



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

August, A.D. 2023 / A.O. 905



Pictured Above:

Communication of the Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of Tennessee
Left to right: Worshipful Brother
Walter Seifert, Grand Historian
of the Grand Lodge
of Tennessee F. & A.M.; Brandon
Lewis; Sir Knight Robert Beam,
Right Eminent Grand
Commander of the Grand
Commandery of Knights Templar in
Tennessee; and Sir Knight
Michael Weems, Right Eminent
Past Grand Commander of the
Grand Commandery of Knights
Templar in Tennessee.

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Request for Submissions!

Sir Knights - We need
submissions for the
*Tennessee Knight Templar
News*. Please send news
and events going on in
your Commandery to:
KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com.



Robert B. Beam
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

A Message from the Grand Commander
August 7, 2023
Knoxville, TN

Sir Knights,

As you are aware, our Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Tennessee recently approved visitation among members of our Subordinate Lodges in tiled meetings. I am pleased to announce that this extends to our Commanderies as well. Below is a copy of a letter that was sent to the Commanderies in our jurisdiction, which explains the basis and terms of recognition and visitation as they relate to our Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies. Referenced in this letter is our Grand Lodge's Prince Hall Visitation Resolution and Policy. For information about that policy, please contact your Lodge Secretary or the Recorder of your Commandery.

It is my hope that our Commanderies and Knights will extend the hand of brotherhood and knightly hospitality to any visitors we may have from a neighboring Prince Hall Commandery.

Courteously,

Robert B. Beam
RE Grand Commander



Robert B. Beam
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee

July 18, 2023
Knoxville, Tennessee

To the Officers and Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, and to the Officers and Knights of the Constituent Commanderies thereof:

Sir Knights,

In 2018, at the 67th Triennial Conclave, the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America extended recognition to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar United States of America, & Its Jurisdiction, P.H.A., Inc. This was done with the instruction that each Grand Commandery was to follow the lead of its respective Grand Lodge regarding policies of recognition and visitation among its members. In 2021 the Grand Lodge of Tennessee extended recognition to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodge of Tennessee, and at its 2023 annual Communication voted to allow visitation.

As such, the Grand Commandery of Tennessee will now allow visitation by members of Commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Commandery of Tennessee into Commanderies under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee, effective the same date as the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

The specific policies regarding visitation are the same as those of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee as set forth in the *Grand Lodge of Tennessee Prince Hall Visitation Policy* that was distributed on June 13, 2023, by MW Grand Master James R. Arnhart, Jr., as well as those set forth in the *Statutes of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA*. A copy of the Grand Lodge Visitation Policy is attached for reference. The relevant sections of the Grand Encampment Statutes are as follows:

Section 222. If he is not otherwise properly vouched for, a Visitor must be examined by a committee of one or more members and the committee must report that it is convinced that the Visitor is a member in good standing of a recognized Commandery or Priory of Knights Templar, before the Visitor may be admitted to the Asylum.

Section 223. If a member objects, no member of another Commandery can be admitted into an Asylum unless he visits in an official capacity. The objection may be made openly in the Commandery or privately to the Commander, and in neither case can the objector be required to disclose the reason for his objection.

This letter is to be read at the next stated conclave following its receipt, and such reading made a part of the minutes.

Courteously,

Robert B. Beam
RE Grand Commander

200 Tower Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912
RobertBeam.GCTN@gmail.com

The Partially Neglected Doctrine

Part 2

Continued from the July 2023 issue.

On my way out the door after attending an EA degree, I was asked to hang out on the porch for a while before I left. I'll admit that I was absolutely blown away that there were brothers who sat around after every meeting just socializing and learning about each other. In all honesty, the conversations I had that night reinvigorated my passion for Freemasonry and my desire to want to do more, because frankly, before that night, I was experiencing fatigue and burnout with attending the same monotonous meetings month after month. In the weeks that followed, I continued to spend more time with these brothers while also getting to meet new brothers with each visit to lodge. On multiple occasions I was able to attend bonfires at different brother's houses and to have some of the most insightful Masonic conversations I have ever been witness to during the nearly thirteen years since I was raised. Each of those conversations were the epitome of "conversations with well informed brethren." We discussed the history, philosophy, and esoterics behind numerous Masonic points and ideas.

Another instance of truly meaningful fellowship took place during Grand Lodge week when I had the opportunity to spend time in the Hospitality Suite at the host hotel. I was blessed with the opportunity to sit around a table with brothers who are past or current presiding officers over state and national organizations. Some of these brothers I knew, while others I had only heard of or read about. We sat around for hours sharing stories of past events, historical tidbits about the various Masonic degrees, and discussing what was in store for each of us in coming months. While I may never break bread with some of these brothers again or even cross paths with them, the impact of the time spent with them has left a lasting impression on me.

The final installment of this series will address the potential impact Brotherly Love can have on our members and what can be done to reach the hearts of our brothers.

To be continued next month

Sir Knight Jesse Harper, KYCH

The Guidon

The Grand Commandery of Tennessee

Knights Templar

Commandery Membership Award Program, The Guidon

At the present time the Grand Commandery of Tennessee issues three membership awards at the Grand Conclave.

1. Largest Percentage Net Gain
2. Largest Net Gain
3. Most Knighted

It is the order of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Robert Burnette Beam, to add a fourth, and to award a Guidon in lieu of a paper certificate in all categories. This award will be the:

4. Largest Average Percentage of Membership Attendance

One of the many traditions in military units and religious orders, is the use of a guidon. A Guidon is a standard or flag that is carried to signify their unit designation.

The guidon is a great source of pride for each unit. It is a symbol that represents unity and solidarity, uniting all that came before to those carrying it today. In battle, it symbolizes perseverance and instills courage to continue forward.

Attached to the guidon are campaign streamers, or ribbons to recognize unit achievements and events. Streamers communicate the name and date of notable participation in a particular battle, event, or campaign.

So, what does this mean to the modern Knights Templar?

The Grand Commandery will provide four guidon staffs adorned with a guidon, depicting a device representing Tennessee Templary.

Starting at the grand conclave in 2024, the Commandery that wins each category will receive a guidon and streamer. The Commandery will display the guidon in a prominent place in their respective conclaves, depicting their accomplishments and inspiring pride in belonging to the Commandery.

The Commandery will maintain custody of the guidon until the next annual Grand Conclave. The streamer will be removed and placed on the Commandery beauceant or displayed in the asylum in a manner fitting this award. The guidon will be carried to the grand conclave to be awarded to the qualifying Commandery each year.

The vision of this new award program is to inspire a sense of pride; promote cordial competition; and raise awareness, attendance, and participation at each Commandery, improving our work quality.

For the Right Eminent Grand Commander,

Sir Knight Robert Burnette Beam, Right Eminent Grand Commander, Tennessee

The Membership Committee of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee

Sir Knight Matthew John Liotta KTCH Chairman

Sir Knight Brian Ronald Song KYCH

Sir Knight Jesse Jonathan Harper KYCH

From the Grand Generalissimo

This message is for the Commandery member who has not attended a function or meeting of your Commandery within the past year. First, let me remind you of our mission as a body of Templars in Tennessee:

The mission of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee is to provide every Christian Freemason in Tennessee the opportunity and resources to develop, be engaged in, and exemplify a Christian chivalric lifestyle.

Now, who is the Grand Commandery of Tennessee? Well, it is not just the four of us who have been elected to serve a four year term serving as your dias officers. Nor is it limited to the corps of other elected and appointed officers and committeemen of the Grand Commandery. What about the Commanders, Past Commanders, and local Commandery officers? Yes, them too, but also each and every man who carries a valid Commandery dues card for the Commandery in Tennessee. Yes, this means you.

