

GRAND COMMANDERY  
OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MARYLAND



October 28, 2023

Annual Grand Conclave

Clarion Inn Frederick, Maryland



**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland  
Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Maryland**

Companions & Sir Knights

By order of the:

Most Excellent Grand High Priest, ME Comp. G. Andrew Martinez

Most Illustrious Grand Master, MI Comp. William C. Hare, Jr

Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK John H. Auston

Official Notice is given for:

**The Annual Grand Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland,  
The Annual Grand Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Maryland,  
and The Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.**

**The Grand Chapter** will meet in Grand Convocation on **Friday, October 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Convocation. Agenda to include Finance Presentations, Installation of 2024 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports, as necessary. The dress is a Tuxedo with a Red Jacket, Apron, & Jewels for Officers; all others are Tux or Coat and tie. Please wear your Chapter Apron.

Location: Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center, Frederick, MD.

**The Grand Council** will meet in Grand Assembly on **Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 9:00 am** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Assembly. Agenda to include Finance Presentations, Installation of the 2024 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports, as necessary. The dress is a Tuxedo, Apron, & Jewels for Officers; all others are Tux or Coat and tie. Please wear your Council Apron.

Location: Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center, Frederick, MD.

**The Grand Commandery** will meet in Grand Conclave on **Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 1:15 pm** to conduct all business proper to the Annual Grand Conclave. Agenda to include Presentations, Installation of 2024 Officers, and all other Officer and Committee Reports, as necessary. The dress is Full Templar Uniform, Chapeau & Sword.

Location: Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center, Frederick, MD.

Fraternally & respectfully,

ME Comp William C. Eppig  
Grand Secretary  
Grand Chapter of Maryland

RI Comp. Vernon H.  
Huebschman  
Grand Recorder  
Grand Council of Maryland

SK Vernon H. Huebschman  
Grand Recorder  
Grand Commandery of  
Knights Templars in MD

**Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland**  
**Annual Grand Conclave**  
**October 28, 2023 - Frederick , Maryland**  
**1:15 - 3:15 p.m.**

1. Opening: Reconvene	SK John H. Austin KCT,	REGC
2. Welcome	SK John H. Austin KCT,	REGC
3. Credentials: Initial Report	SK David Andrukitis,	Grand Sentinel
4. Reception of REPGC's	SK John H. Austin KCT,	REGC
5. Introduction of dignitaries	SK John H. Austin KCT,	REGC
6. Proceedings May 2023	SK Vernon H. Huebschman,	Gr Recorder
7. Grand Commander's Address	SK John H. Austin KCT,	REGC
8. Grand Recorder's Report	SK Vernon H. Huebschman,	Gr Recorder
9. Grand Treasurer's Report	SK Randall L. Watson KCT,	Gr Treasurer
10. Grand Prelates Report	SK Charles Beckhardt,	Gr Prelate
11. Religious Observance	SK Charles Beckhardt,	Gr Prelate
12. Holy Land Pilgrimage	SK Charles Beckhardt,	Gr Prelate
13. Finance & Accounts Committee	SK Bradley D. Andrukitis,	VEDGC
14. KT Eye Foundation	SK Gary Kennedy KCT, KTCH	Gr Captain General
15. KT Education Foundation	SK Arthur Hebbeler KCT, KGCT, REPGC	
16. Youth Relations	SK Scott Lapp,	Jr Gr Warden
17. Appendant & Concordant	SK Randall L. Watson KCT,	Gr Treasurer
18. Civic & Patriotic Committee	SK Gary Kennedy KCT, KTCH	Gr Captain General
19. Correspondence Committee	SK Vernon H. Huebschman,	Gr Recorder
20. Grand Inspector General's Report	SK Frederick A. Spicer KCT, KTCH,	REPGC
21. Membership Committee	SK Bradley D. Andrukitis,	VEDGC
22. KT Instruction/ Ritual Committee	SK Frederick A. Spicer,	REPGC
23. KT Handbook	SK Bradley Andrukitis.	VEDGC
24. Knight Training Committee	SK Charles Warns II,	REPGC
25. Quartermaster's Report	SK John P. Mitchell ,	Gr Generalissimo
26. Jurisprudence Committee	SK John A. Rafine KCT ,	REPGC
27. Constitution Committee	SK Richard P. Naegele KCT,	REPGC
28. Doings of Grand Officers	SK Spyridon G. Treklas KCT,	REPGC
29. Grievance Committee	SK Kenneth S. Wyvill Jr KCT.,	REPGC
30. Masonic Relations Committee	SK Richard P. NaegeleKCT,	REPGC
31. 2023 Sessions Committee	SK Bradley D. Andrukitis,	VEDGC
32. 2024 Time & Place Committee	SK John H. AustinKCT,	REGC
33. Vacant	SK John H. Austin KCT,	REGC
34. Awards & Recognition	SK Arthur Hebbeler KCT,KGCT, REPGC	
35. Credentials: Final Report	SK David Andrukitis,	Grand Sentinel
36. Unfinished Business	SK John Austin,	REGC
37. New Business	SK John Austin,	REGC
38. Election of Officers	SK John Austin,	REGC (No Vacancies to be filled)
39. Installation of Officers	SK Kenneth S. Wyvill Jr KCT,	REPGC,
40. Comments		
41. Calling Off	SK Bradley D. Andrukitis,	REGC

The REGC may alter this agenda as he sees fit, and may receive reports to be printed in the Proceedings as he may direct.

**Grand Commandery of Knight Templar of Maryland  
2023 Officers**

<b>SK John Harmon Austin, KCT</b>	<b>Right Eminent Grand Commander</b>
<b>SK Bradley David Andrukitis</b>	<b>Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander</b>
<b>SK Gary Jerome Kennedy, KCT, KCTH</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Generalissimo</b>
<b>SK Scott Gordon Lapp</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Captain General</b>
<b>SK Charles Beckhardt</b>	<b>Grand Prelate</b>
<b>SK Michael A. Youse</b>	<b>Grand Senior Warden</b>
<b>SK Samuel J. Lane</b>	<b>Grand Junior Warden</b>
<b>SK Randall Lyle Watson KCT</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Treasurer</b>
<b>SK Vernon Henry Huebschman</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Recorder</b>
<b>SK Scott William Wilson</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Standard Bearer</b>
<b>SK Michael Raab</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Sword Bearer</b>
<b>SK George James Christoff</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Warder</b>
<b>SK David Lee Andrukitis</b>	<b>Eminent Grand Sentinel</b>
<b>SK Kevin Mitchell Drabczyk</b>	<b>Adjutant</b>
<b>SK William Chester Hare Jr</b>	<b>Adjutant</b>
<b>SK Gerard T. Kendle</b>	<b>Adjutant</b>
<b>SK Keith Wayne Warner</b>	<b>Adjutant</b>
<b>SK Richard P Naegele, REPGC, KCT</b>	<b>Grand Inspector General</b>
<b>SK John Patrick Mitchell</b>	<b>Quartermaster</b>

## 1. Opening

### SK John H. Austin, KCT REGC



The Right Eminent Grand Commandery called for an Opening Prayer from the Grand Prelate, SK Charles Beckhardt.

“Our most gracious heavenly Father, we pause and acknowledge Your presence and that of Your Son. We come to you this afternoon with thankful hearts. Thankful, that as our loving Father, You care for each of us in our own special way.

As we present and listen to the annual reports presented by the Grand Line of Knights Templar, we thank them for their dedication, leadership, service and their safe travels.

When we have our business discussions, may they center on what is good for the Grand Commandery in support of the local Commanderies. For we feel there is purpose and meaning in what we do.

There are many of our Sir Knights that are dealing with health issues. We ask for Your comforting arms to warm their bodies and provide your healing powers to each one.

When Jesus asked us to feed His sheep, cloth His sheep and care for His sheep as He did, as Knights Templar, point us in the right direction to make tis happen.

Remind us to contact those who feel lonely or troubled . As Knights Templar, provide us with those comforting words of assurance so we can walk with them through their troubled times.

As Knights Templar and Your ambassadors, may the light of Your Son so shine upon us that the darkness that is trying to surround us from being Your ambassador will fade away.

We thank You for all the blessings we have received. We invite you to join us at our meeting and direct our thoughts and words.

And now with one voice, hear the prayer Your Son taught us, say with one voice THE LORD’S PRAYER.  
AMEN

The REGC then lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Then by the authority invested in him as the Grand Commandery of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland, SK Austin then declared the Grand Commandery resumed.

## 2. Greetings

**SK John H. Austin REGC**

The REGC extended his greeting to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, SK Frederick A. Spicer KCT, The Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, SK G. Andrew Martinez, the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Master of Maryland, SK William C. Hare, Jr. our Right Eminent Department Commander, SK James Steele, KCT, our visiting dignitaries for other Grand Jurisdictions, our Grand Line Officers, the officers of our constituent Commanderies, and Sir Knights attending from their local commanderies.

## 3. Credentials Committee

**SK David Andrukitis, Grand Sentinel**

The report of the Grand Sentinel for this Committee stated that the following information was collected during the registration for this Grand Conclave:

10	Commanderies were represented
8	Past Grand Commanders
18	Past Commanders were present (not included as REPGC's above)
4	Sitting Commanders
4	Generalissimos
2	Captains General
<b>36</b>	<b>Total Voting SK's of this Grand Commandery</b>
19	Non-voting SK's

## 4. Reception of Past Grand Commanders

**SK John H. Austin, KCT REGC**

The following Right Eminent Past Grand Commander were received and greeted by the SK Austin:\

SK Clifton R. Friel KCT	Installed May 13, 1992
SK Ronald L. Aughenbaugh KCT	Installed May 14, 1993
SK Richard Phillip Naegele KCT	Installed May 10, 2000
SK John Andrew Rafine KCT	Installed May 10, 2007
SK Kenneth Stuart Wyvill Jr. KCT	Installed October 10, 2012
SK Frederick Ashley Spicer KCT	Installed October 26, 2013
SK Spyridon George Treklas KCT	Installed October 26, 2019
SK Charles Edward Warns II KCT	Installed October 22, 2021

The REGC extends his thanks for their attendance of this Grand Conclave, and their constant support over the past year. SK Clifton Friel KCT responded for the assembled REPGC's. SK Friel congratulated SK Austin on a fine year, and pledged their support for the coming year again.

## 5. Introduction of Dignitaries

**SK John H. Austin KCT REGC**

The REGC acknowledged the following distinguished guests of this Grand Conclave:

❖ Most Worshipful Grand Master	SK Frederick A. Spicer KCT
❖ Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master	SK Randall L. Watson KCT
❖ Right Eminent Department Commander	SK James B. Steele KCT
❖ Most Excellent General Grand High Priest	SK Teko Foly, REPGC of DC
❖ District Deputy General Grand High Priest	SK Piers Vaughn KCT GCKT/NY
❖ Most Excellent Grand High Priest	SK G. Andrew Martinez
❖ Right Puissant General Grand Recorder	SK Mark Irwin, KCT, REPGC of DE
❖ Most Illustrious Grand Master	SK William C. Hare Jr.
❖ Right Eminent Grand Commander	SK Dennis Haas KCT, REGC of VA
❖ Grand Musician	SK Jeffrey Hedges, KCKT/VA

SK Austin thanked our many distinguished visitors for being with us.

SK Dennis Hass was made an Honorary Member of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templar of Maryland.

## 6. Proceeding of the Semi-annual Grand Conclave

**SK Vernon H. Huebschman, Gr Recdr.**

REGC,

As the Proceedings of the Special Conclave and the Semi-Annual Conclave have been posted to the Grand Commandery Website pages since May 2023,

I move that the reading of the proceedings be waived and that be accepted as published.

Respectfully submitted

SK Vernon H. Huebschman  
Grand Recorder

Seconded by SK John A. Rafine KCT, passed unanimously.

## 7. Report of the Right Eminent Grand Commander

SK John H. Austin KCT



Most Worshipful Grand Master Spicer,  
Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Watson,  
Department Commander Steele,  
Honored guests from other jurisdictions, Sir Knights all;

Welcome to the City and County of Frederick Maryland. This is my home, and a place of much history. Each of you who registered should have received a packet from the local Visitors center which will inform you of the places of interest in the area. I hope this will encourage you to come back and spend some time in this most welcoming City and enjoy the activities and history available to you within a very short travel from where we sit today.

We have introduced to you, many of our guests and Past Grand Officers already, however I want to take a moment to remark upon the conviviality as well as friendships that have developed through the years with these men and to the organizations that they represent. For the past 2 years and more, my wife Kandi and I have crisscrossed the State and traveled to several others to become guests of every possible Masonic and Community organization that you can imagine. Not to mention the number of times that I have traveled to the Constituent Commanderies of Maryland to help, aid, and assist in the work of the Knights Templar.

In every case, my wife and I were treated with great kindness and hearty welcomes and with respect and regard to the office of REGC as well as to its holder of the moment.

This includes hundreds of State and District conclaves, Grand Lodge and constituent lodge events, Eastern Star and Youth Annuals – Jobs Daughters, DeMolay and Rainbow girls, SOOB, York Rite Grand Bodies and appendant and concordant organizations such as York Rite College, AMD, Knight Masons, Red Cross of Constantine, Scottish Rite, Shrine and other Masonic and non-masonic institutions. I have learned much about our Great Masonic Family, that I was not aware of, and come to relish the variety, as well as the energy and support of the families of our membership. The mothers and fathers of these young people, and the officers that support them, perform some heroic feats of organization and creativity.

Our, out of State Masonic organizations, are nearly overwhelming in their ability to show hospitality and courtesy. On many occasions, members of the Grand Commandery line were able to accompany me, and they too received the gracious welcomes and interesting variety of customs, ceremonies and formalities that were accorded us. I believe we have all come away with new knowledge and friendships that will last for many years.

Thank you all for coming to celebrate and witness the changing of the Guard that is about to take place. Will you all please join me in acknowledging those visiting dignitaries, and the officers present of the various Masonic local organizations, as well as those not able to be present from Maryland Commanderies and Grand Lodge, by a warm round of applause and thanks.

I have mentioned in my remarks already the Past Grand Commanders present and those unable to make it today. Prior to putting together my plan 2 years ago, I called or met with each of my living predecessors in this job. Seeking their wisdom and guidance, I crafted my administration based on not



only the ongoing programs instituted by my immediate predecessors, Art Hebbeler, Spyros Treklas, Charles Warns II, but also suggestions from each of THEIR predecessors. Additionally, we were just coming off the beginning of what remains to be a very disjuncting Pandemic which slowed down Freemasonry and essentially shut down Templary for all intents and purposes as the Grand Encampment forbid us for a long while to meet in person.

I focused my plan on 6 essentials: Membership, KT Ritual and Training, Education Foundation Scholarships, KTEF, Religious Observance, Uniform and Wardrobe.

One member from each commandery was assigned to be a liaison with Grand Commandery officers to work on each of these items. I would say it was a mixed bag of results. And we've still been pursuing this with our individual Commanderies, in personal visits to each.

Membership is about even with some Commanderies doing better than others. We have 2 commanderies preparing to merge with a final report from Jurisprudence and a vote to proceed here later this afternoon, 2 commanderies are faltering and we are a bit worried about the continued ability of one of them to remain in operation, and the remaining 7 holding their own or growing.

Ritual was severely hampered by the passing of our Grand Inspector General REPGC Randy Disney, God bless him. His banner has been taken up now by the wizened and oft used hands and heart of REPGC Richard Naegele. SK Richard will be a terrific teacher and knows the ropes when it comes to our ceremonial openings and Orders.

We have continued a KT training program with REPGC Charles E. Warns II and his team of traveling training Knights. I have had the opportunity to sit in on 3 of these classes which are several hours long and very thorough in the discussions and instructions, on just what it takes to understand the ins and outs of a Knights Templar conclave. Every time I see the program, I learn more about our respected and impressive ritual and tenets of the institution of Knights Templar. When finished, the team conveys to those in attendance, how the proper manner of conferring our 3 Ritual Orders lends majestic dignity and grandeur to any asylum where we practice our craft.

Work on a new KT Handbook for Maryland moves along and should be printed next year. Our committee has met several times and I believe we are nearing the final cut on what will become not only a written and printed document, but also the basis for a vibrant new interactive website which is also a goal.

KTEF is successful and last year we were certified as 100% Life Sponsors. Now we are working on keeping it that way. You will hear shortly of a recent visit to NIH and the Johns Hopkins to celebrate 2 KTEF Starter Grants.

Our Education Foundation Scholarships have increased in participation the past 2 years and checks have recently gone out to a number of applicants. Chairman REPGC Art Hebbeler, has enhanced the selection process and greatly increased progress and new methods of selection prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There is a plan in the works to invest in a strategic system of gauging the worthiness and need of our applicants.

The Religious Observances have really had a kick with our Grand Prelate Charles Beckhardt leading the way with gentle reminders of our Christian calendar, preparing programs, and with active participation in helping to attend and instruct in Commanderies. Last year we had the best participation in many years from our constituent Commanderies, and families in Christian Observances.

A new program offered by the Grand Encampment offers those of you who have a calling in Christian support of our members and the community at large. You may take a course in helping others through difficult periods. We are fortunate to have 3 new Commissioned Chaplains, celebrated just last month at the Department Conference in Crystal City. More are on the way with this new and highly regarded program.

We had one minister from the Eastern Shore travel on the Holyland Pilgrimage this past season. I have met her and from what I have learned, her experience was top notch and not to be forgotten. I was able to hear and see the report from a minister that Jacques DeMolay Commandery, right here in Frederick, gave about a month ago and his enthusiasm for the program was contagious.

Our Uniform and Wardrobe program is doing OK. We have programs in place to subsidize the purchase of uniforms and the accoutrements that are required to be worn on them. We have a Sword Program, offering a new sword for any knight that secures a uniform and chapeau or cap. Our civilian wardrobe program helps to subsidize the costs of outfitting the uniform once purchased.

Civilian garb is being purchased by our members in record numbers and we have recently had a new batch of Maryland polos printed to refill the stores. You will find these and other items for sale at the registration area and in the Hospitality Suite.

By enabling our members more readily to acquire a uniform and to dress in civilian garb with Knights Templar logos, we feel that an esprit de corps is being developed to strengthen the unity and pride of membership. Not to mention that the sharply dressed Knight, in public, such as at Parades and in Lodge flag presentations, as well as a man in the striking garb available with our caps, shirts and jackets, will often be questioned about the organization. Keep your elevator speech on Templary handy if you are so garbed.

