

Grand York Rite  
of Utah Annual  
Sessions

May 8

2026

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Pre-Printed Reports

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## CHAPTER CONVOCATION

### CONVOCATION AGENDA

**Agenda**  
**Grand Chapter of Utah Annual Convocation**  
**May 9, 2026**

1. 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter Cryptic Masons of Utah OPEN
2. Roll Call
  - a. Grand Chapter Officers
  - b. Past Grand High Priests
  - c. Chapter Dias Officers
3. Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests
4. First Credentials Report
5. Minutes of 2025 Annual Convocation
6. Pre-Printed Reports
7. Report of Most Grand High Priest
8. Final Credentials Report
9. Unfinished Business
10. New Business
11. Legislation Proposals
12. Committee Reports
  - a. Finance Committee (budget)
  - b. Other Committee Reports
13. Election of Officers
14. Greetings from the representative of the General Grand High Priest
15. Greeting from the Grand Master of Utah to speak (if present)
16. Break for Installation
17. Installation of new Officers
18. 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation closed
19. Break for Lunch

## REPORT OF THE GRAND KING

Greetings to the members of the Grand Chapter RAM of Utah.

It was my honor to be elected Grand King at the Grand York Sessions in May 2025. I had the privilege of serving under our Grand High Priest, Treavor Wilkinson during that time. I accompanied him on his visitations to Tooele, Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Provo. Unfortunately, I could not be present at Price or St. George for work-related reasons. I participated in the various Chapter degrees whenever possible including the Chapter festival in Salt Lake City in February and in Ogden in April. I also participated in the RAM degree at the Four Corners Festival held in Price in October.

Once again, thank-you for placing your trust in me as Grand King and I wish all the best for the Grand Chapter and its endeavors for the upcoming year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Douglas J. Backes  
Grand King

## REPORT OF THE GRAND SCRIBE

Companions,

2025 turned out to be a disappointing year for me. Due to health problems, I was not able to participate very much this year. I made the Grand visitation to Ogden and was only able to attend the first day of Grand Sessions. My health issues have been taken care of and I look forward to a much better 2026.

David S. Hutchinson  
Grand Scribe

## GRAND SECRETARY REPORT ON RETURNS

See Appendix A

## GRAND TREASURER – BUDGET

See Joint Committee Reports

ROYAL ARCH RESEARCH ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

**This presentation was made to all six Utah Royal Arch Chapters during this Masonic Year:**

**Central Auditory Processing Disorder**

Central Auditory Processing Disorder (or CAPD) is a hearing deficiency that usually affects younger people and does not allow them to distinguish sounds as would be heard by those with regular hearing. Background noises and other speakers disturb and confuse people with CAPD making it difficult to concentrate. This results in misunderstanding and/or frustrations leading to students being accused of being dysfunctional. Often students with satisfactory IQ's produce substandard work because they cannot hear messages or a teacher's delivery clearly. Research is developing paths of opportunity to correct this problem and RARA contributions support these research efforts. Our activities go back over 30 years, and much progress has been achieved through these efforts. More needs to be done and that is why RARA has expanded their efforts.

**Autism Speaks**

Autism strikes 1 in 110 births and 1 in 70 boy births, so it is a major problem in the world today. Autism Speaks has become very well known throughout the country as they strive to help the more and more children that are diagnosed with this problem. The challenge in this area goes much deeper than children and their parents who are provided with special training in dealing with this difficulty but becomes increasingly difficult for parents as they become older, and plans must be made for the days when those parents will no longer be able to provide the care and support needed. Our activity with this highly visible organization should benefit both immeasurably. Royal Arch Masons will be able to participate in the more than 90 "Walks" around the country, challenging greater contributions and making Royal Arch Masons visible doing good works in the community. This clearly shows that RARA continues to do what it does best, to support and fund research for its core charity and mission – CAPD! We are proud of that record and its consistent and continued commitment.

It was requested that each Chapter contribute what they deemed an appropriate amount.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Mitchel, Chairman  
Past Grand High Priest

## LEGISLATION PROPOSALS

None

## JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

See Joint Committee Reports

## KEYSTONE MARK MASTER LODGE

Companions and Sir Knights,

Keystone Mark Master Masons Lodge No. 00 has had a very productive year over the past 12 months. Since our last Grand Sessions, Keystone has met in Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Cedar City. In February of this year, we assisted Provo York Rite in their Chapter Festival; in April we assisted Ogden York Rite in their Chapter Festival, and in May we went to Cedar City to confer the Mark Master Degree. In total, Keystone helped in bringing the York Rite experience to over 20 companions.

While we are more than happy to continue to provide this service for the State, we still feel that Keystone is an underutilized aspect of York Rite Masonry in Utah. As time goes on and Keystone becomes more and more active in putting on the Mark Master Degree, it is our hope that this unique experience becomes, as our name indicates, a 'keystone' to the success of Utah York Rite Masonry.

Our annual contribution to RARA this year will total \$900. Keystone Mark Master Masons Lodge continues to be a very unique experience for anyone interested in York Rite Masonry, and we look forward to serving this jurisdiction and York Rite in any way we can.

