

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF MINNESOTA

July 2023

editor: Sir Knight Scott Giannone



Sir Knight Alan Mackenzie, KTCH

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota

The 158th Grand Conclave, held on June 24th, 2023, was filled with camaraderie, insightful reports, and recognition of exemplary individuals within the esteemed Order of Knights Templar. Let's delve into some of the notable moments and awards presented during this memorable convocation.

Recognition and Remembrance:

The conclave commenced with an introduction of the distinguished Grand officers and esteemed visiting dignitaries. Sir Knight William Hubbard retired as Right Eminent Grand Organist, he was thanked and commended for his many years of service. As a mark of respect, a moment of silence was observed to honor the memory of Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Sir Knight Kenneth Hill and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Sir Knight Stanley Morrill, whose contributions to the Order will forever be cherished.

Commanderies in Attendance:

A roll call of the officers was conducted, affirming the presence of the dedicated brethren who faithfully serve their respective commandries. It was heartening to note that 13 out of the 15 existing Commandries were present, reflecting the unity and commitment within the Order.

Reports and Speeches:

Right Eminent (Past) Grand Commander David Dumonceaux delivered an insightful speech on the theme of identity, emphasizing the values and principles that define the Order of Knights Templar. His words resonated with the audience, inspiring them to embrace their noble heritage and continue their unwavering dedication to Freemasonry. Other rousing speeches were presented by: Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Jeffrey Nelson, Right Eminent North Central Department Grand Commander David M. Dryer, and Sir Knight Robert Davis.

Special Awards:

The Ralph Kirk Civic and Patriotic Activities Award, an honor celebrating outstanding civic engagement, was bestowed upon Zion Commandery for their remarkable contributions to their community. Additionally, (Past) Grand Prelate Reverend Ryan Stout was recognized with the Knight Templar Cross of Honor award, acknowledging his exceptional service and commitment to the ideals of the Order.

Exciting Announcements:

Sir Knight Jim Luchsinger enticed the audience with an exciting announcement about the upcoming York Rite Emissary program. This program aims to empower individual Companions to serve as advocates for the York Rite, promoting its teachings and fostering a greater sense of involvement within individual Lodges. Similar to the Scottish Rite double eagles, this program will be distinct in its approach, encouraging members to embrace the Mark Master degree and further enrich their Masonic journey. Furthermore, next year's Grand York Rite Session will be June 27th, 28th, & 29th at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud.

Conclusion:

The 158th Grand Conclave was a resounding success, serving as a testament to the enduring spirit of Freemasonry and the commitment of Knights Templar to uphold its noble traditions. Through inspiring speeches, well-deserved recognition, and the announcement of new initiatives, the conclave invigorated the brethren, reaffirming their dedication to the Order's principles. As the journey continues, the spirit of camaraderie and pursuit of Masonic enlightenment remain strong within the hearts of Knights Templar.

The election of Grand Officers:

- Right Eminent Grand Commander - Sir Knight Alan Mackenzie
- Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander - Sir Knight Jerry E Zierdt
- Eminent Grand Generalissimo - Sir Knight Marvin W. Schendel
- Eminent Grand Captain General - Sir Knight Clinton Christensen
- Eminent Grand Senior Warden - Sir Knight James Henderson
- Eminent Grand Junior Warden - Sir Knight Philip Bodle
- Eminent Grand Treasurer - Sir Knight Michael Hillgert
- Eminent Grand Recorder - Sir Knight Brian K. Dimatteo, Past Grand Commander
- Eminent Grand Prelate - Sir Knight James Helmes
- Eminent Grand Standard Bearer - Sir Knight John Helcl
- Eminent Grand Sword Bearer - Sir Knight Scott Wood
- Eminent Grand Warder - Sir Knight Joel Porter
- Eminent Grand Sentinel - Sir Knight Tony Heimer
- Eminent Grand Guards - Sir Knight James Giacherio, Sir Knight Scott Giannone, Sir Knight Edward Gerwill, Sir Knight Aaron Boltjes
- Eminent Grand Organist - Sir Knight Justin Brown