The public visibility of our organization is always important and attendance at Parades, Religious gatherings, Masonic events, and Community charitable organizations is vital to the image and health of our Knights Templar organizations. Your Grand Commandery visibility and personal presence is important. Last year and in previous years for instance we participated in New Market parade, in Baltimore at the Mayor's Parade which featured members of our Grand Commandery in full Crusade era costume and chainmail on horseback- Stunning to see the reactions of the crowd watching from the curbs and sidewalks as they rode past.

The Alexandria Virginia Parade celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and reenactment of the Cornerstone laying of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial along with thousands of Masons, as well as participating in a public march in Williamsburg Virginia Bicentennial with a couple of hundred others in full uniform, and as always the Westminster Memorial Day parade with Carroll Commandery and Grand Commandery attendance in the longest running annual event of its kind in America.

Finances- You will hear a report on the health of our well monitored accounts from our Eminent Grand Treasurer SK Randy Watson and be assured that the funds of the Grand Commandery are in good shape

and the Finance Committee headed by your current VEDGC and GC elect Bradley Andrukitis are attentive to what the Grand Commandery does with your contributions and those of our many members that have created this legacy.

Youth- The 3 youth groups here in Maryland are astounding. Your Grand Commandery continues to support them and as I mentioned earlier, Kandi and I have had a first hand opportunity to see the wonderful work that these young folks do. Along with the amazing support and assistance of loving parents and doting leadership of many masonic organizations they are traveling a wondrous road of fun and enlightenment. Kudos to those that in the past have set these engaging, educational and honorable organizations in motion and keep them thriving.

Jurisprudence- I have had many occasions to consult the Jurisprudence Committee on an article of difficulty with a member or one of our Constitutional requirements. The committee and especially chairman, REPGC John Rafine has always cheerfully and thoroughly walked me through the maze of language and nuances of the law of our Maryland rules as well as delving into the more voluminous language of the Grand Encampment. SK John, I cannot thank you enough for your diligence, time and brilliant analysis provided me.

The future of your Grand Commandery of Maryland is assured. At the semi-annual in May, officers were chosen of such high caliber and capability that the governance of the Templars of Maryland is not in question. The line of officers to be installed here later today is a diverse and able group of men and Christian Masons.

My partner in Business Robert Frost ( no kidding- that was his name and believe it or not his father's name was Jack), many years ago, made this statement. 'Organization and Morale makes a business tick.' I have lived my working life by these principles. To those words I would add one more thing and make it the working motto of the leadership of Knights Templars. That word is 'Commitment'. When your members are being considered for office, The one thing that makes sense to have, is a desire to make the long haul run. To do that one must be Committed. The Time and Energy, travel, expense, communication skills, and up and down swings of success and failure are ever present and require much of a man and Mason.

I want to recognize the contributions of 2 individuals. REPGC Randy Disney passed on to those hallowed gates of heaven not long ago. Randy was a wonderful man, a teacher, a disciple of Masonic studies and an excellent Ritualist with a mind like a sponge and the ability to convey a thought like that of a trained actor. He was low key, respectful and respected within Masonry and especially among those of us in the York Rite Community. When I asked him if he would take over the position of GIG with the previous occupant -Our Grand Master Fred Spicer moving on, he agreed with one caveat. He would not take the job without being able to travel the State and teach Ritual, which has been lacking from the long break and participation at a low level. This, I responded to wholeheartedly, with positive and cheerful agreement. Randy wrote, and we posted, a manifesto of sorts for his plans and offer to visit repeatedly the Commanderies of the State of Maryland. We had just begun traveling the State together to lay out his vision, when he took ill and had to work on his health. Randy had recovered from serious health issues and unfortunately had a relapse and never was able to recover. He left us with empty hearts and unfulfilled wishes. We all miss him Greatly. I know that I do. His Brother Jeff is here today to honor him.

I don't know how he managed to do it, but Jeff presided over a very moving memorial service for his brother a few months ago. Jeff would you please rise and be recognized.

When our Eminent Grand Recorder Emeritus SK Kris Brown took ill, we were floundering in the important administrative aspects of the organization. Out of the Blue one day, I received a call from SK Vernon with an offer that I was shocked to hear. Vernon knew that the plans of the Commandery and my term were in jeopardy and offered to step in for the short term until such time as Kris recovered enough to resume his duties. I quickly accepted and we made him Asst. Grand Recorder. It did not take long for Vernon to begin to make a difference and his diligence, research, and contacts with the Grand Encampment with guidance from Kris, saved the day for Templary in Maryland. It would take me a long time to tell you all the things that Vernon has done for Templary and for me personally. Many hours on the phone and emails with detailed accounts of the running of your Grand Commandery have paid off with a wonderful climate of trust and an association for us that has been extraordinary and uplifting. I have told Vernon that his calling may be with the clergy, as he is passionate, compassionate, and helpful in every way. I don't know what else may come of this. But I know one thing. I have a friend for life here. Thank you, Vernon, for all you have done for Templary and for me.

I further wish to thank Department Commander James Steele for his guidance, friendship and help along the way. You may not know this, but one of these jobs of leadership are fraught with twists and turns of unexpected nature and often complexity. I'll tell you how hard he works, he can barely walk from the weight of helping me and others like me around the Mid-Atlantic. He and his wife Shirley have shown Kandi and I great courtesy and friendship, have guided us both in remarkable and welcome ways with gentle teaching and advice which is their nature. Thank you, Sir Knight James, for your kindness and friendship.

I leave you in the steady and experienced hands of our Grand Commander Elect, Bradley Andrukitis. Brad and I have worked side by side throughout our terms of office and accomplished much. He and his team of officers will continue to support and unite the members of Maryland Knights Templar. There is not a thing that has come up or a need that has arisen that I have not consulted or informed SK Brad about. It's amazing to me the number of times that the responsibility of this job has required some research, consultation with the jurisprudence committee, the Grand Recorder, The Grand Treasurer, the Grand Encampment through the office of the Department Commander. At each occasion, Brad was right there to observe and help steer the decisions of your Grand Commandery, so his experience will not be molded as he learns the job. He's already got a leg up and will not feel the imbalance of having to discover how to react to issues as they arise. He's aware and in tip top form for the job.

I hope you will all lend him, and the rest of the Grand Line that will be working with him, your support, your aid when needed, and your attention as they make the Maryland Knights Templar a truly fine way to spend your time and energy.

Everything in my experience the past several years and the last 2 in particular, has led me to the awareness that there is not a finer organization to call one's home.

It has been an honor to have served in this office. You have all lifted me up in this time of service and I thank you for the kindness I have been shown.

VEDGC Andrukitis I move this report be accepted and spread upon the minutes.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT from the Right Eminent Grand Commander.

Report to the Department Conference 2023

Mid Atlantic Department Conference 2023- Comments from REGC of Maryland

REDGM Bolstad, Department Commander Steele, Grand Commanders and Grand officers:

My 2 year term of office comes to a close next month. It has been an honor to represent the State of Maryland as its Grand Commander and an honor to work closely with the Grand Encampment, and see the workings of the machinery up close. I have come to admire the Leadership of our illustrious organization and gained some insights into our Christian Order that heretofore, I was unaware of.

My partner in Business Robert Frost, many years ago, made this statement. 'Organization and Morale makes a business tick.' I have lived my working life by these principles. To those words I would add one more thing and make it the working motto of the leadership of Knights Templars. That word is 'Commitment'. When your members are being considered for office, The one thing that makes sense to have, is a desire to make the long haul run. To do that one must be Committed. The Time and Energy, travel, expense, communication skills, and up and down swings of success and failure are ever present and require much of a man and Mason.

When I began my term, Covid was, and still is, a factor in all of our Commanderies. We still have not had the return of many of our members who found other things to do when the Pandemic took away our regular scheduled Order of work. Who can blame them? It was a huge factor. To try to reinvigorate Maryland Commanderies, 6 things were stressed that I felt needed to be pursued to give assistance and life to our commanderies along with information needed to understand our work as Knights Templar.

Those 6 are: Membership, KT Ritual and training, KTEF, Religious Observances, Education foundation scholarships, Uniforms and Wardrobe. One member from each commandery was assigned to be a liason with Grand Commandery officers to work on each of these items. I would say it was a mixed bag of results. We're still pursuing this with individual Commanderies in personal visits to each.

Membership is about even with some Commanderies doing better than others. We have 2 commanderies preparing to merge, 2 commanderies faltering and the remaining 7 holding their own or growing.

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Our Uniform and Wardrobe program is doing ok. We have programs in place to subsidize the purchase of uniforms and the accoutrements that are required to be worn on them. We have a Sword Program, offering a new sword for any knight the secures a uniform and chapeau or cap.

Civilian garb is being purchased by our members in record numbers and we have recently had a new batch of Maryland polos printed to refill the stores.

I want to thank the Officers of the Grand Line for their hard work this year and especially single out our Grand Recorder SK Vernon Huebschman for really working closely with me this past year and bringing the entire level of communication with Commanderies and Grand Encampment, as well as Templar administration to a fine point.

Our VEDGC Brad Andrukitis has been involved with all the decisions and plans for the past 2 years and heads our finance committee and several of the other committees which are instrumental to our success. He is well prepared to seamlessly take on the duties of the office.

I have made many friends among you the past few years and it's been a pleasure and personally a humbling and welcome experience.

Yours in Christ's Service

SK John H. Austin KCT

SK Charles Warns II KCT moved that the Grand Commander's Report be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings, second by SK Kenneth S. Wyvill II KCT, and was unanimously adopted.

