



## 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.

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## Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

This month's article was contributed by Sir Knight Jason R. Harrison Sr., District 2 Instructor-Inspector.

Fraternally yours,

Michael M. Hoff,  
Grand Commander

### Sir Knight Jacques de Molay: A Flame of Fidelity

In the annals of Christian knighthood, few names stir the hearts of Sir Knights more than that of Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the original Order of the Temple. Though condemned by kings and betrayed by the very powers that once blessed him, de Molay's fidelity has made him immortal in the hearts of those who have sworn the vows of knighthood.

In March of 1314, after years of torture and unjust imprisonment, de Molay was led to a stake on a small island in the Seine. There, with the cathedral of Notre-Dame rising behind him and the world watching, he faced death not with bitterness—but with dignity and truth.

He refused to uphold the lies forced from him under pain. He stood for his fellow Knights. He spoke of divine justice and, according to legend, summoned his persecutors to meet their Judge within the year. History records that both the pope and king followed him swiftly into eternity.

But we do not venerate de Molay because of his curse. We remember him because of his courage. His faith. His unshakable devotion to his vows.

### A Templar's Lesson

As Masonic Knights Templar, we walk a symbolic path – but it is no less serious in its charge. We are called to defend the right, protect the weak, and wear the full armor of God in a world that often favors power over principle. De Molay's example

reminds us that truth may cost us everything, but it is worth more than anything we own.

We may not be asked to face the flame, but we are daily asked to choose: will we live our vows, or simply recite them?

Let us strive, as de Molay did, to be found faithful in all things.

*"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*

### **Revelations 2:10**

*Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.*

*Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Thy name give glory.*

Fraternally,

Jason R. Harrison Sr.  
Instructor-Inspector, District 2  
Grand Commandery of North Carolina

## 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 2	<a href="#">New Bern</a>	Saturday, September 6, 2025	9:00 AM
District 1	<a href="#">Washington</a>	Tuesday, September 23, 2025	7:00 PM
District 3	<a href="#">Goldsboro</a>	Thursday, October 2, 2025	6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Meeting



**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.

**NC Grand Commandery Jerusalem Jewel is Available Again**

**Archdale** – The Grand Commandery of North Carolina is once again offering the "Jerusalem Jewel" to support the Grand Encampment’s Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. This is a beautiful and impressive jewel designed for and by the NC Grand Commandery. The Jerusalem Jewel will be awarded to those who contribute \$500.00 or more and is officially authorized to wear as part of your Templar Uniform.



Donations can be sent to:

Grand Commandery of North Carolina  
 c/o Jerusalem Jewel  
 3902 David Street  
 Archdale, NC 27263

The proceeds will go directly to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund and will help send pastors to the Holy Land! If you haven’t talked to a pastor we've sent, please find one. Their story may change your life.

## A Journey through Masonry: The Ode to the Skull

Every Knight has had a reaction when they heard poem recited to them. To me it has also held a special meaning. One thing that I have found within Masonry, regardless of which body I belong to, is the ever-present issue with the low numbers of active members. I have become fascinated with what each will do to increase both their inactive members as well as to increase the membership itself. Some will focus on fellowship and there are some great groups that together to wonderful things. They raise money for charities and do all in their power to add to others lives. Other times they will have community cookouts or gatherings to attempt to cement the glue of their brotherhood. Others will focus on the importance of sharing a meal together.

I'm sure quite a few have learned about historical things occurring over a meal in a tavern or a restaurant where ideas of revolution were expressed and planned. Or they may have heard how Amazon was developed on a napkin over a quick meal among those who were friends at the time. I have also heard the old saying "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

However, there is one thing that most Masons crave, that is to grow and to learn. We are charged with the idea that "we make good men better." Whether they are young and start with the DeMolay, or they are older and have gained some life experiences, they want to learn. Connect with them and they will enjoy the company. Feed them and they will be filled. However, if you educate them, they will beat your door down.

That is what makes the Ode to the Skull special to me. For those who are not familiar with it I won't recite it here. But I implore you to look in your Templar ritual and read through it. For the others that do recall it keep it at the forefront of your mind while we go through the key aspects of it. Have you truly looked at the skull? Have you considered or admired it? The mouth of it lies empty. Like in Hamlet, where he is quoted in saying "That skull had a tongue in it and could sing once."

