

## Grand Commandery of New Mexico State News for July 2022



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Sir Knights, last month I discussed some of the things that sets Commandery apart from the other masonic bodies and I will continue this idea with a short discussion on the Commandery uniform. Unlike other masonic bodies, the mode of dress in an asylum is not a suggestion or open to interpretation but a strict code set out by the Grand Encampment, available online at [www.knightstemplar.org/uniforms](http://www.knightstemplar.org/uniforms), and by the Grand Commandery of New Mexico in the publication *The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico Uniform Standards*, which is available from the Grand Recorder, Sir Knight Harry Jenkins. The New Mexico uniform standard has been recently updated with pictures of proper uniform standards modeled by our very own Sir Knights: Harry Jenkins, James Lamb, Sky Olsen and Steve Balke. I will not repeat all of the uniform regulations here as the standard is very long and exacting.



Suffice to say that innovations and improvements in the Commandery uniform by individual Sir Knights are not encouraged. In New Mexico we typically wear the “Class A” uniform as shown modeled by Sir Knight Harry Jenkins as taken from the New Mexico uniform standards, mentioned above. This includes the chateau, coat, belt and sword but also stipulates the color and kind of shirt and tie to wear, what kind of shoes and the color of the socks (black). The jewels which are allowed to be worn above the left pocket are specified as well as the order the jewels should appear from left to right. Just because you find an interesting Commandery jewel on Ebay does not mean you can wear it on your Commandery uniform.

There are a few variations which are allowed. There is a summer Class A which is basically the Class A without the heavy black jacket. It is not as simple as just taking the jacket off when you are hot as there are extra regulations for the white shirt once the jacket is off.

A much more interesting variation on the commandery uniform is described in New Mexico Uniform Regulations, Section 26: **Templar Mantle and Cap**. It has been commented to me a few times over the years that the Class A Commandery uniforms do not particularly resemble what most people would think of when they picture a knight templar. What people usually think of involves chain mail and a broadsword. While this idea of a knight templar is more derived from the movies than reality, I can sympathize with their disappointment. The cap and mantle shown to the left is probably closer to what initiates into our order typically think of as a Knight Templar. This picture was taken from a web site that sells such uniforms, as I have never seen this uniform used in an asylum in New Mexico other than during the conferring of the MedPassMalta order where something similar is worn. The cap and mantle is an acceptable uniform for a Knight Templar as set out by the Grand Encampment and the New Mexico Grand Commandery. As with the Class A uniform, there are specific regulations for the insignia on the cap and mantle and how it is to be worn. Just because a web site sells something as a Knight Templar uniform does not mean it is acceptable to the Grand Encampment or the New Mexico Grand



Commandery. But since the cap and mantle is mostly one size fits all, a Commandery, after a bit of research, could purchase these for their officers to be used during meetings.

Well, I have reached my word count for the Knight Templar Magazine New Mexico insert and the deadline is fast approaching, so I will end this here. As I travel the state, I would like to hear your opinions on our uniforms and any other Commandery topic you would like to discuss.

Reminder: Land of Enchantment degree festival July 22nd and 23rd in Santa Fe.

Other times and dates to make note of are the York Rite quarterly meetings for 2022:

<b>WHO CHAIRS THE MEETING</b>	<b>HEAD OF BODY</b>	<b>DATE/TIME/LOCATION</b>
ME Grand High Priest	Adam Hathaway	July 21, 2022 7 pm in Montezuma Lodge
MI Grand Master	Sky Olsen	Oct 22, 2022 9 am in GLNM Library
RE Grand Commander	James Overfelt	Jan 28, 2023 9 am in GLNM Library

The October and January meetings will be hybrid. Details for the July meeting in Montezuma Lodge the night before the Land of Enchantment degree festival are still being worked out.