

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO

State News for March, 2023

Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>

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BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH (or not)

Greetings Sir Knights,

As we transition from February into March, we also enter the third month of our inspection season. To date, we have administered 36 inspections. This puts us at 57% of our commanderies having been inspected. Not all of the inspected commanderies have completed their inspections. Some will need to perform either the Order of the Temple, the Full Form Opening or both because the Eminent Commander did not preside during the inspection. Arrangements are being made with the affected commanderies to have either the OOT or FFO observed prior to the end of the Templar year.

If you are the Eminent Commander of a commandery that still has an inspection coming up, I want to make you aware of a change to the order of work on inspection day. As you may or may not know, I have instituted a policy that candidates may not observe or participate in the FFO unless they are a member in good standing. This is in direct compliance with the **CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**. According to the code:

JURISDICTION AND POWER Section 3

The full form opening is part of the Ritual. The Ritual is all secret work. It is not to be exemplified in the presence of anyone who is not a Knight Templar in good standing. No Grand Commandery is authorized to permit any of the ritualistic work to be exemplified except in the secrecy of the asylum. (1937, p 42 & 346, No. 3, Norris)

In order to provide each candidate with the maximum impact of the ceremonies by allowing them to witness the Full Form Opening, I am asking each Eminent Commander to change the order of the work. I am asking each of you to perform the Order of the Temple prior to the Full Form Opening in order that the candidate can observe the FFO in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand Encampment. I realize that this may be an inconvenience for some of you. I should have simply issued this policy as a directive when I asked you to submit your requested inspection dates last year. This is one of a myriad of things that fell through the cracks during my preparation to become Grand Commander. I appreciate your flexibility in this matter, and I offer you my sincere apologies for disrupting your inspection day schedules.

Overall, I am happy with the performance during the inspections. I have personally inspected four commanderies so far and I have been pleased with not only the quality of the work but also the attendance and the support that the divisions are providing to their commanderies. Please continue to travel and support the commanderies on their inspection days.

In addition to another twelve inspections scheduled in March, we also have the upcoming East Central Department Conference scheduled for March 11th at the Hilton, Ft. Wayne, Grand Convention Center. I am asking as many of the Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders and especially the DC's and DDC's as possible to attend. York Rite Leadership Training will be conducted during the conference. If you are planning to attend this training, you must make sure the program administrator has you enrolled to attend. More information on the leadership training is available at the following link: <https://yorkriteleadership.org>.

I have made a dinner reservation at O'Reilly's Irish Pub, located at 301 West Jefferson Blvd. It is right across the street from the hotel and convention center, and it is the same place that we have met on Friday afternoon for the past few years. The restaurant does not normally take reservations, but the General Manager and staff have been gracious enough to accommodate my request for a party of up to 40. The reservation is for 5:00 pm. I would like to have as many SK's and Ladies as possible attend. I look forward to seeing you all there. Thank you!

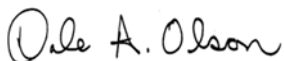
Following the dinner on Friday night, we will have a Grand Officers meeting in the Jefferson "A" room of the hotel. I have yet to decide on a time. However, I believe we will begin at either 7:00 or 7:30. I will make that decision and pass it along to the Grand Officers prior to the conference. The Grand Officers meeting will last approximately an hour and will be followed immediately by a meeting for the DC's and DDC's. SK Dave Howe, DDC-SW will make a presentation outlining the modified Grand Warders Report that has been implemented at every inspection in both the SW and NW Divisions for the past two months. Following this training session for the DC's and DDC's, I plan to have this new form distributed to every division as well as posted on the Grand Commandery website. I will ask each division to implement the new form on a voluntary basis for the remainder of the inspection season. Use is not mandatory, but I feel that it is an excellent form and I want to offer each division the option of using it moving forward. We will discuss this subject more at the East Central Department Conference.

As we move into March, I want to remind you of our stated membership goals once again. I am asking each commandery to knight at least three new members. In addition, I am asking each commandery to aggressively pursue the goal of reinstating two members. I understand that this requires a lot of work, but we need to remain focused on membership in multiple facets, not just in acquiring new members but in reinstating those Sir Knights who have left our ranks for whatever reason.

I would like to take a few minutes and address the subject of awards. I am asking each Eminent Commander to be sure to submit one deserving Sir Knight from your commandery for the Meritorious Service Award. The MSA form is located on the Grand Commandery website, and it only takes a few minutes to submit. Please do not wait until your term as the EC is about to end. Submit these forms soon in order that these deserving Sir Knights can receive the recognition that they deserve. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sir Knights, we were the beneficiaries of a very docile February as far as the weather was concerned. Almost all of us had good weather when traveling to and from inspections and other functions. While I pray that we will have placid weather in March, I also ask each of you to not become complacent and not let your guard down where travel planning is concerned. Please keep your eyes on the long-range weather forecast and leave yourselves plenty of time to reach your destination safely. If the weather prevents you from reaching your destination safely then do not go! If you are an inspecting officer and need to find a replacement for your inspection, please call me and I will take care of it. NOTHING that we do is worth risking injury to you or your ladies. I hope to see as many of you as possible at East Central and during inspections in March. Take care, be safe and God Bless you all.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Ohio