



## Grand Commander



**R: E: Ray Casey, Jr.**

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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

Companions and Sir Knights,

Your three principal Grand Officers have completed their area meetings for 2026.

We certainly appreciate the Lenoir York Rite bodies hosting us on May 5<sup>th</sup> with a meal and a well-attended meeting of Companions and Sir Knights. We had 5 Grand Commandery Line officers, 5 Commandery District officers, 3 Past Grand Commanders and 2 Past Grand Masters present, along with Grand Chapter and Grand Council Line officers, District officers and 1 Past Grand High Priest and 2 Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters.

The Raleigh York Rite Bodies hosted us on May 6<sup>th</sup> with a meal and a well-attended meeting of Companions and Sir Knights. We had 9 Grand Commandery Line officers, 8 Commandery District officers, 1 Past Grand Commander and 1 Past Grand Master, along with Grand Chapter and Grand Council Line officers, 2 Past Grand High Priests and 2 Past Most Illustrious Grand Masters.

The Greenville York Rite Bodies hosted us on May 9<sup>th</sup> with a light breakfast and a well-attended meeting of Companions and Sir Knights. We had 6 Grand Commandery Line officers, 4 Commandery District officers, 3 Past Grand Commanders and 1 Past Grand Master, along with Grand Chapter and Grand Council Line officers, 2 Past Grand High Priests and 1 Past Most Illustrious Grand Master. This was our

largest area meeting and had the best attendance, but all 5 Area meetings had much improved attendance.

All of our area meetings (5) have been well attended and our messages well received. Hopefully these meetings will spur better attendance and work at the local levels.

In your service,

Ray Casey

Grand Commander of North Carolina



*The Raleigh Area Meeting – May 6*

## **Upcoming Grand Officer Events**

Date	Event
6/8	Grand Chapter, O.E.S. (Durham)
6/12-6/13	SE York Rite Conference (Atlanta)
6/15	Rainbow Grand Assembly (Greensboro)
7/12-7/14	Summer Assembly (Maggie Valley)
8/29-9/2	York Rite Triennial (Washington, DC)
9/25-9/26	NC Grand Lodge Annual Communication
10/5-10/6	Grand York Rite of Ohio
10/9-10/10	MHCO Homecoming



### 2026 Southeastern York Rite Conference

The 2026 Southeast Region York Rite Conference will be held at the Sonesta Atlanta Airport North, on June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

Below is the schedule of events:

Date	Event	Location
<b>Thursday 6/11</b>		
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Registration	Mansfield Hall
<b>Friday 6/12</b>		
(7:00 am to 4:00 pm)	Registration	Mansfield Hall
8:00 am to 11:30 am	General Grand Chapter Session	Mansfield BC
11:00 am to 3:00 pm	Ladies' Tour & Lunch	(Depart from Lobby)
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Lunch ( <i>Ticket Required</i> )	Mansfield A
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	General Grand Council Session	Mansfield BC
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Social Hour	Mansfield Lobby
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Banquet ( <i>Ticket Required</i> )	Mansfield A
<b>Saturday 6/13</b>		
7:00 am to 9:00 am	Registration	Mansfield Hall
8:00 am to 11:30 am	Grand Encampment Session	Mansfield BC
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Lunch ( <i>Ticket Required</i> )	Mansfield A
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Grand Encampment Session ( <i>cont.</i> )	Mansfield BC

The hotel is situated only a short drive from downtown Atlanta, so many attractions are within a convenient distance, including the College Football Hall of Fame, the Georgia Aquarium, and the World of Coke.

Further information, including registration forms, is available on the General Grand Chapter website: <https://www.ggcrami.org/regionalconferences>

Despite the common perception that the regional conferences are for Grand York Rite Officers only, all York Rite members are encouraged to attend – and in fact, the event is freely open to all Masons.

### Great Smokies Assembly at Maggie Valley

Don't forget our York Rite Summer Assembly is fast approaching: Saturday, July 11 through Tuesday, July 14. All the usual events are on tap again for this year, including the "Putt-Putt" contest, theater outing, whitewater rafting trip, Masonic Marker address, and of course the annual banquet; as well as formal visits from several York Rite dignitaries from other jurisdictions. Motel and registration information are available on the North Carolina Grand York Rite website:

<https://ncgyorkrite.org/>

### Raleigh Royal Arch Masons Celebrate Bicentennial

Right Eminent Ray Casey, Jr. and a number of other Grand Commandery officers (past and present) were on hand to show their support at a monumental occasion last month. On May 23, they attended the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Raleigh Chapter No. 10.