## **8. Report of the Grand Recorder**

**SK Vernon H. Huebschman**

REGC,

I am pleased to report that Recorders of our several Commanderies have done excellent work in maintaining the available information in the MMS Database.

- Entry of New Petition and conferring of Orders
- Entry of change of status of member data
- Entry of change of life status
- Entry of current officers and committee information

The Member Status of the Maryland Commanderies is printed on the reverse side of the Conclave Agenda for your information.

Also all Commanderies paid their annual assessments in a timely manner.

As I have improved my own knowledge in the operation of the MMS, and the expansive information that can be expressed in the various reports, we have explored the possibilities of these reports with the Commanderies. The new information gleaned from the new use of the available reports has proved interesting and valuable.

I deeply appreciate the assistance of the staff of the Grand Encampment Offices. They have been always ready to answer questions, and show me the pathway through the MMS to extract the information from the raw data in the MMS.

The Merger of Beauseant Commandery with Carroll Commandery has been discussed with SK Larry , the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment. The process of merger in the MMS will commence upon submission of the actions of this Grand Conclave.

I am deeply grateful for the continued advice and support of SK Kris Brown, Grand Recorder-Emeritus. He has always made himself available for any questions I have had this year.

Finally, I am honored to have served you as your Grand Recorder this year. My experience of working with you through this year has been memorable and among the most valued in my Masonic career. Thank you for your wisdom and guidance.

I move this report be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings of this Grand Conclave.

Respectfully submitted,

SK Vernon H. Huebschman  
Grand Recorder.

The motion was seconded by SK Randall L. Watson KCT, and unanimously approved.

9. Report of the Grand Treasurer

SK Randall L. Watson KCT

This Report covers the period from November 1, 2022 to October 21, 2023 regarding the 2023 income and expenses. Income thus far totals \$23,307.01; expenses total \$40,842.28, so we've drawn \$17,535.27 out of the Operating Fund.

As discussed at the Semi-Annual in May, it was not necessary to transfer any of the allowable amounts from the Endowment Fund this year. The cumulative balance of transfers deferred from the years ending March 2017 through March 2023 is \$141,111.43 (correcting the \$122,399.29 shown on the May 2023 Report as submitted).

The balance in the operating account with Morgan Stanley as of September 30, 2022 was \$304,707.45; as of September 30, 2023 it is \$280,600.03; a decrease of about \$24k (-7.9%).

The balance in the Endowment Fund with Morgan Stanley as of September 30, 2022 was \$724,036.63; as of September 30, 2023 it is \$831,092.47; an increase of about \$107k (+14.8%).

The balance in the Educational Foundation with Morgan Stanley as of September 30, 2022 was \$605,753.53; as of September 30, 2023 it is \$668,846.37; an increase of about \$63k (10.4%). However, there are scholarship checks of \$12,000 that weren't cashed as of September 30<sup>th</sup>.

I move that this report and attachments be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall L. Watson, KCT  
Grand Treasurer

Attachments:

Asset & Liabilities Cash Statement as of September 30, 2023

2022/2023 Approved Budget & Year-to-Date Expenses

2023/2024 Approved Budget

The Motion was seconded by SK Vernon Huebschman and unanimously approved.



# Asset & Liabilities Cash Statement as of September 30, 2023

## Assets

### General Operating Account #633-xxxx34

	% of holding	At cost	Market Value 9/30/23	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Market Value 9/30/22	Change
Cash & MMFs	3.80%		\$10,659.92		\$10,984.19	(\$324.27)
Common & Preferred Stocks	80.42%	\$128,909.65	\$225,647.65	\$96,738.00	\$253,094.85	(\$27,447.20)
Exchange-Traded & Closed End Fd	9.61%	\$22,292.34	\$26,962.90	\$4,670.56	\$25,533.40	\$1,429.50
Corporate Fixed Income	0.00%			\$0.00		\$0.00
Mutual Funds	6.18%	\$12,751.82	\$17,329.56	\$4,577.74	\$15,095.01	\$2,234.55
<b>Subtotal General Operating Account</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$163,953.81</b>	<b>\$280,600.03</b>	<b>\$105,986.30</b>	<b>\$304,707.45</b>	<b>(\$24,107.42)</b> <b>-7.91%</b>

### Endowment Fund Account #633-xxxx10

	% of holding	At cost	Market Value 9/30/23	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Market Value 9/30/22	Change
Cash & MMFs	3.02%		\$25,121.80		\$10,709.07	\$14,412.73
Common & Preferred Stocks	75.26%	\$382,915.21	\$625,484.29	\$242,569.08	\$565,554.79	\$59,929.50
Exchange-Traded & Closed End Fd	5.18%	\$32,969.32	\$43,056.00	\$10,086.68	\$42,888.00	\$168.00
Corporate Fixed Income	6.81%	\$58,318.25	\$56,583.02	(\$1,735.23)	\$37,842.98	\$18,740.04
Mutual Funds	9.73%	\$69,053.70	\$80,847.36	\$11,793.66	\$67,041.79	\$13,805.57
<b>Subtotal Endowment Fund Account</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$543,256.48</b>	<b>\$831,092.47</b>	<b>\$262,714.19</b>	<b>\$724,036.63</b>	<b>\$107,055.84</b> <b>14.79%</b>

	Market Value 9/30/23	Market Value 9/30/22	Change
<b>Net Worth as of September 30, 2022</b>	<b>\$1,111,692.50</b>	<b>\$1,028,744.08</b>	<b>\$82,948.42</b> <b>8.06%</b>

### Knights Templar Educational Foundation Account #633-xxxx35

	% of holding	At cost	Market Value 9/30/23	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Market Value 9/30/22	Change
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# 2022/2023 Budget & Year-to-Date Expenses - 2023/2024 Approved Budget

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland		Year to	Proceedings for October 28, 2023		
<b>Income:</b>	<b>G.L.</b>	<b>Approved 2023 Budget</b>	<b>Date 10/21/2023</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Approved 2024 Budget</b>
Annual Per Capita (\$5 MD)	A-1	\$ 4,625.00		(\$4,625.00)	\$ 4,500.00
Annual Per Capita (\$9 GE)	A-2	\$ 8,325.00		(\$8,325.00)	\$ 8,100.00
Uncoded Per Capita	A		\$12,307.00	\$12,307.00	\$ -
Knight Templar Eye Foundation (\$1 ea)	B-1	\$ 200.00		(\$200.00)	\$ -
Knight Templar Eye Foundation - Sponsor	B-2	\$ -			\$ -
Knight Templar Eye Foundation - Misc	B-3	\$ -			\$ -
Holy Land Pilgrimage Donations	C	\$ 4,000.00		(\$4,000.00)	\$ 4,000.00
Reimbursable Items	D	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,870.00	\$870.00	\$ 2,000.00
Initiation Fees (\$50 ea)	E	\$ 2,000.00		(\$2,000.00)	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous	G	\$ 500.00	\$ 175.00	(\$325.00)	\$ 500.00
Relief Fund - Little Sisters of the Poor	H	\$ -	\$ 240.00	\$240.00	\$ -
Youth Groups (Hershey Trip)	J		\$ 160.00	\$160.00	\$ 1,000.00
Annual Conclave Expense	N	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 7,555.01	\$1,055.01	\$ 7,000.00
Transfer from operating fund (if needed)	M	\$ 37,975.00	\$17,535.27	(\$20,439.73)	\$ 54,535.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 66,125.00</b>	<b>\$40,842.28</b>	<b>(\$25,282.72)</b>	<b>\$ 83,635.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Grand Encampment Per Capita	1	\$ 8,325.00	\$ 8,247.00	\$78.00	\$ 8,100.00
Knight Templar Eye Foundation	2	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$200.00	\$ -
Treasurer Honorarium	3	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Recorder Honorarium	4	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Office Expense	8	\$ 850.00	\$ 28.75	\$821.25	\$ 850.00
Annual Conclave Expense	9	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,500.00
Annual Session Hospitality	9A	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Equipment Repair	10	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$100.00	\$ 100.00
Holy Land Pilgrimage	12	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00

Grand Line Travel	13	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
PGC Jewel	14	\$ -	\$ 132.50	(\$132.50)	\$ 500.00
GIG Expense	15	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Triennial Expense	16		\$ -		\$ 10,000.00
PGC Travel	18	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
Mid-Atlantic Conference	19	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,400.35	\$99.65	\$ 2,500.00
Youth Program	20	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Youth Groups - Prospect Trip	20A	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,314.03	\$1,685.97	\$ 5,500.00
Crusader Program	22	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,492.59	(\$392.59)	\$ 6,100.00
Reimbursable Items	23	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,832.36	(\$2,832.36)	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous	24	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,436.76	\$1,563.24	\$ 4,000.00
Awards/Incentives	25	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 910.40	\$4,089.60	\$ 5,000.00
Bond/Insurance	26	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,122.69	(\$122.69)	\$ 2,100.00
Web Site	27	\$ 350.00	\$ 366.92	(\$16.92)	\$ 185.00
Relief Fund – Little Sisters of the Poor	29				
Semi-Annual Expenses	30	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 40.75	\$959.25	\$ 1,000.00
GC Meetings	31	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 17.18	\$982.82	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 66,125.00</b>	<b>\$40,842.28</b>	<b>\$25,282.72</b>	<b>\$ 83,635.00</b>

**10. Report of the Grand Prelate****SK Charles Beckhard, Grand Prelate**

REGC

During the past six months I participated in the following activities in my role as Grand Prelate:

- ❖ Visited with Carroll #17, Monumental Crusade #3 and Maryland #1, Commanderies.
- ❖ Marched in the parade in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, in Alexandria, Virginia
- ❖ Attended the presentation of honoring SK Kris Brown with the title of Grand Recorder Emeritus for Maryland.
- ❖ When asked, offered prayers for dinners, memorials and Conclaves.
- ❖ May 15<sup>th</sup> – participated in the Semi-Annual Conclave
- ❖ .May 29<sup>th</sup> – participated in the annual Memorial Day parade in Westminster, Maryland
- ❖ June 17<sup>th</sup>- Participated in the Training Program for new Sir Knights.

