



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!

November Holiday Notes

As fall approaches and the holidays draw near, let us all remember to be kind, courteous, and generous. This is also a time to reflect on the true meaning of the upcoming holidays.

In November, we observe two important Federal Holidays — **Veterans Day** and **Thanksgiving**.

Veterans Day, on **November 11th**, is a time to honor the brave men and women who have served our nation. Take a moment to thank them personally — shake their hands, recognize them at your gatherings, or visit a VFW or VA hospital and offer your service and appreciation.

Thanksgiving, this year falling on **November 27th**, is a time to gather with friends and family to share a feast and express gratitude — both for what we have and, at times, for what we do not. Historically, it dates back to 1621, when the Wampanoag and Pilgrim colonists shared a harvest meal. It became a national holiday in 1863 by proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln.

Upcoming Castle Degree

This is a **final reminder** that we will be **conferring the Order of the Temple on November 17th at Castle McCulloch**. If you plan to attend and have not yet informed me, PGC Michael Daniels, or Sir Knight Larry Aydlett, please do so as soon as possible.

Location: 3925 Kivett Dr, Jamestown, NC

Candidate arrival: 3:00 PM

Order begins: 3:50 PM

Dress: Class A uniforms

If you have never participated in this event at the Castle, I encourage you to do so — it is a memorable experience and supports a worthy cause.

District Meetings – A Look Back

Now that we have completed all District Meetings for this term, I would like to personally thank everyone who took the time to attend when there were many other demands on your schedule. I also extend my appreciation to all the host Lodges for their warm hospitality toward myself, GHP Rick Patton, and IGM Ted Inman.

A special thanks as well to the Lodges that made me an Honorary Member — I am truly grateful for the honor and your thoughtfulness.

Christmas Events – A Look Ahead

Looking ahead to December, the month will be filled with **Christmas Observances**. If you have not yet contacted me regarding your Commandery's Observance date, please do so soon so that I may add it to the calendar.

Please also note that the **Grand Commandery Christmas Observance** will be held on **December 14th** at the **Masonic Home for Children**. I encourage everyone to mark this important event on your calendar.

"Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer."

— **Psalm 4:1**

Fraternally,

Mike Hoff
R.E.G.C.

York Rite Bodies At Labor

This Fall season has seen our local Commanderies and other bodies throughout the state hard at work, growing the ranks of Companions and Knights who have “enlisted in this noble and glorious warfare” of Masonic Templary.

Wilkes Commandery – On September 15, Wilkes Commandery #40 and Lenoir Commandery #33 collaborated to confer the Order of the Temple on a class of seven candidates: Scott Greene, Dennis McKinney, Matthew Miller, Robert Morgan, Mark Thomas, Robert Thornburg, and Adam Woody. In the conferral, the following Sir Knights took prominent cast roles: Mark Alexander (Eminent Commander), Brett Huffman (Prelate), Sam Henline (Senior Warden), and Mike Pritchard (Junior Warden). Congratulations to the degree team on a fine presentation, and a warm welcome to the new Sir Knights.

Wilkes #40 has done excellent work of late in advancing the “slow roll” approach to the degrees and Orders, having recently conferred the Order of Malta in full form.



Officers and Class of the Order of Malta – N. Wilkesboro

Malta and Charlotte Commanderies – On September 12-13, Malta Commandery #19 and Charlotte Commandery #2 collaborated to put on a full York Rite Festival, for a class of four candidates: Josh Deese, Andrew Derderian, David Smith, and Al Underwood. The Charlotte Companions conferred the Chapter degrees, while the Monroe bodies provided the bulk of the cast for the Council degrees and the Commandery Orders. Welcome to our new Sir Knights!

The Monroe and Charlotte bodies have enjoyed a close working relationship for the last few years, having put on Festivals each Spring and Fall since the beginning of 2023. The Charlotte brethren in particular are grateful for this collaboration, as it has helped them become active in conferring the degrees again after a lapse of some years.

Fayetteville - Fayetteville Council #27 conferred the Super-Excellent Master Degree on October 15, for a class of 22 candidates.

November York Rite Calendar Highlights

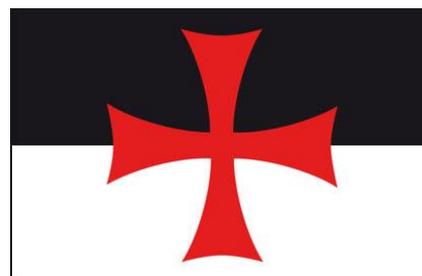
Saturday November 1 - The **New Bern York Rite Bodies** will be conferring all degrees and Orders, including the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta in full form.