So, the mission statement above is not just for me or for your local Commandery officers but also for you, personally. If it is our mission to provide these opportunities and resources, then I ask you, "What exactly have you, personally, done to help us fulfill this mission this year? Don't tell me you paid your dues. That is just the initial cost of being part of the group. If that's all you intend to do, you are getting a good deal on the purchase of the order's reputation for the price of your dues. Besides, the dues structure of most of our Commanderies is so low that it makes it almost impossible to achieve our mission.

Who do you think should be providing these opportunities and resources? It is us, the same folks who enjoy the opportunities and resources. This is a mutual aid society to provide each other the chivalric experience. Are you carrying your part of the load? If not, why not?

Maybe you have decided that you get nothing out of the order. Re-read the mission statement. It is about what we put into it, not what we get out of it. One of the four fundamental traits of a true Knight is *selflessness*. One of the reasons that some of our Commanderies are not providing the experiences set forth in our mission statement is that about 90% of our members are putting forth no more effort than writing an insignificantly small check each year.

Just think of the possibilities of what our Commanderies could accomplish if even half of that 90% spent one half of one percent of their time contributing to accomplishing our mission. Our mission is not limited to conferring orders, contributing to the Eye Foundation, or sending ministers to the Holy Land. Our mission is involved in providing a Knightly experience to men who possess and exhibit the four fundamental traits of Christian Chivalry.

Being a Knight is very special to me. It is not some title someone bestowed on me at the conclusion of a day or two of watching ceremonies conferred on someone else by someone else. Templary is much more to me than just another Masonic degree, much more. What is it to you? More importantly, what do you want it to be?

Our Commanderies are just on the threshold of participating in a great Templar revitalization in Tennessee. Not so much a resurgence of large numbers as a reinstatement of offering a true Knightly experience to those who are interested. Are you interested? We need your help. Do you want to be part of this chivalric experience? As the Marine Corps says, "We are looking for a few good men." I think we already have them, but they have been so focused on what the order is not giving them, that they failed to see their role in making it happen.

Are you one of these? If so, I invite you to join in this new crusade to make the Chivalric experience we offer one of the most profound experiences any man can enjoy.

John L. Palmer, KGT
Grand Generalissimo
john.pgm97@gmail.com

Commandery Inspections 2023

| Date | Time | Commandery | Location |
|------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------|
| Thursday, August 24 | 7pm EST | Athens 34 | Athens |
| Friday, August 25 | 7pm EST | Lookout 14 | Chattanooga |
| Saturday, August 26 | 10am EST | Cyrene 42 | Dayton |
| | 2pm CST (3pm EST) ** | Plateau 38 | Crossville |
| Saturday, September 9 | 10am CST | Manchester 40 | Manchester |
| | 3pm CST | Murfreesboro 10 | Murfreesboro |
| Friday, September 15 | 7pm CST | Cumberland 26 | Cookeville |
| Saturday, September 16 | 10am CST | Nashville 1 | Donelson |
| | 3pm CST | Baldwin 7 | Lebanon |
| Friday, September 22 | 7pm CST | Clarksville 8 | Clarksville |
| Saturday, September 23 | 10am CST | Dickson 41 | Dickson |
| | 3pm CST | DePayens 11 | Franklin |
| Friday, September 29 | 7pm CST | Park Ave 31 Rosemark 39 | Memphis |
| Saturday, September 30 | 10am CST | Jackson 13 Union City 29 Lexington 36 | Jackson |
| | 3pm CST | Paris 16 | Paris |
| Friday, October 13 | 7pm EST | Kingsport 33 St. Omer 19 | Kingsport |
| Saturday, October 14 | 10am EST | Carter 37 Greeneville 43 | Elizabethton |
| | 3pm EST | Watauga 25 | Johnson City |
| Friday, October 27 | 7pm EST | Cyprus 23 | Maryville |
| Saturday, October 28 | 10am EST | Chevalier 21 Campbell Co. 44 | Oak Ridge |
| | 3pm EST | Coeur de Lion 9 (Home Coming) | Knoxville |

** All Saturday Inspections will be at 10am and 3pm, breakfast/lunch at 9am/2pm local time

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Submissions - KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com