Respectfully & Fraternaly,

Matthew Benavidez  
Secretary

## COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

### ASSEMBLY AGENDA

**Agenda**  
**Grand Council of Utah Annual Assembly**  
**May 9, 2026**

1. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons of Utah open
2. Roll Call
  - a. Grand Council Officers
  - b. Past Grand Illustrious Masters
  - c. Council Dias Officers
3. Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests
4. First Credentials Report
5. Call Minutes from the 2025 Grand Assembly
6. Pre-Printed Reports
7. Report of Most Illustrious Grand Master
8. Final Credentials Report
9. Unfinished Business
10. New Business
11. Legislation Proposals
12. Committee Reports
  - a. Finance Committee (budget)
  - b. Other Committee Reports
13. Election of Officers
14. Greetings from the representative of the MP General Grand Master
15. Greetings from the Grand Master of Utah
16. Break for Installation
17. Installation of new Officers
18. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly closed

## REPORT OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Greetings Companions,

This past year I was lucky enough to serve you all as the Deputy Grand Master. I was able to attend almost every visitation except for Utah No. 1 as my car broke down enroute which caused me to be late.

I had the privilege of representing Utah at the Southwest Department Conference held in Las Vegas, NV and I was able to represent the Grand Commander at the Nevada Grand York Rite Sessions.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your Deputy Grand Master this past year.

Fraternally submitted,

Treavor Wilkinson  
Deputy Grand Master

## REPORT OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR OF WORKS

I thank you all for allowing me to represent Utah Grand York Rite in these roles,

I was able to visit Provo and Price York Rite Bodies. For Provo I represented Our RE Grand Commander Mont Anderson and presented to Eminent Grand Sentinel Matthew Benavidez an Meritorious Service Award.

I helped with Four Corners in October in Price.

Assisted in the Council degrees as Ahishar my favorite character for my own York Rite body

I helped take part in completing the Orders in November in Price.

Fraternally,

O Blake Hansen  
Principal Conductor of the Work

## GRAND RECORDER REPORT ON RETURNS

See Appendix B

## GRAND TREASURER REPORT – BUDGET

See Joint Committee Reports

## CMMFR REPORT

**This presentation was made at all constituent York Rite Bodies in Utah during the Masonic year ending 2025.**

### **Cryptic Mason Medical Research Foundation**

Currently, the CMMRF is supporting medical research into eight critical areas through the Indiana University School of Medicine. Each of the eight research fields are medical conditions that afflict millions of people on an annual basis. Each of you will undoubtedly have multiple relatives and friends; if not yourselves, who are afflicted by these conditions.

1. Condition Under Study – ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM (AAA) Description - (AAA) is an enlarging of the aorta which is the main blood vessel from the heart to the rest of the body. The enlargement of the aorta many times leads to rupture and death. AAA is the 13th leading cause of death in the U.S., but its incidence is probably much higher as it has no symptoms until it ruptures. Of those patients who have a rupture, half will die before reaching the hospital. Of the ones who do reach a hospital, half will die after emergency surgery. In total, 70% or more diagnosed with AAA will succumb to the condition, with only 30% or less surviving. Research is being done with stem cells and preliminary results show a significant reduction of inflammatory cells and AAA enlargement, Dr. Michael Murphy, a leading researcher for CMMRF, is now researching this problem.
2. Condition Under Study – PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE (PAD) is a restriction in blood flow. Approximately 8 million Americans are afflicted with it. Critical Limb Threatening Ischemia, (CLTI), is the most severe form of PAD and is characterized by foot pain, as well as gangrene. CLTI is a significant risk for amputation of the leg. Surgical interventions have provided excellent results in treating CLTI however, up to 30% of patients with CLTI will not be candidates for angioplasty or bypass and the only treatment option for relief of pain or removal of an infected ulcer is amputation. Update: Dr. Murphy is now doing experimental foot ulcer treatments on humans restoring blood flow with amazing results.
3. Condition Under Study – HEART FAILURE Description – Heart failure occurs when the heart muscle doesn't pump blood as well as it should. Blood often backs up and causes fluid to

build up in the lungs and in the legs. Ultimately, heart failure can be terminal as it leads to heart attacks and organ failure. Update: Research is assessing the ability of stem cells to improve heart function and actually grow new heart muscle in patients with heart failure after a heart attack.

4. Condition Under Study – DIABETES Description - Diabetes is a chronic, metabolic disease characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose (or blood sugar), which leads over time to serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves. The main types of diabetes: Type 1 diabetes and Type 2 diabetes, Type 2 being the most common in US society, mainly due to diet and weight issues.
5. Condition Under Study – CANCER Description - Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the body. Cancer develops when the body's normal control mechanism stops working. Old cells do not die and instead grow out of control, forming new, abnormal cells. These extra cells may form a mass of tissue, commonly known as a tumor. Current Research is underway in modulating the patient's immune system to fight this disease.
6. Condition Under Study – STROKE Description - A stroke is defined as a loss of blood flow to part of the brain, which damages brain tissue. Strokes are caused by blood clots and broken blood vessels in the brain. Symptoms include dizziness, numbness, weakness, paralysis, on one side of the body, and problems with talking, writing, or understanding language.
7. Condition Under Study – ARTHRITIS Description - Arthritis is the swelling and tenderness of one or more joints. The main symptoms of arthritis are joint pain and stiffness, which typically worsen with age. The most common types of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Other types are · Psoriatic Arthritis. · Gout. · Lupus.
8. Condition Under Study – PANCREATITIS Description - Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas. The pancreas is a large gland behind the stomach, close to the first part of the small intestine. The pancreas has two main functions—to make insulin and to make digestive juices, or enzymes, to help you digest food. When the pancreas is inflamed, the powerful digestive enzymes it makes can damage its tissue. The inflamed pancreas can cause the release of inflammatory cells and toxins that may harm your lungs, kidneys and heart.

