



# Grand Commandery Knights Templar North Dakota



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**State News for January 2024**



SK Mark Gauslow, R.E. Grand Commander

**York Rite is alive and well in North Dakota!**

**We are moving forward slowly, healing up after the pandemic.**

**We have lost some from covid, and some of our older Sir Knights have not been back to Lodge.**

**We are growing with new members joining our ranks!**

Some highlights since our Grand Sessions last July in Fargo. Several of us ND Sir Knights traveled to Huron SD for their Grand Sessions September 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Zach Steele, Jesse Stephan, Leo Rognlin, and me. It is always fun to be with likeminded SK's, share fellowship and catch up with friends. Many dignitaries from around the country were there, and their messages were inspirational! I especially liked David D. Goodwin Past Grand Master Knights Templar for the United States. He commented that he had to every States's Grand Sessions except South Dakota. What knowledge and experience this Past Grand master has!

The next weekend September 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> we had our Big 5 or {5 pack} in Carrington ND. We brought in 3 new members in all five of our appendage bodies! They are:

1. Knights of the York Cross of Honor – KYCH
2. Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine
3. Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests – HRAKTP
4. York Rite College
5. Knight Mason

It has always been a highlight for me to go to Carrington and see other SKs from around the state and carpool and talk masonry. And make plans for our own Commandries.

Then the last week in October, the 27<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> we had several SKs from ND attend the North Central Regional Conference in Sioux Falls SD. A blizzard in the Western & Central part of ND hit that weekend with over 12 inches of snow with many highway closings. Those SKs had no choice but to stay home. Those that made it were Past Grand Commander George H, Vettel, PGC and current Grand King Zachary A Steele, Grand Illustrious Master Leo A Rognlin, Most Illustrious Deputy Grand Master Jesse J Stephan, and me Mark A Gauslow current Grand Commander of Knights Templar in ND.

Next on 12/12/23 I was invited to St. Aldemar #3 in Grand Forks for their Christmas observance. I was asked to read the Grand Master's Christmas response to the toast given to him and give my own Christmas message. I was also asked to sing Silent Night in Norwegian. It was a wonderful event including supper and fellowship. Grand Forks has the best Masonic building in the state. ND's Grand Master Chad Kainz was there and gave his Christmas message, and a local Pastor who is a SK gave the main Christmas message.

Then on December 12th Auvergne #2 in Fargo had their Christmas observance. First was supper and then the traditional Christmas observance Fargo Commandery usually does, including singing Christmas songs.

Stay tuned for more ND Knights Templar news! Our York Rite festival is still in the planning stages. We are working on getting a new Commandry established in the Western part of ND. Possibly in Williston? Our Grand Sessions is July 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> at the Radison Blu downtown Fargo.

Respectfully Mark A Gauslow REGC of ND Knights Templar.