

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for April, 2022
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
SK George Edmiston III, KCT, REGC



Editor: S. Jefferson Slattery, KCT, slattery@athensmasons.org

Greetings Sir Knights!

Below is a photo from Saturday, March 5th when Ohio DeMolay had a Statewide Initiation in Mansfield, Ohio and I am proud to say the Sir Knights of the North Central Division was there to serve lunch for the young men of this great fraternity.



I hope to see many more examples in the future as to how we can support our youth organizations. If you truly want to see Freemasonry have a great future, than we should encourage all of our sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and their friends to be part of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow. Let's work together and find ways to support our future generations!

March was a very busy and exciting month with a lot going on in many of our Masonic Bodies. In addition to several commandery visits across the state, Pam and I had the great pleasure of attending the inspection of Calvary Commandery No. 13 in Portsmouth, Ohio. It was a great day in Portsmouth starting with a parade in celebration of St. Patrick's Day followed by a traditional Commandery Banquet, the conferral of the Order of the Temple and the Full Form Opening. We also made unannounced "surprise" visits to Medina Commandery No. 84, Wooster Commandery No. 48, Coleman Commandery No. 17, and Bellefontaine Commandery No. 61.



Sir Knight Rodney L. Carr, Most Excellent Grand High Priest and I had the great opportunity to attend Ohio Priory #18's spring meeting in Steubenville in support of our Eminent Prior, Sir Knight Ronald E. Shaw. It was a great time, and I am

proud to say Ohio Commandery was very well represented by many Sir Knights as always. The photo on the right is of our Grand High Priest, Eminent Prior, and me after the March Conclave.

In addition, Sir Knight David G. Weimer, Most Illustrious Grand Master and I, along with other Sir Knights and Companions traveled to Logan Chapter No. 75 in Logan, Ohio for their inspection in the Mark Master Degree which was followed that same evening by a conferral of the Past Master Degree. This is the home Chapter of Sir Knight Rodney L. Carr, Most Excellent Grand High Priest. The photo to the left is a picture of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Most Illustrious Grand Master, and me in Logan, Ohio.



While not Templary, I must say it was a great pleasure to be with Lady Janice Palm on Monday, March 7th when she received a 70 year award from the Order of Eastern Star. As the Lady of Sir Knight Richard H. Palm, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander and Past Grand Recorder, and with all she has done for the Masonic Bodies in Warren, the Northeastern Division, the Grand Commandery of Ohio, and for me personally I have always considered Mrs. Palm one of the great matriarch's of our fraternity. It was an honor to be with her on her special day.

Saturday, March 12th was the East Central Department Meeting as well as a Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Ohio had 48 Sir Knights in attendance. Regardless of your individual views of the events of the weekend I ask that all look to God in prayer for the future of our fraternity. Please keep both Michael Burke Johnson and David Joseph Kussman in your prayers as well as the other Grand Encampment Officers. I pray that we may all heal and unite as Templars as we work to strengthen the Order in his service ever remembering the lessons of the square and compasses, doing unto others as we would have them do unto us and keeping our passions within due bounds with all mankind. May we have wisdom and a peaceful heart in all we do bringing Glory to God and remaining faithful to our Vows of Knighthood.

The image below is of some of the Sir Knights present at Bellefontaine Commandery No. 61 when they knighted two new Sir Knights (father and son). The Grand Warder, Sir Knight Perry Coxson and I stopped in for a surprise visit and I had the honor of Knighting the two new Sir Knights.



As directed by Sir Knight, Timothy S. Wheeland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, on March 26th there were several Grand Master's One Day Classes held across the state of Ohio conferring the three degrees of Masonry Raising almost 800 new Brethren to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Classes were held in 14 locations and the Sir Knights of Ohio took part in all of them.

The Traveling Banners continue to be on the move in Ohio. Both the Richard H. Palm and Frank T. England Traveling Banners have been claimed by another Commandery at every possible opportunity. They can only be claimed by attending the stated conclave of the commandery that possesses the banner with a minimum of four Sir Knights from your visiting commandery. On Tuesday, March 8th the Sir Knights of Cuyahoga Falls Commandery No. 83 attempted to claim both the Richard H. Palm and Frank T. England Traveling Banners by traveling to Salem Commandery with five of their members. However, Columbian Commandery No. 52 were also there with six voting members and claimed both Traveling Banners. With that said, they did not have them long as the Sir Knights of Salem Commandery No. 42, only two days later, on Thursday, March 10th, traveled to Columbian Commandery in Conneaut to reclaim both banners and return them back to Salem Commandery. What a great way to share comradery and fellowship while also celebrating the memory of two dedicated Fraters who traveled everywhere together. Below is a photo of some of the traveling Sir Knights claiming these banners.



Commandery inspections will continue through the month of April. I am also very excited and looking forward to once again spending Easter in Alexandria, Virginia and attending the Easter Sunrise Service. The Grand Commandery of Ohio has reserved a block of rooms in Old Town Alexandria for Easter weekend close to the George Washington Masonic Memorial and just a couple of blocks from King Street. We will have the great honor of participating in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 1:15 PM on Saturday, April 16, 2022, located in Arlington Cemetery and invite all to be there. Easter morning, we will march from the parking lot instead of up Shooter's Hill to allow for anyone who would not be able to make it up the hill to be able to participate.

In May there will be several York Rite Festivals across Ohio. I have been invited and have agreed to personally preside in the Order of the Temple at several of the York Rite Festivals. I am also very pleased to share that our Grand Master F&AMs, Grand High Priest RAMs, Grand Master R&SMs will also be there and participating in a few of these.

Lady Pam and I wish you all safe travels and hope to see you in our travels!

Sincerely and fraternally,

George Edmiston III, KCT

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Ohio