



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois



SK John M. Sansone
Right Eminent Grand Commander

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Illinois State News for October 2021

Greeting Sir Knights,

As you can see, the format for the Illinois Supplement has changed. Because the Grand Encampment decided to no longer publish the state supplements in the Knight Templar Magazine, we are no longer bound by the restriction required for publisher's format.

This month, I would like to highlight some of the activities of your State Charity, the Illinois Knights Templar Home d.b.a. Illinois Knights Templar Assistance Outreach (IKTAO). The management of the Charity is broken into 2 bodies. The Board of Managers oversee the day-to-day operations of the Charity and is composed of a Sir Knight representing each Division around the state. The members of the Board of Managers serve a rolling 5-year term where by one vacancy is created each year and a new Manager is selected by the newly elected Grand Commander at the annual meeting held at the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. This year, I selected Sir Knight Enrique Unanue, REPGC, to fill the 3rd Division vacancy. Your current Board of Managers is composed of:

William Jegen, REPGC – 1 st Division,	Term Expires 2024
William Farris, REPGC – 2 nd Division,	Term Expires 2025
Enrique Unanue, REPGC – 3 rd Division,	Term Expires 2026
Jesse Johns, REPGC – 4 th Division,	Term Expires 2022
Charles Hileman, REPGC – 5 th Division,	Term Expires 2023

The Board of Directors for the Illinois Knights Templar Endowment Fund and the Illinois Knights Templar Home are the current Dais Officers of the Grand Commandery along with the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder. The Board of Directors oversees all investments and the budgets, programs, and actions of the Board of Managers. In addition, a Managing Director is under the direction of the Board of Managers and is charged with Implementing Approved Programs and Fund Raising for the Charity.

The IKTAO Charity has partnered with the Illinois Grand Lodge's IMOS program for the past 2 years to fund support to needy Master Masons who are also Knights Templars in Illinois. IKTAO funds 50% of any support given to a Knight Templar through IMOS. This program utilizes the professional staff of IMOS to determine the best forms of support for our needy Templars and their families. The benefit of using matching funds from IMOS and IKTAO enhances the ability to serve our fraternity. To date, the IKTAO has supplied \$75,000, along with IMOS matching \$75,000, contributing to the relief and aid to our Sir Knights and their families. IKTAO will be presenting an additional \$50,000 at Our Grand Lodge Communication to keep the program funded and successful for our Sir Knights.

The IKTAO determined that the COVID-19 Pandemic offered opportunities for our Commanderies to step up and lend alms to the needy who were impacted by the Pandemic. IKTAO sent \$66,000 to the Commanderies in Illinois to use for Charitable purposes of their choosing. Many of the Commanderies made donations to food pantries, homeless shelters, Ronald McDonald Houses, and the medical community to assist them during the pandemic.

IKTAO also made it known to the Commanderies that if a suitable need was identified, additional funding was available to the Commanderies programs. We are proud to say that one Commandery identified a need for a charity in the local community that provides job training, job placement, housing, medical and nursing care, and community programs for adults with disabilities. The charity, Park Lawn Charities, located in Oak Lawn, IL maintains 3 classroom/workshop centers, one skilled nursing facility and 7 group homes for these individuals. It was made known to Mizpah Commandery No. 53 that this charity had a severe need to upgrade internet capabilities and provide video conferencing for training between their 10 facilities along with the community based (stay at home) participants so they could maintain social interaction, training, and human contact while in-person gathering was prohibited. Even as the state started to allow in-person gathering, many of the participants are immunity compromised and could not meet with their friends and program staff. As difficult as the lockdowns were for many of us, you can imagine the difficulty for some of these participants. Mizpah Commandery applied for a grant from IKTAO for \$20,000 to pay for the upgrades and presented the check to Park Lawn in August of 2020.

A sample of additional programs funded by IKTAO are:

- Donation of \$5,000 to each of the 7 Children's Dyslexia Centers around the State.
- Donation of \$75,000 to Illinois Masonic Hospital Eye Clinic in Chicago for surgery and eye care for persons who could not afford necessary treatment.
- Approximately \$38,000 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation to purchase Life Memberships for each Sir Knight who was not a current Life Sponsor. (The Commanderies are required to pay a \$1.00 assessment for each Sir Knight who is not a KTEF Life Sponsor)

In addition to the charitable efforts put forth, an office for the Charity is being set up in Normal, Illinois to service the needs of our members. The address for the office is:

Illinois Knights Templar Assistance Outreach
326 Susan Drive, Suite B, Box 6
Normal, IL 61761

As you can see, our Grand Commandery Charity is something for every Sir Knight in the State of Illinois to be very proud of and your support can make a difference in the lives of many. I encourage any Sir Knight who is a Current or Past Eminent Commander and may be interested in a position on the Board of Managers to let the VEDGC know of your interest as your division comes due for an appointment. Also, any suggestions, criticisms, complaints, or even a kind word on how your charity is running is encouraged by any member of the Illinois Grand Commandery.

Wayne Clark, VEDGC
President, ILL Knight Templar Charities

Grand Commanders Note:

The Grand Lodge Communication is held on October 8th and 9th, please try to attend, and support our Grand Lodge. Many of the Division Schools will be held this month, every Sir Knight can use a tune up before Inspection Season, please plan on attending and get reacquainted with your Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights.

The Inspection Season Kicks Off in November, COVID Permitting. I would like to see as many Sir Knights as possible come out to support your sister Commanderies at their Inspections. Remember you need to go to theirs and make them feel guilty if they don't attend yours. Besides, it is good to renew old friendships and make new ones after the trying period of the pandemic kept us apart for so long. I look forward to seeing all the Sir Knights at my Dais Inspection on November 6th.

John M. Sansone, Right Eminent Grand Commander