At the request of REGC John, he asked if I could review various Christmas Observances and prepare a program that would be more Maryland friends. This was completed in October and forwarded to the Eminent Commander's for their use.

- ❖ October 28<sup>th</sup>- Offered opening and closing prayers for our annual sessions. Also prepared and conducted the annual annual York Rite Memorial Service.
- ❖ Offered prayers at various events.

**11. Religious Services Report****SK Charles Beckhardt, Grand Prelate**

CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

Developed, prepared and E-mailed general guidelines for the conducting of Christmas Observance Service to all Eminent Commanders.

Based on the information I received, almost every Commandery participated this year. This was a wonderful achievement, as it has been a number of years since we had this much participation.

I conducted the Christmas Service at Jacques DeMolay #4, and the three Baltimore County Commanderies, Maryland #1, Monumental Crusade #3 and Beauseant #8.

I also attended Carroll Commandery #17 Christmas Observance and the York Rite Bodies annual Christmas Service held at the Maryland Masonic Homes.

HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCE

Developed, prepared and E-mailed general guidelines for the conducting of the religious services for Holy Week to all Eminent Commanders.

I prepared and conducted the Good Friday services for the three Baltimore County Commanderies Maryland #1, Monumental Crusade #3 and Beauseant #8. Carroll #17 joined us for this service. Chesapeake #10 advised they had a Good Friday Service too.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Developed, prepared and e-mailed the general guidelines for the participation in the Easter Sunrise Service to all Eminent Commanders.

The Monumental Crusade Commandery #3 provided bus transportation from the Grand Lodge in Cockeysville to the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Arlington Virginia for the annual sunrise service. There were approximately 20-25 Templars from Maryland plus approximately 10 guests attending this service, including me.

A few Commanderies advised they will attend the sunrise services at their place of worship with their families.

#### ASCENSION SERVICE

Developed, prepared and e-mailed the general guidelines for the conducting of the Ascension Service and to all Eminent Commanders.

Conducted the Ascension Service for Jacques DeMolay on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, assisted REGC Jon Austin in conducting the Knights Templar memorial service for PGC Randy Disney.

#### **12. Report of the Holy Land Pilgrimage**

**SK Charles Beckhardt, Grand Prelate**

As of this date, I have not received any information from the Grand Encampment on next year's dates.

In past years, since I have been Grand Prelate, the Grand Recorder would receive this information from the Grand Encampment and it would be forward to me for distribution to the various Commanderies with instructions for our due date so our committee could do a review and meet the Grand Encampment's deadline for selection. This year, I did not receive any information from the Grand Recorder no did he receive anything from the Grand Encampment for this year's pilgrimage.

The three Reports by the Grand Prelate were presented as a group, Moved to be accepted and spread upon the Proceedings by the Grand Recorder, seconded by SK Richard P. Naegele KCT, and passed unanimously.

#### **13. Committee on Finance & Accounts**

**SK Bradley D. Andrukitis, VEDGC**

Good afternoon REGC and Distinguished SK's,

This committee is pleased to provide the requested information as we continue our efforts to keep our Sir Knights informed of our current financial standing.

The Finance Committee met on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 11 AM at the Grand Lodge of Maryland A.F. and A.M. in Cockeysville.

The following SK's were present:

John H. Austin, REGC

Bradley D. Andrukitis, VEDGC  
Scott Lapp, EGCG  
Randall L. Watson, EGT  
George J. Christoff, EGG-Elect  
David L. Andrukitis, Grand Sentinel

A recap of our current account balances in our Morgan Stanley accounts was given by EGT Randall L. Watson. We also reviewed a current spreadsheet of our budget to ascertain our current standing as to our proposed and actual budgets year-to-date.

I would like to thank all the members of this committee for their assistance. Special thanks to EGT Randy Watson for his guidance and recommendations whenever called upon by this committee.

I am pleased to have served as the chairman of this committee. I look forward to continued service assisting you, the Grand Commandery of Maryland, and our fellow Sir Knights as I pass the chairmanship of this committee on to my successor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bradley D. Andrukitis, VEDGC  
Chairman, Finance and Audit Committee  
Grand Commandery of Maryland

**14. Report on Knight Templar Eye Foundation**

**SK Gary Kennedy, KTCH, KCT, EGG**

REGC,

This report consists of the following exhibits. The Committee will continue to work with the Commanderies which have Sir Knights who are not yet enrolled as Life Members. Please remember that our new goal is two times Life Member Sponsorship.



**55TH Annual Voluntary Campaign Committee**

David J. Kussman, M.E.G.M., President  
Jeffrey Bolstad, R.E.D.G.M., Vice President  
Jack M. Harper II, R.E.G.G., Vice President  
Paul W. Friend, R.E.P.G.C., Campaign Chairman  
Lawrence E. Tucker, R.E.G.R., Secretary

## **55th Annual Voluntary Campaign Awards**

### **Grand Commandery of Maryland**

*Those Commanderies receiving Seals for achieving \$10.00 or more per member:*

Maryland Commandery No.1  
Palestine Commandery No.7  
Beauseant Commandery No.8  
Chesapeake Commandery No.10  
Thomas J. Shryock Commandery No.11  
Carroll Commandery No.17

*Those Commanderies receiving Plaque(s) and Award Certificates for achieving \$10.00 or more per member for the first time or for those who have used up all of their spaces on the certificates:*

Jacques DeMolay Commandery No.4

*Appreciation Certificate(s) for achieving \$5.00-\$9.99 per member:*

Monumental Crusade Commandery No.3  
Montgomery Commandery No.13



**Campaign Activity**

Record Count = 12

Body: **Maryland, Knights Templar** Campaign: **55th**

Fiscal Week: **34**

NOTE: All contributions postmarked on or before May 15th are credited and closing reports are based on membership as of May 15th posted within the MMS database. Following the close of any campaign reports from the system may change because of membership adjustments and Commanderies merging into others. Therefore the numbers represented on these reports after a campaign has officially closed will not change the final results because official results are only based on MMS database reports as of May 15th of that year.

	Contributions Only - used for awards					Contributions + Trusts + Wills					
	Total for Week: 34	Count	Cumulative Total	Rank	Active Members as of: 5/15/2023	Active Member Per Capita Average	Rank	Total for Week: 34	Count	Cumulative Total	Rank
Maryland	\$1,500.00	157	\$17,228.25		911	\$18.91		\$1,500.00	158	\$22,694.00	
Grand Commandery	\$200.00	5	\$2,097.00			\$16.61		\$200.00	5	\$2,097.00	
Antioch No. 6	\$0.00	3	\$85.00	11	80	\$1.06	11	\$0.00	3	\$85.00	11
Beauseant No. 8	\$0.00	11	\$850.00	7	31	\$27.42	2	\$0.00	11	\$850.00	7
Carroll No. 17	\$0.00	14	\$1,165.00	5	57	\$20.44	4	\$0.00	14	\$1,165.00	5
Chesapeake No. 10	\$1,000.00	22	\$2,380.00	2	101	\$23.56	3	\$1,000.00	23	\$7,845.75	1
Jacques DeMolay No. 4	\$0.00	20	\$5,595.00	1	109	\$51.33	1	\$0.00	20	\$5,595.00	2
Maryland No. 1	\$180.00	21	\$976.25	6	74	\$13.19	6	\$180.00	21	\$976.25	6
Montgomery No. 13	\$60.00	5	\$370.00	9	47	\$7.87	8	\$60.00	5	\$370.00	9
Monumental Crusade No. 3	\$30.00	26	\$1,200.00	4	236	\$5.08	9	\$30.00	26	\$1,200.00	4
Palestine No. 7	\$0.00	18	\$1,820.00	3	94	\$19.36	5	\$0.00	18	\$1,820.00	3
Thomas J. Shryock No. 11	\$0.00	8	\$575.00	8	49	\$11.73	7	\$0.00	8	\$575.00	8
York No. 16	\$30.00	4	\$115.00	10	33	\$3.48	10	\$30.00	4	\$115.00	10



**15. Report on the Knight Templar Education Foundation****SK Arthur Hebbeler, KGC REPGC**

REGC

Your Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee is pleased to report that 2022-2023 was a successful year. We had \$18,175.00 available for award this year, but only had 8 applicants, and of those, only two were 100%. There were three others that were missing one or two references, and the rest had significant missing components. We made the following awards:

Total Scholarships: \$12,000

1. Aisa Wrights - \$5,000 (Senior college year)
2. Alexa Wiker- \$5,000 (Rising college freshman)
3. Ashby Remley- \$1,000
4. Ava Becnel- \$500
5. Natalie Kinnear- \$ 500

In accordance with KTEdF guidelines, we can set aside funds for administrative costs, with a general guide (not a hard limit) equal to the annual CPI. We have not had any administrative expenses, except the Grand Encampment filing fees, for many years, and have retained several thousands of dollars over that time in undistributed scholarship funds. With that in mind, your Committee plans to set aside funds from 2023 and 2024 to assist in building an automated application process for 2023-2024 and the future, and we are seeking professional web development assistance with this project.

As required by the KTEdF policies, we present the following budget for 2023-2024 for approval by the Grand Commandery in conclave:

**2023-2024 Budget:**

2023 Admin to automate process:

\$1,250 (6.5% of \$19,174 available)

2023 Available Funds retained in account: \$4,925

Scholarship Pool Available \$18,000

Total Scholarship Pool \$16,000

Administrative to automate process: \$1,000 (Current projection is between 4.5-5.5%)

2024 Available Funds retained in account: \$1,000

We also are presenting the following resolution to change the date for scholarship application submissions for the 2023-2024 year and the future:

**Whereas**, the current scholarship deadline is June 1, 2023, when most schools are either out of session or preparing for the end of the year, and

**Whereas**, most scholarship programs have earlier submission dates to allow for notification and presentation before the end of the academic year, and

**Whereas**, the earlier deadline will allow for earlier notification to recipients, assisting in better budgeting for the following academic year, be it

**Resolved**, that the Knights Templar Educational Foundation-Maryland Division deadline for scholarship applications be moved from 1 June to 31 March, effective with the 2023-2024 Templar year.

Proposed by: Sir Knight Arthur F Hebbeler III, KGC  
Past Commander, Monumental Crusade Commandery 3  
  
Sir Knight Bradley Andrukitis  
Past Commander, Palestine Commandery 7

This resolution will be presented at the appropriate time during the Grand Conclave, and is provided here only for information purposes and would not be enacted by the simple approval of the report.

Your committee has been honored to serve the Grand Commandery for the Templar Year, and express our appreciation for your confidence and support.

I move the acceptance of this report and that it be spread upon the minutes of the Grand Conclave.

Courteously submitted,



Arthur F. Hebbeler III, KGC  
Chairman, KTEdF-Maryland Division

For the Committee: SK Bradley Andrukitis, SK Vernon Huebschman, SK Thomas Heimiller KCT, SK Michael Robbins KTCH, SK Artie Tawes, SK Chris Jensen, SK Terry Royce, and SK John Austin KCT

## 16. Committee on Youth Relations

**SK Scott G. Lapp ECG**

Right Eminent Grand Commander,

This year has been a very positive one for the youth groups and our involvement with them. I will touch on some of the highlights below:

- The annual prospect field trip this year was taken in June to Adventure Park USA near Frederick. We had 60 youth and chaperones in attendance with about 6-8 prospects for membership from the groups and local chapters. Because the venue was smaller and because we did not need to hire a charter bus, we could accommodate a larger number of guests for a much more economical outlay. Several regions from Cumberland to Delmarva were represented, even some coming by minibus with Brother Brett Bean, who assisted Marcy and I in coordinating the team. My thanks to him and the rest of the counselors for their great efforts to make the trip fun but

organized and seamless in its flow. We also had opportunity to have some newer Sir Knights as counselors to integrate them to the program and spread the word for the years to come. We even had the where with all to feed them lunch and give them passes to the arcade section; a bonus included by the management as a thank you for our patronage. They would welcome us back whenever we wished and a good rapport is being built there.

- Next year we should return to Medieval Times to use a viable credit on the books there. The committee has offered no plans beyond 2024 yet, and this has not been solidified and may be subject to change. More to come on that after the first of the year.
- Job's Daughters have their upcoming Ms. Delmar event coming up in December. The details of that event are forthcoming.
- The Rainbow Girls are looking for a new venue for their Spring Sessions as the previous venue, the Delta Hotel on Shawan Rd. has been sold. This terminates a relationship with the Rainbow organization of some 47 years.
- The Maryland Demolay is in its third year of growth according to the State Executive Officer, Carl Michel. The boys have been very ambitious to rebuild their numbers and their leadership over the past few years has bolstered their ranks, and provided themselves with a great deal of fun and activity (which is a prime building block for membership success). A hearty thank you to Sir Knight Michel for his help providing this information and his work with the Masonic Youth groups.
- The Boumi Shrine of Baltimore has given succor to a few of our youth groups who recently had to relocate from their current meeting places. They now house both a Jobs and DeMolay chapter within their halls on King Ave. Several Shriners who are also Sir Knights have worked to make this happen and seen to the provision of our youth groups there.
- Looking at the recent social media and Masonic activity posts, it is evident that several DeMolay men have moved on and up and became Entered Apprentices, FellowCraftsmn, and Master Masons this year. This is a trend that is on the uptick and my applause to those Senior Demolay and York rite men in the lodges that are making it happen there.
- As most know, I have been in charge of this committee for many years and enjoy the chance to work with the Youth. However, my Masonic plate is filling up in the next few coming years and I may need an assistant to step up and help me or take the chairmanship of the committee while I am otherwise engaged. I will stay on as a committee member to help out with the details however. If anyone is interested to help with this, please see me as to how to get involved.
- And I want to thank all of the York Rite Companions who have assisted with our efforts to keep the Youth active and growing; a list too big to put to print, but it is only through the group efforts of us all that we have as much success as we do with it. I pray it continues and grows as our young men and women do.

- I would ask for a motion to accept this report into the records of the proceedings.

Respectfully submitted this day,

Scott Lapp

**17. Report on Appendant & Concordant Bodies**

**SK Randall L. Watson KCT**

REGC and Sir Knights,

The Committee on Appendant and Concordant Bodies has no activity to report for the Annual Grand Conclave.

***Randall Watson***, KCT

Chairman

**18. Civic & Patriotic Committee**

**SK Gary Kennedy KCT KTCH, EGG**

REGC,

This Committee has no report of activities for this Grand Conclave.

Respectfully submitted,

SK Gary Kennedy

Chairman

**19. Committee on Correspondence**

**SK Vernon H. Huebschman, Grand Recorder**

REGC,

All Correspondence received from our Sister Grand Jurisdictions and the Grand Encampment have been forwarded to you and the Deputy Grand Commander and other elected officers.

Respectfully submitted,

SK Vernon H. Huebschman

Grand Recorder

**20. Grand Inspector General's Report****SK Richard P. Naegele KCT REPGC**

Thank you for the appointment as the Grand Inspector General following the untimely passing of our beloved SK Randolph S. Disney KCT. The standards for our elected officers in the conferral of our ritual will remain the same as established by SK Disney. I will be publishing these standards in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

SK Richard P. Naegele KCT, REPGC  
Grand Inspector General

**21. Committee on Membership****SK Bradley D. Andrukitis KCT**

Right Eminent Grand Commander Austin,

This committee is pleased to provide the requested information as we continue our efforts to increase our membership of Knights Templar in Maryland. The membership committee has continued to be active since our Annual Conclave. As the Grand Commandery Officers have traveled with the REGC around the state we have had the opportunity to hear from the membership chairman from most of our commanderies as to their membership status.

As we strive to increase our membership it is important to have an accurate picture of where we currently stand. Our Eminent Grand Recorder SK Vernon Huebschman has played a key role assisting with this committee and the MMS.

As of May 8, 2023, we had 913 Sir Knights on the membership roster.

As of October 16, 2023, we have 917.

We had (15) Sir Knights who have passed away.

We had (22) who were Knighted, (3) who affiliated, (3) who demitted, (3) who were suspended, (0) who were reinstated, a net gain of (4).

We have one Commandery that is having difficulty with attendance. This Commandery has been assisted by Sir Knights from another Commandery and during the last few months they have continued a merger of the two, and if all goes well, will benefit both. We are encouraged by this development. This merger is very close to being finalized.

Public awareness and a public presence in our local communities is imperative to our membership. As Knights Templar we have a responsibility to assist those in need, now more than ever.

Some of the activities that constituent commanderies engaged in community involvement and awareness included presenting charitable contributions to various organizations throughout their area to assist with healthcare, homelessness, food assistance, and youth groups.

In December, The Grand Commandery will again participate in the Baltimore Mayor's Parade, a wonderful opportunity to be seen wearing our uniforms in a public setting. We will even have several Sir Knights on horseback.

One Commandery has an appointed York Rite representative who presents a York Rite Membership Package to all newly raised Master Masons in their area.

Other programs, which might increase our presence, we hope to implement or continue in the future include:

- 1) Presenting newly knighted SKs with their swords at Blue Lodge meetings or open events.
- 2) Assistance with the purchase of uniforms that might alleviate some of the financial burden to SK's.
- 3) One Commandery will be laying wreaths at a local cemetery.
- 4) In December, Commanderies around the state will hold annual Christmas Observances which are open events where family and friends can attend.

Membership will continue to be the number one priority for the Grand Commandery of Maryland. The emphasis will be on the recruitment of new, motivated members, retention of existing members, and the reinstatement of those Sir Knights which we have lost to a demit or suspension.

The membership guidelines have been distributed to all Eminent Commanders and Membership Chairman of each Commandery. We continue to collaborate closely with the to increase our Membership. The Membership Chairmen must make sure that they or whomever is designated to update the Masonic Membership Solutions (MMS) does this on a regular basis as changes in your membership occur. We constantly use this information and need it to stay accurate.

