

The Florida Knight

S.K. Rusty M. Ludlam

Right Eminent Grand Commander 2023-24

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State Editor

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To the Sir Knights of Florida,

I am both honored and humbled that you have elected me to be your Grand Commander for this 2023-2024 Chivalric year. I will do my very best to serve the Sir Knights of Florida! While I am not by any means an accomplished writer or lecturer, I am one that is willing to work in the trenches and serve this Grand Commandery.

I do not have a theme for this year, but I do want more communication between the officers, DD'S, and DP's. I am going to attempt to personally visit each Commandery this year. Membership is still a priority and we have to continue to turn this trend around. I know we had 128 knightings during the past year. I am asking each Commandery to assign a membership chairman and reinstitute their Blue Lodge representatives. If we aren't in our Lodges how are we going to increase our membership?

We have two very great charities; the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Holy Land Pilgrimage, and I am asking all Knights to stand behind our charities. One of my goals is that reach 100% in life sponsorships. This should be easy to accomplish. I would also like to see at least 10 new Grand Commander's Club commitments and 10 new Grand Master's members. We had a good year with the Holy Land Pilgrimage program. We sent 4 ministers to the Holy Land and we should be proud of increasing the number sent. I would like to see each district send a minister to the Holy Land, but my goal is to increase our number by a minimum of 4 and send 8 this coming year. If the Commandery needs some financial assistance PLEASE contact Chairman Ron Parks for information. If we are frequently attending Church this should not be a concern.

I also want to see more involvement in the participation of Ramsdale and Carr competitions this year. You don't know what you can accomplish until you put forth the effort and try. Take pride in your Commanderies. I know during the upcoming summer months some will go dark. I would encourage you to continue to practice the floor work for the opening.

I look forward to working with my counterparts, ME Henry Adams and MI Thomas Olsen. Thank you for working with me this upcoming year.

Yours Faithfully in Christ,

S.K. Rusty M. Ludlam

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