



THE KANSAS MASON



THE VOICE OF KANSAS MASONRY

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GRAND LODGE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY REPLACES WARDEN'S SCHOOL

By The Kansas Mason staff



The Council of Administration has developed a Leadership Academy that will replace the Grand Lodge Warden's School.

Debuting on October 1 at the historic Kansas State House in Topeka, the confer-

ence is designed as a Masonic leadership seminar, expanding the role of the old Warden's School to include courses of interest to all Masons, not just Wardens.

According to Grand Master Tracy Bloom, "the Warden's School did some very good things, but attendance was limited to lodge officers and we want to open that up to Master Masons across the whole state, with programs that are not just tailored to preparing wardens for the East."

While having sections specifically designed for the upcoming Master, the academy has a variety of topics and breakouts appropriate for every lodge leader, not just Wardens. According to Grand Junior Warden Michael Halleran,

"there are four separate courses in the session. One each for Wardens, Secretaries, a program for ladies and a general leadership course as well. This is a greatly expanded leadership seminar and I am certain it will appeal to a lot of Masons statewide."

In addition, the cost for the seminar has been lowered to just a \$20 registration fee, which includes a complimentary lunch.

"The Lodges that need the most help are the Lodges that are not attending," said Deputy Grand Master Don Newman. "Maybe it is money, maybe distance. Several have made plans to come, but something gets in the way and they do not show. Grand Lodge wants to help, we are now challenging the Lodges to come to the Leadership Conference. In the past it has been a

(See **WARDEN SCHOOL**, pg. 3)

BODY-SNATCHERS, POACHERS, HOARDERS, AND OTHER MYSTERIES OF SHRINKING MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

By Rick Reichert
Grand Senior Warden 2011-12



"No Hunting. Keep Out," reads the invisible sign out front of many lodges.

When patriotism, Americanism, social unity and faith were at their zenith, social and fraternal organizations flourished. Masonic Lodges had more members than could be gainfully engaged. For them, to become active members of an appendant body was not only feasible, it was advantageous to the Craft. Besides providing avenues to seek additional Masonic light, it gave our brothers and their families ways to be involved in Masonry outside the Blue Lodge.

As the interest in long-established institutions began to wane, so did our membership. Yet, the number of appendant bodies has actually *grown* rather than having been scaled back proportional to the total membership. Over time, our members' attention has become diluted. Their time, talent, and passion are spread over multiple organizations leaving lodges suffering for a sufficient number of members who are passionate, stalwart, talented, and singularly focused on their lodge.

Now, more than ever, lodges need leadership for their long-term growth, sound financial footing, capital improvements, opportunities for younger leaders, reputation building, and the leadership tenants of Vision 2020, and our strategic plan. Lodges are the core of

all things Masonic. Appendant bodies are urgently looking for new Master Masons and lodges are their only candidate pool. Meanwhile, the lodges are struggling to attract and keep new members.

(See **MEMBERSHIP**, pg. 3)

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The Kansas Mason

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THE GRAND EAST



By Tracy Bloom
Salina Lodge No. 60
Grand Master

"What a long strange trip it's been." A curious quote to start my article, but my predecessors didn't warn me about some of the challenges I would face. I fully knew there would be many decisions to make, some tough and some not so tough, indeed there have been many of both and lots of in between. I've experienced some great moments, like when you see that proverbial light bulb come on in the mind of a young Mason, whether in age or experience, and you both realize that indeed Masonry resides deep within

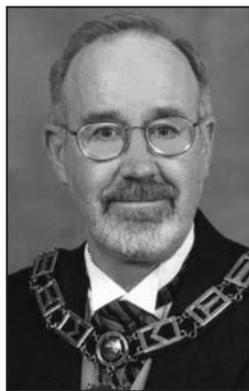
his heart. I have also experienced the darker side of Masonry, when seasoned Brothers that knelt at our Altar and took the same obligation chose not to live up to the expectations of a good and decent Mason. You see, I believe we Masons are held to a higher standard of moral conduct by society and certainly by our peers, and that we will be judged should we stray from our Masonic path.

