

## State of Maryland February Message Knights Templar NEWS FEBRUARY 2022

Sir Knights- Happy Valentine's Day! This is the month we celebrate our closest loved ones and would be loved ones with fond greetings and flowers, perhaps a bit of candy or a fine meal somewhere. To all those wives, lovers, children, and pets that receive treats on Valentine's Day, we wish you joy of the season of Love. Don't forget your teachers when you hand out cards and candy, they are especially worthy recipients this year. Want to be especially thoughtful? Send along a nice package of goodies to your local hospital that can be shared with the staff.

When our daughter-in-law was in a Pennsylvania hospital for an extended period one of the things our family did was provide treats, fresh fruit, and sandwiches for different shifts so all could partake of the bounty. We received numerous grateful messages as this breaks up the monotony of the job of caring for patients and shows those wonderful Nurses and Doctors that people have not forgotten them.

Congratulations to all of those newly installed officers of Blue lodges across the State. The month of January is Installation month and all Masonic lodges have been busy with this year's line of officers getting a fresh start on their work. Many of our Sir Knights have taken a part by Uniformed Flag Presentation Ceremonies during the opening of the Lodges for installation. I have taken part in several and this is always well received. The Templar method of delivering the Flag to the East is a bit different than normal so whether in a closed or open lodge installation this gives added interest to the ceremony of installing new officers. Often, we have received thanks and fielded questions and about the Knights Templar following the ceremonies. A presentation of Master's pins on behalf of the York Rite by members of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is also done during the installation of officers. Another great opportunity for all to see and hear a bit about the York Rite. These pins are prized by all New Masters as they have the opportunity to wear them throughout their Masonic career and be recognized as the leader of a lodge.

This month we embark on some work now that the ceremonies are achieved. Our ventures with coupling the officers and members of the commanderies with Line officers to explore how the Grand Commandery can assist in furthering Knights Templar begin. There are 6 key elements to the plans for assisting and educating our old and new members as outlined in General Order #3 issued at the beginning of my term.

Positions to be filled by each Commandery are:

Membership Representative

Commandery Instructor

Knights Templar Eye Foundation representative

Religious Observances Representative

Education Foundation Representative

Uniform and Wardrobe Representative

Also this month we will be convening a Special Conclave of the Grand Commandery. This takes place on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> in the Gothic Room at Grand Lodge in Cockeysville. Our Grand Conglave will be held immediately following the opening of Beauseant Commandery #8 opening and business meeting.

The agenda for the meeting has been sent out to all Commanders and Recorders for distribution. We will be covering, as required by our Constitution, changes to our constitution required by votes taken at the Grand Encampment Triennial in August of 2021 in Minneapolis. The Jurisprudence Committee will handle the explanation of the changes. This is an informational session and actual votes on the changes will be held at our Semi-Annual Grand Conclave on May 14.

Additionally, the Finance Committee will outline projected changes to the 2022 Grand Commandery budget.

We will discuss the upcoming Special Conclave that has been called by the Grand Encampment on March 12 in Fort Wayne Indiana. Information regarding this Special Conclave has been distributed by the Grand Encampment and can also be found on the GE Website.

Speaking of websites- You should all get used to regular examinations of both the Grand Encampment website, and the Maryland Knights Templar website: [marylandyorkrite.org](http://marylandyorkrite.org) And then scroll to the Grand Commandery section. We are using that location to post lots of information and schedule of events. For instance, the list of upcoming Grand Visitations is posted there:

Maryland, No. 1.-	February 4, 2022
Monumental No. 3.-	March 21, 2022
Jacques DeMolay No. 4 -	March 3, 2022
Antioch No. 6.-	April 5, 2022
Palestine No. 7.-	March 28, 2022
Beauseant No. 8.-	March 7, 2022
Chesapeake No. 10.-	February 9, 2022
Thomas J. Shryock No. 11.-	March 10, 2022
Montgomery No. 13. -	December 8, 2021
York No. 16.-	March 18, 2022
Carroll No. 17.-	March 15, 2022

You can also see the Grand Inspector General's schedule of visits. Check it out!

Have a great February, stay warm and get ready for spring! This cold will all be over soon. Then it will be Flowers for all of us!

In His Service, John Austin

Right Eminent Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Maryland