In conclusion, the CMMRF is one of the most important charities that we as Masons support. And it affects the greatest number of people with the health issues above. Please do what you can to support this important charity.

Fraternally,

Jay Mitchell, Chairman  
Past Illustrious Grand Master

LEGISLATION PROPOSALS

None

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

See Joint Committee Reports

## COMMANDERY CONCLAVE

### CONCLAVE AGENDA

**Agenda**  
**Grand Commandery of Utah Annual Conclave**  
**May 8, 2026**

1. 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Utah opened
2. Roll Call
  - a. Grand Commandery Officers
  - b. Past Grand Commanders
  - c. Commandery Dias Officers
3. Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests
4. Grand York Rite Trust Report
5. First Credentials Report
6. Minutes from the 2025 Annual Grand Conclave
7. Pre-Printed Reports
8. Report of Right Eminent Grand Commander
9. Final Credentials Report
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
12. Legislation Proposals
13. Committee Reports
  - a. Finance Committee - Budget
  - b. Other Committee Reports
14. Election of Officers
15. Greetings from the representative for the Grand Master of Grand Encampment
16. Greetings from the Grand Master of Utah (if present)
17. Break for Installation
18. Installation of new Officers
19. 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave placed in recess

## REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER

I thank you all for allowing me to represent Utah Grand York Rite in these roles,

I was able to visit Provo and Price York Rite Bodies. For Provo I represented Our RE Grand Commander Mont Anderson and presented to Eminent Grand Sentinel Matthew Benavidez a Meritorious Service Award.

I helped with Four Corners in October in Price.

I helped take part in completing the Orders in November in Price, which has become an annual event. I announce that the Orders will occur on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 in Price.

I attended the Southwest Conference 10/31- 11/01.

From a strategy session came the following Regional Strategy:

Regional York Rite Strategy Session (Net Gain, Communications, Officer Development)

- Goals: net gain membership across jurisdictions; finance/education modeling ongoing.
- Member experience: shorten business to 20–30 minutes; send materials in advance; focus on fellowship, education, degree practice.
- Communications: targeted outreach (birthdays/anniversaries/event notices); improve flow from leadership to local bodies; visibility in Blue Lodges.
- Officer development: long-range planning workshops; top-down accountability; quarterly goals meetings; written reports to leadership.

Some implementation has begun and further implementation will continue to take place

Fraternally,

O Blake Hansen  
Deputy Grand Commander

## REPORT OF THE GRAND GENERALISSIMO

Greetings Sir Knights,

This past year I was lucky enough to serve you all as the Grand Generalissimo. I was able to attend almost every visitation except for Utah No. 1 as my car broke down enroute which caused me to be late.

I had the privilege of representing Utah at the Southwest Department Conference held in Las Vegas, NV and I was able to represent the Grand Commander at the Nevada Grand York Rite Sessions.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your Grand Generalissimo this past year.

Fraternally submitted,

Treavor Wilkinson  
Grand Generalissimo

## REPORT OF THE GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL

To the Sir Knights of the State of Utah,

### **Actions Taken By the Grand Captain General 2025-2026**

- May 15 - Visited the Provo York Rite bodies.
- May 24 - Attended the Price Cryptic Mason Mini Festival.
- June 19 - Official Visitation to Provo York Rite bodies
- September 23rd - Attended the Utah York Rite bodies for their visitation.
- September 24th - Attended the Tooele York Rite bodies for their visitation.
- October 25th - Attended and participated in the Council Degrees in Ogden, Utah.
- January 3rd - Attended St. George York Rite bodies for their Visitation.
- January 7th - Attended Price York Rite bodies for their Visitation.
- January 31 - Attended the Grand Lodge of Utah Annual Communications at the Salt Lake Masonic temple.
- April 18<sup>th</sup> - Attended and assisted the Ogden York Rite to put on the Chapter Degrees
- May 2nd - Visited the Saint George York Rite bodies regular meeting.

These are the actions I took in the 2025-2026 Grand York Rite Year.

Fraternally,

Danny Drew,  
Grand Captain General

## GRAND RECORDER'S REPORT ON ANNUAL RETURNS

See Appendix C

## GRAND TREASURER – BUDGET

See Joint Committee Reports

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATION FOUNDATION

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Eminent Grand Captain General, Officers, Sir Knights all,

The Knight Templar Education Foundation – nationally, was founded in 1922 by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, United States of America. The purpose of the Knight Templar Education Foundation is to provide financial assistance to students who meet the required qualifications. High School Seniors and others may apply for a Knight Templar Education Foundation Scholarship regardless of the Applicant's Masonic ties or affiliations, age, race, religion, national origin, biological gender, gender identity, or financial circumstances. Applicants must be citizens of the United States of America.

The true spirit of the Foundation can be surmised from the words employed by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA to create the Foundation: "We feel that the Grand Encampment can build no greater monument nor inaugurate a more worthwhile movement than to establish a plan which will put into effect a plan which will provide educational advantages for the youth of our beloved country, thereby enabling them to become more useful members of society and better Citizens of the United States of America."

The Foundation was sustained and perpetuated by each Sir Knight paying annually the sum of \$1.00 for a period of nine years beginning July 1, 1924. This Fund became available for student loans.

Through the years the fund has grown, and Grants and Scholarships are available in several states. However, some states still continue to use the Loan program where the student is expected to repay the loan at a low interest rate. States have either Grants or Scholarships or Loans but not both.

The need for Education beyond high school is essential in a technological age. It may be obtained today in –

1. A vocational school, which trains artisans and craftsman.
2. A technical school, which prepares technicians for various specializations.
3. A professional school, which offers preparation, in medicine, law, theology, engineering, business, agriculture and others.
4. Colleges and university, which give a firm foundation for business, trade or profession.

To receive the scholarship, the Applicant must be enrolled in the pursuit of a 2 (two) or 4 (four) year College/University degree, Trade or Business School education.

**Support from the Committee:**

- Members of this committee remain active in supporting roles on local fundraising committees who are seeking sustainable opportunities to raise awareness, support, and funds for the Knight Templar Education Foundation.
- Members of this Committee review the Program and stay up to date on the current requirements, and application procedures/policies.

**Recommendations:**

- Online Point of Contact– It is the recommendation of this Committee that a Landing Page be established and the Application be made digitally available to all interested parties. A Point of Contact to be at a conspicuous location on the Landing Page.
- Continued support from every Commandery in Utah- In 1924 an assessment of \$1 per capita per annum for a period of 9 years. In 1927, the membership totaled 453,836 Sir Knights in the United States of America. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index inflation calculator, \$1.00 in 1924 had the same buying power as \$18.49 in 2025. A reasonable and agreed upon, fixed amount should be considered – whereby the Sir Knights of this Grand Jurisdiction might contribute a nominal fee to sustaining and perpetuating the Knight Templar Education Foundation.
- Award Programs should be developed and adopted:
  - Non-Templar Recognition – Recognizing and awarding the efforts by Youth Organizations, and Non-Templar. to raise awareness and additional funds in support of the Knight Templar Education Foundation.
  - Templar Recognition – Programs currently exists recognizing and rewarding the efforts Sir Knights of the Temple who raise awareness and additional funds in support of the Knight Templar Education Foundation. While no such program has been implemented within the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, for the

United States of America, several Grand Commanderies throughout the United States have set precedence to encourage the support of Sir Knights within their respective Jurisdictions. In light of the success of these programs, it is the recommendation that Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Utah adopt/create and implement a similar program.

- Investment Strategies – It is the recommendation of this committee that funds allocated through this Grand Commandery be established within a dedicated trust, and the Trustees take charge of not less than 70% of the holdings of this trust with the sole provision that these funds be invested through an investment firm for the purpose of generating positive growth and a sustainable Scholarship Program.

**Conclusion:**

Educated societies foster innovation and technological advancement, which are crucial for maintaining a competitive edge in the global market. Educated individuals are more likely to start businesses and drive economic diversification, contributing to a robust and adaptable economy. Thus, education not only benefits individuals but also strengthens the overall economic health of a nation.

The Knight Templar Education Foundation is unique in its purpose and focus. The Foundation supports the pursuit of education for every level. While professional and technical degrees are often the main focus of most scholarship programs, the Knight Templar Education Foundation does not neglect the support of vocational and trade schools. This scholarship program can affect positive growth for every community this Grand Commandery supports.

Submitted

Yours in Knightly Courtesy,

S/K William E. McCraw, PEC

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

**This presentation was made to all subordinate York Rite bodies.**

**The Knight Templar Eye Foundation** a few years ago determined they could have more impact for more people by focusing more on research. The current mission statement is: "to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care." The Foundation now only participates in direct patient care through the Seniors Eye Care Program.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is committed to support research that can help launch the careers of clinical and basic researchers focused on the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants and children. We support clinical or basic research on conditions that can or may eventually be treated or prevented.

Each year the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc invites eligible investigators to submit applications for Pediatric Ophthalmology. A few years ago, locally we presented a research grant to a scientist at the Moran Eye Center in Utah to study eye cancer in infants. Others are studying this problem as well and there are now some amazing treatments have been developed.

Another example is a little girl was diagnosed and a progressive eye disease that would eventually lead to blindness. The treatment that has been developed is likely to restore her vision.

Career-Starter Research Grants - up to \$90,000 per grant. Applicants for these Grants are at the beginning of their academic careers and must have received a M.D., Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Competitive Renewal Grants - up to \$90,000 per grant to extend the original grant project for one additional year if the data from the original Career Starter grant are compelling.

There is a scientific committee that recommends who should receive these grants with the most promising areas of research.

Since its inception the Foundation has expended over \$178 million in research, patient care, and education.

In conclusion there is some amazing research being done to help prevent blindness. Your support is essential to help keep this important Knight Templar charity helping people. I would suggest that we have a goal of at least \$30 per member and that should put Utah somewhere around the top 20 in giving per member.

Some fund-raising ideas: Dinners before meetings, Spaghetti dinner and pancake breakfast and invite the public. Donations from members.

Thank for your time and your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Mitchell, Chairman  
Past Grand Commander

[KNIGHTS TEMPLAR MAGAZINE UTAH SUPPLEMENT COMMITTEE](#)

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Grand Generalissimo, Eminent Grand Captain General, Officers, Sir Knights all,

The purpose Knight Templar Magazine Supplement for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Utah is to convey news of Utah Templary and/or Masonic events, both past and upcoming, to the membership. Additionally, the Knight Templar Magazine Supplement can be used to convey the mission and goals of the programs of the Grand Encampment/ Grand Commandery; and the Grand Commander's personal vision on how to accomplish them. Finally, and most importantly the Knight Templar Magazine Supplement can be used to convey to the Sir Knights of Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Utah articles of interest, education, educational opportunities, anecdotes and/or inspirational items.

