

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO  
State News for March, 2022  
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>  
SK George Edmiston III, KCT, REGC



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Greetings Sir Knights!

In February, in addition to several commandery visits, Pam and I had the great pleasure of attending commandery inspections at Cincinnati Commandery No. 3, Warren Commandery No. 39, Findlay Commandery No. 49, and Pilgrim Commandery No. 55. My home commandery being Warren Commandery No. 39, it was particularly special to be able to attend. One of our traditions in Ohio is that the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander is the Inspecting Officer for the home Commandery of the Grand Commander and this year was no exception. For me personally it was a very special day and sincerely appreciate the friendships and support from the Sir Knights and Ladies from my home Division.



The image to the right is Sir Knight Perry E. Coxson III and me. Sir Knight Coxson is the Eminent Grand Warder this year and also served as the Herald of Ohio Priory No. 18. In the picture he is prepared to give the Prechamber Lecture before the conferral of the Order of Temple. Below is a photo of some of the Sir Knights that stuck around after the meeting for a quick photo. Men like this is what our fraternity is all about! It was a great honor to be with these Sir Knights and I will always treasure the memory of this special day.



With the coming of March, we are halfway through the inspection season for the commanderies of Ohio. It is almost overwhelming to see the enthusiasm and excitement of our Sir Knights and Ladies as we cross paths in our travels. There have been 96 new members knighted in Ohio so far. Grand Master's One Day Classes are scheduled in the 25 Masonic Districts across Ohio on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and several York Rite Festivals are planned around the state in April and May.

On Friday, March 11, 2022 the Grand Commandery Officers will travel to the East Central Department Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In previous years this has also been a time where the Emerging Leaders Training would take place which has been very popular among the Sir Knights of Ohio who want to better develop their leadership knowledge and skills. Unfortunately, this year the Emerging Leaders Program has been cancelled due to a Special Conclave called as a result of a Call to Conclave to discuss some raised concerns. As is traditional, on Friday evening we will go to dinner and then return to the conference center for a Grand Officer's Meeting. On Saturday morning we will attend the East Central Department Conference, break for lunch, and then attend the Special Conclave of the Grand Encampment in the afternoon. Saturday evening, we will also attend a formal banquet

The Grand Commandery of Ohio has reserved a block of rooms at the Embassy Suites in Old Town Alexandria for Easter weekend. The hotel is located at 1900 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 and is a couple of minutes from the George Washington Masonic Memorial and just a couple of blocks from King Street. The main block is available Friday through Sunday, but you may reserve a room for an earlier arrival for this rate if rooms are available. In addition to the reduced room rate we will receive complimentary Wi-Fi, a reduced overnight parking rate per car, complimentary "Full American Breakfast (cooked to order)", and an Evening Reception Daily. Please make your reservations now to take advantage of this arrangement and let me know if you have any questions. Rooms can be reserved using the following two options:

- Call the reservations center at 800-362-2779 and reference group code GCO
- Book online at: <https://book.passkey.com/go/GCOhio>

We are planning to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 1:15 PM on Saturday, April 16, 2022, located in Arlington Cemetery as well as the Easter Sunrise Service Sunday morning at George Washington Masonic Memorial. This year we will march from the parking lot instead of up Shooter's Hill to allow for anyone who would not be able to make it up the hill to be able to participate.

There are plans being developed for several York Rite Festivals across Ohio. The scheduled festivals I have received information on so far are as follows. The West Central Division is hosting a Festival February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup> at Dayton. The East Central Division will be May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Columbus. The Northwestern Division will be on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Findlay. The North Central Division will be May 21<sup>st</sup> at Canton. The Northeastern Division will be May 28<sup>th</sup> at Warren. I have been invited and have agreed to personally preside in the Order of the Temple at the Northwestern, North Central, and Northeast Division York Rite Festivals.

Lady Pam and I wish you all safe travels and hope to see you in our travels!

Sincerely and fraternally,

*George Edmiston III, KCT*

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Ohio