



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee – Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

January 2023, A.O. 905



Notice of Annual Conclave

Grand Commandery Conclave will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023, and will be called to order at 8:00 am CST. Information regarding proposals for consideration as well as hotel and registration will be published in an upcoming *Tennessee Knight Templar News*.

A Message from the Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

As you are aware, the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023, and will call on at 8:00 am CST. Information about host hotel and full schedule of the week's activities can be found on the Grand York Rite website.

At this Conclave, you will be asked to consider a \$5.00 increase in per capita. The reason for this proposed increase is that revenue is simply not sufficient to meet expenses. Our membership is no longer what it was ten years ago, and of that membership, our proportion of members who do not pay dues has increased. Further, we pay per capita to Grand Encampment on all members, including Fifty-Year members, regardless of whether we charge them dues. Expenses for goods and services in the general economy have increased over the past few years as well. These factors mean that we simply need more revenue.

The counter argument to raising per capita is to cut expenses, and this has been done as much as possible. However, cutting expenses without raising revenue does not address the issues of a decline in membership or the increase in prices we pay.

During the budget meeting in December, we looked at the amount of revenue we need in order to avoid depleting savings to cover expenses. \$5.00 is barely sufficient, but for now it is what we are asking. Please note that, although the other York Rite Bodies are also asking for an increase, I am only specifically discussing the increase for the Grand Commandery. It is not only possible but highly likely that you will be asked to consider another increase within the next few years.

\$5.00 is a modest amount, but we also realize that every Brother's personal economic circumstances are different, and that other bodies are increasing at the same time. What is an insignificant amount to one Brother is the cost of a gallon of milk or money used to pay a child's doctor visit for another. However, we are asking that you support this increase, because we believe that Templary is worth it. We hope that you will think so, too.

Courteously,

Robert B. Beam

Grand Commander



Reminder of Upcoming Event:

Knoxville Area Festival will be Sat., Jan. 28 and Sat., Feb. 4, at the Locust St. Temple.

Upper East Battalion Greet Airman from Basic

A contingent of Knights from the several Commanderies of the Upper East Battalion assembled at the Tri-Cities Airport on Friday, December 23, to welcome home Airman Sumner Speer Hillsgrove who was returning from Basic Training. The Knights were admitted into the airport under a security escort, and formed Present Swords for the Airman as he arrived.

We congratulate Airman Hillsgrove on his graduation and thank him for his service.



Grand Generalissimo's Message

Sir Knights,

I have noticed that at many of our stated meetings, we seem to be in an all fired hurry to close and go home. The meeting starts around 7pm, the opening is done, the minutes are read, maybe a general order is read, the treasurer's report is given, perhaps a petition is presented, and then we are ready to close and get out of there, usually around 8pm. We need to think about what happened at that meeting that helped us to accomplish our mission to provide our Knights the opportunity and resources to develop, be engaged in, and exemplify a Christian chivalric lifestyle.

Our meeting might easily have lasted until 9pm – if we had planned to use the time to accomplish our mission.

Most of our Knights travel from twenty minutes to an hour to get to our stated meeting, and then the meeting lasts not much longer than that – to accomplish what? If your meetings are not lasting a good two hours, then you are wasting our most valuable resource – time; time that could be used to accomplish our mission and to engage our Knights in chivalric activities. That second hour should be planned out well before the meeting night.

Remember that failure to plan is planning to fail. Officers, remember that no single factor is more destructive to the effectiveness of an organization than the leader failing to take the initiative. Are you taking the initiative to wisely use your stated meeting time to engage your Knights in the noble undertaking of developing a knightly lifestyle, or are you just standing by and watching a stated meeting happen?

Knights, one of the four main traits of a Knight is that he is engaged. Templary is a corporate undertaking. It cannot be done alone. It requires interaction with other Knights. Are you a Templar? Are you engaged with the activities of your Commandery?

Our Commanderies have begun the task of providing you, as an individual Knight, a more excellent chivalric experience. As they get better at doing this, how will you help?

John L. Palmer KGT
Grand Generalissimo



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A New Year's Message from Right Eminent Grand Prelate

Sir Knights,
Welcome to the New Year!

1 Chronicles 16:8

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples.*

Psalms 96:1

*Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

1 Chronicles 29:13

Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.

Psalms 100:4

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.*

Revelation 5:12

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.

As the New Year begins, I am reminded of a prayer Saint Augustine, in particular the later part of the prayer. Lord, may it be so in our lives this coming year:

I beg You, my God, let me know You and love You so that I may be happy in You. And though I cannot do this fully in this life, yet let me improve from day to day till I may do so to the full. Let me know You more and more in this life, that I may know You perfectly in heaven.

Let me know You more and more here, so that I may love You perfectly there, so that my joy may be great in itself here, and complete in heaven with You. O Truthful God, let me receive the happiness of heaven which You promise so that my joy may be full. In the meantime, let my heart long for it, let my mouth speak of it, let my soul hunger after it, let my mouth speak of it, let my soul hunger after it, let my flesh thirst after it, let my whole being desire it, until such time as I may enter through death into the joy of my Lord, there to continue forever, world without end. Amen

May the blessings of Almighty God, the love of the Son and the grace of the Holy Spirit bless you and fill your homes this year.

Terry Plemons
Grand Prelate, GEKT