



**Grand Commandery
Knights Templar
District of Columbia**



Web Site: www.dcgckt.org/

KT STATE NEWS October 2021

Sir Knight Kevin S. Matthews

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Editor: Carter L. Diggs Jr., EPC, GSw.B.
cdiggsx1@gmail.com

Sir Knights,

Here are a few items that I am currently thinking about generated from the 68th Triennial in August in Minneapolis, and the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference on 25 September 2021. We can discuss and act on these items below at our Semi-Annual Conclave, scheduled for 23 October 2021.

1. The newly installed Most Eminent Grand Master Michael Burke Johnson fired the Deputy Grand Master 20 days after installation. The controversial legislation concerned recognition of the Grand Priory of America, Rectified Scottish Rite, and was stuffed with legalese and not well articulated. Regardless of which side of the issue you support, the Grand Master believes that the Deputy and other senior members of the Grand Encampment conspired in secrecy, purposely failed to follow the Constitution, and deceived the membership. Placed in a situation begun by the previous chain of command, the Grand Master decided to fire his Deputy, and has been very patient and straight forward about his actions.
2. Membership: The Grand Chapter has just completed the Royal Arch Mason degree and "exalted" 11 companions. The Cryptic Council degrees will follow soon after, and we need to do our part to communicate with our Chapters and Councils and prepare to receive petitions from these candidates. We must also recruit from our Brother Companions who have been waiting on the sidelines to be asked to continue their York Rite journey. I know they are out there because I met two last night, and they look forward to joining a Commandery. I challenge every Sir Knight to visit his Chapter and Council at the next opportunity and recruit good candidates. Additionally, we must be prepared to perform our three Templar Orders, beating the dust from our COVID hiatus, and providing an excellent experience for these candidates.

3. Knight Templar Eye Foundation: We received some excellent information from the Department Conference, and the great work that we are doing for our charity finally make sense to me. KTEF provides funding to smart young eye specialists to conduct research that they would not have the opportunity to try due to lack of experience or lack of the requisite research budget. Our funding enables many sharp professionals to get cutting edge ideas and procedures into the mainstream of the eye industry, and it is making a real difference. I encourage Commanderies to strive for more members to become Commander's Club members and higher, in support of this great cause.

4. A proposal to establish an Attestation of Faith and Uniformed Petitions (2021-21), which concerned many folks when we spoke virtually in February, failed to move forward, but will likely be brought up again in the future. The written update to the Statutes was restrictive, including adding to a universal Petition for Chivalric Orders declaring phrases such as: "I am a Christian as defined by the Four Gospels, and accept Jesus Christ ... as my personal Savior; I believe that He died on the cross as the only sacrifice acceptable for our sins, etc." This legislation was not popular on the floor of the Grand Encampment Asylum and quickly amended to sticking to the Orders including from The Order of Malta – "I profess the Christian Faith. Through the Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, believers are saved and redeemed."; The amendment passed (majority vote) but the legislation failed (requiring 2/3 vote). If this legislation returns, I favor a phrase from the Order of the Temple – "I will pick up the sword to defend the Christian Faith."

5. Knight Templar Apron: We are now authorized to wear a Templar Apron at a Conclave. The Contemporary Apron is authorized for wear at appropriate public and private non-Templar Masonic functions, and the Traditional Apron is authorized for wear Templar functions. The Grand Commandery will find a vendor, make a presentation at the 23 October Semi-Annual Conclave, and take orders from our members.

6. Special Purpose Commandery: Our Grand Commandery is now authorized to Charter a Special Purpose Commandery such as a Research or French or Spanish speaking Commandery. This type of Commandery will attain membership by affiliation only, elect its officers, and collect dues, but are not required to meet quarterly, conduct ritual, or create Sir Knights. If a Special Purpose Commandery grows to a certain level, determined by the Grand Commandery, its Charter could later be converted to a full Constituent Commandery and follow the traditional rules. We will discuss at the Semi-Annual Conclave, and if there is enough interest, establish a Special Commandery at our Annual Conclave or in the future.

Sir Knights, how great it is that we are now open and I am excited to see Sir Knights at work. Let's make this post-COVID environment worthwhile and continue our "Year of Rebirth."