

# Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida

**S. K. Fred Gerdom**

*Right Eminent Grand Commander 2016*

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## Grand Commander's Message

Sir Knights. I wrote this article after returning from the Southeast York Rite Conference, I was pleased to see all the Sir Knights from Florida attending. We were well represented with 12 Sir Knights including all elected Dias Officers. I thank them for traveling to another state for this meeting, the leadership training courses, which I know, will help all of us grow. I enjoyed seeing and having fellowship with the other Grand Commanders of the Southeastern Department. I commend the host state of Mississippi for a fantastic job with this assembly. The Grand Encampment officers provided us with information, vision, and plans of action to keep us growing. It proves, we must work together and gather ideas to keep us moving forward.

I am going to borrow four phrases I found on linked-in from Bernard Marr. These strong words are things we must do every day to avoid pitfalls and falling into patterns very familiar. We must strive to keep our thoughts and actions moving towards the goals and mindset we want to be.

**1. That won't work.** How many times have you heard this from someone? We tried that before, and it did not work. You must ask yourself "Why didn't it work?" Was it manpower, communication, leadership, promotion, planning, or something else? Any event we do must be examined after it happens, taking the good and the not so good and then vowing to make it better next time. It may take a trying few events to make one event successful enough for you to feel you have accomplished the goal.

**2. I can't do it.** Again, the question must be asked "Why can't you do it?" Is more training needed, more direction, more support, or more time? Together, we can do anything, if we truly apply all our thoughts, actions, and time to a project. The bigger question is, "Do you want to do it?" We all must ask ourselves this question every day. The answer is not "I can't do it" but "How can I do it?"

**3. I think...** Which is the most decisive: I think, I believe, or I know. This should be an easy question to answer, right? It sounds like you are hedging against being wrong. You might be wrong. You really do know the answer, but there is a feeling of never wanting to be wrong. We all have that fear of making a mistake. If we

want to be leaders, we have two choices. We can find out the answer from someone who does know. This holds true with anything we cannot make the final decision. It is acceptable to say "I do not know, but I will find out". Second choice is: if you are the one with the final decision, make one and stick by it. In the workplace we make decisions with the information we have available. Some are almost right, some are right, but to be true to ourselves, we must stand by our choices or change our decision if we need to do so. Never be too rigid that you cannot see other possibilities.

**4. I'll try.** I do love this one. People use this phrase when they want an out. Sometimes you may use this phrase if you believe you might not accomplish the task at hand. The task may be ritual, meetings, or planning an event. Taking a page from Yoda "Do or Do Not". It falls back on the saying "you can do it, if you want to". We must push ourselves to make our York Rite bodies better. We do require more tools, more manpower, more leadership, and more know how. We have to find those pieces to make this move forward. "I'll Try" is not where we need to be. "I Will" is what will drive us into where we want our bodies to be.

We have two District Meetings in August, on August 13<sup>th</sup> we will meet in Tallahassee (see information below) and on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Tampa at the Tampa York Rite Bodies. Our Grand Master will have his Official District Visit in District 7 in Tallahassee on Friday night August 12<sup>th</sup>. He will be at District 5-6 in Panama City on Saturday night August 13<sup>th</sup>. Let's have a great showing for him at both places.

Fraternally and in the name of our Lord and Savior,  
SK Fred Gerdom  
Right Eminent Grand Commander 2016

### \*\*\*Changes of District Meeting for August\*\*\*

**District 9 - August 13, 2016 - Jackson Lodge No. 1**

**2818 APALACHEE PKWY, Tallahassee, FL**

**(Change due to Football Game in Tallahassee and its issues)**

**District 3 at Tampa York Rite Building will still be on August 20<sup>th</sup>.**

### DISTRICT MEETINGS - SEPTEMBER

**District 8 - September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Lake City Lodge #27**

**1423 SW McFarlane Ave., Lake City, FL**

**Grand Line Officers & Others - Practice Opening - 11:00 AM  
Lunch at Noon & Meeting at 1:00 PM**