



# GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LOUISIANA



Knight Templar State News  
October 2022



Commander: REGC Charles Bertrand  
Website: <https://www.yorkritela.org>

## **GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**To: The Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand and Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Louisiana**

We have a new Commandery opening in Houma, LA. Disciples Commandry #31. Any Knight Templar who would like to affiliate please contact Freddie Touchet PC  
[fj2chet@comcast.net](mailto:fj2chet@comcast.net)

South Central was held at Sam's Town, Shreveport, LA. September 16-17, 2022. We had 28 attend and represent Louisiana. I would like to thank all that attended, helped, and participated.

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights for helping to achieve the goals that the Grand Commandry is trying to achieve. I know that some of you are and have been saying that I am repeating the same things every month in my newsletter.

I hope that lets you understand that I feel these things are very important.

We need to continue to work on:

1. Membership – Recruit, Restore, Retain
2. MMS Roster – Communication for Retention (emails, phone numbers, and addresses)
3. Building an excel spreadsheet that has a list of all Knight Templars listed with contact information - next is a list of all those who were Sir Knights we might Restore
4. 100% Knight Templar Eye Foundation \$3300 dollars to go 200% \$31,560 participation goals

5. Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund to underwrite annual ordained minister pilgrimages so any commandery may be successful with their nomination
6. Educational Programs every month – Again, Retention
7. Festivals – Fun and Recruitment

PGC Keith Gates established the Holy land Pilgrimage medal endowment fund as an integral part of our completely new Constitution approved in 2019. We need to promote that endowment fund so that we can build our foundation that helps send an ordained minister to the holy land every year. We have established a method to make small recurring credit card payments with Sir Knight Scotty Adams [S2HScotty@gmail.com](mailto:S2HScotty@gmail.com) , Sir Knight Wilson Cook [wilsoncook@icloud.com](mailto:wilsoncook@icloud.com), and the Monroe Valley to make monthly credit card payments until you reach \$1,000. We also have other ways that a Sir Knight can achieve the medal with monthly payments. If interested please contact the Grand Recorder or your Local Recorder. Our goal is for at least 10% of all Sir Knights wearing this medal at the Grand Conclave next year.

Disciples Commandry #31, Houma, LA. will have a two-day Festival on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter and Council Degrees on November 12<sup>th</sup> with the Commandery orders on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Unity Lodge 1029 Bayou Black Dr., Houma, LA. – Freddie Touchet PC [fj2chet@comcast.net](mailto:fj2chet@comcast.net)

If you are a Facebook member or you have friends that are, please have them like our page. We are now at 1960. I would like to reach 5000 this year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lagrandyorkritebodies/>

The Monthly New Letter will be adding a Bio of the elected Line Officers October will profile our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander John C. Sharlow

## **Fellowship**

To my brothers and Sir Knights,

I hope this letter finds you well and happy. I have been asked to share my thoughts with you on the direction of the order. I am writing this article, after attending the South Central Department Conference which was a great success. One thing was different this year, all attendees who registered received a name badge. It was great to be able to call a brother by his name that I only see once every year or two. This brings me to my thoughts on the upcoming year.

*Fellowship* is the life blood of our fraternity; it will make or break your commandry. Fellowship with your brothers keep members involved and without fellowship, in and out of the lodge, we will not prosper. Fellowship with non-masons will build masons over time. I would like to challenge you to get out of your Commandries and get involved in the community. Do not make a new charity or program, local communities have many nonprofits and charities already established. For example, Shreveport has over 2,000 nonprofits and many churches. Nonprofits and churches carry out good work in their community and have men who show up to help and work. These are the type of men we are looking for in masonry, men that set an example for the next generation of future leaders. As you become involved, realize that this will take time – connecting with others is more than a one-year commitment.

There are many ways to become engaged in the community. Get involved in your church youth group to mentor the young men and women, join a community nonprofit, volunteer at a local school, etc. Talk about masonry with good men so they realize we

exist. Have a meal with your brothers in a restaurant, wear your masonic shirt and pins in public, place masonic badges on your car, etc. Men cannot join an organization they do not know exists. Inform men that they must ask to join; it is no longer common knowledge that a man must ask a mason to join. I have a friend that came to a 'bring a friend' meeting for three years and never asked to join. At the third one, we stated that you must ask to join, instead of saying that you must petition the lodge to join. He then realized he had to ask and joined immediately.

All of this to say, I challenge you to go into the community as a group and talk to non-masons and set the example they want to follow. Be the man that inspired you to join to the next five men you meet. If each one of us, brings in five masons over our masonic career, we will not have to worry about the next generation of members. Building membership is a time commitment to give of yourself for the good of masonry. I hope to see you at the next event and in the upcoming year.

Fraternally,  
John C Sharlow  
Very Eminent Grand Deputy Commander  
Grand Commandry of the State of Louisiana

Always remember to put on the Armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Onward Christian Soldiers  
Charles Bertrand  
Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar  
Of the State of Louisiana

“Chivalry, Christianity, Templary – A Way of Life”



**I am sending this out to each Knight Templar in the state of Louisiana. I hope to encourage you to attend your next Commandery meeting. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way. My phone # is 985-860-9308.**