



# Tennessee Knight Templar News

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

February 2023, A.O. 905



## Reminder 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 can be found on the Grand York Rite Website, [THE GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF TENNESSEE | \(tngandyorkrite.org\)](http://THEGRANDYORKRITEBODIESOFTENNESSEE|tngandyorkrite.org).

## General Order No. 7

January 24, 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,

I am pleased to report that increasingly, Knights and Commanderies are engaging in public activities of a patriotic, civic, or religious nature and that promote a positive image of our Order in our communities. This is in keeping with our Mission, which includes “to exemplify a chivalric Christian lifestyle,” as well as our goal of increasing public and family activities within our Commanderies.

In order to encourage this, and in accordance with Grand Encampment Statutes and our Tennessee Grand Commandery Law, I hereby issue this General Order, to serve also as a **Dispensation:**

Commanderies or contingents of Knights are permitted to appear in Uniform, being careful to observe and adhere to the established protocol of the Order, in public or at public events of a civic, patriotic, or religious nature. Said Commanderies or Knights shall at all times maintain proper decorum, being mindful to present an image of chivalric Christian Masonry that is consistent with the tenets of Templary and the Masonic Fraternity.

I would also encourage these Commanderies or Knights to publicize these activities by forwarding them to our social media.

Courteously,

Robert B. Beam  
RE Grand Commander



## News from the Upper East Battalion

Sir Knights,

I would like to give you an update from the Upper East Battalion that was formed in November of last year. All the Commanderies in Upper East were struggling with the same problems of engaging new members to be active in our Order. Since the formation of the Battalion and the effort from the Grand Commandery to renew interest in our Order, we have had significant improvements in our Commandery meetings and attendance.

One of the best examples of our efforts is Watauga Commandery No. 25 in Johnson City. After struggling through the pandemic and suffering from a lack of active members, a proposal was made to merge with another commandery. The notification of this proposal was a wakeup call to the members and has inspired them to rally. They rejected the proposal, held a mid-year election to bring in new leadership, and have begun the process of rebuilding their commandery.

With guidance from the Grand Commandery officers and a strong history to build on, they began small incremental changes to revive a complacent membership. They started having a meal before their stated meetings, a tradition that had lapsed many years ago. While it may seem insignificant, it is a small act that gives the Knights time to fellowship with each other and grow the relationships needed to rebuild a Commandery.

They used the "Knight School" instructional format in October rather than having a traditional business meeting. The "Knight School" was hosted by the Battalion Lead, Chuck Thames, and saw a crowd of not only Watauga Commandery members but also several members of other commanderies. This change is helping to inspire their members to be more active and also to strengthen the community of the commanderies in the Upper East.

Watauga Commandery has focused on holding religious and patriotic observances again. At the November meeting, they had a great Veteran's Day program, and in December, they held a wonderful Christmas Observance. Since the August meeting, they have had someone during each meeting to read the Mission and Vision statement of the Grand Commandery, and they use it as a guide in planning their activities. They are now planning activities so they can get back to contributing to our great philanthropies. They are having a chili cookoff on February 25, with all the proceeds to benefit the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Watauga has set a great example of what can happen to your Commandery when small changes are made and focus is given to engaging the members to attend and contribute. This Commandery has had a complete turnaround from having had years in which they could barely meet four times a year, even before Covid, to now not having missed a meeting since deciding to revitalize their Commandery.

The Battalion leadership has been working hard to engage the Commanderies and build unity in the Upper East area. The Battalion Instructor has been going to all the Commanderies to offer help with the ritual, train new officers in the opening and closing, and to schedule school of instructions to prepare for upcoming inspections. The Battalion Lead has been working hard to gather his cast to be able to confer the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta when needed by the Commanderies. The Battalion Commander has also been visiting the Commanderies to see what needs he can help with and to help set goals that will help the Commanderies to grow.



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Once a month, the Battalion leaders have a Zoom meeting to discuss any upcoming events in the area and to share ideas on how to help the Commanderies to grow. One of the first things they completed was a list of goals for the Upper East to achieve in the first year. They decided that all the Commanderies should hold as many Patriotic and Civic activities possible and include family and friends, that they should skip a business meeting once a quarter for social and instructional activities, to encourage a meal before every Commandery meeting, and to strive to find ways to continue to contribute to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Due to their hard work, on Monday January 23, Greeneville Commandery No. 43 conferred the Order of the Temple on a candidate who chose to receive his order at his home Commandery instead of a festival. Carter Commandery No. 37 is scheduling all three orders for two candidates who made the same decision. The Battalion leadership came up with the idea of having all the Upper East Commanderies come together for a combined Easter Observance on Good Friday. They are planning a meal and having a guest speaker who has been sent on a Holy Land Pilgrimage. This will be open to family and friends and will be held at Watauga Commandery.

I encourage all the Commanderies across the state to give thought to any ideas to help your Commandery grow. As the Grand Commander requested, remember to have social events to include families and to encourage all Knights to become involved with our youth organizations.

Courteously,

Tim Sutton, EGCG

## Grand Commandery Social Media

The Grand Commandery has for some time now had an active social media account in addition to our internet presence on our Grand York Rite website. To follow the Grand Commandery on Instagram, go to [Grand Commandery of Tennessee, @tn\\_commandery](#), or scan the QR code shown. For those on Facebook, you are able to follow us at [Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee | Facebook](#). If your Commandery has content that you would like to submit, send it via email to [KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com](mailto:KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com).



## Order of the Temple Conferred in Greeneville

The Knights of Greeneville Commandery No. 43 held a conferral of the Order of the Temple on Monday, January 24. The Conferral was attended by RE Grand Commander Robert Beam as well as RE Department Commander and MW Grand Master Robert Waldron. There were over thirty Knights present including three Past Grand Commanders, and our ME Grand High Priest, SK Joe Byrd. Congratulations and welcome to the candidate, SK Josh Beckett.



## *What is a Knight Templar, Anyway?*

This month, I would like to begin a discussion about what it means to be a Knight Templar. Being a Knight is very special and carries with it great responsibility. When we receive the Order of the Temple, we are *Dubbed* and *Created* a **Member** of the valiant and magnanimous Order of the Temple, but just as in the Craft Lodge, “we are not yet Knight Templars, nor is it known that we ever will be.” We are members, but we only become Knights when we adopt and practice daily the chivalric lifestyle. This involves more than just paying our dues or even contributing to our charities.

Over the next few months, we will look into the traits that characterize a true Knight Templar. I hope that you will study these with me and join me in striving to live in a manner that we will truly deserve the honor of being recognized as a Knight of the Temple.

Frankly, Templary is not for everyone. We have nothing to offer men who are not truly devoted to the Christian Faith. We do not need anyone who is only interested in the prestige of the order. Templary is not simply a continuation of membership in the York Rite. The other bodies are oriented toward continuing the teachings and symbolism of the Craft Lodge. Not so with Templary. Templary is not esoteric, it is straight forward and “in your face” with what it requires of its Knights. It makes demands on us which are over and above those that the other bodies require.

There are four basic and indispensable characteristics which define the nature of a Templar:

**Character**

**Selflessness**

**Excellence**

**Engagement**

During the next few months, we will explore what these characteristics really mean and how they relate to our behavior as Templars. We’ll talk about **Character** next month. Until then, I wish for you, your family and your Commandery a healthy and prosperous 2023.

John L. Palmer, KGT, Grand Generallissimo

