



Grand Commander



Ludwik J. Wodka

(919) 349-3745

ludwikwodka@yahoo.com

The *NC Knightly News* is a monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina. All photos used with permission of their owners who retain all copyrights.

For Official Information:

D. Allen Surratt
Grand Secretary/Recorder

6328 Surratt Ctry. Rd.,
Denton, NC 27239-9080

Office: (336) 857-2394
Fax: (336) 857-2690
Mobile: (336) 953-0066

Grand Sec. Email:
NCGYR@rtmc.net

Grand Commandery Website:
www.ncgorkrite.org/gckt/

We Need Your Help!

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✘ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✘ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

Editor: Larry Aydlett
Larry.aydlett@gmail.com



Grand Commander's Message

Greetings, Sir Knights!

I would like to congratulate all of the newly-installed Commanders for the year of 2022. We can only hope that after almost two years of pandemic-related turmoil we can get back to business and carry out the mission of Templary uninterrupted. The Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and I are planning on making one of the very few out-of-state visits we have been permitted to make during our term, to Birmingham, Alabama. We are looking forward to this opportunity to represent you, the Sir Knights of North Carolina, to our fellow Sir Knights in our neighboring states. Following that, I have one last trip planned, to the Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment to be held on March 12 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I pray that the outcome of that event will be for the good of the Grand Encampment and we finally put an end to this contention.

For me and my counterparts, our term is drawing to a close as it is (at the time of writing) only about six weeks to the Grand York Rite Conclave that will be held in Clemmons at the Village Inn and Event Center. If you are making plans to attend, please make your reservations now. Information on the conclave can be found on the North Carolina Grand York Rite website, but I will include it here as well.

GRAND YORK RITE OF NORTH CAROLINA

March 20 – 22, 2022

Village Inn and Event Center

6205 Ramada Drive

Clemmons, NC 27102

800 – 554 – 6416

www.TheVillageInn.com/

For the committee members, please take the time to get your reports submitted to the Grand Recorder as soon as possible so that they can be included in the proceedings. If you have any questions about what is required or anything else pertaining to the reports, please reach out to me or Allen Surratt for further information or clarification.

Plans have just recently been announced for the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia on Sunday, April 22, 2022. The Grand Master will be hosting a banquet at the Hilton Crystal City. If you are interested in attending this event, please check the Grand Encampment website for more information or reach out to the incoming Grand Commander, Elbert "Sparky" Travis. This is always a wonderful and impressive event that every Knight Templar should try to attend at least once. Usually, this event is done in conjunction with a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Once again, please reach out to SK Travis for more information.

Just a reminder, Sir Knights, **we are still in the process of selling tickets** for our annual grand York Rite Fundraiser. We are raffling off a pig, the meat of which (when processed) should weigh approximately 250 pounds, cut to order. All proceeds will go to the York Rite charities. The drawing will be held at the Grand Conclave in March. If you are interested in supporting this fundraiser, please contact me or any of your local Grand York Rite officers for tickets or information. Don't miss your chance to win!

Fraternally,

Ludwik J. Wodka
Grand Commander

**Greetings From the Mid-Atlantic
Department Commander**



REDC James B. Steele

Salutations, Sir Knights,

I am humbled to serve as your Department Commander for the 69th Triennium. I look forward to being with you in this capacity for the next three years. Most Eminent Grand Master Michael B. Johnson has allowed me to change the date for our Mid-Atlantic Conference for the next

three years to the first Saturday in October. This year, the conference will be held on September 29 through October 2, 2022. This will eliminate the conflict with our NC Grand Lodge meeting. Also, the Most Eminent Grand Master has been very attentive to in his attempt not to raise our per capita dues. He has eliminated the printing of the states' supplements in our magazine and has published it online. This has saved us approximately \$4,000 per month. He has also eliminated travel by Grand Encampment Officers and in lieu of this has used his Department Commanders as Grand Encampment Representatives for Grand Conclaves. The Grand Master has combined all of the Easter Sunrise Services into one location which will be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, VA. I look forward to seeing you there.

My first event, as your Department Commander, was to join Maryland in celebration of their 150th anniversary of their Grand Commandery. It was quite a celebration. Other events include attending the conferring of the Order of the Temple at Castle McCulloch, constituting a new Commandery in Southern Pines, NC, marching in the Christmas Parade in Wilmington, NC, and celebrating Plantagenet Commandery #1's 200th anniversary in Wilmington, NC. As I travel to the various events and Grand Conclaves, I look forward to rekindling past relationships and establishing new ones.

Courteously,

SK James B. Steele
Mid-Atlantic Department Commander

From the Editor

We are fast approaching that time of the year when our Spring York Rite Festivals will be put on for our candidates. No doubt many candidates have eagerly awaited the time when we open back up and resume normal activities. They are ready. Are you?

