



THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR STATE OF IOWA ESTABLISHED 1864 2024-2025

MAY 2025



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Sir Knights:

This is a bit of an emotional time for me as my time as your Grand Commander is soon coming to a close. The time has gone by quickly. I wonder what life will bring next.

This past year we lost two Past Grand Commanders and our recent Past Grand Recorder. They will be very much missed. I want to thank Scott Schabacker who assumed the role of Grand Recorder last year, in taking on such a daunting task and doing such great work. It has been a blessing for me to be able to call on you and work with you this past year. We are in very good hands. Also, I would like to thank Past Grand Commander Nate Renner for also assuming the role of Grand Treasurer, and the job you are doing in getting us more modernized in that role. I would also like to single out our Grand Prelate, Ted Boomgarden, for not only taking on that role, but also the huge challenge of converting our website. I know it took countless hours on the phone, and the roadblocks encountered dealing with the vendors and tech support to try and get that done so we could go live. It has given us a fresh new look and the building blocks on which to build upon.

We have had challenges and there will be more ahead, but nothing that we cannot overcome working together. There are a lot of great things going on and Sir Knights are participating in making a difference. A lot that we can all take pride in. We all know the challenges of membership. We have all heard it ad nauseum, and for many years the trend has not been a positive one, but the negative trend is beginning to abate to some degree and that is encouraging.

I look forward to seeing you all, and encourage you to attend our upcoming Grand Conclave and Grand Sessions in Cedar Falls June 4-7, 2025. It is always a good time to see old friends and make some new ones as well. The covid years took a toll and it looks like they are now in the rear-view mirror, and this year, after a several years hiatus, we will be resuming the Commandery Ritual Competition which will be held Saturday morning. So, I do hope you have formed your teams and are ready for friendly competition to see who takes the plaque back to their home Commandery. I would like to thank Past Grand Commander Rusty Hill for his years of service and dedication as "Chairman of the Board of Instruction" in holding regional and state-wide schools of instruction and for getting us back on track with the Competition coming up.

I leave you feeling I have left with unfinished business as I did not accomplish everything I set out to do, go everywhere and visit everyone I wanted to. I imagine that is a common feeling amongst those that came before me, as there is always more to do. But the Grand Commandery of Iowa is in good hands going forward. We have some terrific Sir Knights and leaders coming up in the ranks, and I know we can all expect nothing but great things ahead. I feel very fortunate to be able to be a part in a small way of this, the Masonic family. It is something that is bigger and better than any one of us individually. Let us never forget to take the time to show each other our appreciation of each other and for what we have.

In conclusion, thank you Sir Knights of Iowa for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Commander this past year, and thank you for your dedication and diligence. I would also like to express my deep appreciation for the unconditional support of all the Grand Officers, Division Commanders and Committee men.

This is a **TEAM** effort that works at its best when we work together.

Together Everyone Achieves More

What have we been up to?

3/29/2025 Commandery Orders hosted by Baldwin Commandery No. 11 (Cedar Falls)
Eight (8) new Sir Knights were created. Congratulations to all.



4/11-12/2025 Iowa representatives to the Nebraska York Rite Sessions in Kearney, NE



L-R: Keith Myhre, REGC – Andy Oxley, MEGHP – Monte Harris, MIGM

4/16/2025 Des Moines. The "Swords and Roses" Des Moines York Rite Easter Dinner was a marvelous evening! Attending were 33 Sir Knights and ladies, including MWGM Brown, MEGH Oxley and REGC Myhre. It was a beautiful ceremony and apt tribute to the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior.



4/19/2025 Iowa Wild Hockey Pre-Game. This has been the second time the Sir Knights participated in posting the colors on the ice. This is a great public outreach to show who we are.



Sir Knights Preparing the Color Guard for the Hockey Game.



4/26/2025 Presenting the colors to open the "Grand Masters One Day to Masonry" in Des Moines



Upcoming Dates of Interest

- 4/30/2025 ISB Bank Meeting in Urbandale with Financial Trustees and Executive Committee
- 5/10/2025 Statewide Commandery Orders – Des Moines
- 5/10/2025 First annual “Lords and Ladies Ball” – Des Moines
- 5/11/2025 Mother’s Day
- 5/24/2025 Mason City Bandfest Parade. All Masonic Parade



LORDS & LADIES BALL

MAY 10th 6PM-9PM– Tickets \$40 per person!

Hark! A Royal Invitation Awaits. All York Rite and Blue Lodge Masonic brethren are cordially invited to attend the Lord's & Ladies Ball. An evening of feasting, revelry, and dance in true medieval fashion. Join us for a night of fellowship and celebration, fit for royalty. PayPal Link and QR Code to RSVP!



Attire Options

Lords: Business, Red-Purple-Yellow Blazer, & Templar Uniform

Ladies: Formal or Kirtle Gown

➤ 5:30pm-6pm Social & Gather

➤ 6pm-615pm Introduction & Prayer

➤ 6:15pm-7pm Drinks & Feast

➤ 7pm-7:45pm Knights Dual

➤ 7:45 Dance

➤ Instruction

➤ Music & Social

SCOTTISH RITE CONSISTORY

519 Park Street Des Moines, IA 50309
515-244-6011

<https://iayorkrite.org/>

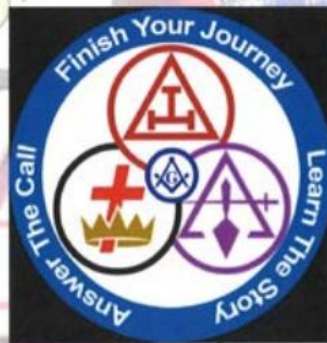
Grand York Rite of Iowa

2025 Sessions – Holiday Inn and Bien Venu – Cedar Falls, IA – June 4-7, 2025
7400 Hudson Road, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613 833-391-1467 (North of Highway 20 on Hudson Rd.)



IOWA YORK RITE

FURTHER LIGHT IN MASONRY



*Why does the Master wear a hat in Lodge?

*Why are there three burning tapers placed in a triangular position around the altar?

*What is a Royal Arch?

*What is the True Word that was lost and how was it found again?

*What does it mean to be a modern-day Christian Knight?

Find the answer to these questions and more in the York Rite of Freemasonry.

Contact any York Rite Brother, Scan the QR Code, or Email
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<https://iayorkrite.org>

Chivalric regards,
Keith A. Myhre, Grand Commander