



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,

With September comes Labor Day and the end of Summer, both unofficial and official. Labor Day, always observed on the first Monday of September, is the annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of the American worker. Labor Day became an official Federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day is called the unofficial end of Summer, with the official end of Summer being the Autumnal Equinox, which occurs on September 22nd this year.

Your Grand Officers held two (2) District meetings in August. On August 12, we were in Wilmington for the Feast of Solomon and the District #2 meeting. The Feast of Solomon was a very im-pressive ceremony along with a wonderful meal served by the local Order of the Rainbow Girls. August 16 found the officers in Waynesville for the District #9 meeting. I always enjoy going back to Waynesville as it is the site of my first York Rite Honors Day and where I have conferred the Most Excellent Master degree and the Order of Knight of York.



(L-R) VE::DGC.: Michael Hoff, REGC.: Scottie Cox, E.:GG.: Ray Casey, and E.:GCG.: Edward Allen at the 69th Triennial in Salt Lake City, UT.

So, having just returned from Salt Lake City and the 69th Triennial of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A, I thought I would provide you with a recap. First, I would like to thank our Dais officers, SK Michael Hoff, our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, SK Raymond Casey, Jr., our Eminent Grand Generalissimo and SK Edward Allen, our

Eminent Grand Captain General, who were all in attendance at the Triennial. Your commitment and service to the Grand Commandery of NC is very much appreciated by me and all the Sir Knights of NC.



RE::DC.: James B. Steele was received and honored as the Mid-Atlantic Department Commander at the 69th Triennial.

Most Eminent Grand Master David J. Kussman announced that we had 479 Sir Knights registered at the conclave with 698 attendees including Ladies and Guests.

He also stated that the Grand Encampment has over 63,000 members worldwide, but that we sadly lost 7,300 members during the 69th Triennium. However, we are expanding worldwide. Three Charters were up for vote this year, with two of them being approved. Charters were granted to Serbia Commandery #1 and the York Grand Commandery of the United States of Mexico. The Committee has recommended that the Charter for the Grand Commandery of Paraguay not be given at this time, due to questions about their ability to support themselves.

Grand Master Kussman then stated that Section 237(c) of the Constitution provides for a National Award. This is an award which is given by the Grand Encampment at each Triennial Conclave. It is awarded to a person, not necessarily a Knight Templar, who has made an outstanding contribution to our country through civic, professional,

military, scientific, religious, etc., endeavors. The recipient of the National Award for this Triennial Conclave is Dr. Thomas C. Lee, who is the director of the Retina Program in the Vision Center at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Lee has an active research program that focuses on developing new therapies to treat retinopathy of prematurity and retinoblastoma. He has identified a novel class of drugs to accelerate cell death of both retinoblastoma cells and vascular endothelial cells. He also studies the role that retinal stem cells play both in the formation of retinoblastoma tumors as well as replacement of damaged neurons resulting from degenerative retinal diseases. He holds membership in the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, Association of Pediatric Retina Surgeons, and the Ocular Oncology Research Society, and the New York Ophthalmological Society. He received his first research grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Grand Master Kussman announced that the Knight Templar Eye Foundation has assets over \$183,000,000, with grants over \$3,000,000 given last year. Two seats for the KTEF Board of Trustees were up for election. SK David Dryer was re-elected to a seat on the Board and SK Jeremy Vaughn was elected to fill the other seat. The Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., came up for a vote and were approved. As the business for the KTEF was complete, M.Pre.Em.Dist.Bro. Brice B. Hildreth, Governor General of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America, presented a check to the KTEF for \$6000. With the unexpected resignation of SK T. Mark Mickelson from the Permanent Fund Committee, there were two seats up for election. SK Lon Kvasager was elected to fill the three remaining years of SK Michelson’s seat and SK Lee Burleson was elected to fill the full nine year seat.

We had four proposed amendments to consider:

Amendment #1 stated that ‘No Grand Commandery shall hold a Conclave or perform any Templar work on the Thursday, Friday, or Saturday preceding the Grand Encampment Easter Observance’. This amendment failed.

Amendment #2 proposed that ‘A Knight of Malta (candidate for the Order of the Temple) may be present in the asylum and witness the opening of a Commandery prior to his conferral of the Order of the Temple (knighting) on the same date’. This amendment passed, receiving the ¾ vote necessary.

Amendment #3 proposed that a SK who was a member of more than one Commandery would only have to pay the

assessment levied by the Grand Encampment in only one of those Commanderies. This amendment failed.

Amendment #4 proposed to add the following question from p. 76, lines 10-12 (2019 edition) of the Full Form of the Order of Malta to the Short Form of Malta on p. 62, immediately following line 2 and prior to the presentation of the Malta jewel.

Prior: My Brother, do you believe that the Savior died on the Cross for the remission of sin?

Candidate: I do.

This amendment passed.

Also considered for vote was a standing resolution that would provide a letter to the owner of the “Chivalric Fraters” tartan, #13554, authorizing him to re-register it under the new name, “The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America” and to transfer all rights and ownership of said tartan, without cost, to the Grand Encampment. This resolution was adopted.

The final order of business was the election of officers for the 70th Triennial. Below is the list of the elected officers:

- M. E. Grand Master: SK David J. Kussman *
 - R. E. Deputy Grand Master: SK Jeff A. Bolstad
 - R. E. Grand Generalissimo: SK Jack M. Harper, II *
 - R. E. Grand Captain General: SK James C. McGee
 - R. E. Grand Treasurer: SK David W. Studley
 - R. E. Grand Recorder: SK Lawrence E. Tucker *
- (*by acclamation)

Fraternally yours,

Scottie W. Cox

Grand Commander

Salisbury’s Table Council a Great Success

Winston-Salem & Salisbury – On August 5, Salisbury York Rite Bodies held our annual Table Council. This year it was held at the Winston-Salem Masonic Center due to the increased number of Companions. Salisbury Masonic Temple has a rather large fellowship dining area, but the attendance had outgrown the capacity, so Winston-Salem Masonic Center proved to be the ideal venue. The unofficial count was 84 Companions, those in attendance included the South East Region Deputy General Grand Master of the Grand Council Royal and Select Masons, REGC Scottie Cox, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of NC,

MEGHP Hugh McLauren, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of RAM of NC, MIGM Patrick Terry, Illustrious Grand Master of Royal and Select Masters in NC, and several Past Grands.

The meal was absolutely fabulous consisting of prime rib, green beans, and roasted baby potatoes. Two desserts, coffee, tea, and water. The required toasts were performed, and a door prize/ auction of various items was conducted with lively banter between the Companions present. Over \$4,000 was collected for the York Rite Charities, which will continue to rise as outstanding checks are still arriving.



Attendees enjoyed a prime rib dinner and great fun and fellowship at the Salisbury Table Council.

All Companions have expressed how much fun they had at the Table Council, and those who made this their first such event have reported they were making this an event they plan on attending next year. Salisbury York Rite Bodies want to thank all those who attended as they are the ones who made this event such a success. This year was epic, this was attended by the largest group of Companions, the largest amount of funds raised for charity, and the most Out of State dignitaries to attend. Again, we at the Salisbury York Rite bodies want to thank all of our guest for making this year so successful, and invite you to return next year, with the hopes of exceeding this year.



MEPGHP Will Chriscoe, PMIGM Jeff York, and MEPGHP Tom Bridges at the Salisbury Table Council.

May the Almighty shed His blessings on All our Companions wherever so dispersed.

This article, and its accompanying pictures, was contributed by SK Sam Henline of the Salisbury York Rite.

Fundraiser Continues for Restoring the NC York Rite Masonic Marker

Denton – The Grand York Rite of North Carolina has established a donation drive to help pay for the restoration and future upkeep of the Masonic Marker on the Blue Ridge Parkway that was vandalized and suffered extensive damage earlier this year. Anyone wishing to donate to the fund may 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 to Host 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 Jamestown, NC. Registration is now open via online Forms registration at the following URL:

(click the link below to open a new page)
<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.

Charlotte York Rite Raises over \$5000 for York Rite Charities

Charlotte – The Charlotte York Rite Bodies held their 16th annual Barbecue Fundraiser on August 30, at the Metrolina Shrine Club. The cooking started at about 9:30 in the morning on Thursday and finished up Friday by noon for preparation for customers to pick up at 5:00 that afternoon. According to Ron White, Secretary of the Charlotte Bodies, the Sir Knights had a great time hanging out together, swapping stories and assisting “master chef” Gary Kooke in the roasting of a total of 210 Boston Butts, each averaging about 8 pounds. That’s over 1600 pounds of pork goodness!

A local business owner generously purchased a whole pork butt for each of his 140 employees to give as gifts of appreciation in commemoration of Labor Day. Butts were sold as either whole or chopped to the customer’s liking, with a sauce so secret that even the cook no longer knows the recipe! Naturally, it’s vinegar based but that’s all he’ll tell anyone.

The Sir Knights raised over \$8000 in pork butt sales with net proceeds of \$5000 for the York Rite Charities. They plan to do this again next year and every year afterward on the Thursday and Friday immediately preceding the Monday of Labor Day.



Freshly cooked BBQ cooling off waiting to be wrapped to take home and serve their families!

This article, and accompanying picture, was submitted by SK Ron White, Secretary/Recorder of the Charlotte York Rite Bodies.

Important Reminders:

September 4 & 7: Greensboro York Rite Fall Festival, starting at 7:00PM on Wednesday, 8:00AM on Saturday at the Greensboro Masonic Temple.

September 13 & 14: Charlotte and Monroe combined York Rite Fall Festival, starting at 5:00PM on Friday at the Charlotte Temple, 8:00AM on Saturday at the Monroe Temple.

September 21: Palestine #20 public knighting ceremony, starting at 5:00PM at the Fayetteville Masonic Center.

September 23: **Deadline to register** for the Grand Commandery conferral of the Order of the Temple

September 30: Grand Commandery conferral of the Order of the Temple, Castle McCullough in Jamestown, NC.