But as we see, it lies bare and no song or words of wisdom can be expressed now. No longer can stories of their life and experiences be shared. The eyes' orbs are empty. The person can no longer express the things they have seen in their life. The wonders, the beauties, and, yes, even the horrors. These experiences which have formed who they were. Looking at the inside of the skull within the cap which held their brain, it is also now empty like the others as well. What thoughts, creations, debates, and wisdom filled the brain that once

inhabited that space!

Many of our fellow brothers have advanced in their age. Though they have stories to tell we find that they don't tell them as much, or we simply are not listening. This could be that there are not as many around to hear them or sadly, they have heard them more than a few times, and the luster of their stories do not shine as new to them as it would to new ears. So, it comes to the newer masons who are seeking new experiences and are craving this wisdom to offset the dullness of their world. It's true in life we have had the opportunity to see many things repeatedly and they begin to lose that gleam that once lit up our eyes.

We need to keep in mind that these things being expressed are new to their eyes and their ears. Their brains are still filling up and creating new pathways of learning. We need to become open to this and not simply write them off simply because they are younger and have not experienced things as we have. This will provide the chance for us as older and more experienced masons to look with newer eyes.

It is truly hard at times to not fall into the pattern of "we have always done it this way" or "you have not done enough to know what we know." Still, we have learned from these patterns that if we have tasted, heard, seen, or even regarded the same thing repeatedly how quickly it can lose its value or its treasured aspect. However, for those with new eyes, newer words to speak, and an open mind to learn, education is one of the most treasured things in this world.

At times this opportunity is not offered to the world, and can you believe at one point in time only one percent of the world could read, and could truly understand the things they read, and comprehend what was told to them in an educational way? Now, we have access to a lot of knowledge: Some of it is positive, some negative, while others are simply overwhelming.

This is the key to masonry that we can not only grow from relistening to the stories of the older brothers, but also be open to listening to the thoughts, experiences, and ideas of the newer brothers. This provides the opportunity to guide them together through these life experiences whether they have seen and heard things with old eyes and ears or newer ones. This provides a chance at mentorship in keeping with our charge as well as the opportunity to grown within ourselves.

*This article was contributed by Sir Knight Alex Wilson, of Ivanhoe Commandery #8 in Greensboro*

