



STATE NEWS - September 2024

W. Michael Yount, KTC, Grand Commander

Randall Partin, PGC, Editor (r_partin@att.net)

Web Site: www.yorkriteky.org/grandcommandery

Greetings, Sir Knights

It is with profound honor and humility that I stand before you today as the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky. Our gathering here is not just a testament to our shared commitment to the principles of Freemasonry and to the Order of Knights Templar, but also a celebration of the bonds of brotherhood that unite us. As we embark on this one hundred and seventy eighth Grand Conclave, let us reflect on our past, embrace the present, and look forward to a future filled with promise and purpose.

Last year upon assuming the office of Grand Commander I had laid plans for a successful year. I want to thank everyone who assisted me in all my endeavors. The Outdoor Degree that we held in October at Sir Knight Wilson Wilder's Farm was a great event. Now, although it was colder we would have wanted, the experience of gathering showed the resolution, faith, and dedication of everyone who assembled.

I also had the pleasure to receive notice from the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Inc that on October 16, 2024, the Grand Commandery of Kentucky had reached the level of 100% of our membership holding a Life Sponsor. This was such a great achievement. This effort was first initiated by the efforts of REPGC Larry Carte who started this objective. To SK Greg England, SK Greg Raque and everyone who purchased a commemorate 175th Malta Jewel. Without everyone being united in that project, we would not have completed this goal. My prayer is that we can stay at 100% and this will be a great Memorial to PGC Larry Carte.

I want to thank all who welcomed me last December to the several Christmas Observances that I was able to attend. Celebrating the birth and hearing the messages was truly moving and an experience I will treasure. To everyone who purchased Our Holyland Pilgrimage Ornament, that fundraiser was the vision of our now late Past Grand Commander Larry Carte. I will miss my friend and his leadership.

The 2024 Easter Pilgrimage to Washington DC was an overwhelming success. All the efforts and planning by the Committee made this trip enjoyable for all the attendees. The wreath laying at the tomb of the unknown was such an honor. Now although I was not able to participate, my fellow Sir Knights stepped up and carried out the mission. To all who made this trip a great memory I thank you.

This year in looking at the numbers of our membership, we see some positives and negatives. I will address both, we had Eight Commandery's who achieved a positive increase in membership. Jefferson 52 Knighted 21 new Sir Knights, with Winchester 30 having the highest gain in membership with 14 new Knights a 35% increase. This is just amazing it should be a lesson to all our commandery's that increasing membership is possible. Sixteen Commandery's had a negative decrease in membership with suspensions being the main cause. When we fail to engage, reinvigorate and retain our members we

will never get ahead. Six Commandery's had no gain. Overall, we had a loss of 39 members in our per-capita year.

As we look to the future, we must do so with a sense of optimism and purpose. The challenges we face are significant, but so are the opportunities. By staying true to our principles and embracing the values of our order, we can navigate the complexities of the modern world and continue to make a positive impact.

One of the key areas of focus for the future is the recruitment and retention of our members. The strength of our order lies in its membership, and it is essential that we continue to attract individuals who are committed to our principles and values. By reaching out to potential members, sharing the benefits of Templar membership, and providing meaningful experiences, we can ensure the continued growth and vitality of our Grand Commandery.

In today's world, the role of the Knights Templar is as relevant as ever. We live in a time of great challenges and uncertainties, where the values we hold dear are often under threat. As Templars, we are called to be beacons of light in a world that can sometimes seem dark and chaotic. Our commitment to charity, justice, and brotherly love is needed now more than ever.

One of the greatest joys of being a Knight Templar is the fellowship we share. Our meetings, events, and gatherings are opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals, to share experiences, and to build lasting friendships. The bonds of knighthood that we form are a source of strength and support, and they enrich our lives in countless ways.

As we come together in fellowship, let us also take time to enjoy the finer things in life. Whether it is sharing a cigar and a glass of bourbon, discussing the symbolism of our rituals, or simply enjoying each other's company, these moments of camaraderie are precious. They remind us of the importance of balance in our lives and the need to nurture our relationships with our fellow Sir Knights.