Saturday November 8 - **Nazareth Commandery #41** invites all Sir Knights, of all Commanderies, to participate in the Southern Pines Veterans Day Parade, on Saturday, November 8 beginning at 10:00 am. Knights Templar are encouraged to dress in full uniform. (Blue Lodge members in coat and tie if wearing an apron.) Nazareth Commandery will be providing breakfast, with Eastern Star doing the cooking; and will be appearing at the front of the parade - so please attend and make a good showing for Masonry.

Monday November 17 - A cast from the **Grand Commandery of North Carolina** will be conferring the Order of the Temple at Castle McCulloch, in Jamestown.

Friday November 21 - The **Waynesville York Rite Bodies** will be conferring the Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees.

In Memoriam: It is with heavy hearts that we note the passing of Isaac Bennett Eddins, 2016 Most Illustrious Grand Master, on Tuesday October 28. Companion and Sir Knight Eddins was a lifelong resident of Wilmington and a proud veteran of the US Army. He served the Craft for over 40 years, including 25 years of dedicated service to the York Rite. He will be missed by his devoted family and his Masonic brethren alike. *In pace requiescat.*



The Journey through Masonry: A Different Kind of Fellowship

What is it about Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite, or other types of Masonic meetings that makes us want to come each night? Some come simply because they want to connect with their brothers. Others come out of a sense of duty, either connected to their Obligation, or through being a chair officer. Still others come because they live alone or don't have another at home, and would rather be with their brothers than feel disconnected. Each, regardless of their reason, offers a special gift of wanting to share their time, and their sense of fraternity/ brotherhood. In addition, all share a common desire to grow and learn.

It is when a disconnection is felt that many start not coming back to their Lodge or other meetings. As a member of my Lodge and other bodies, I have watched as each has attempted to reach out and try to reconnect to those Masons that don't come as often, or who stop coming at all. Some are unable to attend due to health issues; others, due to life situations that are preventing them from attending. Still others may question what they are really getting out of attending these meetings.

As a Past Master, I can recall trying to use Zoom during the Covid times - writing, calling, and even visiting some of these brothers and their widows. I appreciated this opportunity to reconnect with them, learn what was different when they were in these bodies, and tell them about some of the aspects of education and growth that each has started. One of these was the incorporation of more opportunities for engagement and connection outside of the regular meeting nights, where families can gather; others were educational opportunities. This can be difficult but not impossible in large cities, but is more commonplace in rural areas.

Others have expressed to these Masons how their life experiences and reflections of their own past Masonic lives could teach the newer members a different way to appreciate their own journey through Masonry. A great conversation over a wonderful meal, with the opportunity to share experiences, knowledge, and reflections, will truly create a growth environment and bring all types of people together. This is a different kind of fellowship than one where people come, sit in a meeting, discuss basic business, and then leave.

Quite a few meetings offer a meal beforehand. Others also add education. These are both wonderful additions. However, if the meal is one that few would enjoy, or the education is one only a couple may be able to connect with, then neither of these will retain the members the bodies have, or bring back members. Not every meal or education is going to please or connect with every member, but it needs to reach a good many of them. Also, if the person presenting the education is not pleased to be offering it, or is not knowledgeable about the topic, then this will be felt and reflected by the brothers.

The key is to listen and truly connect with your brothers - or as the expression goes, "connect with your audience." Maya Angelou, an American memoirist and poet, once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." If the person presenting the education enhances it with a genuine appreciation for what they are sharing, and is able to connect with their fellow-brothers' desire to learn and grow, this will give members a drive for further fellowship - and also, a reason to contribute more of their time. In addition, it will provide the opportunity to retain the members you have, and give an incentive to those who have not come in a while. It may even gain you new members, who may be seeking education and ways to have true fellowship.

This article was submitted by SK S. Alex Wilson, of Ivanhoe Commandery #8

Education Corner

Did you know? The Grand Encampment offers a comprehensive education program for all Sir Knights in its jurisdiction!

Course offerings include the Medieval history of the Order; dedicated programs for Templar Chaplains and Ritualists; and individual modules on the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple.

Visit <https://templared.org> to begin your journey!