

## State of Maryland September supplement - Knights Templar Magazine 2022

Well, this weekend signals the end of Summer and the beginning of fall. I wish each of you a very pleasant Labor Day weekend. Kandi and I are ending the summer in Northern Vermont and enjoying lovely weather in the mountains just minutes from the Canadian Border. We traveled to Lake Champlain and stopped to get some photos of the Grand Lodge of Vermont in Burlington. We live in an incredible country. We really enjoy traveling and visiting new places in America. Plenty yet to see.

I will reprise parts of last month's message as we have a number of events coming up that I hope to have many of you participate in. I'll curtail the message a bit, for further information you can refer to the full message containing details by checking the archived articles in the magazine. Go to the Grand Encampment website home page. On the right side is photo of the magazine and below it is a line for State supplement archives- STATE NEWS PDF's 2018-0222.

Once again I will ask you to refer to the Maryland York Rite website to keep track of upcoming Events under the EVENTS section of the Grand Commandery. We are trying to use the website for updates and current information. - [yorkritemaryland.org](http://yorkritemaryland.org)

Your Grand Commandery is gearing up for a very busy fall. Note on your calendars that the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September (17-18) is the annual Friend to Friend memorial service put on in Gettysburg by the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. The service is to commemorate an occasion that is near to the hearts of all Masons as it remembers an actual event on the battlefield where an officer serving on one side of the conflict came to the aid of an officer on the opposing force- both were Masons. This event is once again this year being held not at the Cemetery but at a near by hotel. See more on the Events section.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> a Lodge/York Rite Festive Board will be held at Pentalpha Lodge #194 with the Lodge and Montgomery York Rite co-hosting this event. Information can be found on the 'Compass points' page of the Grand Lodge where we have a flyer posted or by following Pentalpha Lodge or Montgomery Commandery on Facebook. Most Worshipful Grand Master Marlin Mills will be our Guest of Honor and we will be treated to a talk by Brother Brent Morris who will tell us a story about Cryptography which is one of his special practices.

The following day on September 23<sup>rd</sup> we join the Commanderies from several States for the Mid Atlantic Department Conference hosted by the Grand Encampment and by Department Commander James Steele. The Grand Line Officers are required to attend but others are welcome. I am sending a message out to the Constituent Commanderies of Maryland suggesting that some of our members attend the York Rite Leadership Program that is always included with the Department Conference. I have attended this worthy and enlightening program myself and I can tell you it is an eye opener for a force of volunteers. If you or someone you know that is headed into the leadership ranks of any Masonic Organization, but

more particularly that of the Commandery/York Rite Bodies, have a look. You can access the Leadership program at [-yorkriteleadership.org](http://-yorkriteleadership.org). More information on the Department Conference which is held each year at the Crystal City Hilton in Arlington Va. can be found at Grand Encampment website- [knightstemplar.org](http://knightstemplar.org)

We will be preparing for the York Rite Grand Sessions coming up in October (28-29<sup>th</sup>) which will be held again this year at the Dunes Hotel in Ocean City. If you are an officer of a York Rite body or an interested member, the event is open to all. The Chapter, Council, and Commandery each hold a meeting and Installation of new officers. We'll have a banquet on Friday featuring some of the award presentations as well as the main Banquet on Saturday celebrating the Outgoing and newly installed officers of the York Rite bodies. There will be a lady's luncheon/ event on Saturday which is free and should be lots of fun for the women in our lives.

Information and registration information can be found at - [yorkritemaryland.org](http://yorkritemaryland.org).

I am also informed that Monumental Crusade Commandery #3 plans to confer a full form Order of Malta ceremony some time in November. Stay tuned for more on that. I have never participated or seen anything other than the short form and I can't wait to see how this one goes. We should be filing up the Gothic room at the Grand Lodge for this so pay attention.

Another Reminder that in February we will be participating in events around the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Rededication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria Virginia. The events are on and around February 20<sup>th</sup>. Again, keep track on the Events section of the Grand Commandery in the York Rite Website.

Everyone have a great Holiday and we'll see you in Lodge or in a Templar Conclave soon!

God Bless you each.

In His Service,

John H. Austin, REGC