

# The Hoosier Templar

A publication of the Grand Commandery, KT, of Indiana



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### *Grand Officers' Monthly Column*

# A Year in the Life of a Grand Commandery Officer

**By SK Dominic J. Hamblin**  
**Grand Senior Warden**

This article will give insight to the life of a Grand Commandery Officer.

Each Grand Commandery year begins with the annual Knights Templar Conclave at the location desired by the outgoing Grand Commander. This event is held during the last weekend of April. During the Conclave, we discuss recommendations, consider and vote on legislation, and elect or appoint new Grand Commandery Officers, Deputy Battalion Commanders, and Aides. These include Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Warder, and Grand Sentinel. With the exception of the Grand and Deputy Grand Commanders, each of these men is named Battalion Commander over one of the 10 Battalions to aid, assist and oversee the subordinate Commanderies within his battalion. Because of their liaison duties they are probably the most visible, and they are assisted by Deputy Battalion Commanders to help keep ideas and information flowing both ways.

The remaining Grand Officers include Grand Prelate, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Recorder, plus appointments such as Grand Marshal, Grand Photographer, and Grand Organist. They, too, may be very visible throughout the Templar year, although their primary duties involve their technical specialties.

Once Officers, Deputies, and Aides are selected, all are installed in their offices, taking an obligation to uphold the laws and regulations of the Indiana Grand Commandery. After the New Grand Commander is installed, we begin discussions on the upcoming year and agenda. Some of these discussions include the current status of the Indiana Templary, and how we can be of service to different philanthropies in Indiana.

After that annual Conclave, there are many things Grand Commandery Officers do throughout the year to keep our Indiana Templary strong.

In May, the newly appointed Grand Commandery Officers attend the local Commanderies throughout the new Battalions where they have been appointed as Battalion Commanders to introduce themselves and their Deputies in the Commanderies they will serve. During these meetings, we discuss ritual, fundraising events, and member retention to strengthen and encourage our Indiana Commandery fraters. We also use these meetings to set dates for inspection and receptions for the year. Additionally, we are proud to be able to be represented at Grand Lodge each year.

In June, our youth Grand meetings begin with Rainbow Girls and Job's daughters. The Assemblies and conclaves continue into July with DeMolay. We are proud to be able to attend our youth Grand events, often being able to form arches of steel for the Grand heads of the body.

In July, we begin to travel throughout the East Central Department, by attending out of State Conclaves. As grand commandery officers we are highly encouraged to attend East Central Department conclaves. The East Central Department consists of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky. These meetings are held once a month between July and October. In July, we also have the State of Indiana Grand Commandery summer meeting. During the meeting, reports are given regarding the current status of the commanderies throughout the state. We discuss ways to improve if needed.

The month of August usually finds us at our family picnic. The family of the Grand Commandery officers, as well as any other members, use this time to get together for bonding, fun, and games while enjoying fellowship.

In the fall, we continue to travel the state participating in different receptions such as the Indiana Grand Master's Reception, and represent Grand Commandery at York Rite, and Scottish Rite events.

December brings the Christmas party where members' family and friends come together to enjoy each other's time while celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As the new year turns, we begin planning to attend the Newby-Avery-Vaught Banquet, held in honor of the Indiana Past Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. These men are not only our Past Grand Commanders, but they have also served as the Grand Master of Grand Encampment. This Banquet is intended to raise money for the permanent fund securing our fiscal future as an organization.

March offers a time of fellowship and learning at the East Central Department conference. The various heads of the East Central Grand bodies discuss the current status of their individual states and how the year has been from the previous Conclave. The East Central Department Commander coordinates this meeting. We have been fortunate this meeting has been held in Indiana for the past several years, and we have the honor to hold the 2023 meeting in Indiana again. As always, it is highly recommended that all Grand Commandery Officers of the East Central Department attend this meeting along with their Deputies and Knights. Our Grand Encampment officers- M.E. Grand Master, R.E. Deputy Grand Master, R.E. Grand Generalissimo, and R.E. Grand Captain General also try to attend, blessing us with their presence and wisdom at this meeting. Discussions about the status of commandery throughout the world are interesting and informative. We also learn about the new developments in the Eye Foundation, and the status of the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

As we close out the year, approaching April is time for another fun and significant activity on the Easter bus trip! As Grand officers, we are encouraged to represent our state at the East Coast Easter observance held on the steps of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Easter morning. Of course, we stop along the way to District of Columbia for fun activities and sightseeing specifically picked by each Grand Commander.

Finally, we end our year at Conclave. Time for the next officers to be selected, who will continue to keep our great Indiana Grand Commandery traditions and duties strong.

Please visit our website for more information at <http://www.indianaknightstemplar.com/index.php>

## *Scenes from the 2022 Grand Commandery Family Picnic*



*Photos courtesy of  
SK Tony Peterson*

# The Duties of your Grand Prelate

**SK Archie R Smallwood KCT, PGC**

Grand Prelate

Sir Knights about the State of Indiana greetings from the Grand Prelate who would strive to give to you the insight of just what we do.

It is our job to give Spiritual guidance and to show the world about us just what we believe in. First, we believe in God the father and His Son Jesus Christ who is the Captain of our Salvation. We as those who have gone before us travel the roads of life trying to help, aid, and assist our Brothers and Sisters who are in need. We look to our beginning as a Mason and then we proceed to be Cryptic Masons, and finally we have come to our present stage of being a Knight Templar. Through all these bodies we are taught just what it means to be a better person. We have learned that giving of yourself to others makes you a better person inside yourself, thus allowing you to be able to help others in need.

You see when you look at being a Knight Templar you can see just how we, contributing all our knowledge, and using this knowledge can make us not only a better person, but assist others in becoming the same when they see how we are.

But Knights be observant and not let our kindness and helpfulness slip. We must take on the mantle of understanding of ourselves so we can help our fellow men and fellow women, a purity of heart that our Savior taught us while here on earth, and then when He left, He sent us another comforter to give us hope for a better place to be in heaven.

My job is to tell you of the King of all Kings, the Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ. This is something that can sustain us with mercy and grace through this life, but the glory to come when we to shall meet Him in heaven.

As of late I hear and see that many of my friends are gone on to their reward and I am still here by the grace of God. You may ask why is that? The answer is there is a greater plan from God and only He knows just what that is. I pray that you will consider giving of yourselves to God, and through His beloved Son Jesus Christ your dedication, life, and soul so that one day you to may see Him face to face in heaven. To have that peace on earth that comes with service to God, and by His Holy word understanding that we owe everything we have to Him.

I would profess my Love, and my Dedication to God the Father, and the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Ghost which is the comforter Jesus sent for us all to allow us this wonderful life not only here, but in the time to come when we shall leave this earthly body and with our Spirit enter into that house not made with hands eternal in heaven.

Knights and Fraters, my Prayer is with you and for you, that you may receive that which was promised by those who have gone before us.

While here on earth support those things which mean the most to you, your God, your Savior, and your Holy Ghost. As the New Testament teaches us Love for one another. Remember, Love your neighbor as yourself.