

## Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida

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### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

It is very uplifting to have visited five Commanderies this year and all five Commanderies did the full form opening. Some of these Commanderies informed me that they have only done short form openings for many years. I watched as the members were so proud of doing the full form opening and are considering changing. We need to take pride in our organization and get back to doing the best work we are capable of doing. I am proud of the work and effort all of you are doing for your local Commanderies. This brings me to some thoughts about going dark for the summer. Does this help your Commandery or does it hurt your Commandery? I have seen so many Commanderies build momentum then turn around and go dark, losing that progress they worked so hard to achieve. It is very hard to rebuild that momentum up again. Think about it.

This year I have appointed a District Leader for each District to go out and help motivate each Commandery to establish some goals and objectives for their Commandery. These goals can be long or short term goals. The most important thing is for local Commandery Officers and Members to set a course to improve and grow. Setting goals and objectives help to measure where you are and where you are going. Please start thinking what goals your Commandery could accomplish over the next few years. There is always something worth striving for.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> District Festival (District Meetings) was held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District (St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Clearwater York Rite Bodies)

on June 20 & 21<sup>st</sup> at Tampa York Rite Temple. I would like to thank the Companions and Sir Knights of that District for all of the hard work at the Festival. We knighted three new members and we had over sixty in attendance with two out of three Commanders present. We have now knighted in 2014, year to date, 97 new members. I would like to thank the Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery who assisted District 2 in conferring the work. Your Grand York Rite Officers are willing to assist in any way possible.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Festival some of the Sir Knights of the 10<sup>th</sup> District presented your Grand Commandery with the paper work and money to send a Minister to the Holy Land next February or March. Florida's goal is to send ten ministers to the Holy Land. This goal is achievable if we all work together and make it a priority. Remember that all paperwork and monies are due no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>. We only have nine more ministers to go and each District will be able to choose their own minister to represent them. The cost to send a minister is \$3,390.00 from JFK to Israel plus airfare from their local airport to JFK. Please get with your local Commander and Recorder to nominate your ministers.

Upcoming schedule dates are: **4<sup>th</sup> District** (Highlands, Plant City, and Lakeland York Rite Bodies) on August 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (Please note the change of place for the 4<sup>th</sup> District Festival is Olin S. Wright Lodge No.79, 304 Acacia Street, Plant City. My apologies for the incorrect location in the last issue). **10<sup>th</sup> District** (Crestview, Fort Walton, Pensacola York Rite Bodies) Pensacola York Rite Temple 189 W. Airport Blvd. Pensacola Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & Sept 6<sup>th</sup> **5<sup>th</sup> District** (Daytona, Sanford, Leesburg, Orlando York Rite Bodies) Eola Lodge No. 207, 3200 E. Grant Street, Orlando Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Please mark your calendars for each of these District Meeting / Festivals.

Yours in Christ,  
S.K. Paul W. Friend, KTCH  
Right Eminent Grand Commander