

# Connecticut

S.K. James S. McNeely, IV, KTCH  
Grand Commander



# Knightly News

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Sir Knights,

We are now into February and the world continues to spin. We are starting to see more and more people vaccinated and while the progress is slow it is progress. It may take time but we will get to where we want to be and that is the ability to meet in-person without restrictions, even if it is still many months away.

We are quickly reaching the end of the Templar year with all Commanderies holding their annual Conclaves and electing their new officer corps for the upcoming year. It truly has been a pleasure to work with each of the current Commanders and I look forward to seeing how each Commandery moves forward. While it was not possible for any of your Commanderies to be evaluated this year I was extremely happy to see the effort that you each put into keeping your Commandery active and relevant for your Sir Knights.

With regard to moving forward, at this time it appears that our annual Grand Conclave will be held either as a full virtual session or hybrid with very limited in-person capacity. A reminder to all of the Grand Commandery officers and Committee chairs that your reports will be due soon.

Until I see you down the road...

James S. McNeely, KCT, KTCH  
Grand Commander



## Knight Templar Education Foundation Updates

While the following ran last month, its importance begs that it be run again this month.

The Knights Templar Education Foundation of CT will be continuing its support of our scholars amidst the mayhem of the COVID, and the grant program for 2021 is now open for applicants, reports Chairman, SK William L. Miller. Open to students of CT residency planning to enter or completing their college or trade school studies, but without regard to any affiliations to Masonry, an applicant is required to prepare and submit all required information no later than March 1, 2021. Recognizing that the COVID may have some influence on the availability of academic records, applicants should start early and work with their guidance counselors to prepare a complete dossier. For those continuing in their studies, an updated dossier is required, and a grant award is not automatic.

The forms which detail the requirements and qualifications for grant consideration are available from Chm Miller, or Records of your local Commandery. Awards will be announced in May. Address your requests for forms and information to SK William L. Miller, 4 Aspen Rise, East Granby, CT 06026; phone 860-716-0004 or email: [william.l.miller@snet.net](mailto:william.l.miller@snet.net).

## Lessons Learned

Over the course of this global pandemic we have learned many new lessons including how to hold virtual gatherings. Over the last year each and every Commandery has continued to hold conclaves and engage their members. Each Commandery has found ways to provide quality education for their Sir Knights and several have even mastered the art of post conclave fellowship. One of my favorite quotes is from the book Jurassic Park, "life will find a way." Within the life of our Commanderies we have continued to find ways to provide meaningful contact with our Sir Knights. To each of the Commanders that served during this most unique year thank you for the work that you did to keep your Commanderies moving. To all of the new Commanders that are just starting, know that the Grand Commandery officers will support your efforts.

Between April and the end of December there have been sixty-six Connecticut York Rite meetings with almost 1000 Companions and Sir Knights for a total of 60,000 minutes hosted within the Grand Commandery Zoom account. These numbers do not include the great work that several other Sir Knights are doing for their local bodies in Windham, Torrington, Meriden, East Hartford, Norwalk, and Stratford/Milford. A huge thank you to those that have stepped up and served as hosts for their Companions and Sir Knights. Masonic Life within Connecticut has found a way during a global pandemic.