

Wisconsin Forward

Grand Commandary of Wisconsin

gkctwis.org



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July 2024 Greetings Sir Knights of Wisconsin,

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies,

I want to thank you for your confidence in electing me as your 167th Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Wisconsin. The journey for me started this month 32 years ago when I joined the Order of DeMolay at Sir Galahad Chapter in Burlington, WI. I had the pleasure to be a Master Councilor where I received the Past Master Councilor Meritorious Service Award, and I currently am a proud Advisor as well as Deputy Executive Officer.

25 years ago, I joined Burlington Lodge No. 28 enjoyed serving as Master of my Lodge, was able to raise my Father as a Master Mason, and continue to enjoy serving in various roles with our highly active Lodge. 17 years ago, I joined Burlington Chapter No. 91, Burlington Council No. 45, and Burlington Commandery No. 50. I have served as High Priest, Thrice Illustrious Master, Commander, and currently the Secretary/Recorder/Treasurer for our York Rite Family.

Since then, I have had the privilege of serving as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of the State of Wisconsin, Grand Recorder of the Grand Council, Grand Trustee, and President and/or Vice President for the Royal Arch, Cryptic Mason, Education, and Knight Templar Foundations of Wisconsin. The vision always being to advance each of our Bodies and Organizations together by Moving it Forward.

The Road of Service continues to be the best journey of my life. I have been fortunate to join many additional organizations such as Eastern Star, Milwaukee Valley Scottish Rite, and Tripoli Shrine as well as be part of and serve in several appendant bodies. The recognition given to me has always been appreciated; however, the best part of it all is the connections and bonds I have made all over world that continue to tie me as well as drive me within this great Masonic Family.

What is in store for the Grand Commandery this year? I have been in the line for Nine years and a lot has changed since then. There were Eighteen Commandery's in the State of Wisconsin and now just eleven remain. Our Membership continued to shrink, Elected and Appointed Lines were adjusted, a Pandemic changed how we all do business, meet, and even some would argue act to this day. The main point is, now it is time to grow again!

What is needed for growth? It is Education and Connection. First, let us talk about Education. 2024 General Orders 1-8 are posted under General Orders and Forms as well as the Inspection Schedule has been released online at <https://gcktwis.org/>. This year in the Inspection Schedule you will notice I have added 4 School of the Knights this year with a Summer and Winter Version across Wisconsin.

The Summer will be August 10 in Eau Claire and September 14 in Neenah we ask all Sir Knights to register with your Commanderies to attend at 9 am for \$15 which will include Carbs and Lunch to go over the Reception of Grand Officers, Reception of Flag, as well as

Full Form Opening. The Winter will be January 4 in Eau Claire and January 11 in Neenah at 9 am for \$15 which will again include Carbs and Lunch to go over the Order of the Temple as well as Sword Manual.

Our focus is to encourage and educate all Sir Knights as well as to improve the Orders that we perform that set us apart from all Masonry. Now let us talk about Connection. Our Dues continue to go up and what are we doing for our Membership to keep them Connected? As I stated earlier much has changed, but one thing we should do is stay connected and one straightforward way to do this is to have our Local Commandery Host their own Homecoming.

We ask that it does not conflict with any Inspection, and it may be held in conjunction with a Christmas Observance, Easter Observance, or Ascension Observance with a catered meal or potluck dinner. Think outside our building's about holding it at a restaurant, supper club, picnic, or even a dinner show. Invite every member and their lady, and even a prospective future Member that could join your Chapter, Council, as well as Commandery.

If we can Educate and Connect this year I believe we will see growth and this Grand Commandery will only get stronger. As I close I would be remised if I did not speak about gratitude. I hope each of you thinks about your Road to Service and how you got there. Please say a prayer or reach out to those who guided you, mentored you, and continue to assist you on your journey. Please make sure that it does not stop with you, continue to Pay it Forward, and may it become the best reward of all.

Courteously yours,



Shawn P. Noble
Grand Commandery of Wisconsin
Grand Commander