**Support from the Committee:**

- Members of this committee remain active in supporting roles on local committees who are seeking inspirational and educational opportunities to uplift, inform, and inspire Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Utah.
- Members of this Committee continue to review the purposes of the State Supplement and stay up to date on the current submission requirements, criteria, and format.
- Members of this committee formally submitted 05 articles (which will be included in this report) for consideration:
  - Living by the Sword: A Knight Templar's Symbol of Justice, Fortitude, and Mercy
  - The Virtuous Path: A Knight Templar's Guide to Living by The Manual of a Christian Knight
  - Templar Customs: A Knight Templar's Guide to the Hand Salute
  - Every Knight Templar is an Ambassador: Benefits of Modelling Behavior
  - Saint Bernard of Clairvaux: Patron Saint of the Knights Templar
- Members of this committee have compiled and continue to update lists of Masonic Educational Opportunities.
- Members of this committee continue to promote Masonic Educational Opportunities to enrich and inspire the lives of every Sir Knight in this Jurisdiction. Sir Knights familiar with Masonic Education are often moved to further Masonic Research, creative writing opportunities, and submitting articles of interest, information, and inspiration. (a list of Masonic Educational Opportunities is included in this Report.)

**Recommendations:**

- Online e-zine – It is the recommendation of this Committee that a Landing Page be established and the magazine 'The York Rite'r be made digitally available to all interested parties for the purpose of securing a monthly digital e-zine (electronic Magazine).

- Committee formation – It is the recommendation of this Committee that a committee be formed of not less than 5 Sir Knights for the sole purpose of supporting the e-zine (electronic magazine) ‘The York Rite’r.
- Joint Committee Formation - – It is the recommendation of this Committee that a committee be formed of not less than 5 Sir Knights for the promotion of and the support of Masonic Education. It is the further recommendation of this Committee that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Utah, and the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Utah be formally invited to participate and support the efforts of the committee on Masonic Education.
- Award Programs should be developed and adopted:
  - Non-Templar Recognition – Recognizing and awarding the efforts by Youth Organizations, and Non-Templar. to write articles of interest for ‘The York Rite’r’.
  - Templar Recognition – It is the recommendation of this committee that the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Utah adopt/create and implement a program recognizing and awarding the efforts by Sir Knights to write articles of interest for ‘The York Rite’r’, the Knight Templar Magazine, Knight Templar Magazine State Supplement – Utah, and the several Masonic Publications.

**Conclusion:**

The Knight Templar Magazine State Supplement - Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Utah has many purposes and functions. One of the duties of the discerning Soldier of Christ is to lift the spirits, hearts, and minds of his fellow pilgrims. The voice of Utah must be heard. Having multiple outlets to facilitate Masonic Education, Research, and writing will produce the next generation of Masonic Scholars. Our goal should be to cultivate and nurture a Sir Knight George Cooper Connor, Rev. Neville Barker Cryer, and Sir Knight B. Chris Ruli (The most recent inductee in the Order of Clairvaux).

Submitted

Yours in Knightly Courtesy,

S/K William E. McCraw, PEC

[LEGISLATION PROPOSALS](#)

None.

[JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS](#)

See Joint Committee Reports

## CAMP FLOYD YORK RITE COLLEGE

Companions and Sir Knights,

The York Rite College is an excellent resource for this jurisdiction to help with both degree work and mentoring, not just for York Rite Masonry, but for Masonry in general. We are here to serve you and to promote our ancient and honorable craft.

Respectfully & Fraternaly,

Matthew Benavidez  
Secretary

## SAMUEL PAUL HONORS COMMANDERY

Companions and Sir Knights,

Samuel Paul Honors Commandery No. 00 continue to focus on our mission of helping support the Knight Templar Eye Foundation and can report that all members of our Commandery are Life Sponsors of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.

In reading our by-laws, Sempel Paul Honors Commandery's purpose includes "...conferring orders, and holding schools of instruction..." We look forward to helping our Constituent Commanderies in any way we can in those obligations.

In His Service,

Matthew Benavidez, PEC  
Recorder

## KYCH

Utah Priory No. 47 held their annual meeting on May 9, 2025 in the Salt Lake Masonic Temple. Three new Knights were received into the order and three candidates were nominated. Sir Knight Jeff Hamilton was elected Eminent Prior. Grand Master General James McGee addressed the Priory

Respectfully,  
Doug Backes, KYCH  
Knight Registrar

## JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SECRETARY/RECORDER

#### **Need**

### SECRETARY/RECORDER CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF RETURNS

See Appendix A

### GRAND TREASURER

#### Overall:

This was my first full year in this position, and there have been some changes made after reviewing our books and budgets with our Secretary.

We have changed the reporting period to cover January through December, starting this year, to align with the period during which annual returns are calculated. We realized there were issues with the previous reports and profit and loss statements because money from returns and sessions came in before and after the reporting period, throwing off the calculations.

Overall, the financial health of the Grand York Rite of Utah is not in good shape. Over the years, the income has not kept up with expenses, despite efforts to keep costs low. This is due to there being no increase in per capita income for many years, and the money brought in is not keeping up with general inflation. In addition, efforts were made not to make a profit from sessions to cover other operational costs. Furthermore, there have been some expenses, such as regalia, due to the delay of various upgrades and maintenance over the past several years. As such, measures will need to be made to cover our basic operational expenses.

