



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,

I want to take a moment to tell you what an honor and privilege it has been to serve this year as your Grand Commander. Since researching the Knights Templar for a school project many years ago, I have been intrigued with this valiant and magnanimous Order. Your Grand Commandery line is very strong, and I feel assured that North Carolina Knights Templary will have energetic and dynamic leadership for years to come.

... continued from February

Where does this passion for the Fraternity come from? In every step of my Masonic journey, I have met brethren who have passion for the Fraternity. Their passion has inspired me to develop my own passion and keep it alive. For me, it started with my Blue Lodge coach and mentor brother Jim Wentz. He not only taught me the catechism, but he also helped me understand the lessons of each of the degrees and how to become a mason and what it means to be such. He had a deep passion for the fraternity that was always evident, but especially evident whenever I would ask him a question about masonry. He introduced me to a couple of masonic books, but the one that continued my passion for the Knights Templar was 'Born in Blood'. Although he was a member of the York and Scottish Rites, his passion was the Blue Lodge and that is where he focused his efforts. As for the catechisms, he was tough. We would go over what I had previously learned and then focus on learning the new. If at any time I left out a word, mispronounced a word or used the wrong word, I would have to start at the beginning.

Think back, who were your Masonic Mentors? Who were the ones who helped guide you through your masonic journey. Now, for the new mason in the Blue Lodge or York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine,

wherever, who is going to be their mentor? Who is going to guide them on their journey, who is going to help them find their passion for the craft? Just as I had masonic mentors, and hopefully all of you, our new brothers coming into the Fraternity need them as well. I know I would not be where I am today without my mentors. I needed guidance, I needed help learning and understanding the lessons of freemasonry and I am blessed to have had the right mentors for me that would walk with me, and sometimes carry me, down the masonic paths I have chosen. I challenge everyone to be that mentor for someone. Freemasonry needs the passion and the diversity that you bring to the Fraternity. Use your passion for the Fraternity to inspire the next generation of Masons to ensure that we have great leadership going forward and they will keep the Fraternity alive and well.

As you know we have two charities we support in the Grand Commandery, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, incorporated in 1956, is a charity sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. The original mission of the Foundation was "to provide assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need for surgical treatment without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex or national origin provided they are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from current government agencies or similar sources and to provide funds for research in curing diseases of the eye." On December 31, 2010, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., by direction of the board, shifted the Foundation's focus and adopted a new mission statement "to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care." Since its inception, the Foundation has expended over \$170 million on research, patient care, and education.

Research grants totaling in excess of \$36 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics.

I am proud to announce to those of you who have not heard, last year North Carolina became the latest state to have 100% participation in the Eye Foundation Life Sponsor program. Each Sir Knight may become a Life Sponsor with a one-time gift of \$30. I want to congratulate you on this achievement and let's strive to keep NC 100%! Just as an update to this program, our Grand Recorder, Allen Surratt, states that due to generous giving, North Carolina is very close to having 200% participation!!!

The Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is program of the Grand Encampment to send credentialed Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and a historical and cultural immersion experience to the Holy Land.

Again, I want to thank you for a great year and the opportunity to serve you as Grand Commander. I would like to leave you with a quote from Albert Pike:

"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal."

Fraternally yours,

Scottie W. Cox

Grand Commander

NC Masonic Foundation Charity Update

Raleigh – The following report was sent to us from George Marut of the NC Masonic Foundation:

Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors from across North Carolina, the nation, and beyond, the North Carolina Masonic Foundation has raised over **\$329,000** for Hurricane Helene relief efforts. To date, we've distributed more than **\$150,000** to assist brothers and families in Western North Carolina impacted by the disaster.

If someone in your lodge has been affected, please share this application with them and encourage them to apply for assistance via the link below.

[NCMF Hurricane Relief Application](#)

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those in need.

Grand York Rite Schedule of Events

Denton – The Grand Secretary has published the schedule of events for the 2025 Grand York Rite, to be held from March 16 – March 18 at the Village Inn Hotel and Event Center, located at 6205 Ramada Drive in Clemmons.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

2:30 PM - Shute Chapel St. Thomas of Acon – IVEY

5:00 PM - Divine Service – LEXINGTON/ MONROE
All are encouraged to attend.

8:00 PM - 9:30 PM - Reception & Ice Cream Social – SALEM/NORTH - Open to all in attendance, FREE

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025

8:30 AM - Opening of Joint Session – Grand Chapter Presiding - LEXINGTON/MONROE

8:45 AM - Reception of Distinguished Guests

9:00 AM - Joint Session

9:45 AM - Break

10:00 AM - Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina - LEXINGTON/ MONROE

12:00 PM (NOON) - MENS LUNCHEON - Ticket Required – NORTH, Sponsored by York Rite Sovereign College

12:00 PM (NOON) - LADIES LUNCHEON - Ticket Required – SALEM

1:00 PM - Grand Chapter Reconvenes (If necessary) - LEXINGTON/MONROE

1:30 PM – Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina Reconvenes – LEXINGTON/ MONROE (Immediately after the recess of Grand Chapter)

3:30 PM - Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina Reconvenes - LEXINGTON/ MONROE (Immediately after the recess of Grand Council)

7:00 PM – ANNUAL BANQUET – Ticket Required – LEXINGTON/ MONROE

9:30 PM – Old Saratoga Degree – IVY

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025

8:30 AM - Grand Commandery Reconvenes (If necessary) – LEXINGTON /MONROE

(If Grand Commandery does not need to Reconvene the Joint Installation of Officers will take place at **9:00 AM**)

10:00 AM - Joint Installation of Officers - LEXINGTON/ MONROE (Open to all)

(MEETING ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)