



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Illinois



SK John M. Sansone
Grand Commander

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Illinois State News for Jun 2022

Greetings Sir Knights of Illinois,

This month I want to cover your charity, the Illinois Knights Templar Assistance Outreach, (IKTAO). As many Sir Knights know, with the selling of the Home in Paxton, the Illinois Knights Templar Home (IKTH) was restructured along with the Knights Templar Endowment Fund. The IKTH began conducting “Business” as the Illinois Knights Templar Assistance Outreach to represent the new focus for the Charity. The endowment fund was restructured to strengthen the link with the IKTH. The restructuring was made to ensure the Charity was fully under control of the Sir Knights who are members of our Grand Commandery. The Dais Officers along with the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder serve as the Board of Directors for both corporations. A Board of Managers with one representative from each of the five (5) Divisions are charged with the Day-To-Day workings of the Charity.

Now that everyone is asleep with the explanation of the Management Organization of the Charity let’s talk about the programs developed by the Board of Managers and approved by the Board of Directors.

One of the first things the Board of Directors, prior to the restructuring, tasked themselves with how can we best serve our members as quickly as effectively as possible. With that thought in mind, we teamed up with the Grand Lodge Charities. An agreement was made with IMOS to split the cost of aid given to needy Sir Knights and their families. IMOS has the programs in place to effectively serve the members of the Grand Lodge, and as the Sir Knights are also members of the Grand Lodge, this agreement provided a central location for members to reach out to for support. I would like to report that since this program started in 2019 over \$150,000 from IKTAO has, along with the Grand Lodge, provided over \$300,000 to the relief of SKs and their families. The cost sharing, frees funds at IMOS, giving them the ability to help more Brothers and their families, while doubling the impact for IKTAO on every dollar it spends.

Examples of programs funded by the IKTAO include for the 2021 – 2022 Year:

- Funding the community charity outreach through the local Commanderies (*\$ 2,000 per Commandery*) \$ 70,000
- Funding the IMOS Partnership \$ 50,000
- Funds for the Illinois Masonic Hospital Eye Clinic \$ 50,000
- Funds for the (7) Scottish Rite Dyslexia Centers \$ 35,000

- Donations to the RAMCF Charity \$ 5,000
- Donation to the Grand Council Nurses Scholarship Fund \$ 5,000
- Donations to Masonic Youth Organizations \$ 15,000

The Board of Directors has established a physical office for the Charity at:

Illinois Knights Templar Assistance Outreach
326 Susan Drive, Suite B
Normal, Il 61761

For YOUR Charity to be able to continue funding these and similar projects, it needs your support through the Fundraising activities like our Christmas Appeal and our Membership Pledge Appeal. The Charity also relies heavily on memorial endowments from our Sir Knights along with income from investments in the Knights Templar Endowment Fund. *(As everyone knows 2022 has been a hard year for investments so far.)* Your continued support fulfils our charge as Christian Knights to lend alms to the needy. Your Charity is something to be PROUD of, and you should be PROUD to support it.

2022 Conclave

The 2022 Grand Sessions will be held at a new (different) location this year. We will be meeting in Springfield, Il at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701, July 28th through the 30th. Grand Chapter will meet on the 28th, Grand Council on the 29th, and The Grand Commandery on the 30th.

Hotel Reservation can be made on line at: www.my-event.hilton.com/grandyorkritesession/
(deadline July 5, 2022 for special rate of \$109.00 plus tax)

Meal reservations can be made on-line at: <https://conta.cc/38ACiYh>
(deadline July 15, 2022)

Check the Illinois Knights Templar Website for more information and updates at: <https://il-kt.org>

Stay healthy and God Bless,

John M. Sansone, Grand Commander

Check the Grand Commandery website regularly for latest updates