



Grand Commander



Michael M. Hoff

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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.

Editor: Larry Aydlett
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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

It has been an honor to serve in this position over the past four months. As we close out the month of July and prepare for a busy August, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey thus far.

During my term, I have had the privilege of traveling not only throughout our great state but also to three other Grand Conclaves and the Southeastern Conference, held this year in Georgia. I have been fortunate to be accompanied by our Grand High Priest Rick Patton and Grand Illustrious Master Ted Inman on many of these visits. Together, we have held four successful district meetings and received invitations to several other Grand Body sessions.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend two of these, but I extend my sincere appreciation to V.E. Deputy Grand Commander Ray Casey for representing the North Carolina Grand Commandery at the Grand Rainbow Session in June. I am confident he did an outstanding job.

While July was somewhat lighter in activity, it was still meaningful. We held a district meeting in Fayetteville, where the Council opening was excellently executed. Thank you to the Sir Knights and Companions there for their warm hospitality.

We also enjoyed a wonderful Summer Assembly at Maggie Valley—a more relaxed setting that provided great opportunities for fellowship. If you have not yet attended a Summer Assembly, I encourage you to consider joining us next year. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who worked so hard to make the event a success.

Looking ahead, August promises to be a busy month. Please take note of the following important dates:

- ✘ August 2 – 2025 North Carolina State AMD Ingathering, Winston-Salem
- ✘ August 4 – Table Council by the Salisbury Body, Winston-Salem
- ✘ August 5 – 7th District Meeting, Charlotte
- ✘ August 6 – 6th District Meeting, Greensboro
- ✘ August 6–9 – Annual Conclave, York Rite Sovereign College of North America

To stay updated on events and activities, please refer to the calendar on the NC Grand York Rite College website.

In observance of Templar history, it is worth noting a significant event in August: The Chinon Parchments, dated between August 17–20, 1308. These documents indicate that Pope Clement V, though under pressure from King Philip IV of France, absolved Grand Master Jacques de Molay and other Templar leaders of heresy. This piece of history is a reminder of the trials and enduring legacy of our Order.

Looking further ahead, please remember the Order of the Temple will be conferred at Castle McCulloch on November 17. If you plan to attend and have not yet informed PGC Michael Daniels or Sir Knight Larry Aydlett, please do so as soon as possible.

In closing, I leave you with this reminder of faith and trust:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.”

– **Proverbs 3:5–6**

Fraternally yours,

Michael M. Hoff,
Grand Commander

Grand York Rite District Meeting Calendar

Denton – The Grand York Rite Bodies of North Carolina has scheduled this year’s District Meetings.

Note that some meetings have been scheduled for Saturday mornings to better accommodate travel across the state. Sir Knights are encouraged to attend these meetings wherever possible. As meal information becomes available, RSVPs may be requested.

DISTRICT	HOST	DATE	TIME
District 7	Charlotte	Tuesday, August 5, 2025	7:30 PM
District 6	Greensboro	Wednesday, August 6, 2025	7:30 PM
District 2	New Bern	Saturday, September 6, 2025	9:00 AM
District 1	Washington	Tuesday, September 23, 2025	7:30 PM
District 3	Goldsboro	Thursday, October 2, 2025	7:30 PM

Sir Knights Conquer the Nantahala River at Summer Assembly

North Wilkesboro – In 2021, our Most Illustrious Grand Recorder Allen Surrat appointed me to resurrect the Whitewater Rafting trip for Summer Assembly after hearing me talk about my love of the sport. He told me stories about the escapades of the "old trip" that was organized many years ago and how it evolved into a highlight of the weekend. I believe there was even an official T-shirt printed to commemorate the event.



RE Mark Alexander (L) expertly negotiates around the rocks and through the rapids with a Companion Sir Knight assisting.

I organized the trip for the first time in 2022 with 5 people attending. Attendance has increased each year with 2025 being the highest yet at 18 people. The trip consists of class 2 to 3 rapids on the lower Nantahala River and is about a 2 1/2-hour float. I have been taking my personal raft which I can take only one person in but we usually partner with an outfitter (Raging Rivers, Nantahala Outdoor Center) and rent a guided trip for the rest. Cost is anywhere from \$35.00 to \$80.00 per person depending on who we can go with.



REGC Mike Hoff (second from Left) leads the charge from the main raft.

If interested, please contact me about one month before Summer Assembly so I can get an estimated headcount for renting the rafts. Also, the water in the Nantahala Gorge never gets above 52 degrees! So, dress according to your personal tolerance!



The kids had a blast, too!

My email is cenobite13@hotmail.com or you can call or text me at (336) 984 9980.

Let's restore this event to its former glory!



Come on in, the water's fine! (heh heh)

This article and accompanying pictures were contributed by RE Mark Alexander, Grand Captain General, Grand Commandery of North Carolina.

Annual Salisbury York Rite Table Council To Be Held at the Winston Masonic Center

Salisbury –The Salisbury York Rite bodies are hosting their annual Table Council at the Winston-Salem Masonic Center, located at 4537 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem.

This is a charity event and will include items available for bid at an auction. SK Thomas Van Etten is coordinating RSVPs and provides the following details for anyone interested in attending:

When: August 04, 2025 starting at 6:00PM.

Where: Winston-Salem Masonic Center

Audience: York Rite Masons in good standing

Meal: Prime rib with sides (no cost; donations accepted)

Dress code: No dress code.

How much: Bring \$10-\$20 in quarters minimum for fun fines during dinner

Additional info: Bring folding money to purchase auction items at the Table Council.

If you are interested in attending, please notify Thomas Van Etten by July 28 at tavanetten@gmail.com.

NC Grand Commandery to Confer Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough

Jamestown – The Grand Commandery of North Carolina is sponsoring a special conferral of the Order of the Temple on Monday, November 17, starting at 3:50PM. This will be a special fundraiser event benefitting two of the Grand Commandery’s charities: the [Holy Land Pilgrimage](#) and the [Knight Templar Education Foundation](#).

Commanderies conferring their Orders are encouraged to complete the Orders of the Red Cross and Malta, and then register any candidates interested in participating in this special conferral using the online form below prior to the deadline:

<https://forms.gle/bniLysCeJn8UZALr6>

The deadline for registration and sending payment is Friday, October 31, 2025. Please send payments and any RSVPs for banquet attendees to:

Grand Commandery of North Carolina
 c/o 2025 Castle Degree
 3902 David Street
 Archdale, NC 27263

Parking for Candidates, Guests, and Families is available at the upper parking lot next to the Crystal Ballroom. Registration will be in the Crystal Ballroom.

Candidates are requested to arrive in time to check in and report to the Queen's Chamber under the Main Hall by 3:00PM for orientation. Families may gather in the Crystal Ballroom by 6:00PM and are requested to remain there until the completion of the degree.

The event will begin at 3:50PM with the opening of the Grand Commandery and reception of distinguished guests, followed by the conferral of the Order of the Temple. After the Order is complete, we will proceed to the Crystal Ballroom for the Public Knighting and banquet.

Registration and fees are available online for four options:

- ✘ Candidate + Public Knighting - \$100
- ✘ Commandery Guests for the Order - \$50
- ✘ Public Knighting Only - \$35
- ✘ Commandery Guest + Public Knighting - \$85

Space is limited for both candidates and guests and is open to members of Grand Commanderies recognized by the Grand Commandery of North Carolina.

Grand Commandery Assists with Installing Charlotte DeMolay Chapter Officers

Charlotte: Several officers of the Grand Commandery, with the assistance of the Charlotte and Monroe Commanderies, installed the newly elected officers for the Charlotte Chapter of the Order of DeMolay.



REPGC John Walston presides with SK Sam Henline and REPGC Brandon Penley assisting.

Andrew Lusk, Master Councilor elect, had asked REPGC John Walston, the Chapter Dad for Charlotte Chapter, if a contingency of Knights Templar could be the installat-

ion team. RE Walston put out the call and the following Sir Knights responded: RE Walston, Installing Officer; REPGC David Ladd, Installing Senior Warden; SK Sam Henline, Eminent Grand Sr. Warden, Installing Junior Warden; REPGC Brandon Penley, Installing Senior Deacon; PMIGM Russell Bridges, Installing Marshall; and SK Robert Mullis, Installing Chaplain.



Charlotte DeMolay Officers were installed by Grand Commandery and local Commandery Officers.

The young men of the Charlotte Chapter of DeMolay were ceremoniously installed and Anthony Barrile gave the flower talk. Newly installed Master Councilor Lusk gave his remarks and thanked the Sir Knights for their assistance.



SK Sam Henline and Andrew Lusk address the DeMolay chapter.

Afterwards a meal was provided for all in attendance. A fine example of NC Knights Templar exemplifying knightly virtues by helping our young men in DeMolay progress.

In Memoriam:
REGC Harley Richard Fisher

Taylorsville: It is with sadness that the Grand York Rite of North Carolina announces the passing of Right Eminent Sir Knight Harley Richard Fisher, who served as Grand Commander in 1992. He passed away on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at Catawba Valley Medical Center.



REPGC Harley Richard Fisher

Harley was born December 18, 1947, in Catawba County, the son of the late Harley Lee Fisher and Dorothy Poovey Fisher. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam Era. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in the Startown Community. The majority of his working career was with Comm-Scope. He enjoyed

reading, especially the Bible. Including his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis Sigmon Fisher and his son, Richard Marcus Fisher. Survivors include his sister, Mary Browning of Taylorsville and many friends. No services are planned at this time. Condolences may be sent to: www.adamsfunerals.com

Important Reminders:

August 4: Salisbury York Rite’s Annual Table Council, starting at 6:00PM at the [Winston-Salem Masonic Center](#).

August 5: District 7 Meeting, starting at 7:30PM at the [Charlotte Masonic Temple](#).

August 6: District 6 Meeting, starting at 7:30PM at the [Greensboro Masonic Temple](#).

August 28: 80th Annual Durham York Rite Picnic, starting at 5:30PM at [University Lodge](#) in Chapel Hill. **Family, Friends and Prospects Welcome.** Please RSVP to SK Joe Hackett at (919) 723-6263 or joe@trademastersnc.com by **August 22.**

September 3 & 6: Greensboro York Rite Fall Festival, starting at 7:00PM (Wednesday) and 8:00AM (Saturday) at the [Greensboro Masonic Temple](#).

September 6: District 2 Meeting, starting at 9:00AM at the [New Bern York Rite Temple](#).