*Pictured L to R:  
E: Sam Henline, E: Michael Orlando,  
E: Will Chriscoe, R.E.: Ray Casey,  
R.E.: Ludwik Wodka, V.E.: Edward Allen,  
and E: Charles Talley*

Heartfelt congratulations to the Companions of Raleigh Chapter No. 10, for 200 years of service as Royal Arch Masons!

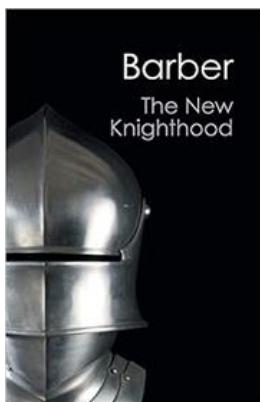


**Grand Encampment  
Education Portal Spotlight:  
“The History of the Templars” Course**

Hello Sir Knights! It is my hope that you have had a great Spring and been able to participate in a Festival and attend a District meeting with our Grand Officers.

A few issues ago, I highlighted the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program offered through the Grand Encampment Education Portal. This month I would like to draw your attention to the “History of the Templars” course.

This course requires purchasing a book written by Malcom Barber entitled *The New Knighthood*. This book can be found on Amazon for around 15 dollars in paperback form.



The course delves into the origins of the body as well as the structure it established. The events of the Crusades are highlighted in great detail. It was very intriguing to learn about the daily life of a Templar, as well as the eventual end of the traditional Order. All these events, and many others, are covered in the course. After each chapter there is a quiz, as well as an essay at the end to wrap up the program.

I can say it is a very rewarding and thought provoking course that is well worth taking.

*This article was contributed by Sir Knight Brett Huffman of Lenoir Commandery #33*

**From Refreshment to Labor:  
Charlotte Knights Templar Confer Commandery Orders**

The Charlotte York Rite was honored to welcome three new Knights Templar to our ranks, over the weekend of May 29-30. On Friday night, Companions Robert Mankin, Hilburn “Hibb” Shelton, and David Whalen received the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta in short form; followed by the Order of the Temple on Saturday.



*The Newest Sir Knights of Charlotte Commandery #2:  
Hibb Shelton, David Whalen, and Robert Mankin (L to R)*

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was the Dubbing of Sir Knight Hibb on Saturday, when he was ceremonially Knighted with his grandfather’s Knight Templar sword – a Masonic artifact now well over 100 years old.

This Commandery mini-Festival was a watershed event for the Charlotte York Rite as well, in that it represented our full return to plenary ritual work after a considerable hiatus. To the best recollection of those in attendance, the Order of the Temple had not been conferred by Charlotte Commandery No. 2 itself since 2014 – although Charlotte has enjoyed the distinct privilege and pleasure of working with Malta Commandery No. 19 in recent years, to confer the Commandery Orders at joint Festivals in Monroe.

In fact Sir Knights Mankin, Shelton, and Whalen constitute the first “all-Charlotte” York Rite members in many years, as they received their Chapter and Council degrees in Charlotte as well, at another mini-Festival in March.

A hearty welcome to our new Knights, “into the bosom of an Order whose Grand Characteristics are unsullied honor, unwearied zeal in a brother’s cause, and universal benevolence!”

*This article was contributed by Sir Knight Scott Brand of Charlotte Commandery #2*



*KCC Candidates at Honors Day  
(Photo by Sir Knight Chris Hall, PMEGHP, of Lenoir Commandery No. 33)*

### York Rite Honors Day 2026

The York Rite Masons of North Carolina celebrated a particularly successful Honors Day this year, at Wayne Lodge No. 112 in Goldsboro. According to an unofficial tally, the Order of Anointed High Priesthood was conferred on 21 candidates; the Thrice Illustrious Master Degree was also conferred on a class of 21; and 19 men were honored as Knight Crusaders of the Cross. In addition, 19 dedicated York Rite Masons from throughout the state received KYCH honors; and 3 were inducted into the HRAKTP. The respective classes enjoyed outstanding degree work and first-class hospitality, and a good time was had by all in attendance.

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### NC Grand Commander Presents JROTC Awards

Right Eminent Grand Commander Ray Casey, Jr. had the honor and privilege of presenting several JROTC awards recently, at three high schools in his area: Charles B. Aycock HS in Pikeville, Eastern Wayne HS in Goldsboro, and Southern Wayne HS in Dudley. As Knights Templar we honor service to God and country, and it is truly inspiring to see these ideals being passed on to the younger generation.

