



Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of West Virginia

June 2023

To all sir knights,

Greetings. I am greatly honored and deeply humbled by being elected to serve as your grand commander for the next year.

I have a lot of people to thank. To my family and friends for supporting me as I began this journey, my heart felt thanks. To past grand commander Paul Davis for appointing me as inspector general. To past grand commander Johnny Sluss for appointing me to line to replace Sir Knight Richard Riddle. Also, to past grand commanders Archie Bennett and Steve Wilson for their support and words of wisdom. I can't forget my good friend and brother past grand commander Vince Perry, who has encouraged me and pushed me at times to take that extra step.

By now, most of you have seen or heard General Order Number 1. This year is a return to basics. I am stressing the need for each commandery to learn the ritual. We can accomplish this by holding full form openings and by attending the schools of instruction. I want to see the officers of each division able to perform the ritual themselves.

Secondly, I encourage all sir knights to recruit new members. If we want to succeed and grow, we need new members. Please do not wait until inspection time to look for and initiate new candidates.

We have begun holding festivals throughout the year for the sake of making new sir knights. Let's continue to hold these festivals. We cannot forget the sir knights who have fallen by the way due to nonpayment.

Talk with these sir knights and encourage them to return.

I am encouraging all sir knights to become lifetime sponsors of the eye foundation. I have seen the miraculous accomplishment of the eye research grants which our great body donates to research.

I hope to attend all inspections throughout the year and will be traveling around the state to visit as many commanderies as possible.

Let's work together and make the coming year a banner for all of West Virginia.

May the God of peace and love delight to dwell with and bless each sir knight in this grand jurisdiction.

Sam Krafft

Right Eminent Grand Commander