



Grand Commander



Scottie W. Cox

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We Need Your Help!

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✘ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✘ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

Welcome to August Sir Knights!

The month of August holds significant biblical meaning as a time of harvest and abundance, reflecting God's faithfulness and provision in our lives. Just as the fields are ripe for gathering crops, this month serves as a reminder of the bountiful blessings that God bestows upon His children.

I would like to personally thank all the NC Sir Knights who attended the Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons in Maggie Valley last month. All the Grand Commandery officers were in attendance for the Monday session.

We are truly blessed in North Carolina to have such an engaged leadership for our Grand Commandery. If you have never attended the Summer Assembly, please plan on attending next year. The fellowship and camaraderie you find there is like no other you will experience.

In addition to Summer Assembly, I had the privilege of attending a banquet in Greensboro on July 10 to honor our current Most Excellent Grand High Priest Hugh McLaurin, Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters Kevin Wood and Jeff York and Right Eminent Past Grand Commander Mike Daniels. After a delicious meal, Most Worshipful Grand Master Don Kehler spoke.

Your Grand Officers will be holding two District meetings in August. Monday August 12 we will be in Wilmington for the District 2 meeting. Friday August 16 we will be in Waynesville for the District 9 meeting. Please join us for either of these meetings if you are in the area.

The 69th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the U.S.A. will be held August 17 through

August 21 in Salt Lake City, Utah. I am looking forward to attending and representing all North Carolina Sir Knights.

Fraternally yours,

Scottie W. Cox

Grand Commander

York Rite District Meetings

Salisbury – There are three remaining district meetings on the Grand York Rite calendar. Two will be this month, and one was rescheduled to October.

Dist. No.	Date	District Meeting Location & Times
2	12-AUG	1415 S 17th St., Wilmington , NC 28401 6:00 PM King Solomon's Feast, 7:00 PM meeting
9	16-AUG	435 E Marshall St., Waynesville , NC 28786 (dinner at Dodge City Restaurant , meeting starts at 7:30)
1	21-OCT	1104 Charles St., Greenville , NC 27858 No dinner, 7:30 PM meeting

Great Smoky Mountains Annual Assembly a Great Success

Maggie Valley – The Great Smokies Assembly of York Rite Masons was held July 14-16 in Maggie Valley, NC. Two events were held on Saturday, July 13, a putt-putt tournament and a York Rite Sovereign College degree performed by a team from Kentucky. Ten Masons and their families went whitewater rafting down the Nantahala River Sunday morning and made it back just in time for the annual picnic. This fantastic event had hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixings along with excellent homemade desserts. Over 120 people attended. After the sun went down, some fun degrees were given, the Black Llama, and Whiskey and Cigar.

York Rite Masons met Monday morning to listen to several speakers. PMIGM Russell Bridges moderated the morning schedule. After the introductions of visiting dignitaries, Most Worshipful Grand Master Don Kehler

spoke. Next was the Past Grand Master of Hawaii speaking about the wildfires in Lahaina last year and how this disaster has unified the people of Hawaii. They still need donations to help with the recovery effort. Kevin Otis spoke about several great new programs happening at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. Lastly, Past Grand Master Mac Simmons gave a powerful, personal message about kindness.

Later in the afternoon, everyone convened at the Masonic Marker off the Blue Ridge Parkway. Unfortunately, the marker had been vandalized twice within the past two weeks and new security measures are being introduced. Past Grand Master Speed Hallman gave remarks. The day ended with a banquet at the Maggie Valley Country Club with an excellent meal, entertainment, and fellowship.

Past Grand Master of West Virginia started out Sunday morning reviewing the life of a famous NC judge. After remarks made by the NC Grand York Rite presiding officers, remarks were given by representatives from the General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council, and the Grand Encampment. All attendees had fun, learned some new things, and met new people.

This article was contributed by SK Patrick Terry of Plantagenet #1, who also serves as this year's Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina.

Jamestown, NC. Registration is now open via online Forms registration at the following URL:

<https://forms.gle/pRg7LYNzq7z5T6e2A>

Candidates for the Order must have already received all York Rite degrees and orders through Order of Malta in a recognized Commandery prior to the date of the event. After the conferral, there will be a public knighting ceremony held in the Crystal Ballroom onsite.

Candidates and Guests can register online for the following options:

Option 1: Candidate for the Order of the Temple

- ✦ Must have already received all York Rite degrees and orders through Order of Malta in a recognized Commandery
- ✦ **Fee: \$100** includes certificate and Public Knighting

Option 2: Guests for the Order (non-cast members)

- ✦ Must have already received the Order of the Temple in a recognized Commandery
- ✦ Guests are also welcome to register to be knighted if desired for additional \$35
- ✦ **Fee: \$50** includes certificate

Option 3: Public Knighting Only

- ✦ Must have already received the Order of the Temple in a recognized Commandery
- ✦ **Fee: \$35**

Participation Fees are to be paid in advance by check payable to and sent to:

**Grand Commandery of North Carolina
6328 Surratt Country Rd.
Denton, NC 27239-9080**

Deadline for registration: Monday, September 23

Candidates must arrive in time to check in and report to the Queen's Chamber under the Main Hall by 3:00PM. Families may gather in the Crystal Ballroom and are requested to remain there until the completion of the degree. The public knighting ceremony will proceed immediately following the conferral of the Order.

Fundraiser Begins to Restore the NC York Rite Masonic Marker

Denton – The Grand York Rite of North Carolina has announced a donation drive to help pay for the restoration and future upkeep of the Masonic Marker on the Blue Ridge Parkway that was recently vandalized and suffered extensive damage. Anyone wishing to donate to the fund my send checks payable to the Summer Assembly Fund to:

**Summer Assembly Fund
6328 Surratt Country Rd.
Denton, NC 27239-9080**

The investigation into the vandalization continues. The Blue Ridge Parkway office says anyone with information should contact authorities at 1-800-727-5928.

Grand Commandery Hosts Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough

Jamestown – The Grand Commandery has scheduled a statewide conferral of the Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough for Monday, September 30, starting at 3:30PM. The castle is located at 3925 Kivett Drive in

Important Reminders:

August 5: Salisbury Table Council at the Winston-Salem Masonic Center starting at 6:00PM.

August 22: Durham York Rite Picnic, at University Lodge #408, Chapel Hill, starting at 5:30PM.