Our obligations are numerous and very weighty. Should you find difficulty understanding what they mean, please seek out the most knowledgeable Brother in your area and ask him to explain them to you. If you desire further explanation, please contact your District or Area Deputy Grand Master and as always you may contact the Grand Lodge office. Our First Degree Obligation seems to be troubling me the most and I would ask each of you to review it, discuss it in lodge and really try to digest its meaning. There is a reason that this is our first obligation, because it sets the foundation of all the rest. If you can't keep a SECRET, Freemasonry might not be the place for you.

In other areas, I have recently restricted the sale of one of our books we offer in our Grand Lodge store, *Lester's Look To The East*. We included it in our inventory primarily for our Prince Hall Brothers because they were having trouble finding it themselves. There is no problem with our Brothers buying the book for research or informational purposes, but I found that there are some being used as a substitute for learning our ritual and being used in tiled lodge meetings. Please be advised of Kansas Masonic law;

(See *THE GRAND EAST*, pg. 7)

SECRETARY'S CORNER



By Robert B. Pfuetze
St. Johns Lodge No. 113
Grand Secretary

Wow! The summer is already over, and it is time to get the Lodges geared up and going again. I hope all of you have some great plans for your meetings for the remainder of the year. If your enthusiasm is as hot as the summer has been, we will all finish the year with great success.

In August we sent out rosters for the Secretaries to correct and return. Almost without a doubt this is one of the most unpopular mailings I send to the Secretaries. I still believe there is no point in sending dues cards until we know we have a correct membership list, so I will not send dues cards until the Secretary returns the corrected roster. This is the only way to know our information is

(See *SECRETARY*, pg. 5)



WARDEN SCHOOL (Continued from pg.1)



Cliff Porter

major expense for small Lodges with no funding to attend. We have hopefully removed this as a barrier to those Lodges."

Well-known Masonic author Cliff Porter, Worshipful Master of Enlightenment Lodge No. 198 in Colorado Springs, Colorado will be the featured speaker at

the event. His address will discuss the psychology of leadership.

Lunch will be provided and the traditional ladies program will also include a chance to hear Porter speak. Registration for the event is open to all Masons and their wives but seating is limited, so please register. Registration information may be found on page eight, or by visiting the Grand Lodge Masonic Shop online (<http://kansasmason.org/shop>) under **Registration – Events**.🙏

MEMBERSHIP (Continued from pg. 1)

Because of the low numbers, many lodges see the appendants as body-snatchers. If an appendant body takes the initiative to gather petitioners to the lodge, they use to the lodge to get the requisite three ticket punches then it's off to the Shrine or the Rite. Meanwhile, the lodge receives the pittance for dues and little else to show for all their work. The new Mason gets only a minimum exposure without any reinforcement of the valuable lessons presented. Before the ink is dry on his dues card, the neophyte gets a petition thrust at him by one appendant lest he get soon poached by another.

Fortunately, appendant bodies have seen the need to work together with lodges and have taken the initiative to form at least three Unity Councils. These councils agree: attracting and keeping members is the most important issue they face. But to get more members in appendant organizations, there needs a common priority – get more members into the lodges and help a goodly proportion of them stay there, untouched.

The time has come for building working relationships and mutual support mechanisms between lodges and appendants. These mechanisms will likely vary widely by locale, but here are some ideas I've heard that may benefit your lodge: Know which appendant bodies operate in the area and forge strong alliances with them. It's amazing to me that some lodges don't have at least a working relationship with other bodies that meet in their own building. Even if your lodge is growing



and prospering, you can benefit from having the additional resources appendants can bring. Some even have national resources, Shrine and Scottish Rite for example, that can be used to expand educational, leadership and promotional opportunities. To overcome the body-snatching effect, agree to ground rules that set a "hands-off" period for a newly made Master Mason. Invite appendants to speak annually at your lodge and welcome them to be a part of your strategic

planning committee. Coordinate joint events and support each other's special events. Participate in unity councils and ensure the lodges' interests are kept visible to the appendant bodies. Avoid having Masons hold elected positions in an appendant body while he is one of the three principal officers of the lodge. And the list goes on.

The relationship between appendants and lodges can be a very symbiotic one, meaning their existences can (and should) be mutually beneficial. When the appendants support the lodges they get a larger, more capable candidate pool. When lodges work harmoniously with appendants, they get access to resources that will accelerate attainment of success

as defined in their strategic plan. When Masonry flourishes so too do their communities, charities, and other beneficiaries of a strong fraternity.

One day, through unified cultivation of our lodges, our lodges will again be thriving enough to put out the sign, "Hunters welcome. Inquire within."🙏

FALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS

- Dist. 1 Troy Lodge in Troy, November 19 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Sammon
- Dist. 2 Wyandotte Lodge in KC, October 15 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Schroeder
- Dist. 3 Ben Hur Lodge in KC, October 29 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Sellen
- Dist.21 Marysville Lodge in Marysville, November 19 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Salts

- Dist.23 Zeredetha Lodge in Cottonwood Falls, November 5 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Snyder
- Dist.30 Cosmos Lodge in Kiowa, October 22 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Butt
- Dist.32 Ellsworth Lodge in Ellsworth, October 22 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Snyder
- Dist.37 St. Bernard Lodge in Dodge City October 29 – 9:00AM – Lecturer: Butt

KANSAS MASONIC NOTES

ALL-MASONIC PHEASANT HUNT TO BENEFIT WIDOWS & ORPHANS

By The Kansas Mason staff

A walk-up pheasant hunt, sponsored by Justice Lodge No. 457, will be held on Saturday, November 19, to raise funds for the lodge's Widows & Orphans Benevolent Fund. All Masons and their guests (ages 18 and above) are invited to attend.

Check-in for the hunt will begin with a mandatory safety briefing at 7.00 a.m., at Millbrook Lodge No. 281, 305 W. Main Street, Hill City, Kansas, with the hunt starting at 8.00 a.m. Hunters shall provide their own shotguns and ammunition, safety orange hat and vest, eye protection, as well as a valid Kansas hunting license. The morning session will break at 11.30 a.m.

Lunch will be served between the sessions, and an afternoon hunt will begin with a safety briefing starting at



1.45 p.m. A reception will follow the afternoon hunt. Both events are open to all participants.

Ladies are encouraged to attend the hunt, or the ladies program (pay as you go) at Rock Haven Day Spa in Hays.

The entry fee of \$30 per gun will allow Justice Lodge to assist its widows and orphans and includes the cost of lunch. Space is limited and reservations are required. To download the registration page visit Justice Lodge on Facebook, visit the online *Kansas Mason* or email the lodge secretary at daren.kellerman@gmail.com

GRAND LODGE ANNOUNCES 2011 ESSAY CONTEST

By The Kansas Mason staff

The 52nd annual Grand Lodge essay contest for 2011 is underway. The topic this year focuses on the Kansas sesquicentennial asking contestants "Who is the most prominent Kansas figure from its 150 year history? Explain."

Essays must not be longer than 500 words.

The contest is open to all Junior and Senior public high school students in the state. Contestants submit their essays to their local Masonic lodges for the first round. The lodges in turn forward their finalists to Grand Lodge. Winners on the local level are eligible to represent a Lodge at the state level where they will compete for scholarships.

Winners must enroll in a Kansas tax-supported

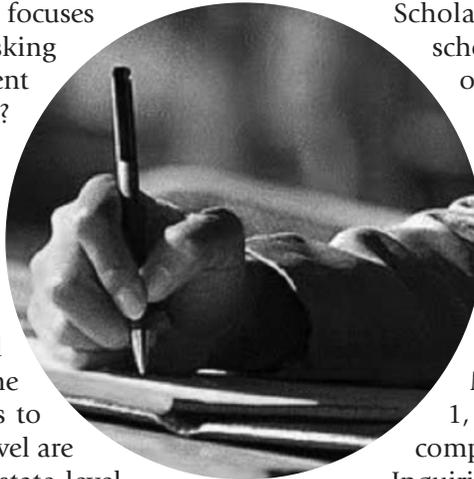
accredited university, college, community college, or vocational-technical school to receive the award.

Scholarships are forwarded to the student's school of choice (in Kansas) upon receipt of confirmation of their enrollment.

A total of \$12,000 will be awarded in prizes. The first place winner will receive \$4,000, the second place winner \$3,000, the third place winner \$2,000, and the fourth place winner \$1,000. Four honorable mentions will be awarded \$500 each.

Essays must be submitted to a local Masonic Lodge on or before November 1, 2011 to be judged for the state-wide competition.

Inquiries may be directed by mail to the Grand Lodge or interested students may contact their local Masonic Lodge for more information.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Now is the time to order items from the Grand Lodge store. Grand Lodge has pins, hats, neckties, and many other great items to choose from for your favorite Mason or family member.

Go to www.kansasmason.org/shop

to view our extensive selection of fine Masonic products and take advantage of our easy online ordering. To ensure delivery before the holidays, please place your orders by no later than Friday, November 25, 2011.



KANSAS MASONIC NOTES

KANSAS MASON SAVES LIVES IN LIBERIA

By The Kansas Mason staff

Army Sgt. Chad Kuker, a member of St. Bernard Lodge No. 222, Dodge City, and three of his comrades from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery were recently recognized for a daring rescue that saved two Liberian army soldiers from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean on April 16.

According to a story published in the **Topeka Capital Journal**, Kuker and three comrades were swimming on a beach in Monrovia, Liberia when they observed the two Liberian soldiers caught in a rip tide and being swept out to sea.



Bro. Kuker (right) and fellow soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery are congratulated by General Carter F. Ham, commander of the U.S. Africa Command. (courtesy Topeka Capital Journal)

Thinking quickly the U.S. soldiers formed a human chain and waded into the surf to try to reach the two swimmers. As reported in the **Capitol Journal**, "We were going to get them out no matter what it took," Kuker said. "We could only think about getting to the [Liberian] soldiers before they drowned."

Ultimately, the rescue was successful and Kuker and his comrades were recognized by U.S. Army General Carter F. Ham, commander of the U.S. Africa Command.

Speaking of the event to reporters, Kuker said "both of the soldiers were very fatigued and worn out, but they were able to go home with their families."

SECRETARY (Continued from pg. 2)

correct. I have pointed out in the past that the Lodge Secretary is the only person in possession of the true and correct information. We here at the Grand Lodge office have only a copy of the information sent to us by the Secretary. At best, assuming we have made no errors entering the information, our records are only as correct and complete as the Secretary sends us. Therefore, once a year, we ask the Secretary to verify the information we have. The whole purpose of that is to check us to see if we have entered the information correctly, by comparing it with the Lodge's records. I know it is a hassle, but I believe we must have accurate records.

There is one way to avoid having to correct the roster each year, and that is to get the Grand Lodge database and use it to compare the accuracy of our records with yours. Obviously if our databases are the same, the printout of the roster will be the same as the information on your computer, and a careful comparison of that information to your physical files should be unnecessary.

Perpetual Life Memberships and Memorial Memberships continue to be popular. Combining both types of memberships we have sold 151 of them this year for a total dollar increase in the program of \$94,470 for this year alone. Please consider the value of leaving a legacy to your Lodge forever. You can benefit yourself now, and your Lodge long after you are gone. I hope most Lodges now

have a time payment plan in place for Perpetual Life Memberships. If not, please call me for some help in setting up such a plan.

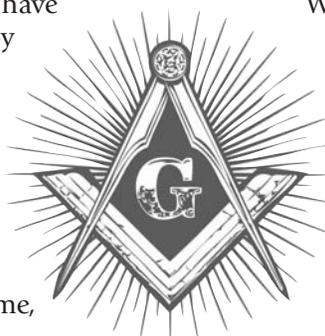
We have been working hard on our new Online Store and are now ready for it to open. Please go to www.kansasmason.org/shop and see the new, clean look and ease of ordering we have for you. Many new items have been added that were not available on the old store.

We now offer multiple methods of payment: credit card, debit card, mail a check or money order to us, or pickup and pay for your order at the office here in Topeka. We are using PayPal to receive our credit card payments, but you do not need to have a PayPal account. Just enter your card number, and your payment will be sent to our bank account. You may also use our new store to pay for your registration fees for our upcoming

Leadership Academy and you will even be able to pay your registration fee and order meals for

Grand Lodge next March. You may purchase gift certificates and either use the credit yourself or send it to someone else. There are so many new features, I am sure I have left some out. Please go look at, and explore, the new Online Store for yourself.

As always, I hope you have a really successful last four months of the year. Please remember we are here to help. If you have problems, questions, or even complaints, do not hesitate to call. 🙏



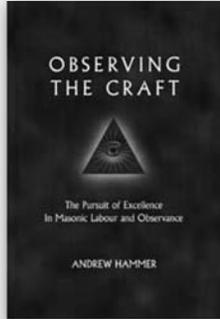
KANSAS FREEMASONS

ON THE LEVEL

BOOK REVIEW

ANDREW HAMMER – OBSERVING THE CRAFT

Andrew Hammer's *Observing the Craft* is perhaps the most intellectually provocative Masonic book written in the last 150 years – and this includes, by my lights, Pike's *Morals and Dogma* (1871). Hammer is Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 and he holds the highest level certificate of the Grand Lodge of Virginia for proficiency in all aspects of Masonic ritual. He is a member of the *Quatuor Coronati* Correspondence Circle, the Philalethes Society, and sits on the Executive Committee of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.



Observing the Craft is an amazingly detailed biopsy of Freemasonry from its early 1700s conversion from operative to speculative through to its dramatically changed present form. His primary thesis is that we no longer absorb the true value of speculative Masonry because of the many layers of distractions which we ourselves have created. He cites the major distraction as being the proliferation of organizations which we have come to accept as “the Masonic family.” He notes that the boundaries of Masonry have long been stretched by “...those who, for a variety of reasons, have always sought to create extra balconies, staircases and awnings that they have proposed to attach to the edifice of Freemasonry.”

More than merely a whiner complaining that Masonry is speeding down the road to ruin, Hammer offers practical suggestions of changes individual lodges could make to

shed distractions and return to the basic purpose of Masonry: improvement of the individual. Further, he contends that today's Masonry has tried to be all things to all people and in the process has become ineffective in its original purpose of improving the individual. If a person really desires to improve society through charitable works and contributions, Hammer contends, he should become a working part of an organization within that primary objective. If an individual lodge wishes to provide an active social life for its members and their families, it should do so by conscious decision to detract from, or under-emphasize, individual improvement.

Hammer's identification of distractions extends to actions and concepts which nearly all of us have come to accept as a fundamental part of Masonry. He offers the opinion that while patriotism is a great thing, it should not be directly promoted within the lodge as in flag pledges and reading of patriotic educational articles. Nor should religion be promoted or practiced within the lodge room in other than as a belief in an undefined Supreme Being acceptable to all. As you might anticipate, the Shrine, even though it provides fantastic charitable work through its hospitals, is considered by Hammer to be a frivolous distraction from basic Masonry.

Observing the Craft is very thought provoking and a valuable read for both Masonic leaders of local lodges and any serious student of Freemasonry, and I highly recommend it.

Reviewed by: J. Howard Duncan, Lawrence Lodge No. 6
Mindhive Books, 2010, 145 pages, ISBN 978-0-9818316-1-9.
Available from amazon.com at \$15.99.

MASONIC COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oak Tree Lodge

September 14. Little River.

Masons Day

September 19. Fredonia.

Awards

October 9, 3 p.m. Salina

Masons Day

October 22. Kansas City

Justice Lodge No. 459**All-Masonic Pheasant Hunt**

November 19 - Hill City

Grand Lodge Officer's Christmas Party

December 3. TBA.

7 pm Lodge



QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The Kansas Mason is pleased to receive questions from our readers and answer them as time and space permits. Please send your questions about Masonic law, etiquette, custom, traditions or history to the Questions Answered Editor, Nolan Sump at questions@kansasmason.org.



Dear Editor:

We read in the latest "The Kansas Mason" a question regarding the apron in the blue tube. What if the Mason has been cremated? My husband and I have chosen that method as we are now living in Spokane Valley, WA and will be buried in our plot in Oberlin, KS.

Thank you for your assistance in answering our question.