As Masons, we understand the power of symbols to convey deeper truths. The square and compass, the trowel, and the plumb line are not just tools of the trade, but symbols of moral and ethical principles that guide our actions. Similarly, the symbols of the Templar Order serve as reminders of our duty to live virtuous lives, dedicated to the service of God and humanity. Our predecessors laid a strong foundation, guided by the principles of chivalry and the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we honor their legacy, we must also recognize our responsibility to uphold these values and pass them on to future generations.

In conclusion, I am deeply honored to serve as your Grand Commander and to be part of this magnanimous and ancient order. The Knights Templar of Kentucky have a proud history and a bright future, and I am confident that together we can achieve great things. Let us continue to uphold the principles of our order, to support each other in this knighthood, and to make a positive impact in our showing the world what it means to be a Knight Templar.

Thank you, and may God bless each and every one of you.

Godspeed Sir Knights,

W. Michael Yount

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kentucky

Proposal I:

We the Committee on Constitution make the following recommendation for adopting a new section of the Constitution at the Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky to be held on September 16th, 2024.

Add to Section 21 subsection: (D) Ceremonial uniform

In lieu of the regulation Templar uniform, a Constituent Commandery within the Grand Commandery of Kentucky, may provide and use ceremonial robes conforming to and consistent with the historical traditions and practices of Templary.

Submitted by:

SK Greg Raque, PC KTCH

Jefferson Commandery No. 52

SK Barry Eastham, PC, D.C. VIIB

Ashland Commandery No. 28

SK Chris Griffith, PC

Paintsville Commandery No. 48

Proposal II

Be it known that at a stated Conclave of Louisville DeMolay Commandery No 12. A motion was made and passed that the Grand Commandery of Kentucky shall vote to establish the following legislation at the next Grand Conclave.

Add to Section 10 Fees of our Constitution.

Section 10 A - Life Membership KTEF

Being that on October 16, 2023, our Grand Commandery achieved 100% Life Member sponsorship in KTEF. That each Commandery of our Commonwealth after this Grand Conclave, held on September 16, 2024, shall purchase a Life membership in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) for each member (candidates and affiliations) who joins their Commandery. This fee shall be collected at time of application and shall be whatever the KTEF charges for a fee for Life Membership.

Given under our hand and seal of our Commandery.

Attested by:

John Johnson, Recorder

Dr. Thomas Harper, Commander

The proposals were received in a timely manner and were forwarded to the Jurisprudence Committee for review. They will be presented and considered in accordance with the following section of the Constitution.

AMENDMENTS Section 11. The Grand Commandery, upon the concurrence of three-fourths of its members present at any Stated Conclave, as reported by the Committee on Credentials, may revise, amend and alter this Constitution, provided, however, that a written copy of the motion so to revise, amend or alter, shall be filed with the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery at least three months before the day on which the Annual Conclave is to be held at which such motion is to be considered, and a copy thereof shall be inserted in the Notice of the Annual Conclave and presented by the Grand Recorder to the Grand Commandery for consideration, otherwise, no such motion shall be considered; provided also, that if the Grand Recorder fails to give such notice, the proposed amendment may be called up by consent of three-fourths of the members present and acted upon as if said notice had been given; provided further, that with the unanimous consent of the members of the Grand Commandery present, any member may introduce such an amendment which may be considered and acted upon by the Grand Commandery at said Conclave; provided further, that the proposed amendment may be modified in any manner by the Grand Commandery while it is under consideration if such modification is germane to the proposed amendment.



The Grand York Rite Bodies of Kentucky

2024 Grand Sessions

Embassy Suites Lexington/UK Coldstream



1801 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY, US 40511
Grand Sessions Rate \$127 + tax.
859-455-5000 Code: 90E (Nine Zero E)

Room Reservation Deadline August 14, 2024



**Grand Commandery K.T.
Annual Conclave**
Monday September 16, 2024

Registration/Office Opens
7:00 AM
Conclave Opens
9:00 AM
Men's & Ladies Lunches
Noon (\$26.00)
Installation
2:00 PM (tentative)
7:00 PM – KYCH
(Dress – Coat and Tie)



**Grand Council R. & S. M.
Annual Assembly**
Tuesday September 17, 2024

Registration/Office Opens
7:00 AM
Assembly Opens
9:00 AM
Men's & Ladies Lunches
Noon (\$26.00)
Installation
2:00 PM (tentative)
York Rite Banquet
6:30 PM



**Grand Chapter R.A.M.
Annual Convocation**
Wednesday September 18, 2024

Registration/Office Opens
7:00 AM
Convocation Opens
9:00 AM
Men's & Ladies Lunches
Noon (\$26.00)
Installation
2:00 PM (tentative)



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Hospitality Room

<p><i>Sunday 9-15-2024 Noon-4:00 p.m. and after Memorial Service</i></p> <p><i>Hosted by RE Grand Commander W. Michael Yount</i></p>	<p><i>Monday 9-16-2024 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Hosted by MI Grand Master Bernie Kaita</i></p>	<p><i>Tuesday 9-17-2024 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and after Banquet</i></p> <p><i>Hosted by ME Grand High Priest John Johnson</i></p>
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MEMORIAL SERVICE DINNER	YORK RITE BANQUET
<p>Sunday 9-15-2024 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM Memorial Service \$50.00 <i>(Coat and tie)</i></p>	<p>Tuesday 9-17-2024 6:30 PM Doors Open 7:00 PM Meal Served \$50.00 <i>(Formal dress)</i></p>

Registration and the Grand Secretary/Recorder's Office will open at 1:00 pm on Sunday and will open at 7:00 am daily. The office will be open for limited hours during business sessions but will be open as much as possible before and after.



Grand York Rite of Kentucky Sessions 2024

Sunday- September 15, 2024

1:00 p.m.	Office	Bourbon
1:00 p.m.	Registration	Clark
2:00 p.m.	Philalethes Society	Fayette
3:00 p.m.	AMD	Fayette
4:00 p.m.	Past Grand Commanders	Cold Stream 4
6:00 p.m.	Memorial Service Dinner	Cold Stream 1&2
7:00 p.m.	York Rite Memorial Service	Cold Stream 3

Monday- September 16, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Office	Bourbon
7:00 a.m.	Registration	Clark
7:00 a.m.	Deputy Grand Commander's Staff	Fayette
9:00 a.m.	Grand Commandery Convenes	Cold Stream 3
Noon	Commandery Lady's Luncheon	Cold Stream 5
Noon	Sir Knights Lunch	Cold Stream 1
12:45 p.m.	Golgotha/Centurion HRAKTP	TBD
2:00 p.m.	Incoming Officers Pictures	Cold Stream 3
2:30 p.m.	Installation of Officers	Cold Stream 3
3:00 p.m.	Knights Preceptor	Cold Stream 3
4:00 p.m.	Knight Masons	Cold Stream 3
7:00 p.m.	KYCH KY Priory #25 (Coat & Tie)	Cold Stream 3

Tuesday- September 17, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Office	Bourbon
7:00 a.m.	Registration	Clark
7:00 a.m.	Deputy Grand Master's Staff	Fayette
7:30 a.m.	Ish Sodi	Cold Stream 3
9:00 a.m.	Grand Council Convenes	Cold Stream 3
Noon	Council Lady's Luncheon	Cold Stream 5
Noon	Companion's Lunch	Cold Stream 2
1:00 p.m.	Silver Trowel	Fayette
2:30 p.m.	Incoming Officers Pictures	Cold Stream 3
3:00 p.m.	Council Officer Installation	Cold Stream 3
6:30 p.m.	GYR Banquet Introductions	Cold Stream 3
7:00 p.m.	Grand York Rite Banquet (dinner)	Cold Stream 3

Wednesday- September 18, 2024

7:00 a.m.	Office	Bourbon
7:00 a.m.	Registration	Clark
7:00 a.m.	Grand King's Staff	Fayette
7:30 a.m.	Order of High Priesthood	Cold Stream 3
9:00 a.m.	Grand Chapter Convenes	Cold Stream 3
Noon	Chapter Lady's Luncheon	Cold Stream 5
Noon	Men's Fellowship Lunch	Cold Stream 1
1:00 p.m.	Past Grand High Priests	Fayette
1:30 p.m.	Incoming Officers Pictures	Cold Stream 3
2:00 p.m.	Chapter Officer Installation	Cold Stream 3

NOTE: ROOMS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE