



MICHIGAN SUPPLEMENT

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Web Site: www.michigantemplar.org

SK Adam W. Wygant, REGC

“As He Died Let Us Live”



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Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies, Companions and Brothers All!

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan update and Knights Templar Magazine Supplement.

Grand Commander Message

This month, I want to share two main things, and both occur about a month from now. First, I am encouraging a huge turnout from our commanderies at the Grand Captain General Workshop and Ritual Competition in Lansing on March 28th. We have a great day planned with some instruction, introduction to our new website, fellowship, and a friendly ritual competition. Please plan to attend this important spring meeting.

Secondly, I am going to skip ahead and make this month the Easter Edition. We are in the season of Lent, and Easter is one month away. It did not feel right to have the Easter message come out only days before this special Templar observance and possibly get lost in the busyness of the week. Let's set our heart toward the precious gift of the cross and our Redeemer's triumph over the grave. Let us soak in this gift all month long as we approach our various observances in Alexandria, Holly, Battle Creek, and our home churches.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may He lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace. I pray you experience His peace and love this season and whole year through - Sir Knight Adam Wygant, Grand Commander.

Prelate's Easter Message



As He Died, Let Us Live!

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD
GOD ALMIGHTY WHO WAS AND IS
AND IS TO COME!**

How Great is our Lord and Savior!

Sir Knights, the highest most expressive form of love we will ever know is the Love that Christ Jesus showed us as He took on the sins of the World with arms wide open. His Passion and crucifixion made available the Kingdom of God for all generations who accept Him as Lord and Savior.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread preparations for Passover were made in the upper room. There, Jesus broke bread and when He had given thanks He said **"take and eat; this is my body."** Then He took a cup and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, **"Drink from it, all of you, this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."**

We are told in Matthew 26:36-39: Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, He said to them **"Sit here while I go over and pray."** He took Peter and the Boanerges, that is, James and John sons of Zebedee with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, **"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."** Going a little farther He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, **"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but Your will be done."**

As Jesus is Jehovah Tsaba, The Lord of Angel Armies, He could have summoned 12 Legions of Angels to wipe out those coming to arrest Him. Instead, He heals the right ear of Malchus, the High Priest's servant, which Simon Peter cut off with his sword. Then, Christ humbled Himself as a Lamb being led to slaughter to ensure all the

prophecies would be fulfilled on the Cross and we may have eternal life with Him in Heaven.

Paul tells us in **Hebrews 12:2** “for the joy set before Him, He endured the Cross scorning its shame, and sat down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

2 Corinthians 5:15 “And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.”

May Grace and Peace be multiplied to you through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gratefully

Sir Knight Matthew Kent, Grand Prelate

Michigan Templar History Snippet

Genesee Valley Commandery No. 15 - June 27, 1865 - Submitted by SK Bill Dover

A meeting for organizing a Commandery was held at the Masonic Hall in Flint, June 7, 1865, U.D., when Sir Knight W.B. Buckingham was called to the chair, the Sir Knights present proceeded to ballot for officers; on motion of Sir Knight John B. Hamilton our Commandery should be named and known as Genesee Valley Commandery No. 15 of the City of Flint, and the same was approved. On June 27, 1865, Genesee Valley Commandery was instituted. The first officers were installed by Sir Knight Garra B. Noble, Right Eminent Grand Commander.

The first candidates were L.G. Buckingham, A. Randall, F.H. Rankin, C. Goodale and Hervey Brown.

On March 2, 1866, the officers were elected for the ensuing year and these officers were installed on March 30, 1866.



John B. Hamilton Commander 1865-1866

Genesee Valley Commandery has always held an important part in the history of Templar Masonry in Michigan, and we have had twelve outstanding Grand Commanders of Michigan and one Grand Commander of Illinois.

The 12 Grand Commanders from No. 15 are: Samuel C. Randall 1876, Joseph H. Crawford 1906, Fred A. Aldrich 1916, Floyd A. Roberts 1934, Frank G. Millard 1944, John H. Loree 1963, Maurice L. Johnson 1972, W. Jack Dover 1979, Walter L. Skinner 1987, William R. Bannister 1993, Richard D. Erspamer 1998, William Skrepnek 2004. Also, Russell L. Schlosser was the Grand Commander of Illinois in 2014

There have been two father-son Commanders through the years: E. Clyde Willoughby 1945 – James H. Willoughby 1986; and W. Jack Dover 1969 – William J. Dover 1977, 2016-2021.

Genesee Valley No. 15 has competed in 13 Grand Encampment Tri-Annual competitive Drills: Indianapolis- 1958 John H. Loree Drill Captain, Cleveland- 1961 John H. Loree Drill Captain, Philadelphia- 1964 John H. Loree Drill Captain, Detroit- 1967 W. Jack Dover Drill Captain, Denver- 1970 W. Jack Dover Drill Captain, Chicago- 1973, W. Jack Dover Drill Captain, Kansas City- 1976, W. Jack Dover Drill Captain, Indianapolis- 1979, Dan Wheaton Drill Captain, Hot Springs- 1982, Dan Wheaton Drill Captain, Cincinnati- 1985, W. Jack Dover Drill Captain, Did not drill -1988, Washington DC- 1991, William Dover Drill Captain, Denver- 1994, William Dover Drill Captain, St. Louis- 1997, William Dover Drill Captain, and (Huston- 2006 William Dover Drill Captain for Howell #28).

Some prominent Genesee Valley Templars of note: Arthur M. Davison, PC- AM Davison Clothing (Downtown Flint) 6/19/1870-7/27/1958, KT 12/6/1901; William S. Ballenger, PC- Manufacturing- (Ballenger Hwy) 12/5/1866- 2/28/1951, KT 12/6/1901 EC-1910; August B. Johnson, PC- August Johnson Construction- (Built many schools in Genesee County). 4/7/1881 (Sweden) -2/9/1975, KT 3/17/1922 EC- 1932; Harry J. Swartz, PC- Swartz-Raysin Funeral Home 12/4/1921- 12/23/1999 KT 11/27/1959 EC- 1966; Russell L. Schlosser, PC, Grand Commander of Illinois- 2014 1/18/1950- KT 3/30/1973 EC- 1980. Russ Demitted 12/12/1994 when he moved to Illinois. He is also a Past Most Ill. Master R&SM of Illinois; Auton Olson- Owned Michigan Lumber 10/4/1886- 4/12/1959 KT 10/4/1929; Robert T. Longway- Longway Planetarium, and Robt T. Longway Blvd. 7/7/1887- 8/10/1975, KT 9/21/1921; Charles S. Mott- General Motors 6/2/1875- 2/18/1973, KT 3/12/1909; Walter L. Marr- Automotive Engineer- Founder Marr Auto Car Co in 1903, (One of worlds first automobiles with an overhead camshaft engine. Buick Motor Company first chief engineer 1904 – 1918. Held several patents- 1908 Carburetor, 1913 Aeroplane. Marr designed an airplane called the Flint Flyer. Walter Marr is credited with building the first Buick. 8/14/1866 – 12/11/1941 KT 6/7/1909; Dr. David E. Molyneaux- Presbyterian Minister (First Presbyterian for many years, across the street from Flint Masonic Temple on Saginaw St) 7/12/1914- 11/6/1979, KT 10/26/1951; William O. Moulton- Methodist Minister (Served at Court Street Methodist for many years) 2/13/1896- Demitted 6/12/1970, KT 1/24/1964; Walter J. Mooney- McKinnon-Mooney Insurance (Downtown Flint) 11/28/1901- 4/24/1951, KT 1/29/1937; Leonard A. McKinnon- McKinnon-Mooney Insurance (Downtown Flint) 3/21/1897- 6/13/1983, KT 3/26/1937; and John J. McDonald- McDonald Dairy 9/5/1884- 5/9/1947, KT Sept 1909 in Owosso #49, Transferred to #15 4/6/1928

Dues through the years (Not including assessments) - 1912 – 1918 \$5.00, 1919 – 1933 \$10.00, 1934 – 1945 \$7.50, 1946 – 1951 \$10.00, 1952- 1956 \$12.00, 1957-1969 \$15.00, 1969-1972 \$18.00, 1973- 2015 \$24.00, 2016- 2026 \$30.00

(Editor Note – thank you Sir Knight Bill Dover, for sharing this short history of your commandery. As we look toward our future, it is good to remember and be proud of our past)

Michigan Templar Notable Shots



Michigan Grand Commandery has nice showing to celebrate Brother George Washington's 294th birthday at the 106th annual celebration hosted by St. Clair Chapter No. 12 Royal Arch Masons of Michigan.



Detroit Commandery No. 1 looking sharp during Full Form Opening at their February 9, 2026 stated conclave

Charity and Hospitality: Our Grand Characteristics

Charity is a synonym for “love,” and it is the reigning attribute of God. God is love (I John 4:8), and charity’s ultimate expression is in the life and death of Jesus. As charity increasingly governs our hearts and lives through the work of the Spirit, we begin to reflect the image of God in which we are created. As Templars, we put our faith into action, practicing hospitality and care for one another. We are known for the truthfulness of our speech, the conviction of our prayers, and our outreach to those in need. Whether for widows and orphans, wandering pilgrims, or the marginalized in society, we have taken a stand for charity and hospitality because Christ first loved us.

Sir Knight Darrell Brockway, EC , Pontiac Commandery No. 2



ON THE RADAR

There are 6 months left in the Templar Year before August 22, 2026 and there is much to accomplish:

- Recognition, please nominate Sir Knights for their hard work and service. The website has forms for various recognition awards, including the Knights Templar Cross of Honor (KTCH). Please submit KTCH nominations to the Grand Commander by April 1st.
Meritorious Service Awards and Companion of the Temple Award no later than May 1st please.
- March 13-15, York Rite Leadership Training (Friday March 13) and East Central Department Meeting, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The leadership training is free, only cost of travel and lunch. Leadership training and the East Central Department meeting are not only for Grand Commandery leadership, any Sir Knight is encouraged to attend this Grand Encampment event and enjoy time with companions and sir knights from other jurisdictions. **Information and registration at the following website** <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/ecdc2026>.
- Muskegon Commandery No. 22 Inspection. Several Grand Officers are traveling to support this inspection on St. Patrick’s Day and will be staying in Grand Haven for the evening.

- March 28, Grand Captain General's Workshop and 1st Annual Ritual Competition, Lansing, Michigan. The Captain General's Workshop will feature training in basics for not just commandery leadership but all sir knights. The ritual competition will be a fun event following lunch that will allow participants to compete by giving the Junior Warden's chamber address, the Ode to the Skull, or the Prelate's address. You can compete in one, two or all. Those not participating will enjoy watching the competition. Winners will be revealed and presented an award at the Grand Session in Bay City on August 22nd, 2026.
- Easter Observance April 5th, 2026. More details will come out regarding observances held around the state but generally the Central Battalion hosts a popular observance at the Great Lakes Cemetery in Holly. The Grand Commander and Lady Holli will be traveling to Alexandria, Virginia April 2nd to the 5th and invite you to explore our national monuments, Arlington National Cemetery (including a wreath laying on April 4th), and the Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Easter morning. Please contact the Grand Commander if you would like more information. The registration and hotel information is on the Grand Encampment website at usagekt.org.
- April 24-26, Indiana Grand Commandery Annual Conclave, Muncie, Indiana.
- May – June Instruction Season, our Instructor General, SK Ron Hessman and the Instruction Board instructors will be reaching out to schedule a time for school of instruction with each commandery. Please be proactive and discuss at an upcoming conclave to identify a date to ensure one is scheduled in 2026.

SIR KNIGHTS THIS SUPPLEMENT IS YOUR PLATFORM TOO, PLEASE SEND THE EDITOR CONTENT, PHOTOS, AND EVENTS TO SHARE WITH OUR GRAND COMMANDERY COMMUNITY. I KNOW SOME OF YOU HAVE INTERESTING CURRENT EVENTS AND TEMPLAR HISTORY TO SHARE. WE HAVE A PROUD HERITAGE SINCE 1850 AND GREAT THINGS HAPPENING TODAY – LETS TALK ABOUT IT.

SEND CONTENT TO THE EDITOR: miktskadam@gmail.com

Grand Captain General's Workshop



To: The Grand Officers, Commanders, Records, and all Sir Knights

Greetings Sir Knights,

The 2026 Captain General's Workshop will take place on **March 28th, 2026.**

Location: Lansing Masonic Temple, 1125 Weber Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48912

Schedule:

9:00AM **Coffee and Donuts**

10:00AM **Opening and Instruction**

Review of Inspections by SK Ronnie Hesseman, PC, Instructor General

Hermit Scene by SK Bill Herlihy, REPGC

Forming of the Triangle for the 10 Man Opening and Cuts

Questions from the Sir Knights

Closing Comments by SK Adam Wygant, REGC

11:45AM **Lunch**

1:00PM **Ritual Competition**

THIRD EDITION of the Knights Templar of Michigan

Junior Warden's Address in the Chamber of Reflection

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Ode to the Skull

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Prelate's Address at the Triangle

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Winners in each category will be given an award during the Grand Session in August 2026. **All are welcome to compete or observe.** Please contact SK David Heise @ djheise@comcast.net to register in advance. You may also register the day of the event.