Sincerely,
Metta and Myron Johnson

Dear Metta and Myron,

In doing some research, there is no specific protocol on

this approach if a Master Mason has been cremated. If your husband is interested in doing so, I would suggest that the original apron be placed upon him before you both are cremated, then have a substitute apron be placed upon the receptacle for the ashes when the funeral ceremony takes place. That decision is entirely left up to the two of you. Communication will need to be arranged in advance with your funeral director before that day comes so you may be able to have his original apron placed upon him in your preparation for cremation.

Sincerely,
The Editor

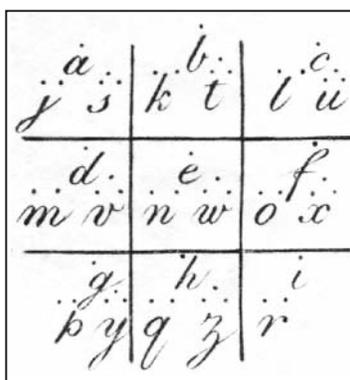
THE GRAND EAST (Continued from pg. 2)

3-601. *Official Cipher--Monitor--The official Cipher-Monitor, prepared and promulgated by this Grand Lodge is hereby declared to be the correct Cipher-Monitor of the esoteric and Monitorial work of Ancient Craft Masonry. The sale, gift, printing or use of any cipher or secret work other than as herein authorized shall be deemed an offense against the Body of Masonry.*

The current approved Kansas ritual is only found in the *Extended Cipher*, Adopted 1992, Revised 1994 edition 2009. And on that note, I have some exciting news. If you've called

the Grand Lodge Office lately asking for more cipher books (the approved Kansas Ritual) you've discovered that we are out. Now, how in the heck is that Great News? A small committee of Grand Lecturers have been very hard at work correcting all of the known mistakes in the cipher book, be it punctuation, words, spelling or consistency errors, plus making the Candidate's Hand-book match the *Extended Cipher*. Those books should be rolling off the press as this edition of the *Kansas Mason* is being mailed. I would like to thank

Brothers Ron Main, Ron Detwiler, David Williams, Richard Haefele, Chuck Ables, David Snider and Leland Salts for the many hours researching, reading, re-reading, proofing, correcting and making sure that this cipher is the most accurate and consistent cipher ever published for the Masons of Kansas.



I also wish to take a moment and comment on our new website. The new site remains a valuable asset for our Grand Lodge and has become the primary place we post up-to-the-minute information for the Craft. It's important that the latest news and details are available to you at anytime of the day, and we strive to keep the site current and informative. By the time this reaches you, the old website – <http://gl-ks.org/> will no longer be active, so please update your browsers with the new site <http://kansasmason.org/>. Inside the new website are many resources posted there for you to read and download in

the membership area. In addition, most things that your secretary needs are posted in a secure area for secretaries only. If you are not familiar with the passwords for the secure areas of our web site, please contact your District Deputy, he will be happy to provide it. In the coming weeks, we will also be posting the District Schools of Instruction dates, times and places in the Grand Masters Calendar as soon as they are available. And finally, please check the website for our updated Grand Lodge store. The new web store is much more navigable and user

friendly. We are using PayPal for the financial transaction which gives both our members and our office staff the greatest ease of use.

I look forward to seeing a great crowd at the Leadership Academy in Topeka, and elsewhere throughout the State, as always, on the level. 🙏



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GRAND LODGE OF KANSAS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

(formerly Warden's School)

October 1, 2011

at

Kansas State Capitol, Topeka, Kansas

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

LAST NAME:	FIRST NAME:
STREET ADDRESS:	CITY, STATE ZIP:
Home Phone Number:	Email Address:
Office Currently Holding:	Lodge Name And Number:
Wife's Name, If Attending:	Member Number:

RESERVATIONS



Please choose the program you wish to attend:

- Warden's Program Ladies Program Secretary Program General Leadership Training

TOTAL ENCLOSED - \$20.00 per person

Make check payable to - - *The Grand Lodge of Kansas*

\$

Complete and Return This Form To: Grand Lodge of Kansas · PO Box 1217 · Topeka, KS 66601-1217
 or register online at <http://www.kansasmason.org/shop> in the registration area.

