

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for November, 2022
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
SK Dale A, Olson, KCT, REGC



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Greetings!

Sir Knights and ladies of Ohio. Lady Diana and I are humbled to have been elected to serve you during the coming Templar year. We look forward to traveling the state and to meeting as many of you as we possibly can. In our Grand Officers meeting I reminded each of the officers that we work to serve you. I want no misconceptions that you, the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery do not honor us with your trust and confidence by electing us. You, Sir Knights, hold the power to place us in these positions and I, as well as the rest of the Grand Commandery officers are charged to never forget that fact. I appreciate your confidence in me, and I will do my best to live up to your trust.

The journey from Grand Standard Bearer to Grand Commander has been long and filled with exciting highs and crushing lows. During this journey, Lady Diana and I have made incredible friends that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. We have also endured news that will affect every aspect of our lives and dictate our actions and affect our decisions as we move forward. None of us can hope to escape hardship in our lives and we press on and simply try to do the best that we can.

I have chosen my theme for the coming year to be "Soar Aloft" after a phrase from the Order of the Temple ritual. I have very quickly discovered that while "Soar Aloft" may be my theme, my unofficial motto is going to be "Semper Gumby" (Always Flexible). In my first few days as Grand Commander I have issued multiple dispensations, approved multiple changes to the inspection schedule, written and submitted my Christmas message (I was not ready for that) and I am preparing for the incredible honor of presenting a 70-year plaque to a Sir Knight! If the rest of the Templar year is going to be as frenetic as the first twelve days have been then I plan on being a very busy man.

As we embark on this new Templar year, I am very encouraged by the progress made by my predecessor, SK George Edmiston, REPGC. SK Edmiston and Lady Pam had an incredible year and they have indeed set the bar high for me to follow. The tremendous influx in membership and improvements in the relationship with our Masonic youth groups will continue to serve our Grand Commandery for many years to come. My hope is that we can continue to build on the success of REPGC Edmiston and possibly even expand on the impressive success that he enjoyed.

In 1675, Sir Isaac Newton stated in a letter to Robert Hooke, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants". No sentiment could more aptly convey the gratitude that I have for many of the Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Ohio. I would never be able to hope to serve in the capacity of Grand Commander without the advice and support of so many "Giants" who have preceded me.

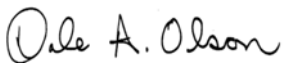
While the accomplishments of my successors have been spectacular, their efforts will all be in vain if we do not support and improve upon their programs. We cannot be content to rest upon our laurels and instead must continue to move ahead and build upon the successes of the past. Stagnation and complacency are our biggest enemies as we move forward into the coming Templar year.

The Greek essayist Plutarch stated that "The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled". Our successes of the past will continue to grow only if we continue to provide the fuel to kindle them. We must continue to strengthen our relationships with and support of our Masonic Youth organizations. In addition, we must embrace the successes that each Division has had with it's York Rite Festivals and one-day classes.

I have requested and received monies allocated to each Division in support of these on-going membership programs. In addition, I am making a personal donation to each Division to use as they see fit. I strongly encourage each Division to continue these outstanding programs which were instituted last year and to try to build upon their success.

As I stated earlier, I have chosen, as my theme, for this coming year, "SOAR ALOFT" but as with any initiative the success of my program depends entirely upon the cooperation and acceptance of the Sir Knights and Ladies of the Grand Commandery of Ohio. I ask each of you to embrace the concept of Soar Aloft and make the effort to go above and beyond in our dealing with each other as friends, fraters, and knights. My pledge to each of you is that I will try to be the most effective Grand Commander that I can possibly be. I will serve you to the best of my abilities and I will try every day to earn your respect and to validate the faith that you have instilled in me. May God bless and watch over us all in our upcoming journey..

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale A. Olson".

Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Ohio