We have also closed the Baird account around 03/10/2021. On 03/23/2021, \$75,000 was deposited into the Baird account to be managed. As of 03/10/2026, the Baird account was at \$76,967.34. About one year ago, a meeting was held with our account manager, who acknowledged that there were minimal gains in our portfolio despite the asset allocation being 60.21% Equities, 38.55% Fixed Income, and 1.42% Cash. We were also charged a management fee of 1.5% of AUM, which did not include mutual fund expenses, raising our overall management fee above 2% of AUM. The portfolio manager stated he could not change the investment structure due to the amount invested, but would review the fee structure. However, this was never changed. As such, over a five-year period, we had a gain of only \$1,967, representing a 2.6% total return or a <1% annual return, despite the markets doing quite well during that period. As such, the money will be moved into a Fidelity account and placed in a low-cost broad-market index that is 60% equities, 35% fixed income, and 5% cash, rebalanced at least yearly. This will be managed by the treasurer, the secretary, and one appointed individual by the grand heads.

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet):

The Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison shows the assets and liabilities of the Grand York Rite of Utah as of year-end (12/31/2025) and a comparison to the year-end balance of the previous year. The assets include a Baird investment account and a MACU Checking and Savings account. In 2025, while reviewing the books, an error from the previous year was discovered. In particular, \$1,000.00 was mistakenly deposited into the Checking Account rather than transferred to the Savings Account, which is the Holyland Pilgrimage Fund. This has since been corrected.

Assets	Dec-24	Dec-25
Checking	9,219.02	5,005.03
Investment	73,408.06	78,428.09
Holy Land Fund	1.02	1,999.67

Statement of Activity (Profit and Loss):

The Statement of Activity shows the income and expenses for the fiscal year ending on 12/31/2025.

<u>Ordinary Income/Expense</u>		Jan-Dec 2025	
<u>Income</u>			
<b>Annual Returns</b>			<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>
	Per Capita Income	8,210.00	4 Corners Registration
<b>Total Annual Returns</b>		<b>8,210.00</b>	Income
Sales Income			Expense
	Total Awards income	3,025.00	Total 4 Corners Income
	Total Regalia	225.00	
	Total Rituals	200.00	<b>Annual Sessions Expense</b>
<b>Total Sales Income</b>		<b>3,450.00</b>	Banquet & Hotel Costs
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>11,660.00</b>	Meals
<u>Expense</u>			Mis. for Sessions
	MMS Subscription	400.00	Pictures
	Credit Card Fee	30.19	Room Rental
	Supplies	34.26	<b>Total Sessions Expense</b>
	Liability Insurance	1,987.19	<b>11,062.56</b>
	GSR Stipend	3,000.00	Sessions Income
	Regalia	1,873.53	Donations For Sessions
	Awards	2,349.50	Sessions Income
	Rituals	837.36	<b>Total Sessions Income</b>
	Sessions Loss/Profit	-271.40	<b>10,791.16</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>10,240.63</b>	<b>Total Annual Loss/Profit</b>
			<b>-271.40</b>
Per Capita Expense			<b>Donations</b>
	Chapter Per Capita	720.00	Holy Land Donation
	Commandery Capita	2,833.00	
	Council Per Capita	552.50	
<b>Total Per Capita Expense</b>		<b>4,105.50</b>	
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>14,346.13</b>	
<b>Total Profit/Loss</b>		<b>-2,686.13</b>	

Taxes:

There are 3 entities (23-7177133 ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF UTAH MOST EXCELLENT GRAND CHAPTER, 23-7618802 KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 87-6124160 ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF UTAH GRAND COUNCIL) as well as in 2020, another entity was organized, 85-1736317 GRAND YORK RITE OF UTAH. Those 4 entities file independent 990s (technically 990-Ns, since they are below the income thresholds). RAM's fiscal year is 3/31; KT's is 6/30; and R&S is 4/30. The 990s for their fiscal year ending in 2025 were all filed on 11/4/2025 by Ben Young, who we need to thank for his help. Those 4 entities are not registered with the state of Utah as not-for-profit entities (note that there is an entity matching the KT name if you do a business search; however, that is Utah #1, which was set up so that Utah #1 could open a bank account with America First, and now that registration has expired).

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Keith McGoldrick,  
Utah York Rite Grand Treasurer

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES

Companions and Sir Knights,

We your Committee on Grievance and Appeals, are pleased to report that our brotherhood experienced no formal grievances or appeals during the past year. Our committee is genuinely glad that our services weren't needed, which speaks volumes about the strength of our brotherhood's bonds and the positive culture we've cultivated together.

Throughout the year, our committee remained ready to support any brother who might have needed our assistance. We continued to maintain open lines of communication to ensure we could address any concerns with fairness, discretion, and respect for our fraternal values.

While we celebrate this year of harmony within our York Rite Bodies, please know that our commitment to the brotherhood remains unwavering. Our committee stands ready to provide a trusted, confidential channel for addressing any issues that may arise between brothers or with York Rite body leadership.

We look forward to another year of brotherhood, unity, and mutual respect.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Hamilton, PGHP, PIGM, PGC, Chairman  
Brian Hastings, PGHP, PIGM, PGC  
Charlie Persinger PHP, PIM, PC

## REPORT OF THE INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Internet Committee is pleased to report the release of a newly redesigned website layout, launched earlier this week. This updated design provides a more modern, streamlined appearance while improving overall usability and navigation. As part of this enhancement, a dark mode option has been added, allowing users to toggle a lower-light viewing experience to better suit their preferences.

In collaboration with the Education Committee, we have also completed a rework of the Education Portal. This updated section offers a more organized and accessible platform for educational materials. We will continue expanding this resource as additional submissions are received, ensuring it remains a valuable tool for our membership.

Looking ahead, the Committee continues to evaluate effective methods for distributing information in today's digital environment. A key focus of this effort is balancing modern communication tools with accessibility, ensuring that all members—regardless of their level of comfort with technology—can remain informed and engaged.

Respectfully submitted,  
Internet Committee

## MEMBERSHIP

Companions and Sir Knights,

I am honored to present the Report of the Grand York Rite Membership Committee.

This past year, the Grand York Rite of Utah celebrated important growth. We Exalted and Greeted eight new Companions and Knighted eight Sir Knights. These are meaningful accomplishments, and they reflect the continued dedication of our members across the jurisdiction.

However, we must also acknowledge a sobering reality. Despite these gains, we experienced a net loss in membership in 2025—five Companions in the Chapter, two in the Council, and two Sir Knight in the Commandery. The primary cause of this decline was suspension.

This reality underscores the importance of intentional, consistent effort in how we approach membership. Your committee recommends a four-pillar approach: Attraction, Attainment, Retention, and Restoration.

First, Attraction.

Each of us must serve as a visible and positive example of what the York Rite represents. Attend your Blue Lodges. Wear your uniform with pride. Share the story of our Rite through education and engagement. When possible, bring the York Rite to the Lodge—whether through presentations, discussions, or conferral of degrees such as the Mark Master. Let others see not just what we do, but why it matters.

Second, Attainment.

We must be intentional about inviting others in. Extend personal invitations to York Rite events—installations, observances, and social gatherings. If your body is not hosting public-facing events, consider starting. Simple activities like breakfasts or dinners create opportunities for connection. Some of the most successful efforts have come from partnering with Blue Lodge events. Relationships build interest, and interest leads to participation.

Third, Retention.

Retention is about delivering value and fostering belonging.

We must address conflict when it arises and ensure harmony prevails.

We must strengthen connection by treating one another with sincerity, respect, and brotherly love.

We must communicate clearly and consistently—through modern tools, yes, but also through personal outreach. A phone call can make all the difference.

And we must educate—because our ritual and teachings are among our greatest strengths. Every gathering should offer something that informs, inspires, and engages.

Finally, Restoration.

Many who leave do so for reasons within our ability to address. Suspension, in particular, has been a significant factor. Each body should work actively to restore those who have stepped away. Financial hardship should never be a permanent barrier where compassion and flexibility can provide a path back.

Companions and Sir Knights, there are broader lessons as well.

We must better understand and embrace the communities we serve. Growth does not come from exclusion—it comes from example. We must be welcoming, open-minded, and focused on the values that unite us. When we lose ourselves in service to others, we strengthen both our fraternity and ourselves.

Membership is not the responsibility of a committee alone—it belongs to every one of us.

York Rite Festivals should continue to be supported and expanded.

Mentorship and ambassador programs should be strengthened.

Education should be a cornerstone of every body.  
And where appropriate, membership efforts should be codified and sustained through our bylaws.

Let me leave you with a simple thought.

It takes only a few seconds to check on a Brother. A brief conversation can rekindle connection. And when we consider the time, energy, and resources we invest in Masonry, we should ask ourselves: if this is so valuable to us, why would we not share it?

People show up for a reason. Are you the reason?

Fraternally submitted,

Sir Knight Blair D. Hope, KYCH

Sir Knight Jeff Hunt, PIM, PHP, PEC

#### REGIONAL CONFERENCES COMMITTEE

Companions and Sir Knights,

Your committee on the Regional Conference begs to report following:

The 2025 Southwest Regional/Department Conference proved to be an outstanding professional gathering, delivering exceptional educational value and networking opportunities for York Rite members. Held at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, the event successfully combined informative presentations, strategic planning, and meaningful fraternal connections.

The event distinguished itself through several key accomplishments:

- Exceptional hotel accommodations receiving widespread praise
- Educational presentations that were both highly informative and engaging
- Consistent and robust daily attendance
- Overwhelmingly positive participant feedback

The success of this conference reflects the dedication of its organizers and the vibrant spirit of the York Rite community here in Utah

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Hamilton  
PGHP, PIGM, PGC

## YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Companions,

The Utah Grand York Rite Masonic Year of 2025-2026 was one where we supported our youth groups. Starting with 2025 sessions with donating funds to the DeMolay, per request of Ellis Valdez who was our photographer.

June 26-28 2025 Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Utah Danny Drew attended the Jobs Daughters opening night and installations of their officers.

September 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons of Utah Danny Drew attended the Utah State DeMolay Association Annual Conclave.

For sessions of 2026, Ellis Valdez to get members of both Jobs and DeMolay to come serve at the banquet. This will also end with a donation to those groups.

Members of Utah York Rite also worked with their local DeMolay and Jobs daughter organizations.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Danny Drew  
Illustrious Grand Master

Appendix A

<b>2025 REPORT OF RETURNS as of Dec 31, 2025</b>						
	<b>RAM</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change</b>
Keystone	Ch. #0					
SLC	Ch. #1	66	62	63	57	-6
Ogden	Ch. #2	42	42	47	51	4
Tooele	Ch. #3	43	40	38	36	-2
Provo	Ch. #4	27	29	30	34	4
Price	Ch. #6	38	34	31	30	-1
St. Geo.	Ch. #10	25	28	30	26	-4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>241</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>-5</b>

<b>CHAPTER ANNUAL RETURNS SUMMARY</b>						
	<b>Mark Master</b>					
UT	Keystone #0					
	<b>RAM</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Per capita (\$10)</b>	<b>Fees (\$2.50)</b>		<b>Total</b>
SLC	Ch. #1	57	\$570.00	\$0.00		\$570.00
Ogden	Ch. #2	51	\$510.00	\$10.00		\$520.00
Tooele	Ch. #3	36	\$360.00	\$2.50		\$362.50
Provo	Ch. #4	34	\$340.00	\$15.00		\$355.00
Price	Ch. #6	30	\$300.00	\$5.00		\$305.00
St. Geo.	Ch. #10	26	\$260.00	\$5.00		\$265.00
<b>Totals</b>						<b>\$2,377.50</b>

<b>STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY</b>								
<b>January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025</b>								
	<b>MM #0</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Utah #1</b>	<b>Ogden #2</b>	<b>Ontario #3</b>	<b>Provo #4</b>	<b>Price #6</b>	<b>Golgotha #10</b>
as of 12/31/24		<b>239</b>	63	47	38	30	31	30
Exalted				4	1	6	2	2
Affiliated			1			2	1	
Restored								1
Adjustments								
Total gain			1	4	1	8	3	3
Demitted			1		2	3		2
Suspended			3		1		3	3
Deceased			3			1	1	2
Error								
Total Loss			7	0	3	4	4	
as of 12/31/25			<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>
Net Gain (Loss)			-6	4	-2	4	-1	-4

Appendix B

2025 REPORT OF RETURNS as of Dec 31, 2025						
	CM	2022	2023	2024		Change
SLC	Co. #1	64	61	62	56	-6
Provo	Co. #2	25	26	26	32	6
Ogden	Co. #3	42	42	47	51	4
Price	Co. #4	37	34	30	30	0
Tooele	Co. #5	43	40	38	36	-2
St. Geo.	Co. #7	24	27	29	25	-4
<b>Totals</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>232</b>		

COUNCIL ANNUAL RETURNS SUMMARY						
	CM	#	Per capita (\$9.50)	Fees (\$2.50)		Total
SLC	Co. #1	56	\$532.00	\$2.50		\$534.50
Provo	Co. #2	32	\$304.00	\$20.00		\$324.00
Ogden	Co. #3	51	\$484.50	\$10.00		\$494.50
Price	Co. #4	30	\$285.00	\$5.00		\$290.00
Tooele	Co. #5	36	\$342.00	\$2.50		\$344.50
St. Geo.	Co. #7	25	\$237.50	\$5.00		\$242.50
<b>Totals</b>						\$2,230.00

STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025							
	TOTALS	Utah #1	Provo #2	Ogden #3	Solomon #4	Daly #5	St G #7
as of 12/31/24	<b>232</b>	62	26	47	30	38	29
Greeted		1	8	4	2	1	2
Affiliated		1	2		1		
Restored							1
Omitted							
Total Gain		2	10	4	3	1	3
Demitted		1	3			2	2
Suspended		3			2	1	3
Deceased		3	1		1		2
Error		-1					
Total Loss		7	4	0	3	3	7
as of 12/31/25		56	32	51	30	36	25
Net Gain (Loss)		-5	6	4	0	-2	-4

Appendix C

<b>COMMANDERY ANNUAL RETURNS SUMMARY</b>						
	<b>KT</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Per capita (\$16)</b>	<b>Fees (\$2.50)</b>	<b>KETF Assessment</b>	<b>Total</b>
SPHC	Cm. #0	31	\$496.00	\$0.00	\$1.00	\$497.00
SLC	Cm. #1	51	\$816.00	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$824.00
Ogden	Cm. #2	50	\$800.00	\$7.50	\$0.00	\$807.50
Tooele	Cm #3	36	\$576.00	\$2.50	\$1.00	\$579.50
Provo	Cm. #5	31	\$496.00	\$17.50	\$2.00	\$515.50
Price	Cm. #6	29	\$464.00	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$472.00
St. Geo.	Cm. #7	27	\$432.00	\$2.50	\$0.00	\$434.50
<b>Totals</b>						\$4,130.00

<b>COMMANDERY ANNUAL RETURNS SUMMARY</b>						
	<b>KT</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Per capita (\$16)</b>	<b>Fees (\$2.50)</b>	<b>KETF Assessment</b>	<b>Total</b>
SPHC	Cm. #0	31	\$496.00	\$0.00	\$1.00	\$497.00
SLC	Cm. #1	51	\$816.00	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$824.00
Ogden	Cm. #2	50	\$800.00	\$7.50	\$0.00	\$807.50
Tooele	Cm #3	36	\$576.00	\$2.50	\$1.00	\$579.50
Provo	Cm. #5	31	\$496.00	\$17.50	\$2.00	\$515.50
Price	Cm. #6	29	\$464.00	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$472.00
St. Geo.	Cm. #7	27	\$432.00	\$2.50	\$0.00	\$434.50
<b>Totals</b>						\$4,130.00

<b>STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE GRAND RECORDER</b>								
<b>January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025</b>								
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>Utah #1</b>	<b>El Monte #2</b>	<b>Malta #3</b>	<b>Ivanhoe #5</b>	<b>C F J #6</b>	<b>Golgotha #7</b>	<b>SPHC #0</b>
As of 12/31/24	256	54	47	38	26	29	31	31
Knighthood		2	3	1	7	2	1	
Affiliated		1			2	1		1
Restored							1	
Adjustment								
Total Gain		3	3	1	9	3	2	1
Demitted				2	3		1	1
Suspended		3		1		2	3	
Deceased		3			1	1	2	1
Adjustments								
Total Loss		6	0	2	4	3	6	2
As of 12/31/25		51	50	36	31	29	27	31
Life Sponsors		48	50	35	29	26	27	30
Net Gain (Loss)		-3	3	-2	5	0	-4	0
As reported to Grand Encampment								