

# The Florida Knight

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Right Eminent Grand Commander 2021  
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## **State Editor**

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Greetings Sir Knights,

May is upon us. It seems like just yesterday that it was May 2021. This year has flown by and I feel that even though a lot has been accomplished, there is still a lot that needs to be done. It has been a distinct honor to serve this Grand Commandery as the 129th Grand Commander. When I first started this path, it was a little overwhelming. I wondered if I had what it takes to fill the same shoes my predecessors had walked in. With help from many, and a lot of study, I found that it wasn't necessary to fill those shoes and try to live up to those that came before. It was more important that I found my own path, walking it with a fresh pair of shoes, and setting standards that I could live up to. I am proud to have been able to serve with the Sir Knights of Florida. Your hard work and dedication to the craft have made this year a very enjoyable one. I applaud the Commanders of 2021 for setting your goals and following them. I also wish to commend the Commanders of 2022 for the work done thus far and look forward to you accomplishing your goals as well. I also wish to thank the Grand Line Officers, District Deputies, and District Instructors for working with the Constituent Commanderies, getting to know the Sir Knights, finding out what they and their Commanderies need assistance with and being there to serve to the best of your ability.

The Grand Convention is fast approaching, and will start, for many, on Sunday, May 15th with the Divine Service and Banquet thereafter. The Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery will be on Monday, May 16th. There is quite a bit of information that will be discussed and I hope to see many of the Sir Knights attending. Just remember that the work doesn't stop there. The Grand Commandery will have new leadership, but the work will continue. Please continue to give your support to the incoming Grand Commandery Officers, let them know if you need help, and show the world that Templary in Florida is alive and well.

There are many festivals and events already planned or being planned for the remainder of this year and some starting to be planned for upcoming years. I hope to see many of our Blue Lodge Brethren that have yet to start their journey in the Chapter, Council and Commandery, come looking for more light. We have the information and we have the ability to communicate it to them. We just need to take that first step and approach them. Some will turn it down due to personal reasons, time constraints with family or work, or other reasons. But do not give up hope. They may not be able to start now, but they may be able to later down the road. If there are Lodges in your Districts that don't have much of a York Rite presence, visit with the Brothers there and offer your assistance to them to let them know that you are there for them, regardless of their membership. Sometimes this alone can inspire new membership.

Reaching out to the inactive membership should be just as important as gaining new members. Ask them if they need any help, reestablish the fellowship that they may be missing. If we haven't reached out to them, those that have been inactive for quite a while, may feel that we don't value them the same as we did when we first introduced them to the York Rite. If that is the case, then we should do what we can to correct that error. These Brethren are just as important to us now as they were when they started. Let them know that.

I personally feel that service should be the first and last thing in our minds. We are here in this life and on this earth to serve God, our families, and each other. Help each other, give guidance freely to those that ask it, praise others in public, and admonish in private. Always remember that even though we may not all agree on things, that at the end of the day we are all Brothers. Treat each other with respect and dignity. Others views are just as important to them as yours are to you.

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve and represent you this year. I look forward to serving with the incoming Grand Commander to help him accomplish his goals, as well as continuing to serve the craft for many years to assist you in all your endeavors.

Courteously yours in Christ,

Adam M. Bryan  
Right Eminent Grand Commander  
2021-2022

# Current Events in Florida

Thank you for allowing me to serve and represent you for another wonderful year. Work and life in general have a way of taking up a considerable amount of our time, time management and prioritizing are two things I'm better understanding this year.

Managing our time affords us the luxury of accomplishing that which we must do while still having time for what we want to do. Memorizing lectures has oddly enough become the easiest way for me to manage time. Something about letting go of everything else and concentrating on just one thing, even if only for 15 minutes, has brought about the ability to better organize the rest of my tasks and set forth towards accomplishing them successfully. It helps bring about a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment that transfers into the rest of my life, I certainly never thought Masonry in general would have such a profound effect.

Prioritizing has been a bit more challenging. As a people pleaser, it is even more difficult, but possible. Weighing the cost of putting something off against it already being done is actually simple, I don't want to worry about it tomorrow, so I'll just get it done now. Digging for the drive to do so comes from the satisfaction of managing time as stated above, I have the time to do what needs be done and what I want to do. Learning that a sense of accomplishment and the lack of worry were the rewards was kind of amusing, all part of growing up.

This is my fourth year as Editor for the State Newsletter and I have to admit it has been and will continue to be a fun time. From James T. Mason, Ron Parks, Brett Gordon, Adam Bryan and now on to our esteemed Sir Knight, Sheldon Arpad, I'll enjoy communicating the Grand Commander's word each month. I can only hope you find as much enjoyment reading these as I gain from typing them!

Fraternally,

Gary R. Roane  
State Editor

