



Grand Commandery Knights Templar South Dakota



July 2024 News

Jake Smith, Editor
jake3404@yahoo.com



Bruce A. Crisman
Grand Commander

I apologize for the absence of my monthly message. My schedule has been very busy with traveling to sister jurisdictions. I have been living up to my motto, **“Have sword will travel.”**

I was received with great Cornhusker hospitality. We watched with amusement as the Nebraska youth organizations, DeMolay & Jobs Daughters, raised money for Cancer Research with “pie in the face” to the DeMolay Sweetheart & Honor Queen, Grand Commander and NC Department Grand Commander. It is important to note that the number 2 Nebraska State DeMolay Leader has ties to South Dakota. Master Counselor Thomas Parker is the grandson of Sir Knight Robert Holwell.

I crossed the border twice to visit our Companions in Manitoba and Ontario. Past Grand Commander Herb Cook and I had a very enjoyable visit with 1st Principal Jon Romu and Grand Scribe Cliff Harner as well as, the Grand Companions from Manitoba, Alberta & Ontario. Canadian Hospitality was outstanding. They made sure I won the charity raffle drawing and received a

Manitoba York Rite t-shirt. Their connection to Scotland lead to a lesson in quality Scotch Whiskey and the history of different distilleries in Scotland. I found the Sir Knight (Bob McCormick) who told the joke of the 5 McCoy brothers who joined the Army. Since there was a "Real McCoy", Most Excellent Companion Robert McCoy, from British Columbia; he thought it poor judgement to remember the joke.

Past Grand Commander George Bauder, PGC Herb Cook Lady Sue Cook, Lady Jackie and I honored Most Illustrious Grand Master Prince Salvaraj with our visit to his final Grand Council of Ontario Grand Session in Oakville, Ontario. Again, Canadian hospitality was way over the top; M.E. Companion Prince and his lady treated us with dinner at the Keg (steak) Restaurant. We presented him with a certificate and **Jewel of Ish Sodi**. We were able to visit Niagra Falls on the Canadian side with our Ladies. We were able to share the event with companions from New York, Missouri, Michigan, North Carolina, Idaho, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

PGC George Bauder and I recently returned from Iowa Grand Sessions in Honey Creek (Movaria), Iowa. It was a great idea for Iowa to combine their grand sessions. Most impressive was taking part in the Reveille, morning Colors and parade of Beauceants. The cannon blast was not as shocking as last year.

Sir Knights Gary Waack and Red Alspaw and I were able to attend the South Dakota 150th Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge. We were introduced and allowed to speak on York Rite Masonry. Due to the stormy weather, flooding made traveling to and from Yankton a challenge.

I am in the home stretch of my year as Right Eminent Grand Commander. I have four trips on my schedule before our grand session. Minnesota Grand Session is next week in St. Cloud; North Dakota Grand Session in Fargo is the second week of July; Grand Encampment of Knight Templar in Salt Lake, UT the 3rd week of August and Wyoming Grand Commandery in Sheridan is the 2nd weekend of September.

I just received the final report of the 56th Campaign for Knight Templar Eye Foundation. I am happy to report all of the South Dakota Commanderies

except one received certificates of appreciation for supporting KTEF; one for \$5 or more per member and four for \$10 or more per member.

Cyrene Commandery was first in SD with Schrader Commandery a close second. **South Dakota was 26th per capita with all Commanderies.** Congratulations, Fraters, we could not have done this without all hands on deck. Additionally, I have been pursuing getting South Dakota 100% Life Sponsor with KTEF. After this weekend we will be 3 Sir Knights from achieving this goal. Department Grand Commander David Dryer would like to announce South Dakota achieved 100% along with Iowa and North Dakota.

I am encouraged with membership as Cyrene Commandery has 5 candidates working through degrees and orders of York Rite. I plan to attend the Commandery Festival in Sioux Falls on August 24th.

I was impressed with the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. The Pearl Harbor and D-Day veterans are getting fewer and fewer. Let us not forget their sacrifices for our freedom. I recalled participating in the 40th Anniversary, 1984. The aircraft carrier, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) was invited to be present in England and France. As an Ensign and the junior officer in the watch section, I had the duty as the overnight boat officer in Brest, France.

I hope you all have a great summer. In between all these trips I will be putting up hay and seeing patients at the clinic. Have a Great 4th of July.

Fraternally,

REGC Bruce A. Crisman, KCT

Grand Commander Knights Templar of South Dakota