

Grand Commandery of Maryland 2023
June Supplement Knights Templar Magazine

Greetings Sir Knights.

A hot and Smokey beginning to June with smoke from Canada flowing south and obscuring the sunshine. Hot and very dry is the weather and Just like that- Summer is here.

Your Grand Commandery celebrated Memorial Day by marching alongside the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland and members of Door to Virtue Lodge of Westminster, Eastern Star and Beauchant ladies as well as members of a couple of the Shrine motor Corps, and even some members of the Widows Sons Motorcycle club, as we marched in the oldest continuous Memorial Day parade in the United States on Memorial Day in Westminster Maryland.

There is lots of activity leading into summer with several orders including the Order of the Temple being conferred 4 times in a month at several locations with many new members being brought into the ranks from at least 4 Commanderies.

Also this month, we have a New Knight Training program to be held at the Grand Lodge on June 17th. Check for information on the York Rite website @ yorkritemaryland.org. REPGC Charles E. Warns and several members of the Monumental Crusade Commandery will be teaching this fine class. If you plan to come, check the website for information and bring your sword and Chapeau if you have one. Lunch will be served so make your reservation. We have gained dozens of New Sir Knights since the last class and this is a great opportunity for new and longtime Sir knights to learn or refresh their skills.

As July approaches we are working on some things in a continued effort to make Templary easier to follow. You will observe on the Quartermaster's site that information has been posted regarding the uniform programs and how to procure and properly equip your uniform with a minimum of effort. This is being updated as the Quartermaster and Assistant Quartermaster are really progressing in procuring the needed items and addressing the needs of Sir Knights.

Also this summer we will continue with the Handbook Committee as we prepare the path for a new Templar Handbook that is in development.

Remember that you can go on the website –yorkritemaryland.org- to search for Quartermaster, Events updates, scholarship applications, general information as well as the constitutions of the Grand Encampment and Maryland Grand Commandery.

At the Semi-annual in May we reviewed the past 6 months of activity and heard reports by several of the Committee chairs, the Grand Recorder's report and importantly, the Grand Treasurer's report and a new budget for the year 2024 was approved. The Time and place committee of which I am a member is still researching locations for the 2024 Annual York Rite Grand Sessions.

Elections were held for new Grand Line officers, and a couple spots were open to be filled. Eminent Grand Generalissimo Gary Kennedy regrettably submitted his desire to me to be relieved from duty for personal reasons and that announcement was made before the elections were held. I want to publicly state that we could not have a finer example of Maryland Masonry, much less Knights Templar, than Sir Knight Gary who continues to amaze with his efforts on behalf of so many organizations as well as support of community activities and charities. Sir Knight Gary's presence will be greatly missed.

Please join with me in congratulating our elected officers to be installed in October at the Grand Sessions in Frederick Md.

SK Brad Andrukitis –Right Eminent Grand Commander elect
SK Scott Lapp- Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander elect
SK Dennis Ewing – Eminent Grand Generalissimo elect
SK George Christoff- Eminent Grand Captain General elect

SK Vernon Huebschman to continue as Eminent Grand Recorder
SK Randall Watson to continue as Eminent Grand Treasurer

The future of Maryland Templary is assured and bright with this array of experienced and capable men as your leaders.

The Education Foundation Chairman REPGC Art Hebbeler has recently updated me and lets us know that several applications for scholarships materialized very close to the June 1 deadline and that gladdens me to know we may be able to help some worthy individuals.

There appears to be great interest in Templary as we are finally seeing some activity following our extended time away during the worst days of the Covid pandemic. Please make an effort to encourage other members of the craft to become more aware of our existence, Christian values and Opportunities to help each other and the community.

In His Service,
John H. Austin, Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland