



Grand Commander



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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
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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings, Sir Knights!

I am coming to the end of a long journey that began back in April 2012 when I was first appointed to serve as editor for the state supplement of the Knight Templar magazine under Grand Commander Joel Black. I served in that capacity until 2019 when the position was handed over to SK Larry Aydlett. Since that point, I have continued to submit articles in the capacity of Deputy Grand Commander and for the last 11 months, as Grand Commander. I have enjoyed working with the Grand Commanders I served under during that time in sending a monthly message to our membership. SK Aydlett has done a wonderful job with the transition of the state supplement from the printed format into the online format. His work has received much well-deserved praise. So, with that being said, this will be my final message to be included in the North Carolina state supplement. Thank you, Sir Knights, for the all the support and kind words along the way.

As I am about to conclude my term in office, I will save the retrospective overview of my term in office for my allocution (to be included in the proceedings). However, I would like to make some final remarks here. First, I would like to thank my counterparts, Grand High Priest Will Chriscoe and Grand Illustrious Master Jeff York, for their friendship and support over the course of the last few years as we prepared for and embarked upon our term in the East. I could not have asked for two better and more capable colleagues. There was never any question or doubt about "York Rite Unity" among us. I would also like to thank the Grand Recorder, Allen Surratt, for

always taking my calls day or night (and there were many!) to help me navigate the many challenges we had to handle. I cannot imagine how I would have made it through this year without him.

I also want to thank the officers of the Grand Commandery for their support and participation in the activities of the Grand Commandery. Your attendance at our district meetings, degree work, public ceremonies, and other occasions should give the Sir Knights of North Carolina confidence in the future of our Grand Commandery. There are many more people who deserve much gratitude from me, but that will be handled in other more appropriate places. Thank you all for your friendship, hospitality, and support.

We were saddened by the loss of Sir Knights Donald Wooster, Gerald Ringer, and Michael Gould who departed us this year to enter into the presence of our Supreme Grand Master who presides in the realm of life and light eternal. Let us honor their memory by living up to the example they set for us as Knights and Masons.

Please be reminded that the Grand York Rite Conclave for 2022 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.

Sir Knights, I believe at long last the clouds are beginning to part and the sun will shine once again upon our valiant and magnanimous Order. I am beginning to hear in some of the other bodies and in other states that membership figures are beginning to show a net positive increase for the first time in decades. We may be on the cusp of turning that corner. North Carolina is blessed with an excellent officer line in the Grand Commandery that

we can look to for leadership, experience, and sound judgment in the years to come and to overcome the challenges that will come. I am looking forward to passing the jewel of office to Sir Knight Elbert “Sparky” Travis soon. In the time that I have been able to work with him, I have enjoyed his cheerful, easygoing manner but have also been impressed by his leadership abilities. The Grand Commandery of North Carolina will be in good hands.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to our Lord and Savior for keeping a watchful eye over us and for the many blessings and comforts we continue to enjoy. May light and love of Jesus inspire you to carry forward with faith, courage, and humility. God bless the Knights Templar of North Carolina!

Fraternally,

Ludwik J. Wodka
Grand Commander

GRAND YORK RITE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Date:

March 20 – 22, 2022

Venue:

Village Inn and Event Center
6205 Ramada Drive
Clemmons, NC 27102

For Reservations, Contact:

Toll Free: 800 – 554 – 6416
Website: www.TheVillageInn.com/

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

Hospitality Suite – Room 115
Chapter Room – LEXINGTON
Council Room - MONROE
2:30 PM - Shute Chapel St. Thomas of Acon - TBD
5:00 PM - DIVINE SERVICE - LEXINGTON / MONROE All are encouraged to attend.

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM - RECEPTION & ICE CREAM SOCIAL – SALEM / NORTH Open to all in attendance

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022

8:30 AM - Opening of Joint Session – Grand Council Presiding - LEXINGTON/MONROE
8:45 AM - Reception of Distinguished Guest
9:00 AM - Joint Session
9:45 AM - Break
10:00 AM - Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina – LEXINGTON / MONROE

12:00 PM (NOON) - MENS LUNCHEON - Ticket Required - NORTH (Sponsored by the York Rite Sovereign College)
12:00 PM (NOON) - LADIES LUNCHEON - Ticket Required – SALEM
1:00 PM - Grand Council Reconvenes (If necessary) – LEXINGTON / MONROE
1:30 PM - Grand Commander of Knights Templar of North Carolina Reconvenes – LEXINGTON / MONROE (Immediately after recess of Grand Council)
3:30 PM - Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina Reconvenes – LEXINGTON / MONROE (Immediately after recess of Grand Commandery)

7:00 PM – ANNUAL BANQUET – Ticket Required – LEXINGTON / MONROE

TUESDAY, MARCH, 2022

8:30 AM - Grand Chapter Reconvenes (If necessary) – LEXINGTON / MONROE
10:00 AM - Joint Installation of Officers – LEXINGTON /MONROE Open to all

From the Editor

This month, many Commanderies are kicking into high gear for degree festivals. That’s great! But I have a question for the Commanders in each of these bodies: What’s your next step? How will you build on the energy and enthusiasm that is generated from the conferral of our degrees – not only from your brand-new Sir Knights, but also from your regular members?

Commanders, your Sir Knights are looking to you for leadership and direction. What’s your plan? How do you plan to engage your members and get them back

into the habit of participating in your York Rite Bodies?

We are already in the post-Covid era. Yet, many bodies struggle to meet. There are two main enemies to be defeated: Fear and Apathy. How do we defeat the fear that was broadcast all over the media for the past two years and help our members feel more confident in returning? And how do we defeat the apathy that accompanies members who got out of the habit of attending our meetings and participating in our activities?

Some suggestions:

People respond better to specific invitations rather than a generic wish for them to attend at some time in the indeterminate future. Each month, before your Stated Communication, invite your members to attend and have an agenda or program that makes it worth their time.

Plan activities that matter and have purpose – people are more engaged when their time and efforts matter. On Sunday, April 17, you have an opportunity to engage not only your members but the public as well for Easter Sunday. Think of a public activity: attending a local church as a uniformed body, hosting a ceremony in the afternoon, visiting shut-ins or spending time with a local charity. Start now, you only have six weeks.

And don't stop there. Carry that momentum forward and build on it each month. Get your officers engaged in planning forward so when they take over from you, they'll have a plan for their year and can build on your work this year.

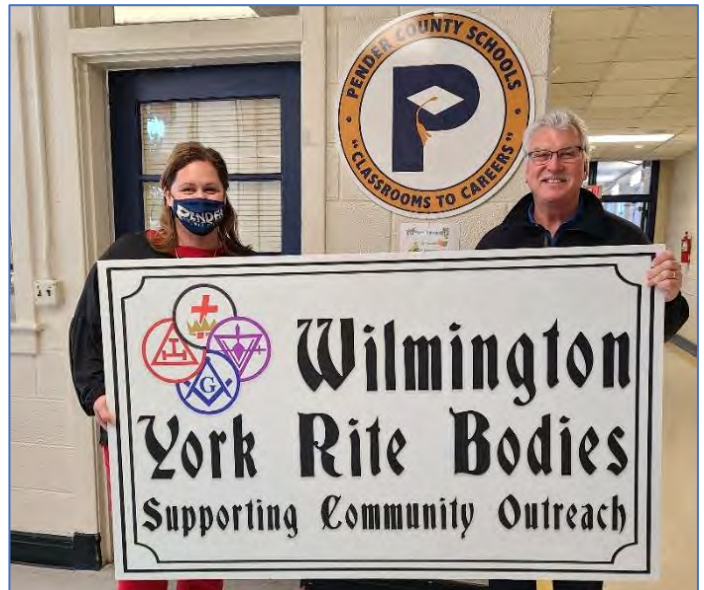
Fraternally,

Larry Aydlett, Editor

Wilmington York Rite Resupplies Local Schools

Wilmington – The Sir Knights of Plantagenet #1 collected school supplies and cash to donate to two local Elementary schools in Pender County. RE James Steele, our Mid-Atlantic Departmental Commander,

led the effort and presented the donations to Rocky Point and Malpass Elementary Schools on February 1.



A Representative of Rocky Point Elementary poses with RE James Steele



RE James Steele delivers donations to Malpass Elementary

Material donations included teacher supplies and classroom necessities that many teachers around the state sometimes must purchase out of their own pockets to keep their classrooms running. The Sir Knights also provided around \$500 in cash to cover other items and necessities that the teachers may also need for their classrooms.

**Salisbury Festival Knights 15 New Members for 4
Commanderies**

Salisbury – On Saturday, February 26, the Salisbury York Rite Bodies held their Spring Festival. A total of 15 candidates were present for the degrees from Mark Master to the Order of Malta.



The 15 new Sir Knights hail from 4 Commanderies

Candidates and degree participants came from three other Commanderies: Malta #19 (Monroe), Lenoir #33, and Piedmont #6 (Winston-Salem), in addition to the six for Salisbury #13.

The Order of the Temple will be conferred on Monday, March 7 at the Salisbury Masonic Temple. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM and the degrees start at 7:00 PM.

**Funeral Service for PEC Michael Lee Gould,
District 5 Commander**

Fayetteville – The Knights Templar of North Carolina were saddened by the loss of Past Commander Michael Gould on February 4. He was the current District Commander for District 5 for the Grand Commandery of North Carolina. PEC Gould was also Past Master of Clifford Duell Lodge #756, Past High Priest of Phoenix #2 RAM, Past Illustrious Master of Fayetteville #27 R&SM, and Past Commander of Palestine #20 KT. He was awarded the Knight of York Cross of Honor for his service to the York Rite Bodies.

A Templar memorial service will be held on April 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Fayetteville Masonic Center.

This will be a public event to be held immediately after Palestine Commandery’s regular stated meeting.

In Memoriam: Michael Lee Gould, KYCH



April 10, 1959 - February 4, 2022

Important Reminders:

March 2, March 5: Greensboro York Rite Festival, Greensboro Masonic Temple

March 7: Order of the Temple, Salisbury #13, Salisbury Masonic Temple, Salisbury, NC

March 12: Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, Ft. Wayne, IN

March 19: Capitular Degrees, Phoenix #2 RAM, Fayetteville Masonic Center, 8:00 AM, Lunch Served

March 25-26: District 8 Festival, North Wilkesboro Lodge #407 (25th), Hickory Masonic Temple (26th)

March 30: Order of the Temple, Wilkes Commandery #40, North Wilkesboro Lodge #407

April 17: Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia

April 17, 1:15PM: NC Grand Commandery laying of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery