



STATE NEWS - October 2024

SK Jon Dawson, KTC, Grand Commander

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

Web Site: www.yorkriteky.org/grandcommandery

Sir Knights, it is with the deepest gratitude that I have been elected to serve you during this upcoming year. I assure you that I am looking forward to seeing and working with each of you to move Templar Masonry forward. Together we will make this happen. Communication will be one of the key elements in achieving our goals. As you plan your year (Inspections, Orders, Memorial Service, and Christmas Observance) be sure to let me know and I will make every effort to attend. These events will be in addition to our regular visits.

Courteously,

Jon S. Dawson
Grand Commander

General Order No. 1

Sir Knights, I have several goals and programs I would like to accomplish this year. They are as follows:

School of Instruction

We will be holding five schools of instruction this year and they will be spread across the state. Every effort to hold them in a convenient location within a region will be made. Regions will include Western KY, Eastern KY, Northern KY, South Central, and North Central KY. Dates and locations are still being finalized.

Every Division Commander will be required to attend at least one of these trainings. The School of Instruction is open to all Sir Knights, and we encourage you to attend.

Knight Brotherhood of the Blade

We will be advocating that all Sir Knights strive to become a member of the KBB.

Drill Team – 2.0

The division drill team competition started last year. I have made several adjustments in the inspection sheet. This year the teams will be judged on the opening, rehearsal of duties, inspection of swords, march in review, and forming the triangle. State inspections need to be held by the end of June.

The Drill Team may consist of Sir Knights from one Commandery or multiple Commanderies. In addition to competing in KY we are researching visiting surrounding

Membership

One of the ongoing issues throughout Masonry is membership. It is harder to create new members than it is to retain current members. While we need to do both, I ask, how hard is it to pick up the phone and call a Sir Knight that has not been at a Conclave in a while?

In almost all the Commanderies I have visited over the last couple of years they did not have enough Sir Knights to fill the chairs. I have reviewed the membership numbers, and on paper, even the smallest Commandery had

enough to fill the chairs twice. I'll pick on my home Commandery, Louisville-DeMolay, who have 124 Sir Knights (the largest in the state) and we only have three or four "extra" Sir Knights in attendance. We need to get the "inactive" members back and involved. To quote a past Grand Commander, there must be more to it than having a meal and going to the meeting where you bitch, belch and fart then go home.

Knight Templar Eye Foundation

I have commissioned a Challenge Coin to benefit the KT Eye Foundation. These coins will be sold for \$20 each with 100% of the profits supporting the KTEF. The Division Commanders will be provided with a limited supply, which I will replenish as needed. I'm counting on you Sir Knights to make this a successful program.

Jon S. Dawson

R. E. Grand Commander



Front and back of the Grand Commanders fund raiser coin for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. These are available from the REGC or any of his Officers or Division Commanders for \$20 and proceeds go to the KTEF. A limited number are available, so get one while you can!



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

Proposal I: *Adopted*

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 *Failed*

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 COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF KENTUCKY
Elected Officers 2024-2025



SK Jon Dawson
Grand Commander



SK Rick Sears
Deputy Grand Commander



SK Bruce Von Dwingelo
Grand Generalissimo



SK David Jones
Grand Captain General



Presentation of the Knight Templar Cross of Honor to Sir Knight Bobby Balthis, above, and the Knight Commander of the Temple at the Grand York Rite Banquet below. Top, SK Duane Vaught, past Grand Master, GEKT, left; Sir Knight Jay Kennedy, East Central Department Commander; and right, SK Balthis. Below, L-r RECG SK Michael Yount; SK Kennedy; SK Vaught; Brad Rudolph, Recipient; and speaking Kyle Hardin, Recipient. Congratulations, Sir Knights!

