

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for February, 2025
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
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Sir Knights and Ladies

With January's snow and cold temperatures behind us and February bringing us closer to spring, we can look forward to warmer weather. I want to thank all that braved the cold and snow and attended commandery inspections in January. We successfully completed 18 inspections in January without any major problems caused by the inclement weather. I had planned to visit a couple of commanderies in early January, but Lady Judy's health scare limited our travels for a couple of weeks. Concerning Lady Judy's health, Thank You for all the prayers and concerns by all the Sir Knights and Ladies and Friends. "Thank You" She is improving each day. As per my theme "Christ Gave us Direction" though all of this.

In February, we have 19 Inspections scheduled. I challenge all Sir Knights to attend as many inspections as you possibly can. We are all in agreement that most of our commanderies need help from other Sir Knights on inspection day. Let us show the rest of the Masonic Fraternity how the Sir Knights help each other out. This is something to be proud of.

Lady Judy and I have plans to visit the following Commanderies in February:

February 01	DeMolay No. 9
February 08	Salem No. 42
February 15	Hanselman No. 16
February 22	Willis No 82. I have added Willis to our scheduled visits.

I wish I could visit every commandery's inspection, but with 17 days of inspection and 62 inspections, that is impossible. My thoughts are with every commandery's inspection, no matter if I am there or not. Always remember that no matter who is at your inspection, the Knight of Malta is the most important person to impress.

On January 8, 2025, Burch E. Zehner laid down his sword and working tools and left this earth for a much better place. He was 93. He was Past Grand Commander of the State of Ohio Grand Commandery in 2008. He obtained several distinguished Masonic Titles in his career. He was honored by an Honor Guard at his viewing on January 15, 2025, that was well attended by approximately 30 Sir Knights standing guard. He was laid to rest on January 17, 2025, at Woodland Cemetery. He will be missed by all that had contact with him Rest in Peace My Friend.

Now with the second in the series of History from the 1891 Statutes and Regulations of Ohio. Last month I talked about the Fees for a Candidate which were \$40.00. Since then, I have done some research on the value of \$100 in 1891 versus

the value today due to inflation. The \$100 dollars then is equivalent to \$3440 in 2024. Everyone should think about how cheap our dues are compared to what Sir Knight's Paid in 1891. Just saying.

From the Preface of the 1891 Statutes and Regulations, I found Lancaster Commandery Number 2 and with the information about it as follows: The Second (Lancaster No. 2) had its origin in a petition for their charter by these Sir Knights, Wm. J. Reese and George Sanderson, and presented to the Grand Encampment of the United States on the 9th Day of December and which was issued on the 18th of that same month

The Statutes and Regulations of 1891 has some remarkably interesting information. The book contains Installation Ceremonies for the Grand Officers and local commanderies. Several Forms appear and are remarkably similar to the forms we use today. There is a large section devoted to the Burial Service including 6 pages of songs to be sung in conjunction with the Burial Service. The Sir Knights of that time must have been better singers than we are today.

In Closing, Sir Knights keep up the good work. Try to encourage that Brother sitting next to you in your Blue Lodge to join the **"York Rite Experience."**

Let us not lose sight of my Theme. **Remember "Christ Gives us Direction"** and we will reap the blessing in the end.

Courteously,

Dale A. Exline, KCT

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio