



## Grand Commander



**Brandon Penley**

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### **We Need Your Help!**

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✦ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✦ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

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## Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope you have all had a wonderful month. Your Grand Commandery officers, along with the Grand Chapter and Grand Council officers, visited Hickory on June 14 for the district meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> district and Asheville on June 20 for the 9<sup>th</sup> district meeting. I want to thank the Sir Knights of Hickory and Asheville for hosting us. The district meetings have been well attended and I would like to thank all who were able to attend.

I had the privilege of installing the officers of the Charlotte Chapter DeMolay International on Saturday June 10 in Monroe. I want to congratulate the newly installed officers of the Charlotte Chapter DeMolay International. I would also like to thank the officers for the invitation to be one of the installing officers; it was truly an honor for me to be invited to participate in your installation.

I want to thank Ms. Alana Bridges, the Grand Worth Advisor for 2022-2023 of the Grand Assembly of North Carolina International Order of the Rainbow for girls for the invitation to speak at the Grand Assembly on June 26. I am honored to have been invited to speak. I want to congratulate Alana and all the grand officers for their successful year. I also want to congratulate the newly installed grand officers for 2023-2024.

I want to encourage Sir Knights to continue to support these youth orders. They are the future of our great fraternity. I want to remind all Sir Knights of the upcoming Summer Assembly in Maggie Valley July 9 through July 11. I hope to see you all in attendance for this great event. I would also encourage you to let your Grand Commandery officers know of any

upcoming festivals, events, or Christmas Observances that you may already know the dates for, so that we may try to get the events on our calendars as soon as possible.

I want to take a moment to talk about the upcoming Independence Day holiday. This holiday is a federal holiday in the United States. This holiday is meant to be a remembrance and celebration of the Declaration of Independence ratified by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence was authored by the committee of five John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. While it was prepared by the committee of five Thomas Jefferson was the primary writer. The committee worked on the Declaration from June 11, 1776, to July 5, 1776, when the Declaration was officially published and sent to the thirteen colonies. I hope you each remember and celebrate the men who wrote the Declaration of Independence and the day it was ratified.

I also hope you remember that while independence was declared by the United States two hundred and forty-seven years ago, it has not been easy to keep that independence. The United States has had to continually be on guard, and even fight at times, to protect and preserve that independence. I hope you all have a safe and happy Independence Day, and that you remember to be thankful for the Declaration of Independence signed so many years ago.

May God Bless you all.

Fraternally in Christ,

Brandon Penley

Grand Commander

**Hickory York Rite Bodies hosts 8<sup>th</sup> District's Meeting**

**Hickory** – The Companions and Sir Knights of the Hickory York Rite bodies welcomed MEGHP Will Highsmith, MIGM Billy Poteat, and REGC Brandon Penley, along with numerous Past Grand and currently serving Grand Officers and Companion/Sir Knights. The meeting followed a delicious dinner, and a good time was had by all.



Grand officers, Past Grand Officers, and members from across the state gathered at the Hickory Masonic Lodge to share meal and fellowship.

**Wilkes Commandery #40 Welcomes New Sir Knights**

**North Wilkesboro** – Wilkes Commandery #40 conferred the Order of the Temple on three new Sir Knights on June 19. Our new Sir Knights are Keith Huffman (Mt. Pleasant #573), Allen Byrd (Traphill #485), and Adam Rhyne (Snow Lodge #363).



Welcome new Sir Knights Keith Huffman, Allen Byrd, and Adam Rhyne

**Salisbury York Rite Hosting Table Council**

**Salisbury** – The Salisbury York Rite bodies are once again hosting a Table Council on Monday, August 7, 2023 (the first Monday in August) at the Fulton/Andrew Jackson Masonic Temple in Salisbury NC. This is a FREE, that's right FREE, prime rib dinner, with all the fixings to be served starting at 6:00PM.

All that's required to attend is you must bring a minimum of one roll of quarters and let Sam Henline know you are attending so we can have enough food. There will be a raffle for a Mossberg pump shotgun

after the meal and also multiple door prizes drawn. All the "fines" (the purpose of the roll of quarters) will be collected and divided among the several York Rite charities.

RSVP to SK Sam Henline at: [sam.henline4262@gmail.com](mailto:sam.henline4262@gmail.com)

or IM on Facebook (the sooner the better). If you have never attended our Table Council, ask around. It is the event of the year...and remember IT'S FREE!!!

*This article was contributed by SK Sam Henline, of Salisbury #13*



**86<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons**

**Maggie Valley** – The Grand York Rite bodies of North Carolina have finalized plans and programs for the 2023 Summer Assembly in the Great Smoky Mountains. The festivities begin on Saturday, July 9, and conclude Tuesday, July 12.

Sir Knight Mark Alexander will be organizing a whitewater rafting trip early morning on Sunday July 9. For details, contact him at (336) 984-9980, or [cenobile13@hotmail.com](mailto:cenobile13@hotmail.com).

This year, we are proud to be hosting as our special guest, Clifton Truman Daniels, the oldest grandson of President Harry S. Truman, who is Honorary Chairman of the Truman Library Institute, Secretary of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, writer & lecturer on the Truman presidency, and currently portraying his grandfather in the stage show, *Give 'Em Hell Harry*.

Registration and full information on events can be found on the Summer Assembly website at <https://mwsite.org/sites/ncgssa>.

**Important Reminders:**

**July 8-11:** 2023 Summer Assembly in the Great Smoky Mountains.

**July 12:** Greensboro York Rite ice cream social, 3:00pm at Whitestone, free admission.