



John H. Austin  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Maryland

OCTOBER 2023 NEWS

Greetings Sir Knights,

This is my final message to you in this format. After 2 full and action-packed years of service as your Grand Commander of Knights Templar for the State of Maryland, my term comes to an end at the end of the month.

The York Rite Grand Sessions will be held in Frederick Maryland at the Clarion Hotel on October 27 & 28. Below I will add the details for registration (please complete meal selection for the various opportunities by Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>). I hope to see many of you there.

It has been my distinct honor to have traveled this State and others representing the Knights Templar of Maryland on your behalf. I only hope that the efforts made by myself and the Grand Line Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland have been worthy of your appreciation and has been of value to you each.

I have traveled to all of the Commanderies of Maryland several times each, and met many of the line officers and members of the Constituent Commanderies, with a message of hope and Prayer, as we ventured back into the full time Conclaves that were denied us during the plague of Covid 19. This has been a long and arduous process for many of our Commanderies and is still a work in progress. We have seen some progress in rebuilding a few of the Commanderies and some are doing just fine, a couple continue to struggle and it is my ardent wish that they pull though with all of our help. Two of our Commanderies will be merging which should aid them both with the combination members and Officers. Please wish well the members of Beauseant No. 8 and Carroll No. 17 as they join to become Carroll Beauseant Commandery No. 8 this month at the Grand Conclave.

I know that the upcoming new line of officers will continue to visit, help, and instruct the Commanderies of Maryland in the coming months. Led by the very able Right Eminent Grand Commander elect, Sir Knight Bradley Andrukitis, I have no doubt that you will all be impressed by the knowledge, energy, and character of the new line of officers. I wish to congratulate Brad as well as Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander elect SK Scott Lapp, Eminent Grand

Generalissimo SK George Christoff and Eminent Grand Captain General SK Dennis Ewing as they embark upon this new Templar year. Please join me in congratulating them and wishing them well. I hope you can be with us in Frederick later this month to witness the installation of officers at the Grand Conclave.

It appears that our Eminent Grand Treasurer (and RWDGM) Randall Watson and Eminent Grand Recorder Vernon Huebschman will continue in their posts, assuring the continued excellent administration and advice that these two hugely qualified Sir Knights bring to these important positions. I cannot tell you how beneficial it is to the Grand Commandery and to myself personally, to have these fine men in these posts. They are both wonderful Christian examples of the best of Freemasonry and Templary. Thank you both for your service to the Grand Commandery of Maryland.

Like many of you, I am committed to a life of Freemasonry that includes many different organizations, including several York Rite bodies that I continue to support and attend. These include Knight Masons, Allied Masonic Degrees, Order of Athelstan, Red Cross of Constantine, HRAKTP, Knights Preceptor, Association of Past Commanders, as well as the York Rite College where I currently serve as your Pre-eminent Governor.

A new job has come my way and I can announce to you that at the recent Grand Encampment Mid-Atlantic Department conference, I was named the next Department Commander for the Mid-Atlantic. This position will begin in August of 2024 and lasts through the next GE Triennial for a 3-year term.

In the meantime, I am looking forward to a bit of a break to wind down from the activities associated with the Grand Commander position.

Sir Knights, it has been an Honor and pleasure to serve these past two years. I have learned much as the large responsibility of the duties of the role of Grand Commander have been revealed to me. I could not be prouder of you all or more thankful for your support. God Bless you, one and all.

I must also thank my wife Kandi as she fully embraced the role of first Lady of the Templars and accompanied me in travel to many places for the formal and ceremonial aspects of the office. She is one of a kind and a great organizer and supporter. Love you Honey! Kandi has organized the ladies' events in recent years at the Grand Sessions and other places as well. Have your Ladies attend the lady's event at the upcoming Grand Sessions, there is no charge to them for this fun time.

Courteously yours,  
John H. Austin, REGC

## York Rite Session 2023-

October 27-28, 2023

**Grand Chapter** – October 27, 2023 – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

**Grand Council** – October 28, 2023 – 9:00 am – 11:45 am

**Grand Commandery** – October 28, 2023 – 1:15 pm – 3:15 pm



Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center  
5400 Holiday Dr, Frederick, MD, 21703  
Phone: 301-694-7500

**ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPARATELY WITH HOTEL BY SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**

**We have two ways to register. You can print the registration form and mail a check as payment or register online using your credit card as payment. The deadline for registration, online and by mail, is October 7, 2023.**

1. For Online Registration and Credit Payment, **Click Here.**
2. Click **Registration Form** to print and mail the form and payment.

For Tentative **Schedule**

