



MARK S. JOHNSON, KTCH
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

EDITOR: MICHAEL H. SAMPSELL

MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW GRAND COMMANDER

I want to thank you for your confidence in electing me as your Right Eminent Grand Commander for the ensuing year. Your Grand Commandery Officers and I will support you in any way we can to make this a great year. It's been difficult to try to come up with something to write about, being in isolation for the past 3 months with layoffs, lost jobs, businesses closing from the Covid 19 virus and now the riots.

After moving our Grand York Rite session a couple of times, we had a virtual zoom session on the 30th of May with 168 members logged in at the beginning of the session. Special thanks to the General Grand Chapter for the use of their zoom membership. Wil Moore and Mark Bradley did a fantastic job but I sure missed the companionship. I also heard something about our Governor issuing another Executive Order 05.28.20.02 (waiting on the Grand Master to translate) that may extend the date again. With this potential in mind, I have proposed the regular June Inspections be move to August 29th with Couer de Lion #4 at 10:30, Dekalb #38 at 2:30 and St Bernard #25 at 6:00 but haven't received a response from those Commanderies.

The budgets were approved. Elected as our new EG Warder is Ryan Nealey from Atlanta #9. The appointed officers EG Captain of the Guard Michael Hamlin St Omer #2, EG Sentinel & EG Photographer Robert Tidwell Couer De Lion # 4 and the EG Adjutant Charles Ferguson St Omer #2 & St Peter #45. The Golden Spur Award (largest percentage increase in membership) and the Commandery of the Year was awarded to Charles Martel Commandery #29. The Knight Templar Cross of Honor was awarded to James Hoffman. The Knight Commander of the Temple was awarded to Tommy Marshall and Floyd Edmonson. The Companion of the Temple was awarded to Charlene Huffman and Barbara Tate. A resolution to make James Tate an Honorary Past Grand Commander was rejected. The Charter for Fort Benning Commandery #73 was suspended for not complying with the Constitution Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia, General Statutes Article I Section 2.

R.E. James McGee SE Department Commander Grand Encampment of the USA brought greetings from Jeffrey N. Nelson Most Eminent Grand Master.

Mark S. Johnson
Right Eminent Grand Commander

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE: RECAP AND EXPECTATIONS

At the time of this writing, we have just finished the virtual Grand York Rite Sessions and are hopeful and excited to begin our 2020-2021 York Rite year. Your Grand Commandery Membership Committee has been re-appointed and we are ready to continue the work begun last year. Our numbers for the year are very positive:

1. Between May 2010 and May 2020, the number of Sir Knights on our roles decreased from 4,418 to 2,115.
2. Most of the losses (52%) have been because of the death of those Sir Knights, with suspension being the second leading cause (38%).
3. We have an average net loss of approximately 233 Knights per year.
4. In the past year, we had a net loss of only 80 Knights, the lowest since at least 2010.
5. We decreased our average net loss by 66%! Our gains in membership increased (130), while our declines decreased to the lowest number in over a decade (210).

Sir Knights, this committee wants to recognize you, the subordinate Commanderies, for your hard work in recruiting, reinstating, and retaining members. As we move forward, we will be utilizing the technology which we have available to us at this time (Zoom, conference calling, etc.) to offer guidance and training, specific to your individual membership needs. For more information, please feel free to reach out to us at GAKTMembership@gmail.com.

Tyler W. Pledger, Eminent Grand Senior Warden
Chairman, Grand Commandery Membership Committee

UPCOMING COMMANDERY INSPECTION SCHEDULE

COMMANDERY	LOCATION	DATE	DAY	TIME	INSPECTING OFFICER
COUER DE LION	College Park	8/29/2020*	SAT	10:30	Lloyd Leinbaugh
Dekalb	Decatur	8/29/2020*	Sat	14:30	Daniel Ricketts
St. Bernard	Covington	8/29/2020*	Sat	18:00	Brandon Yarbrough
St. Paul	Albany	9/12/2020	Sat	10:30	Paul Wells
Coastal Plain	Tifton	9/12/2020	Sat	14:30	Grand Warder
Malta	Valdosta	9/12/2020	Sat	18:00	James Reese
Amicalola	Jasper	9/19/2020	Sat	10:30	Johnie Garmon
Blue Ridge Mountain	McCaysville	9/19/2020	Sat	17:00	Terry Hensley

*Inspections were originally scheduled for 6/20. If not held then, this will be the new date.