

Knightly News

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CHIVALRIC EXCELLENCE

Read R. E. Grand Commander Rusty M. Ludlam's message to find out how he's fostering Communication and Enthusiasm in the 2023-2024 Chivalric year.



Ask your District Deputy or Instructor about donating to the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage.



FROM THE R. E. GRAND COMMANDER

Greetings Sir Knights,

I want to thank you for electing me as the Right Eminent Grand Commander for the Grand Commandery of Florida this 2023-2024 Chivalric year. It is my Honor and Privilege to serve this Grand Commandery and it is my hope that together we can grow and have a prosperous year.

We have had to start to rebuild during the last couple of years due to Covid-19. I think we are moving past this and are ready to increase our membership. There are still Commanderies that have difficulty getting enough officers or members present to hold a conclave, and if they do it usually only the minimal number of Knights that attend. Let's continue to try and implement the ideas and methods we have put into practice during the last couple years. Continue to COMMUNICATE with the membership that may not be able to attend. Ask if they need a ride, or just another Sir Knight to talk with.

I do not have a particular theme to be communicated this year. But if I was to have a theme, I would say it would be better "COMMUNICATION and ENTHUSIASM." This is our year, we work for the constituent Commanderies. By virtue of the office of Grand Commander this will be decisions that I have to make to lead and guide the Grand Commandery. When we work together, we can make a difference.

Increasing membership has always been a high priority within any body in the fraternity. I would like to say without membership we cannot exist. I would like all Officers, District Deputies and District Instructors to be a Blue Lodge Representative for the Grand Commandery. Also assign four knights to your local lodges to assist them in their membership growth. Those who are active within our York Rite Bodies generally are very active in their local Blue Lodges. If you can on a meeting night meet with the Master of the Lodge and present a small talk on the York Rite with emphasis on the Commandery in particular. Information might include our charities such as the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, but more especially the Holy Land Pilgrimage for ministers within your local area. Explain to them that we are a Christian arm of Freemasonry and ask your lodge members how many brothers know this? It is up to us to spread the information about Knights Templar.



FROM THE R. E. GRAND COMMANDER

I will not be holding a District or Regional meeting or Festival this year. But I think our Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Most Illustrious Grand Master are planning on a Regional meeting. I plan on attending if they would like me to talk on the Commandery I will. I will be there to support them. I am planning on visiting each Commandery within the State of Florida because I think it creates a more personal connection with the Sir Knights. There are many that I have not personally met and would like to get to know them and help them if possible. Any Festival or Activities that can be assisted by the District Deputies and District Instructors within each district. When there is ritual work to be done, i.e., festivals I ask that you communicate the time and place to the District Deputies so that everybody is well informed, and that Grand Officers can assist as necessary. As I said earlier COMMUNICATION will be the key to making a successful year.

I look forward to a great Templar year and all the Commanderies. I am very optimistic in meeting the goals that I'm setting forth for the upcoming year. If there is anything, I can do that you require for assistance in your Commanderies to improve our organization please feel free to contact me. I wish you all the best of health, good fortune and remember that we are doing this for the benefit of our fellow Brothers and in Christian fellowship.

Fraternally and Respectfully,

Rusty M. Ludlam

Rusty M. Ludlam
Right Eminent Grand Commander





2023-2024

GRAND LINE OFFICERS

R. E. Grand Commander

Rusty M. Ludlam
rmludlam97@windstream.net

V. E. Deputy Grand Commander

Ronald A. Naumowicz
ranaumo@yahoo.com

E. Grand Generalissimo

Erik B. Andersen
eba329mm@cfl.rr.com

E. Grand Captain General

Dennis Barbarisi
dabddgm2015@yahoo.com

E. Grand Treasurer

Robert St. John
grandtreasurer@flgyr.org

E. Grand Recorder

Carl E. Gilmore
grandsecrec@flgyr.org

E. Grand Prelate

Rev. Brian R. Poole
bpoole007@comcast.net

E. Grand Senior Warden

Eric W. Klienbach
ewklienbach@yahoo.com

E. Grand Junior Warden

Charles R. Jordan "Chas"
chasjordan@hotmail.com

E. Grand Standard Bearer

Thomas E. Metcalfe Jr.
legoforestman@gmail.com

E. Grand Sword Bearer

Albert W. "Butch" Thurman
butch31@peoplepc.com

E. Grand Warder

Damon S. Samson
sansom59@gmail.com

E. Grand Sentinel

Don Goss
don@raptortek.com

Aide De Camp

Richard McGlew
mcglew77@yahoo.com

Inspector General

John I. Gray
ghp2022gray@gmail.com

E. Grand Organist

Dana K. Oldenburg
widowssonfl@yahoo.com



2023-2024

DISTRICT OFFICERS

DISTRICT DEPUTIES

District One

Max Bornstein
bornsteinmax@gmail.com

District Two

Brian Johnsen
johnsensoutofhistree@gmail.com

District Three

Kirk Hinote
kirkhinote@yahoo.com

District Four

Rick Vogt
Rick.flyer1@gmail.com

District Five

Edward Mayfield
rw.edmayfield@gmail.com

District Six

Mike Hafling
mhafling@bellsouth.net

District Seven

Mark Balester
alpinist43@yahoo.com

District Eight

Troy Hollinger
tshollinger00@yahoo.com

District Nine

Keiffer Lindsey
romanroch@hotmail.com

District Ten

William Paulchek
wrpaulchek@cox.net

DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS

District One

John Donohoo
donohoo@fuse.net

District Two

Todd Meschelle
tmeschemme2000@yahoo.com

District Three

Brian Campbell
briand@bdcampbell.com

District Four

Randy Chancey
archancey@gmail.com

District Five

Larry Kent
lpkent1@aol.com

District Six

Matt Green
msgreen@cfl.rr.com

District Seven

Todd Conor
todd.conor@gmail.com

District Eight

Eric Evangelista
ericevangelista023@yahoo.com

District Nine

Neils Hesse
shongboy@gmail.com

District Ten

Robert Taylor
bltdgm2017@gmail.com

Grand Commandery Awards



**MERITORIOUS SERVICE
MEDAL**

**SIR FRANCIS DRAKE
AWARD**

BEAUCEANT AWARD

RAMSDELL TROPHY

CARR TROPHY

The criteria to receive these awards are outlined on the award nomination forms which can be found under forms and files on the Grand York Rite website.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR

In accordance with the provisions of Section 237½ of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment, as amended at the 50th Triennial Conclave, the meritorious award known as the Knights Templar Cross of Honor shall be conferred by the Grand Master on behalf of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar to deserving Sir Knights of Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies upon certain conditions hereinafter set forth.

The Knights Templar Cross of Honor shall be awarded "only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the Order, far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member." In deciding upon the award, precedents shall be entirely ignored and each case shall be decided on its own unusual merits. No posthumous award shall be made and no present or past elected Grand Officer of a Grand Commandery shall be eligible for the award.



SUPPORT YOUR MASONIC BROTHERS

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\$50 (goes to Holy Land Pilgrimage)

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bornsteinstemax@gmail.com

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\$25 (goes to Holy Land Pilgrimage)

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bornsteinstemax@gmail.com

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bornsteinstemax@gmail.com