I am pleased to have been appointed to this position and served as the chairman of this committee for the past several years. I know we will be in good hands as I pass the chairmanship of this committee on to my successor. It has been my pleasure serving the Grand Commandery of Maryland in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bradley D. Andrukitis, VEDGC  
Chairman, Membership Committee  
Grand Commandery of Maryland

## **22. Reserved Item**

## **23. Knight Templar Handbook**

**SK Bradley D Andrukitis, VEDGM**

REGC and Distinguished SK's,

This committee is pleased to provide the requested information as we continue our efforts to assemble and produce a Knights Templar Handbook for all Sir Knights in Maryland.

The committee has met several times in the past few months as it continues its efforts to produce a comprehensive collection of information that will give our Sir Knights a valuable resource on many aspects of Templary in Maryland. Some of the items contained in the handbook will be Tactics, Sword Drills, Opening and Closing a Conclave, Information for New Knights, and well as a section on Uniforms.

In order to provide the best manual possible, the REGC has many SK's working to compile and assemble the necessary information for the handbook.

The necessary funds have been allocated by the Finance Committee in the 2024 Budget so that this may be completed during that time period.

I am pleased to serve as the chairman of this committee. I look forward to continued service assisting you, the Grand Commandery of Maryland, and our fellow Sir Knights and to passing the chairmanship of this committee over to my successor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bradley D. Andrukitis, VEDGC  
Chairman, KT Handbook Committee  
Grand Commandery of Maryland



**24. Knight Templar Training Committee****SK Charles Warns II KCT**

*Knights Training Committee Report  
Grand Commandery of Maryland  
Annual Session October 28, 2023*

To: Right Eminent Grand Commander John Austin

From: REPGC Charles E. Warns II

Right Eminent Grand Commander Austin,

This is the Training Committee's Annual report for November 1, 2022, to October 28, 2023.

We held two Sir Knight training sessions in the period stated above. One on June 17<sup>th</sup> in the Gothic Room of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Hunt Valley Maryland and one in Chesapeake Commandery #10 in Denton Maryland.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> we had 18 Sir Knights in attendance as students and another 12 including the training team who assisted in the event. These student Sir Knights represented 6 Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Maryland. This training was well received by the Commanders of those Sir Knights.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> we had 1 student Sir Knight and several Chesapeake Commandery officers at this training session. Conversations were had about future use of our training team to do the training in 4 separate sessions.

The idea was brought forth to do the training in 4 sessions instead of one full day session. This would be likened to having a guest speaker at conclaves 4 times in a calendar year to cover the different topics of the training. This potentially would help with attendance at the conclaves and eliminate the necessity of blocking out an entire Saturday for one training session.

While this is being explored as an alternative method of presenting the training it should not completely supersede the one day class as this is the most effective and comprehensive way to cover all topics.

I would like to thank the following "team" that participated in presenting the training:

Scott Lapp, George Christoff, Charles Beckhardt, and Fred Rossmark.

I would also like to thank those Sir Knights who offered their assistance in putting on the June 17<sup>th</sup> session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles E. Warns II  
Training Committee Chair  
October 28, 2023

**25. Quartermaster’s Report**

**SK John P. Mitchell**

No report submitted for this Grand Conclave

The Quartermaster has continued to purchase items for the usual stores, and for specialty items as directed by the REGC. As such items are acquired and the invoices are received and processed through the Grand Recorder and the Grand Treasurer, the Quartermaster is reimbursed when payments are not made with the Grand Commandery’s credit card. This comment is provided by the Grand Recorder.

**26. Jurisprudence Committee**

**SK John A. Rafine KCT, REPGC**

**27. Constitution Committee**

**SK Richard P. Naegele KCT, REPGC**

No written Report submitted to the Grand Conclave.

**28. Doing of the Grand Officers**

**SK Spyridon G. Treklas KCT, REPGC**

No written Report submitted to the Grand Conclave.

**29. Committee on Grievance**

**SK Kenneth S. Wyvill Jr. KCT, REPGC**

No written Report submitted to the Grand Conclave. SK Wyvill gave extemporaneous remarks that there were no items to report for this committee.

**30. Masonic Relations Committee**

**SK Richard P. Naegele KCT, REPGC**

REGC John Austin,

Your Masonic Relations Committee has the following report for the Masonic Bodies in Maryland.

**Scottish Rite** – Reunion Day will be November 4<sup>th</sup> and the Feast of Tishri will be November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Boumi Shrine** – Feztival of Trees November 26-December 2<sup>nd</sup>; Installation will be January 6<sup>th</sup>

**Ali Ghan Shrine** – Ace of Clubs every Wednesday. Installation will be January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Tall Cedars** – Baltimore Forest Pancake Day November 4<sup>th</sup>. Installation of Officers January 17<sup>th</sup>. SK

Michael Youse will be the Senior Deputy Supreme Tall Cedar on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Masonic Veterans** -will meet November 13<sup>th</sup> at Grand Lodge.

**SOOB** – Working to form a new assembly based in Cockeysville.

**Eastern Star** – Jewelry Cash Bash November 26<sup>th</sup>. Sessions will be April 28th – May 1<sup>st</sup>.

There are many other events and we encourage all to check out local websites to find out more specifics on events.

Fraternally,

Richard P. Naegele. PGC

Masonic Relations Chairman

**31. 2023 Session Committee****SK Bradley D Andrukitis, VEDGC**

Good afternoon REGC and Distinguished SK's,

This committee is pleased to provide the requested information as we continue our efforts to provide the best Sessions experience for our Sir Knights, Ladies, and Distinguished Guests.

Our goal is to make sure all attendees have a pleasurable stay while at the same time attending to the important business at hand.

In collaboration with our other York Rite Grand Bodies, we are pleased to welcome our Sir Knights, Companions, Youth Groups, Ladies, and our Distinguished Guests from other jurisdictions.

As of October 7, 2023, we had 101 registered guests. This included 65 Sir Knights and Companions and 36 Ladies/Guests. Most of the reservations were made online and paid via credit card which seems to simplify the process.

The breakdown of registrations for the various events was:

76 for the Friday Dinner – 72 the previous year.

43 for the Men's Luncheon – 57 the previous year.

26 for the Ladies Program – 40 the previous year.

81 for the Saturday Banquet – 109 the previous year.

It is the opinion of this committee that the registrations are not as high as the previous year due to the location of this year's Sessions. As many of our registrants live in a closer proximity to the hotel than when it was held in Ocean City, it seems many Sir Knights and Companions will be attending the meetings for their Grand Bodies only and not attending the Luncheon, Friday Dinner, or the Saturday Banquet as well as not staying at the hotel. This theory may be tested as we head back to Ocean City for 2024.

REGC Austin continued the Friday Dinner this Session which he added to the 2022 schedule. This was previously dinner on your own. That gives all our guests an opportunity to spend more time together, as they do not have to leave the hotel to find dinner elsewhere. Some of the awards will also be presented at the Friday Dinner as well as at the banquet, which makes that portion of the program more time efficient at the banquet.

Lady Kandi Austin and her committee have done an outstanding job planning, organizing, and preparing, the 2023 Ladies Program. Our Ladies are an integral part of our organization as they always are there to support us, whether it is behind the scenes or at these events and we are so grateful to them for that. The Grand Commandery has funded the Session's Ladies Program in the past and will continue our support for this worthwhile portion of Sessions Weekend. We are working to have the other York Rite Grand Bodies join us in supporting the Ladies Program.

Carroll Assembly, of the Social Order of the Beauceant, assisted in the check-in process as well as seeing that the hospitality suite was properly furnished, and that our guests were well provided for. It is important to us that they were included in our Sessions, and we are thankful for their support in our endeavor.

I would like to thank all the members of this committee, as well as all who were involved in making the 2023 Sessions possible. Your outstanding efforts are greatly appreciated. We look forward to next year and always welcome any suggestions or ideas to make this event a wonderful experience that you look forward to attending.

I am pleased to have served as the chairman of this committee. I look forward to continued service assisting you, the Grand Commandery of Maryland, and our fellow Sir Knights as I turn the chairmanship of this committee over to my successor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bradley D. Andrukitis, VEDGC  
Chairman, Sessions Committee  
Grand Commandery of Maryland

This report is for the annual York Rite Grand Sessions location for Autumn 2024  
 Negotiations have been completed and deposit paid to the Hotel to secure the location.  
 The location for 2024 is to be the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Ocean City Md. on October 25-26, 2024

## Address:

Holiday Inn Oceanfront, 6600 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Md. 21842, Ph. 410-524-1600

## Room rates:

DATE	QUANTITY	ROOM TYPE	GROUP RATE
Thursday, 10/24/24	8	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$84 or \$89
Friday, 10/25/24	50	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$139 or \$149
Saturday, 10/26/24	50	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$139 or \$149
Sunday, 10/27/24	8	Southern Ocean View or Eastern Oceanfront	\$84 or \$89

This report submitted by John H. Austin, Chair Time and Place Committee, Grand Commandery KT of Maryland

**33. This item is reserved for Semi-Annual Conclaves.****34. Awards & Recognition****SK Arthur G. Heberler KGC REPGC**

The Awards presented during this Grand Conclave are as follows:

⚔ Knight Templar Cross of Honor	SK William Baldwin, Carroll Commandery No 13
⚔ Knight Commander of the Temple	SK Bradley D. Andrukitis, Palestine Commandery No. 7
⚔ Knight Commander of the Temple No.10	SK Vernon H. Huebschman, Chesapeake Commandery
⚔ Meritorious Service Award Commandery No. 1	SK Richard Edward Thurfield Jr. Maryland
⚔ Honorary Membership	SK James B. Steele KCT, Department Commander
⚔ Honorary Membership	SK Dennis Hass KCT, REGC of Virginia
⚔ Honorary Membership	SK Jeffrey Hedges, Grand Musician Virginia

**35. Credential Report: No change from the earlier report****36. Unfinished Business**

The REGC declared that all conditions required for the merger of Beauseant Commandery No. 7 and Carroll Commandery No. 13 have been successfully completed. A motion was made to accept this report and accept & acknowledge that the Merger is now complete; and that the name of the Commandery shall henceforth be Carrall Beauseant Commandery No. 7, and it shall be stationed at Door to Virtue Lodge on Monroe Street in Westminster Maryland. All Financial matters shall be conducted in the accounts originally established for Beauseant Commandery No. 7; and that that Merged Commanderies will meet on November 13, 2023 at Door to Virtue Lodge to elect & install its new officers.

