

Grand Commandery of New York

February News



S.K. David R. Barkstedt
Grand Commander

S.K. David J. Passalugo, Editor

1055 Waverly Dr., Hewitt, TX 76643

dpassalugo@gmail.com, (716) 830-7693

Faith

Greetings Sir Knights,

Our Annual Zoomposium was held on January 21st, 2023, with 54 Knights from all over the state and some from other Grand Commanderies. The agenda included the following topics:

Zone and Deputy Zone Commanders—Duties, Responsibilities, Obligations, Attendance, Quarterly Reports, Inspection duties, process/tactics, forms and reporting. Uniform standards, Dispensations, Constitutions, Regulations. Types of activities ZC's should be promoting/participating in for their Zone, Holiday Observances, parades, Honor Guards, Templar funerals, Commandery installations, etc., Chain of Command for handling problems in a Zone.

Recorders—Annual Returns, MMS system, forms, Recorders' access.

Grand Line Officers and all Sir Knights—Duties, Responsibilities, Obligations, Commitments (attendance) and Costs. Grand Line Officers website access and forms. Inspection duties, process/tactics, forms and reporting.

Zone Advisors—Duties ,Membership Toolbox ,Charities.

So, if you missed this event, it was recorded. Make plans and save the date for next year on January 20, 2024.

Continuing the opening theme for the year "Faith". "God's word says that we are saved by grace. "It's through Faith in Christ Jesus and not by our own efforts or works." Ephesian 2:8-9.

We are not saved by good works, but we are saved for good works. Those different prepositions make all the difference in the world. Good Works are evidence of salvation, not the cause of it. If there are no works or change of life to follow salvation, then it should be questioned whether the person/Sir Knight is truly saved.

What are the good works of our Grand Commandery and our Constituent Commanderies? There are many. Here's another example, but first let's recap the suggested good works starting from the beginning of the Grand Commandery year and General Order No.1:

October's Good Works for a Knight Templar and his Constituent Commandery is to gather information about his Commandery by researching old Commandery journals, minute books and submit a paragraph or two to SK Ron Brown REPGC, our Grand Commandery's Historian as soon as possible. The 3rd book of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York will be completed this year and available for sale at the 2023 Annual Conclave. We need your help. Two Volumes have already been written and published. The history of Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, State of New York 1814-2013 Volume 1 and Biographies of Grand Commanders, Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, State of New York 1814-2014 Volume 2.

November's Good Works for a Knight Templar and his Constituent Commandery is taken out of General Order 1—"Care-" As Knights Templar we are bound to give to poor and weary pilgrims, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted." We need to take better care of our Sir Knights and their families by sending get well or sympathy cards and/or a personal phone call. That is the least we can do and we can and should do more.

December's Good Works—"Charity " Knight Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF). Our Mission to improve vision through research, education and supporting access to care. (Commandery Challenge for all Knights in a Commandery to be 100% Life Sponsors; \$30 donation to KTEF onetime fee). The bigger goal is to have all the Knights in the State of New York Life Sponsors to the KTEF.

January 2023—"Good Works"—Tactic & Sword Manual. This is a good time of the year to go back to basics. Opening/ Closing and the Sword Manual should be our normal work. The Tactic and Sword Manual prepares us to be better Knights. All Officers of each Commandery are expected to attend every Commandery Conclave. No Commandery can be expected to do ritual work if they cannot open in full form. A animated video is being developed for every Commandery so you have a visual aide in the opening. Remember, everything is in the Tactics Book—you just have to read it. Ritual (One of the greatest hallmarks that sets the Masonic Fraternity, especially Knights Templar, apart from all other fraternal or civic organizations is our Knights Templar Orders (Ritual)—especially when the Knights Templar Orders are conducted with precision and dedication. Remember, everything is in the plain English Ritual Book—you just have to read it.

February Good Works – Consider promoting and donating to our other Knights Templar Charities; Scholarships for Children and Grand Children of Knights Templar State of New York, Holy Land Pilgrimage and St. Bernard's Priory.

If you are not getting emails twice a month from Grand Commandry please email Harry Williams harry.williams@marist.edu with you name, email and Commandery Name and No. and you will be placed on the Mailing list.

"It's not something we do-it's something we are."

Upcoming Events

March 18, St George's Pilgrimage, Zone 4, Scotia, NY (Details to follow).

April 9 GEKT, Easter Sunrise Observance, Arlington , VA (All Knights can attend—see Grand Encampment website).

June 3, Zone 3 Pilgrimage , Saugerties, NY

Courteously with Faith

S.K. Dave Barkstedt, R.E.G.C.

dave@eliteconsultantsinc.com

Grand Prelate's Corner

“First Peter 2:9 says that you have been chosen by God Himself. People may overlook you. They may reject you. But that’s okay—the One who matters most chooses and accepts you—and you aren’t randomly chosen either. God, on purpose, looked at you and said, “I choose him; He’s my son. I choose her; she’s my daughter. That’s who I want on my team.” The devil may tell you that you’re not good enough, but God says you are His masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10).

Maybe you’ve been told you’re too small or too big. God says, “You’re just the right size for me.” Have you ever felt you’re not talented enough or have nothing to offer? God says, “You are fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). No matter what you’ve thought or what people have said, the truth remains—you are talented, creative, and intelligent. You are amazing. You just have to believe it. Whenever you feel that sting of rejection, instead of getting down on yourself and losing your sense of value, say, “Yes, I am disappointed, and yes, this hurts. I’m not going to sink into self-pity or start thinking something is wrong with me. I know the One who matters the most. The One who controls the universe has handpicked me.

No, I might not have been chosen by the coach, the boss, or a friend, but I am chosen by the Most High God. He has plans for me that are good and not evil, plans to give me a future and a hope.” When you start seeing yourself as handpicked by God—valued, loved, created with purpose—your attitude will change. When it does, your life will change too. You don’t have to worry about getting even for all the wrong that’s been done to you. I’m sure you’ve had your fair share of hurt and disappointment, but God promises that He will pay you back double for your former shame (Isaiah 61:7). He’ll make the rest of your life twice as good as it would have been if all that had not happened to you. You’ve got to dig your heels in, though. You have to refuse to allow what somebody did or didn’t do to steal your destiny or cause you to go through life feeling inferior.

Your value does not come from people or accomplishments; it comes from your Creator. So put your shoulders back. Hold your head up high and live with confidence. God will take what was meant for your harm and use it for your advantage (Genesis 50:20). Trust Him. He is faithful!. Amen. [*Victorious Living; Stepping Forward by Trish Hunter*]