**Important Reminders:**

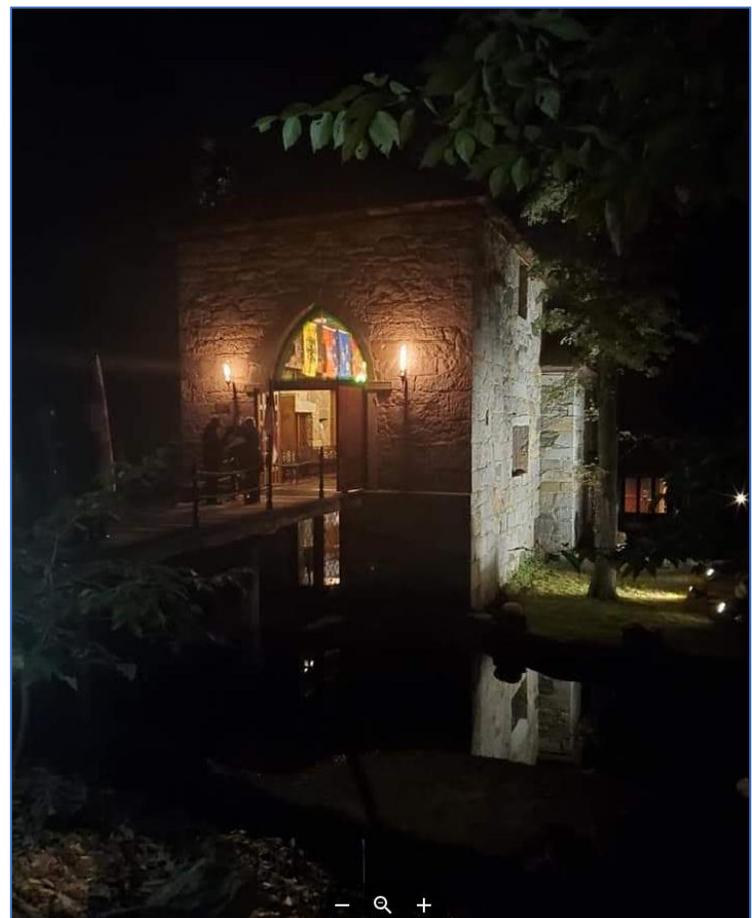
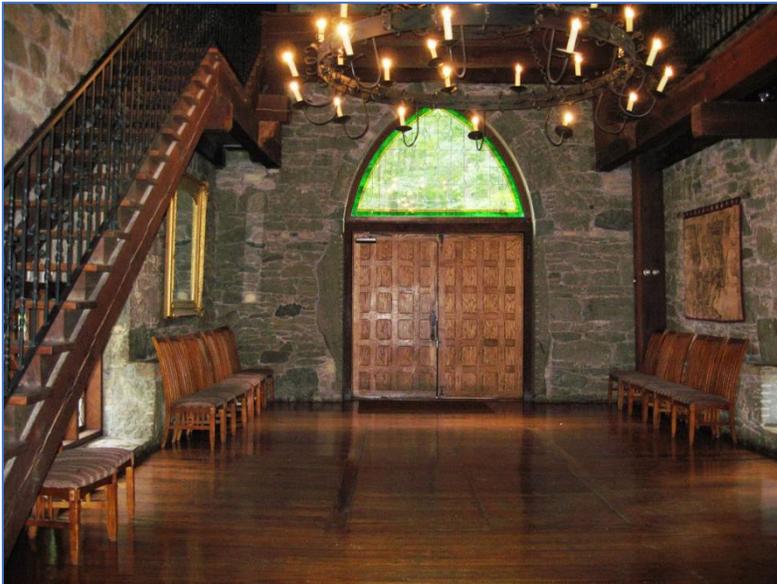
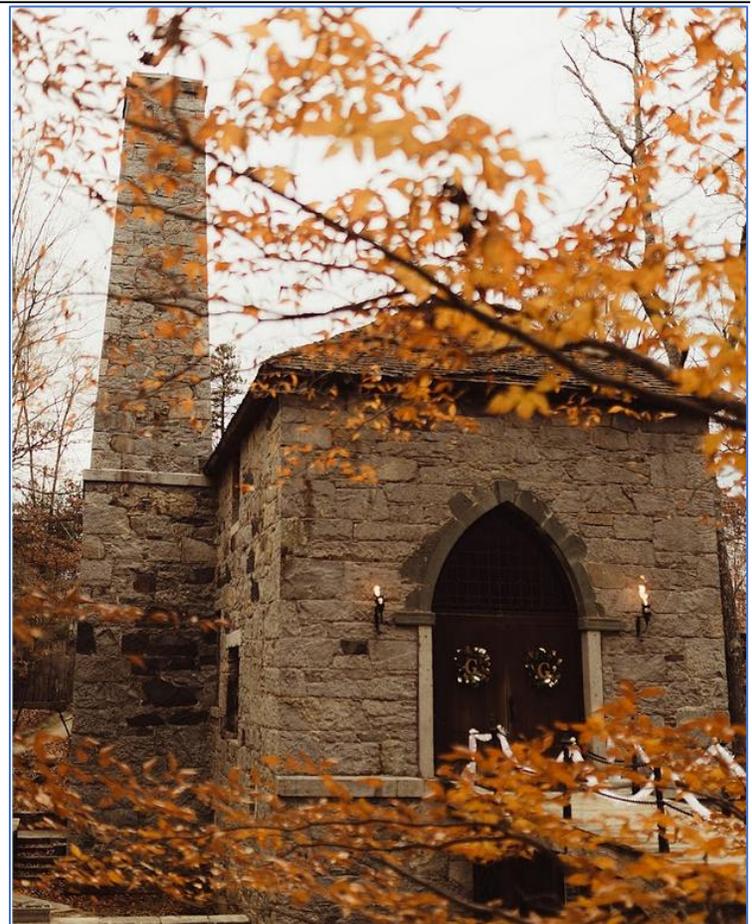
**September 3 & 6:** Greensboro York Rite Fall Festival, starting at 7:00PM (Wednesday) and 8:00AM (Saturday) at the [Greensboro Masonic Temple](#).

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

**September 12 & 13:** District 7 York Rite Fall Festival, starting at 6:00PM on Wednesday at the [York Rite Temple](#) in Charlotte, and 8:00AM on Saturday at [Monroe Lodge](#).

**September 23:** District 1 Meeting, starting at 7:00PM at the [Orr Masonic Temple](#) in Washington, NC.

**October 2:** District 3 Meeting, Dinner starting at 6:30PM, meeting starting at 7:30 at [Wayne Lodge](#) in Goldsboro.



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