at 9:00 a.m. with the following officers seated:

Office (pro-tem)	Officer
Master	Dennis M. Houck, Grand Master
Deputy Master	Taz A. Meyer, Deputy Grand Master
Principal Conductor of the Work	Corey B. Huntsucker, Grand Principal Conductor of the Work

Treasurer	Matthew D. Ruth, PGM
Recorder	Donald MacCormick (Grand Recorder)
Captain of the Guard	Gerald R. Hill
Conductor of the Council	Kevin B. Sample, Grand Conductor of the Council
Marshal	Jacob W. Thompson, Grand Marshal
Steward	Christopher A. Wehrenberg
Sentinel	F. Brad Fowler, RDGM, Region 3
Chaplain	Homer I. Markhart, Jr., Grand Chaplain
Organist	Christian M. Jessen, Grand Organist

There were many members and guests present. MIC Houck welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

MIC Houck introduced all of the Grand Council officers, then introduced IC and MWB Emmett J. Bryson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri. Other Grand Lodge officers present were additionally introduced.

The purpose of this special assembly was the Grand Master’s Cryptic Day. Labor was then dispensed with and called to labor in the Royal Master Degree and the cast took their stations. The following Companions were advanced to the rights and honors of a Royal Master:

Barton Dean Tallent, Jr.	Hiram Council No. 1
Steven Arik Smith	Hiram Council No. 1
Benjamin Alan Jellision	Zabud Council No. 25
Joshua Alan Kelley	Zabud Council No. 25
Curtis Jahr	Ezra Council No. 32
James Allen Bauer	Rolla Council No. 39
James Scott Brinkley	Rolla Council No. 39
Benjamin Lawrence Butler	Rolla Council No. 39
Edward Michael Fleetwood	Rolla Council No. 39
George Edward Justice, Jr.	Rolla Council No. 39
DeAndre Cortez Sanders	Rolla Council No. 39
James Bradley Peck	York Council No. 40
Nicholas John Prater	Jeremiah Council No. 48
Phillip McDaniel	Jeremiah Council No. 48

The Council was then called to labor in the Select Master Degree and the same Companions were Greeted Select Masters.

Following lunch provided by Columbia Assembly No. 18, Rainbow Girls, the Council was then called to labor in the Super Excellent Master Degree. The above named candidates along with

John Anthony White	Hiram Council No. 1
Gregory Todd Ridenhour	Zabud Council No. 25
William Kent Burns	Rolla Council No. 39

were introduced into the mysteries of a Super Excellent Master.

Following the conclusion of the work, MIC Houck presented the Grand Master with a personal gift of stained glass which was made by Lady Debbie Houck. MWB Bryson addressed the Companions with an outstanding presentation.

With no further business to come before the Council, MIC Houck thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Council at approximately 3:30 p.m. Special thanks go to IC’s Bean, Bradshaw, Miller and several others who helped with setup and teardown the whole day.

Fraternally submitted,  
Corey B. Huntsucker, Chairman  
Kevin B. Sample

W. Stuart English

*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 continued to grow with additional content, educational material, and past proceedings. There is a host of informational, and educational resources available for all three bodies and there is certainly something for everyone.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mailing Lists     | We encourage everyone to subscribe to the Grand York mailing lists so that timely event notices and updates can be shared with all. In the coming year we will be upgrading our subscriptions to provide additional interactive communication with all our members. The subscription link can be found at: <a href="https://moyorkrite.org/join-the-mailing-list/">https://moyorkrite.org/join-the-mailing-list/</a> |
| Events Calender   | The Events Calendar is open to everyone to post their events of import - Official Visits by Grand Officers, Degree work dates, Festival, Fundraisers, state level events, Scottish Rite Reunion, Shrine Investiture - all are moderated and posted in less than 24 hours.  |
| Documents Library | I would direct everyone to the very useful forms, documents, past proceedings, officer visitation forms, award histories, all 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.  |
| Education Pages   | Each body has education resources containing a host of great materials. We continue to expand its content and options. Again, if there is something you would like to see hosted - please let us know.   |
| Social Media      | We continue to regularly post current and upcoming event information. We continue to encourage regional officers, and all Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies to send in, or share, event information, pictures of newly Greeted Companions and Degree Teams, and charitable events to share with everyone.   |
| Electronic Forms  | We shall continue to add interactive online forms to make the filing of reports, and submissions easier and faster. We will continue to increase our ability move away from paper forms to electronic communications and will shortly add the ability to generate New Member Certificates online that can then be downloaded and printed by Secretaries and Recorders.   |
| Online Store      | We continue to improve the online store and are working on simplifying shipping costs for everyone.  |

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 Grand York Rite Sessions for 2027 will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, 333 S John Q Hammons Pkwy, Springfield, MO 65806 on June 9, 2027 through June 13, 2027, with the 161st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons meeting on Thursday June 10, 2027.

Fraternally submitted,  
Taz A. Meyer, Chairman  
Roger D. Fleer  
James E. McManigle

Donald MacCormick  
Russell S. Hanson  
Terry D. Coppotelli

*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 Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master for his successful year and continuing programs. Additionally, we would like to thank the craft for the opportunity to continue to serve you this year. As we continue the Beacon Magazine for the Grand York Rite of Missouri, the feedback has been favorable from you, our Missouri craft and Freemasons worldwide. As this return is made, we have various ideas that will appear in future issues. So, keep your eyes open for those changes.

Your magazine continues to bring in various 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.

Your enthusiasm and support for this venture has ensured that your magazine will remain a monthly publication for years to come. Thank you Companions for your continued support and enthusiasm in your magazine. If anyone wishes to submit any articles and/or information to future issues, that material may be uploaded to:

<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  
Steven F. Eberharter  
Lloyd G. Lyon  
Kevin B. Sample  
Michael S. Smith

Kevin M. Ritter  
Roger D. Fleer  
Russell S. Hanson  
Donald MacCormick  
Jacob W. Thompson

*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 organizations. 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.

2025 - 2026 Masonic Youth Convention, Grand Assembly & Grand Session

- Missouri DeMolay's 2026 Annual Convention was held in Cape Girardeau on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University Friday, May 22 – Monday, May 25.
- Missouri Rainbow's 2026 Grand Assembly was held on Friday May 29 – Monday June 1 at the Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa & Convention Center in Branson.
- Missouri Job's Daughters 2025 Grand Session was convened on Wednesday, June 26 – Sunday, June 29 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City.

Companions and Sir Knights, during the respective Masonic Youth Annual and Grand Sessions, your leaders, MEC Kevin M. Ritter – Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri; MIC Dennis W. Houck – Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri and Sir Knight Terry D. Coppotelli – Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Missouri represented you and the Grand York Rite in exemplary fashion.

Presentation of the 2025 – 2026 Grand York Rite Youth Awards

The presiding officers of the Grand York Rite of Missouri have the privilege of presenting one Missouri Masonic Youth within each of the three youth organizations with its respective and coveted Youth Award. Recipients of the Grand York Rite of Missouri Youth Awards must complete an extensive application, receive endorsement from their respective Advisory Councils, and demonstrate exceptionalism in their fraternal, sororal, community, and academic endeavors.

The 2025 – 2026 designees and recipients of the Grand Master of the Grand Council's Youth Award are the following distinguished Masonic Youth:

- Missouri DeMolay (2026): Ayden Kitsmiller – Mid Rivers Chapter Order of DeMolay
- Missouri Rainbow (2026): Olivia Walsh – Columbia Assembly No. 78
- Missouri Jobs Daughters International (2025): Gabriella Knarr – Bethel No. 19

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 has been, "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.

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 Dennis W. Houck 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 2025/2026; Year of the Deposit 3025/3026. 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), the several appendant bodies of the American or York Rite of Freemasonry, the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, and the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (Shriners International).

- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I was installed as Regional Deputy Grand Master during the One Hundred Fifty-Ninth Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, at the Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel in Kansas City.
- July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Official Reception for MIC Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, at the Drury Plaza Hotel, in Cape Girardeau.
- August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the stated assembly of Shelby Council No. 59 R. & S.M. wherein MIC Dennis W. Houck, 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.
- September 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the first annual Statewide York Rite Leadership Conference at St. James Winery in St. James.
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council School of Instruction held in California.
- November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the stated assembly of Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M. at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville.
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I made my official visit to Shelby Council No. 59 R. & S.M. at the Masonic Temple in Shelbina.
- December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 A.D. | 3025 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 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. I was honored to install the officers of my home council in my capacity as Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region One of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. VIC Ashley W. Young, former Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region One of the Grand Council, installed the officers of Ely Commandery in his capacity as Eminent Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri. VEC Richard A. Taylor, installed the officers of Caldwell Chapter in his capacity as Grand Master of the First Veil of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri. Special thanks to VIC Christian M. Jessen, Grand Organist of the Grand Council, Grand Commandery, and Grand Chapter, for providing music during the three installations.

- January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I attended the stated assembly of Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M. at the Masonic Temple in Kirksville.
- February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I assisted and attended a York Rite Festival hosted by Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M.; Caldwell Chapter No. 53 R.A.M.; Ely Commandery No. 22 K.T.: the York Rite of Kirksville. Representing our Grand Council at the event was RIC Taz A. Meyer, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri and VIC Christian M. Jessen, Grand Organist of the Grand Council. Also in attendance was MIC Wayne B. Fryer, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council, 2020-2022, and VIC Bryan D. Bever, Grand Steward of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Iowa.
- March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I assisted with the organization and preparation of, as well as attended, the annual 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. VIC Kevin B. Sample, Grand Conductor of the Council of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri was in attendance.
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.
- March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I attended the annual Grand Master's Cryptic Day at the Masonic Temple in Columbia, MO. I was honored to be able to participate as a cast member to assist with the conferral of the Cryptic Degrees.
- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I attended the Grand Council Officers Meeting online.

*Planned activities for the remainder of the year:*

- May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I plan to attend the Grand York Rite of Missouri Regional Officer Training at the Masonic Temple in Columbia.
- May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I plan to attend the Stated Assembly of Kirksville Council No. 44 R. & S.M. wherein MIC Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri will be received by the companions of Kirksville Council for the Most Illustrious Grand Master's Official Visit.
- May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I plan to attend the Grand Council Officers Meeting online, if invited.
- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 A.D. | 3026 A.Dep.: I plan to attend the Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri at the Marriott Airport Hotel in St. Louis. I plan to attend the entire Annual Sessions of the Grand York Rite of Missouri.

Based upon the efforts of the companions of Region One, we continue to grow with newly exalted Royal Arch Masons, in waiting, to be greeted as Select Masters, as well as the increased number of Select Masters in the respective Councils. Region One continues to adapt and evolve with a diverse group of new Companions. I am additionally proud of the companions of Region One with their continued very successful fundraising efforts for CMMRF.

Again, it has been an honor to serve the Grand Council and 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, John F Houston Council No. 42, and St Joseph No. 9. 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 Councils took in new members, conducted good meetings, and had great fellowship. The Region pulled together this year and had a Regional Table Chapter, Table Council and Table Commandery. Region 2 for the first time hosted a Regional Table Council. This event was held at Lexington on Monday April 27, 2026. The event was well attended from a larger number of the region and allowed us to collect more for charity. These councils continue to grow and thrive. The leadership in this region is amazing, the Masters this year continue to amaze me.

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,*

*(No report received at time of publication)*

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,*

This report summarizes the activities and conditions of Region 4 - Ezra Council No. 32, Centralia Council No. 34, and Rolla Council No. 39 - for the current reporting period.

This year the RDGL and I conducted multiple visits to all Councils throughout Region 4. I observed a collection of the finest men throughout the great state of Missouri. At each it was evident that the Companions were dedicated to the betterment of the Council and were truly living Most Illustrious Grand Master Dennis Houck's vision of looking at what we are doing well, and, expanding it. Region 4 hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Statewide York Rite Conference, Grand Masters Cryptic Day, participated in multiple York festivals, raised a lot of money for CMMRF, visited Masons in Veterans homes and multiple other events. Region 4 has an extreme wealth of knowledge with Past Grand officers attending regularly. I have been very impressed by the number of members from this Region that have traveled throughout the state to participate in Degree work and promote fellowship with Companions. I for one find the windshield time traveling to and from meetings and events a bonding and fellowship experience that cannot be found anywhere else.

