

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



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Sir Knights, as you know there are a few things that set the Commandery apart from the other appendant Masonic bodies. One is the emphasis on the Christian religion which Companion Tyler Anderson, the New Mexico Grand Lodge Historian, gave an excellent talk on at Albuquerque York Rite in May. I'll see about getting Tyler's talk recorded by the Grand Lodge education committee and distributed to the Commanderies. Another thing that sets the Commandery apart is the emphasis on drill and sword work. Although New Mexico does not have a drill team, every Commandery should practice sword work as part of the standard ritual practice.

I was given the long and intimidating Grand Encampment Drill Regulations book many years ago but since New Mexico does not have a drill team and I thought I knew my sword work, I did not carefully read the sword work instructions. My mistake. After an encounter with Sir Knight Sky Olsen, past Grand Commander, who pointed out that I was not holding my sword correctly during "cross swords" when opening the Commandery, I carefully studied the relevant pages. I was impressed by the remarkable detail given in correctly holding your Commandery sword during each and every movement. And I was surprised that my own sword work, which had become so natural and second nature to me, was actually incorrect. The subtle distinction of which side of the sword blade to present to the opposing sword blade takes a careful reading of the instructions to determine. The correct footwork and arm position are also described in detail.

I encourage each Sir Knight to carefully study the relevant sections of the Grand Encampment Drill Regulations book. There are two versions of this excellent manual. One is spiral bound and very extensive. The other is glue bound and a bit more condensed. New Mexico Grand Commandery has many copies of each, sitting in a box on my kitchen table. I also created a list of relevant sections to study in each for the Commandery opening sword work. The instructions are the same in each book, but the sections are numbered slightly

different. We will be giving these out at our degree festivals, like the Land of Enchantment degree festival coming up on July 22nd and 23rd in Santa Fe. I will also bring copies when I visit the Commanderies in the Fall. I know that the Commanderies do a good job of teaching the basics of opening a Commandery, but like me, it is possible some of the small details might be missed in the effort to remember the words and which rank is communicating each word and which rank is giving the response. Learning the correct sword work at the beginning of a Commandery career will make the correct movements seem natural instead of, like me, having to break bad habits and relearn the correct way.

In other news, my first official visit was to the Scottish Rite Spring Reunion in Santa Fe where I wore my uniform and was introduced during Saturday lunch. There were no speeches but the uniform is not something likely to be missed by anyone attending.

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 GL NM 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.