

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida

S.K. Paul W. Friend, R.E.G.C.

Mipgm96@aol.com
(772) 260-6404

*Editor: S.K. John D. Pickford
137 SW East Danville Circle, Port St. Lucie,
FL 34953-5942*



GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights,

When it comes to October what do you think about? Do you think about Columbus Day, when Christopher Columbus on October 12, 1492 discovered the Americas? How about in your church? Do you celebrate Pastor/Clergy appreciation month? Of course, we all know what happens on October 31 with Halloween. Did you know where Friday the 13th comes from? It was the day when Jacque de Molay, Grand Master of Knights Templar was arrested on the dawn of October 13, 1307, hence the unlucky day.

The 4th District Meeting/Festival (Plant City, Highlands and Lakeland York Rite Bodies) was held on August 15th and 16th at Olin S. Wright Lodge No. 9. We knighted six new members and we had over sixty in attendance with all three Commanders present. I would like to recognize and thank Sir Knight Fred Gerdom, Eminent Grand Generalissimo for organizing all the degree work and the ladies of Plant City York Rite Bodies who prepared the food Friday evening and Saturday. The attendance at our District Meetings this year has been great and we have met more of the local Sir Knights by having District Meetings in the format of a District Festival. We had only Knighted 39 by August 2013 and now we have knighted in 2014, year to date (August) 120 new members. We still have several Festivals between October and November to confer the work.

This brings up another subject I have been thinking about now that we have knighted these new members what are we going to do in getting them involved in our local Commanderies? How about asking them to learn a degree part, help setting up the paraphernalia for the degrees,

becoming an officer and maybe cooking lunch or dinners for our meetings or festivals? There is something everyone can do to make your Commandery better. We need to be concerned about the retention of all members. This month most Recorders will be sending out your annual dues notice. This is the perfect time to think about investing in a PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP. The cost is only twenty times your annual dues. The best part is that you will not have to pay dues again and your local Commandery is guaranteed 5% on the monies invested. This is one way to keep NPD down, plus help your Commandery preserve future income.

We only have until October 15 to submit the paper work and monies to send a Minster to the Holy Land next February or March, I have been informed that many of the Districts are working hard to send a Minster, I hope each District can raise the money to send a Minister. The cost to send a minister is \$3,390 from JFK to Israel plus airfare from their local airport to JFK. Please get with your local recorder to nominate your ministers. Remember all paper work and monies are due on October 15 I have been communicating with Grand Encampment Chairman Emmett Mills and he informs me that they have been in touch with the state department about the situation in the Middle East and everything is still in place to Ministers for next February or March.

Please mark your calendars for upcoming District Meeting/Festivals.

6th District (Ft. Pierce, Melbourne, Cocoa York Rite Bodies) at Ft. Pierce Lodge No. 87, 4590 Oleander Ave, Ft. Pierce, FL Friday Night Oct. 3rd and Saturday Oct. 4th

7th District (Jacksonville, Palatka, St. Augustine, Fernandina Beach York Rite Bodies) at Jacksonville York Rite Temple, 1237 S. McDuffie Ave. Jacksonville, FL. Friday Night Oct 10th and Saturday Oct. 11th

2nd District (Bradenton, Sarasota, Ft. Meyers, Naples York Rite Bodies) at Venice Lodge No 301, 118 E. Venice Ave. Venice, FL. Friday Night Nov. 7th and Saturday Nov. 8th

Yours in Christ,

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