I was honored to represent MIC Dennis Houck this year, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Region 4 and contribute to the success of our Councils. I look forward to the future of Cryptic Masonry both within the Region and throughout the State. I am humbled to serve the Grand Council and the extraordinary Companions of Region 4.

Fraternally Submitted,  
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Gary R. Woodruff, 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,*

RDGM visits were as follows.

- August 9, 2025: Attended the Grand Council Official Reception for Most Illustrious Dennis Houck in Cape Girardeau.
- September 5, 2025: Attended the York Rite Region Conference, St. James.
- September 19, 2025: Attended the South Central York Rite Conference. League City, Texas.
- October 20, 2025: Visited Jeremiah Council No. 48, Webster Groves.
- January 198, 2026: Visited Jeremiah Council No. 48 to support Most Illustrious Companion Dennis W. Houck on his Official Visit, , Webster Groves.
- March 23, 2026: Attended the Installation of Officers of Jeremiah Council No. 48, Webster Groves
- April 22, 2026: Attended the Installation of Officers of Hiram Council No. 1, Ballwin.

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,*

*(No report received at time of publication)*

Fraternally Submitted,  
Christopher M. Foeste, 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 Dennis W. Houck, 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 Council No. 25 and Bert S. Lee Council No. 58 merged with Zabud Council No. 25. Zabud Council No. 25 held a Table Council raising \$1,000 for CMMRF. The Dime Wars seemed to do well and the final tally should be in these proceedings.

- June 13, 2025: Installed as Regional Deputy Grand Master for Region 7A of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons at Grand Session.
- August 2, 2025: Attended York Rite Leadership Program in Kansas City.
- August 25, 2025: Attended Zabud Council No. 25 for the Official visit of MIC Dennis W. Houck.
- September 1, 2025: Visited Rolla Council No. 39 in Region 4.
- September 5-6, 2025: Attended the Statewide York Rite Conference in St. James.

- September 16, 2025: Conducted my Official Visit of Lebanon Council No. 56, a strong Council with many Past Illustrious Masters filling stations.
- October 4, 2025: Attended Council degrees held at Region 6 festival in Popular Bluff, Missouri.
- October 27, 2025: Represented MIC Dennis W. Houck, Grand Master of Cryptic Masons for a 50 year pin and certificate courtesy presentation to Jackson Bodine of Illinois Grand Council at Zabud Council No. 25 in Springfield.
- November 1, 2025: Attended Table Council held by Zabud No. 25 in Springfield which raised \$1,000 for CMMRF.
- November 24, 2025: Conducted my Official Visit of Zabud Council No. 25, Good line of new officers showing much potential.
- December 9, 2025: Attended meeting of Bert S. Lee Council No. 58, during which they voted to consolidate with Zabud No. 25.
- February 2, 2026: Attended Official visit of MIC Dennis W. Houck at Ezra Council No. 32 in Jefferson City.
- February 21, 2026: Attended Grand Master's Cryptic Day Practice in Jefferson City.
- March 28, 2026: Attended Grand Master's Cryptic Day in Columbia.
- May 14, 2026: Attended Official visit of MIC Dennis W. Houck at Kirksville Council No. 44 in Kirksville.

Fraternally Submitted,  
Gerald R. Hill

*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,*

The following visits were made to the identified Councils in Region 7B over the past year:

- Nevada Council No. 65 on August 11, 2025
- Neosho Council No. 46 on August 19, 2025
- Carthage Council No. 41 on September 18, 2025
- Jasper Council No. 30 on October 7, and November 4, 2025.
- Attended the Grand York Rite State Conference on September 6, 2025.
- Attended Neosho Council No. 46 Table Council on February 17, 2026 with Most Illustrious Dennis Houck, Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. Contributions and a silent auction were held with all contributions going to CMMRF.
- Attended the 2026 Grand Masters Cryptic Day in Columbia on March 28, 2026.
- Various other visits were made to Region 7B during the Cryptic year.

Fraternally Submitted,  
William G "Kip" Davis II

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

### **REPORT OF THE ORDER OF SILVER TROWEL**

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

*(No report received at time of publication)*

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



*2025-2026 Grand Council Officers*



*2025-2026 Grand Council  
Regional Grand Masters*



*2025-2026 Grand Council  
Regional Grand Lecturers*