



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois



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Grand Commander

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Illinois State News for February 2022

Greetings Sir Knights of Illinois,

I hope everyone is finally getting use to writing 2022 instead of 2021. Seems like it takes months to get our heads rapped around the change in the year. To think it's been over 22 years since we were worried about Y2K. *(For the Sir Knights who don't know what Y2K was go to your Commanderies next stated Conclave and find a SK with a few grey hairs and sit with him and ask him what Y2K was all about.)*

In Illinois we are very busy with our Inspection Season. The next couple of months will be very busy. I encourage and challenge all Sir Knights in Illinois come out a support the Commanderies holding Inspections in your Divisions. It's a Win-Win situation as you will refresh your skills, witness good work and greet new friends. In my travels throughout the state, I am always shocked and amazed that more Green Straps and SKs do not take advantage of Inspections to learn from the Red Straps and Grand Officers who seem to think they know-it-all. No wonder the Red Straps and Grand Officers come off as All-Knowing, Wise, and All-Mighty, they practice their skills.

The other major event coming up is the Grand Encampment Special Conclave to be held in Ft. Wayne, IN on March 12th. I have not said a lot about the events leading up to this Special Conclave. There have been many things in social media covering the actions of SK Johnson, Grand Master, which caused many Grand Commanderies to feel a Special Conclave is in order. It is alleged the Grand Master has made decisions which were not in his power to make. These include removal of an elected officer, overturning a vote of the Grand Encampment at the Triennial held in August 2021, and implied that actions taken by the previous Grand Master were approaching conduct unbecoming a Sir Knight. The Grand Master deserves the time to justify his actions to the Grand Encampment members and a verdict rendered by the voting members at the Special Conclave.

The real tragedy of the need for Special Conclave is it comes at a time when many Grand Commanderies and Commanderies are trying to recover and rebuild from impacts of the pandemic. The reputation of The Grand Encampment has suffered over the past decade, resulting in loss of support for Templary in many Grand Lodge Jurisdictions. The Grand Encampment owes it to the Sir Knights to put an end to the conflicts and clean up and put its house in order.

On a much lighter note, the Illinois Knights Templar Assistance Outreach, IKTAO, should be opening the office in Normal Illinois. The Board of Directors and Board of Managers plan to

meet at the office in person at the end of February for the first time since the pandemic started. Your support of your charity has allowed assistance to many Templars in Illinois and to the Local Communities. Any Templar in need of assistance should contact IMOS for processing of your initial application. The IKTAO has an agreement with Grand Lodge to fund 50% of the assistance given to Templars in Illinois.

**Inspections for February
at the time of this writing include:**

Commandery	#	DIV	Date*	Notes:
Galesburg	8	2	2/5/2022	Joint w Rock Island at Galesburg
Rock Island	18	2	2/5/2022	Joint w Galesburg at Galesburg
DeMolay	24	3	2/12/2022	
Calvary	25	1	2/12/2022	
Apollo	1	1	2/26/2022	
Gorin	14	5	2/26/2022	
St. Aldemar	47	3	2/26/2022	

**Please check the website for any changes or updates.*

Finally, remember that February includes an important holiday, Valentine's Day for your Sweethearts. Our Sweethearts have to sacrifice and put up with all of our short comings, yet still love us. Show them the Love they deserve.

Fraternally,

John M. Sansone, Grand Commander