This motion was made by the Grand Recorder and seconded by SK Richard P. Naegele, KCT and passed unanimously.

**37. New Business**

A motion was made by the Grand Recorder to alter the closing date of nomination for the Knight Templare Education Foundation per the report on this subject presented herein , Seconded by SK Richard P. Naegele KCT, and passed unanimously.

**38. Election of Officers**

There were no vacancies in any office that require an election at this Grand Conclave.

**39. Install of Officers for 2023 – 2024****SK Kenneth S. Wyvill Jr. KCT REPGC**

The Installing Sir Knight Marshal, SK Charles Warns II KCT , assembled the officers to be installed as elected or appointed:

Grand Commander	SK Bradley David Andrukitis, KCT
Deputy Grand Commander	SK Scott Gordon Lapp
Grand Generalissimo	SK George James Christoff
Grand Captain General	SK Dennis Wayne Ewing
Grand Senior Warder	SK Michael Raab
Grand Junior Warder	SK Samuel J. Lane
Grand Prelate	SK Charles Beckhardt
Grand Treasurer	SK Randall Lyle Watson KCT
Grand Recorder KCT	SK Vernon H. Huebschman
Grand Standard Bearer	SK John Henry Myers Jr.
Grand Sword Bearer	SK Michael A. Youse
Grand Warder	SK James Kinnear
Grand Sentinel	SK David Lee Andrukitis
Adjutant	SK Gary Jerome Kennedy
Adjutant	SK Frederick T. Rossmark
Adjutant	SK Frederick Levi Smith
Adjutant	SK James Bradley Thomas
Grand Inspector General	SK Richard Phillip Naegele KCT, REPGC



*Figure 1SK Bradley D. Andrukitis KCT*

The officers having taken the usual oath of office and being invested with the proper insignia and shoulder boards of the Grand Commandery were escorted to their proper stations and dispatched to their respective places.

The SK Charles Warns II KCT, Installing Marshall, gave proclamation that the officer of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Maryland were now duly elected and installed.

#### 40. Comments & Voluntary Remarks

SK James B. Steele, Department Commander for the Mid-Atlantic Department of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, brought the greetings of SK David Kussman, the Most Eminent Grand Commander. SK Steele congratulated the outgoing Grand Commander, SK John H. Austin KCT, on his two years of service and growth. Noting several of the major accomplishments of SK Austin's term, SK Steele said that this effort has laid the foundation for future growth under our new Grand Commander, SK Bardley D. Andrukitis KCT. SK Steele congratulated the Grand Commandery of Maryland for its 100% support of the Lifetime Membership program for the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, and its generous support of the objectives of the Knight Templar Education Foundation through the several scholarships granted during the 2023 Chivalric Year.

SK Steele asked that our Sir Knights remember Templary in their bequests in their wills and donations.

SK Steele announced that the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference will be held at the Hilton Arlington National Hotel on September 20 & 21, 2024. He announced that his successor as Department Commander would be SK John H. Austin KCT who would be a part of the Grand Encampment officers in the next Triennium.

Also SK Steele reminded all of the Grand Encampment's Triennial gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 17 – 21, 2024. Finally, SK Steele offered his help and guidance to the new Grand Commandery Line and his personal encouragement to SK Bradley Andrukitis as he take up the mantle of leadership in Maryland

MW Bro. & SK Frederick A. Spicer KCT, REPGC.. greeted the assembly and offer his own congratulations to SK Austin for his accomplishments during the past two years. MWGM Spicer noted that York Rite Masonry in virtually every jurisdiction in North America stands in about 10% of the membership of the corresponding Grand Lodge. York Rite seems to have a steady appeal to a certain segment of the Brothers who join our local Lodges and who advance through leadership. One of the key appeals of the York Rite is that it exists as local bodies in local Lodges throughout the state. It is not confined to certain central locations within the state holding Semi-annual meetings. The York Rite in most circumstances functions in much the same way as do the supporting Lodges with monthly meetings meetings and degrees conferred by local officers and membership. MW Bro. Spicer urged the various York Rite Bodies to take full advantage of this unique circumstance by pressing forward with local programs to excite the loyalty and participation of our Companions & Sir Knights.

The Grand Master expressed his gratitude for the hospitality of the three Grand York Rite Bodies. He stated that he has enjoyed the camaraderie of the informal gathering and meeting & greeting of our membership from across the state, and from our visiting jurisdictions.

#### 41. Closing

SK Bradley D. Andrukitis KCT REGC

SK Andrukitis called up the Grand Prelate, SK Charles Beckhardt, to deliver a closing prayer;



Our most gracious heavenly Father, we thank You for joining us at our meeting today and whispering good counsel in our ears. We than You for sending your Son to teach us, to love us, and finally chose to die for our sins.

As Knights Templar, we took an obligation to continue to take care of Your flock. So, as our newly elected Grand Line Officers thake their positions, guide and counsel them in the performance of their duties and responsibilities .

We ask a special blessing upon our newly elected Right Eminent Grand Commander, SK Bradley D. Andrukitis as he leads this Grand Commandery of Maryland. Let him feel the support of his Grand Line, the Eminent Commanders of each of our Commanderies and the entire membership of Knights Templar across this state of Maryland.

As we have concluded our business ad before we go our various ways, let us enjoy each other's friendship for the rest of our Sessions.

Finally, give us safe travels to our homes. AMEN.

Sir Knight Bradley D. Andrukitis then, by the authority in him vested, Called Off the Grand Commandery until such time as it is called to be gathered again.

**THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE**

*and*

**THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Year of Our Lord 2023 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

**A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER  
CHRISTMAS 2023**

Most Eminent Grand Master, greetings in the name of the Christ our Lord

On behalf of the Sir Knights of our Grand Encampment, we raise a Toast in your honor this Christmas as our Grand Master. We join with you Grand Master echoing the words sang by the Angels to Shepherds who *“abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night,” “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace goodwill toward men.”*

Our hearts are filled with hope and anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, our Redeemer Kinsman, the Wonderful Councilor, the Prince of Peace, and the Lamb of God.

Like the Angels we bid to you *“good tidings of great joy”* joining our hearts with yours we celebrate those tidings *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”*

With you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in celebration, rejoicing in all that God has done. We again commend to your prayers all the Sir Knights of our great Order, especially those who are homebound and unable to enjoy Knightly Fellowship due to health. Those who God has summoned home, we remember in our meditations. We pray God’s richest blessings upon our great Order, our great charities, you, Grand Master, and all who labor for the cause of Christ.

*A Toast to you Grand Master!*

In Christ’s Service,

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, KGC, Chairman

The Committee on Religious Activities

The Reverend Robert J.F. Elsner

The Reverend Paul D. Erickson



**GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE  
CHRISTMAS 2023**

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelates, the members of the Committee on Religious Activities, and to Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A profound appreciation from Lady Kim and me to the Right Eminent Grand Prelates and the members of the Religious Activities Committee for their most gracious toast this Christmas Season. Our work continues to be one of unrest and uncertainty. However, we do have a reason during this blessed season to celebrate.

Sir Knights, this is the joyous season we commemorate the Birth of JESUS of Nazareth, Emmanuel, author of our salvation, and the Great Captain under whose Banner all of us have enlisted.

On this day so long ago, there was born in Bethlehem of Judea, one who laid aside the godhead, and assumed mortal flesh; one whose glory, worth and grace no language can express; one who was born that our lives might be purified, and who died that our souls might be redeemed from the penalty of sin.

Let us, as true Soldiers of the Cross, strive to profit by the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of that divine Master, and remain His faithful soldiers unto death. Seeking strength to continue the struggle let us now offer this prayer of grace.

PRAYER.

*ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, remember us with pity, we beseech thee, and blot out the multitude of our transgressions, for thy beloved son's sake. And may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*FATHER in heaven command thy blessing to rest upon all true Knights of the Temple wherever dispersed, bestow upon them a spirit of Truth, Justice, Courage, Constancy, Faith, and Humility, and make of them valiant defenders of thy holy religion. Teach them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up wounds of the afflicted, for Jesus' sake. Amen!*

The officers of the Grand Encampment and their families join with Lady Kim and me in wishing each you and your families a Merry Christmas and a most fruitful New Year.



Courteously,

✠ *David J. Kussman*

David J. Kussman, GCT  
Grand Master

*The foregoing toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2023.*