Check your answers with this checklist:

- Do you have degree captains/coordinators in place to ensure all degree roles are filled and everyone is prepared?
- Have you met with your degree team to practice roles including floor work?
- Have you communicated the schedule to all candidates including setting expectations for dress code, meals, start and end times? Have you reserved the appropriate rooms, confirmed all costumes and props are ready, and meals planned?
- Have you informed the Grand Commander that you will be conferring the Order of the Temple including where/when it will be conferred?
- Do you have a plan for the Festival days – including official start time for each day and estimate starts and finishes for each degree?
- Who has the key to the front door and when does he arrive? (You'd be surprised how often that gets overlooked!)

In my chosen profession, project management, we have a saying, "failure to plan is planning to fail." I remind my students in class that "plan" is not a dirty 4-letter word, and planning is not such an arduous task as long as you keep things simple and spread the work around. If you're the point-man for your local bodies' Spring Festival, don't feel like you must go it alone. Ask for help, delegate tasks to those willing and able to execute them. Communicate openly and often, and be sure to listen to feedback. Plan ahead, and when you have a solid plan, WRITE IT DOWN so you don't have to rediscover it next time.

After your festival is concluded, what next? Here are some suggestions:

- ✘ Have the three presiding officers of your local bodies sign and present a personalized welcome letter to each new member. Include a calendar of

events for the year including regular meeting times/dates, fundraisers, and other gatherings.

- ✘ Invite each new member to participate in the degrees, take on parts, deliver educational presentations, and attend meetings.
- ✘ Host a post-festival review with your degree teams to identify what went well and what can be improved and WRITE IT DOWN.
- ✘ Host discussions with new members to discuss the symbolism and deeper meanings of each degree and how it is relevant to them. Don't lecture at them, let them speak to what the degrees mean to each of them.
- ✘ Start planning for the Fall Festival. It will be here before you know it!

Above all, never forget that the most important person at any degree conferral is always, always, always the CANDIDATE. Do your best to provide the best experience for the candidates; it's usually their first impression of you as an organization and will certainly be the most enduring one after the day is done. Make them feel welcome and at ease. Answer their questions. Make sure they understand what is going on and what to do. Welcome them to the York Rite and invite them to come back and take on a part!

I wish you all the best and may your Festivals run smoothly, and the candidates all enjoy your hard work and planning!

Courteously,

Larry Aydlett
 Editor, NC Knightly News

Elizabeth City Installation of 2022 Officers

Elizabeth City – The traditions of the York Rite Bodies of Elizabeth City returned with the installation of officers of Cherokee Chapter # 14, Tyrian Council #19, and Griggs Commandery #14. The tradition of installing the officers in a combined ceremony cements the unity of the Royal Arch Masons, the Council Cryptic Masons and Knights Templar. Gary Littleton is returning as the High Priest of Cherokee Chapter along with Paul Miller returning as the Illustrious Master of Tyrian Council. Russell Scull

was installed as the Eminent Commander of Griggs Commandery. Francis Pugh, PGHP served as the Installing Master, Hip Holcomb served as the Installing Marshal and Jim Wright as the Installing Chaplin. Other officers that were installed include: Hip Holcomb, Scott Mathis, Jim Cravens, Paul Miller, Jim Wright, Larry Newell, Leon Brothers Jr., and Francis Pugh, PGHP.



*SK Russell Scull, 2022 EC
 Griggs Commandery #14*

Sir Knight Scull and his wife retired to Elizabeth City in 2020, where he joined Eureka Lodge # 317 and the York Bodies of Elizabeth City. Russell has served Masonry in many capacities over his 30-year involvement. He has served as the Worshipful Master of Doric Lodge #94, Treasurer of Doric and then the merged lodge Composite Lodge #28. His York Rite activities include High Priest of Washington Chapter #30, Thrice Illustrious Master of Suffield Council #23, and Sentinel, Grand Master of the 2nd Veil, and Grand Master of the 3rd Veil of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Connecticut. Sir Knight Scull has also completed the York Rite Leadership program offered by the Grand Encampment.

Sir Knight Scull has volunteered in many organizations in his community. Over the years he has been involved with Boy Scouts, serving as a Scoutmaster and on local Districts committees, including the Council Representative as an Eagle Scout to the National Eagle Scout Association. In his prior hometown, Sir Knight Scull served as a Director for the Fourth of July town Celebration, co-chairing the Craft Show, Teen Zone and was a member of the Operations crew.

Important Reminders:

March 20: Last day to buy tickets for the York Rite Fundraiser

March 20-22: Grand York Rite, Village Inn & Event Center, Clemmons

April 22: Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia