



*Grand Commandery of Virginia -
Attention To Orders!¹*



¹ When I was at West Point, each day we had unofficial communications from the leadership at meals that began with "Attention To Orders". I stole the title for this unofficial communications channel.



*From the Apartment of the Grand Commander -
March 2026*

Sir Knights,

I am happy to once again have the opportunity to communicate with each of you wheresoever dispersed. Welcome to the eleventh edition of our monthly communication from me to the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Virginia. I pray that this message finds each of you and your families and loved ones well and blessed.

The calendar says that it is just about spring...the temperature says otherwise. At least not yet. That said, however, we know without a doubt that the change will indeed come. It always has. Every winter, no matter how difficult, eventually melts into spring. I think of that as sort of a metaphor on life. Every hard period or difficulty eventually turns into an opportunity for good. This is the month that our various commanderies will hold elections and install officers for the next year. Let us all look forward and ask ourselves how we can take this as an opportunity to do good...not for ourselves and not for any purpose of building ourselves up in pride but rather, to serve our Fraternity and, more importantly, our faith.

Yet another busy month is behind us. As planned, we conferred the Order of the Red Cross on a few candidates in Fredericksburg with good assistance from the Sir Knights of Turner Ashby Commandery. We then had our visit to District 1, Richmond where the Order of Malta was conferred in full form on 10 enthusiastic new Knights! Allow me to unpack these two items for just a minute.

We all know that the thing that distinguishes our fraternity from others is our ritual. Sadly, it has been my concern that in our rush to do things the

easy or quick way, some of us have lost the meaning behind our rituals, especially in the first two Chivalric Orders. In fact, most of the SKs present in Richmond advised that they had never seen the Order of Malta conferred in full form. To quote a famous and distinguished Sir Knight, this is not as it should be. While the convenience of the orders in short form is not to be denied, similarly the loss of meaning and significance in so doing is similarly not to be denied as well. I was exceptionally proud of the SKs in District 1 for the work they put into conferring the Order of Malta while at the same time, preparing for an Official Visit. As a further benefit, we know now that within this Chivalric Region, District 9 can confer the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and District 1 can confer the Order of Malta, both in full form with all of the required regalia and props. This month, I am confident that we will go to Norfolk and be equally impressed when they confer the Order of the Temple, and our third Regional Orders Team will have been fully established.

I had the opportunity later in the month to visit the King Baldwin Commandery in Fredericksburg on the occasion of receiving their REGC. It was a great evening of Masonic and Christian fellowship; we were well received and the fraternal bonds that continue to unite us were indeed strengthened. On that same note, please mark your calendars now and check your cable-tows...we have been invited to a Joint Conclave on April 8, 2026 at the "Mount Olivet Commandery #2" located at 4000 Woody Drive, Richmond, VA. I humbly ask that as many of you as possible join us for that event, which will start at 6:00 PM. More to follow on this shortly.

March is the season that our fellow Grand Commanderies in our Department have their Grand Conclaves. In fact, I'll be in a different state every weekend except for the 28th, when we will conduct our final Official Visit in Norfolk. Concurrently, we will also add to our numbers with the conferral of the Order of The Temple! This will be a very exciting time for us, I'm genuinely looking forward to it. As I did at the Official Visit to District 3, I'll be knighting the pilgrims and, afterwards, I'll ask for assistance as we

communicate the attributes of the Order. It will be a full day, but another great day all the same.

On that note our Eminent Grand Recorder has contracted to acquire handheld tactics manuals. What better way to welcome new SKs to our ranks and help them along in their proficiency than having one of these for your new fraters when they come to their first conclave. It will make a difference in their ability to learn the ritual and their enthusiasm going forward. These booklets can be obtained by contacting our Grand Recorder at gr@vatemplars.org, for the low price of \$6.50 each.

Looking ahead, since this is edition #11 of our newsletter, our Annual Grand Conclave is fast approaching. I and the team have been finalizing things this month with the hotel and other venues, with the Call to Grand Conclave following shortly. I'll confess that I'm a little bit later getting the Call out to you than I would have liked. We should be sending it in the next day or so. For planning purposes, remember that our Constitutions and Statutes set the date, so this year, we kick off the festivities on April 30 and finish up on May 3, once again in Harrisonburg at the Hotel Madison. Please mark your calendars and plan to be there, I'm hoping it will be special for all of us.

OK...that's everything...except a traditional mention of our social media campaigns. While we are over 1K views on our main YouTube video, allow me to once again commend it to your viewing pleasure.

<https://youtu.be/pGB4PBXVJLY>. Also, while you're there, you may also see our Christmas video. While the "holiday" is over for a time, the message is eternal. It's located here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O19Rsf1Vzms>. And, while I'm on a roll, a video montage of pictures from our joint conclave with the King Baldwin guys at West Point is also available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmQvTDo-2R8>. Our IT team has been doing an amazing job, I simply cannot commend them enough. Take a look at their work and tell me what you think.

Ok. That's all for now, for real this time. Another busy month coming up. I hope to see most of you in our travels. God bless, keep, and protect you and yours!

Yours In Christian and Knightly Courtesy,

Bill



WILLIAM SEARCY, III. KCT.
Grand Commander 2025-2026

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*Grand Commandery of Virginia
2025 - 2026 Leadership Team*



From L to R:

- SK William Jonathan Sirman, DDGC, District 1
- SK Brian Dean Joos, DDGC, District 2
- SK Timothy Anderson Dahlman, DDGC, District 3
- SK Daniel James Carter, DDGC, District 4
- SK William (Bill) Searcy, REGC
- SK Eric Dale Swortzel, DDGC, District 5
- SK Mark Ronald Day, DDGC, District 6
- SK William Arthur Crosscup, V, DDGC, District 7
- SK Joseph Brandon Hale, DDGC, District 8
- SK Paul William Lockhart, DDGC, District 9

Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.



UPCOMING EVENTS - March 2026

- 5 - 8 Grand Commandery of New Jersey
- 13 - 14 Grand Commandery of Delaware
- 20 - 22 Grand Commandery of DC
- 28 Official Visit - District 2
 - Grice Commandery No. 16
 - Granby Street Temple 7001 Granby Street Norfolk, VA 23505
 - DDGC: Sir Knight Brian Dean Joos 757-478-7667