



GRAND COMMANDERY OF NEW MEXICO

State Supplement for April 2025

www.nmyorkrite.org

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James E. Bungard, REGC

Good Sir Knights of the New Mexico Division!

This will be my final New Mexico Supplement. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Grand Commander for the New Mexico Grand Commandery of Knights Templar during the 2024-2025 year. There are so many Sir Knights to thank for all you do! I would like to thank especially REPGC Sky Olsen for keeping me full up and round, squared away, and above the bubble line. Sir Knight Harry Jenkins for all his Honor Guard work, our Grand Prelate, REPGC Adam Hathaway for the spiritual enrichment; and my institutional knowledge “go to guys”; REPGC Dennis Detrow, REPDC Richard Butterfield and my Shipmate, my comrade in arms REPGC Dion Newhouse. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

To my wife Frances as I reflect on this past year as Grand Commander, I know that none of it would have been possible without you by my side. I just want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for you. Your unwavering support, love, patience and encouragement have been my greatest strength through every challenge and every success. You've been my travel companion, my inspiration, and my greatest blessing. You have sacrificed so much, stood by me through long days and tough decisions, and kept me filled with love and encouragement through every challenge. I appreciate you more than words can say. Thank you for everything.

I am pleased that in the upcoming year we have Sir Knights wanting to assume/fill elected positions that we know will voluntarily be vacated this coming Templar year. This is a testimony to the strength of our Order. And I know the Sir Knights of New Mexico will choose wisely those called to lead.

I am pleased with the York Rite festivals we have had over the last several years. We have a great crop of Sir Knights who are eager and anxious to participate. At the last festival, a couple Sir Knights approached me who came back to view the Order as a Sir Knight, having been Knighted at the last Festival. This is encouraging as I believe this is the future of our Order. Let's keep them engaged and excited about what their membership means.

This leads me to believe, and I am pleased to say that we are in a strong position to continue to grow our Order. Traditions prevailing, I wish Sir Knight Hans Schmidt all the best in his tenure as Grand Commander. I know he will do an excellent job, as will Sir Knight Harry Jenkins behind him. I

have the utmost confidence in their abilities. They, with the support of all Sir Knights, will leave our Order in an even stronger position.

Regrets? Yes, there are a few. I regret the closing of Baldwyn Commandery and decline of certain Commanderies in the number of Sir Knights, and that we were not able to slow the decline, often caused by the Angel of Death. I also regret that we have not been able to send anyone to the Holy Land during this tenure because of the situation in that region.

I firmly believe that a focus must be placed on our ritual going forward. If the Sir Knights do not learn and perform the ritual, it will be lost. And without our ritual, the strength of our Order is diminished.

My philosophy this year was to take a businesslike approach to sustain the operations of the Grand Commandery over the last twelve months. As in a commercial enterprise, the Grand Commandery provides products, quality, services, and price to our customers; the Constituent Commanderies throughout the state. Our product is our fellowship, activities, and philanthropies that Templary has to offer. Quality is the value we add to our products or the perceived value by the customer. Service is the support we provide to the Commanderies and the demands we place on the Commanderies. Price of course is the cost in terms of time and money that is required to participate in Templary. The ultimate goal was to trying to improve our customer satisfaction beginning with unbridled communication.

I was hoping we could accomplish was 100% participation in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation Campaign. Although we did not reach 100% participation, we did well in the campaign finishing #45 of all the Grand Commanderies and totaling \$5,700.12 in total contributions.

I would like to recommend that we strive to become a 100% Life Sponsor state. This effort will ensure that we invest our monies wisely. This is a big deal, and should we attain this goal, we should all be very proud of the accomplishment.

Finally, I extend to each of you a very warm welcome would like to invite all Sir Knights to the 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico which will begin on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Our formal activities will take place at the Ballut Abyad Shrine Center, located at 6600 Zuni Road SE, in Albuquerque. The registration link can be found on-line at: nmyorkrite.org under Annual Session.

Prior to the 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico we will convene a meeting of the Past Commander's Association begin at 7:00am.

The 125th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico will convene on Thursday April 10th at 9:00am followed by the reception of distinguished members, guests, and visitors to our Grand Commandery. Lunch will be at 12:00pm. The afternoon session to finish all remaining business will start at 1:00pm. Installation of the Grand Commandery Officers elected and appointed to serve for the ensuing year will take place at 2:00pm.

A Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner will be held Thursday evening at the Ballut Abyad Shrine Center Ballroom, with all the revenues exceeding expenses generated going directly to help send ministers

(subject to conditions in the region) from New Mexico on the trip of a lifetime, to the Holy Land. A Social Hour before dinner will start at 5:00pm followed by dinner at 6:00pm. Appropriate dress for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner is business casual or Commandery uniform.

The Memorial/Vesper Service will start at 4:00pm on Friday evening (just prior to the Social Hour).

In closing, it has been an incredible honor and privilege serving the fine Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of New Mexico. I will still remain active and support all the Sir Knights in the state and within Grand Encampment. I heartily thank you for the trust instilled in me, and look forward to the future of our great Order!

Be well! In service of Christ,

James E. Bungard, REGC