

GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for February 2023

Web Site



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Grand Commanders Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

On March 18, 2023 the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma will hold its annual Work and Tactics meeting at Norman Commandery No. 38 (1700 N. Porter Ave, Norman), in conjunction with the Central Oklahoma Regional Commandery Festival. The meeting will begin immediately after the Order of the Temple, the Order of the Temple will begin at approximately 1:00 PM.

The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each constituent Commandery are required to attend the Work and Tactics meeting. If any of the above officers cannot attend, they **MUST** notify the Eminent Grand Recorder in writing (email). The Eminent Grand Recorder will forward the notification to the Right Eminent Grand Commander and Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander. The Eminent Grand Recorder will then notify the requesting officer if their request for an excused absence has been approved. If approved, the Eminent Grand Recorder will stress that the other two officers must attend.

The Work and Tactics Committee oversees this meeting and will provide instruction on the Order of the Temple and the tactics of this Grand Commandery. All Commanderies shall be inspected on the functions and ceremonies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma. An inspection will include

the following: The Full Form Opening, Reception of the Grand Commander, Conferring of the Order of the Temple, and Closing.

If there are any questions, please submit them beforehand to the Work and Tactics Committee Chairman Sir Knight Larry White, KTCH at lwhite@ionet.net so that answers can be researched and discussed.

I look forward to visiting with everyone at the Work and Tactics meeting.

In His Service,
James R. Taylor, Jr.
R.: E.: Grand Commander



GRAND WARDERS MESSAGE

Brethren, we once again look forward to our annual Grand Sessions to take place April 27-29, 2023 at the Hilton Garden Inn and Champion Convention Center, 801 S. Meridian in Oklahoma City. The registration form and information should be posted on the Oklahoma York Rite Bodies website <https://okyorkrite.org> as early as the second week of February. As in the past, there will be a printable copy of the registration form should you choose to use it, but the online submission process is recommended. We are using a different online payment system this year, hoping to avoid some of the problems we have experienced in the past. You will notice that some of the costs, especially related to the banquets, have increased. We have tried to keep those costs down but the price of food has increased and such increases are generally beyond our control.

Beyond that, when you consider attending the Grand Sessions, the question really is: Why meet every year? Why not a biennial or triennial session? Is it simply because our bylaws require it, because the term of elected officers is one year, or a number of other regulatory reasons? No, I would suggest it is because any organization, especially one such as ours, needs that personal contact and communication that can only be truly accomplished by a gathering together of brothers to share ideas and break bread - whether it be Brothers, Companions, or

Sir Knights - bound by the same common ideals and beliefs. In many cases, this may be one of the few, or perhaps the only, times to renew old friendships or make new ones.

Brethren, Masonry in general is experiencing a decline in active membership and York Rite Masonry is no different. We need the active involvement of all of our members in order to find the best and brightest among the large pool of prospective members - and your help is needed. That reason alone is a good one for attending our Grand Sessions. We hope you will make the effort and fellowship with us in Oklahoma City this coming April.

God bless you and your family, brethren and countrymen.

Fraternally,

Jay Wall, Emminent Grant Warder



GRAND PRELATES MESSAGE

We often think of Valentine's Day as the day for couples to show their love to one another, but rarely do we use the day to remind us of God's unmatched love for us, His children. For many single people, Valentine's Day can be a bitter reminder of their singleness and desire for a relationship. Luckily, God doesn't leave anyone, single or in a relationship, out of His unending love and grace.

In 1 John 4:8, the author says, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

God is love itself. We wouldn't have any conception of "love" at all if it weren't for God, the definition of love.

God further defines love in the classic 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 passage that reads, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” God describes love in this way, and then tells us that He is love. This further emphasizes that God himself is all of these things.

God is patient and kind. He keeps no record of wrongs. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. God’s love is a perfect love that no one on earth could ever emulate.

We often read this 1 Corinthians passage near Valentine’s Day or at weddings to remind us what love should look like, but God is the perfect demonstration of it. John 3:16 says, “for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

He gave up His only son for us. He gave us eternal life because of His great and unmatched love for each of us.

The theologian C.S. Lewis once said, “He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less.”

God loves you so much. If you were the only one on earth He still would have sent His son for you.

So this Valentine’s Day, remember to set your sights not on earthy relationships, but on the God above who loves far more fully and abundantly than we could ever imagine.

Excellent Grand Prelate
Steven Cox