

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida

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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Sir Knights:

I pray that 2015 will be more prosperous for you and your family. With a new year we have many Commanderies installing new officers and making many plans to have a good year. With all the Knightings we had in 2014 my hope is that several of the new members have put on a uniform or taking a part in their local Commandery. Please make one of your resolutions this year to help your Commandery improve.

I would like to reflect on some of the accomplishments that we have made in 2014. First we have raised the monies and are going to send four ministers to the Holy Land. Secondly we had ten District Meeting in the format of a Festival which we averaged 13.4 new members per Festival. Again I would like to thank all Sir Knights around the state who participated in the District Meeting/Festivals, a lot of planning did go into this format. Thirdly we have Knighted 203 new members, this is 75 more new members than we did in 2013 and I hope that in 2015 we can Knight 300 new members that would be awesome. Since April 29, we have Knighted 141 new members into our Order. I would like to remind each Sir Knight that our goal is to Knight over 250 new members by May of 2015. We only need to Knight 109 more new members to accomplish this goal.

I am pleased to announce that there will be a Statewide Festival that will be held on Friday night March 6th and Saturday March 7th in honor of our Most Worshipful Grand Master James Ford. All the Degrees and Orders will be conferred outdoors at Box Ranch

located at 7150 Kanner Hwy. Indiantown, Florida. The work will be conferred by several different York Rite Bodies from around the State. Our Most Worshipful James Ford is a KYGCH and has served the Plant City York Rite Bodies for many years. If you can't make this class, we still have several other Festivals that will be going on around the State from February through April please get involved. Remember, that your Grand Commandery Officers are here to assist you.

The Drill Master General Sir Ronald J. Bertie, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander has informed me that he is still working with several Commanderies to participate in Drill Competition for next year and the winner will be announced at the Grand Conclave. If your Commandery is interested in competing, please contact him.

This year's Grand Commander's Homecoming will be in conjunction with the 100 year anniversary of St. Lucie Commandery No. 17. It will be held on April 18, 2015 at St. Lucie Shrine Club, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Grand Convention which will take place at the Edgewater Beach and Golf Resort in Panama City, Florida on May 17-20. Please save the dates. Web site is www.edgewaterbeachresort.com. Also get your Bodies to buy an ad in the Souvenir Program, this helps with the cost of the Convention. More details to come.

Please observe the deadlines for submitting recognition awards for your Commandery or individuals. In the past, many awards were not given because no requests were made or they were filed late.

I plan on attending these Commanderies in January:
2nd Palm Beach 18, 5th Melita 35 Ft. Lauderdale, 8th Trinity 16 Sarasota, 10th Springtime 40 Clearwater, 13th St Lucie 17 Ft Pierce, 19th Miami 13, and 27th Taylor 28th Sanford.

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