

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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Robert D. McClarty, REGC 2022-2023

Meaningful Meetings

Sir Knight Fred Kemp, Eminent Grand Senior Warden

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked his subordinate officers to write articles for the insert, and this month's article was written by our Eminent Grand Senior Warden.

Sir Knights, like many of you, I attend my York Rite meetings, and find a small percentage of Companions/Sir Knights attending. I know this is not unique to York Rite, it is occurring in all of our bodies (Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Shrine). I understand we all have different obligations which may interfere with our making it to meetings.

York Rite is a great organization, and it is one that I would like to see grow and flourish. I polled all the members of my local commandery and touched base with my blue lodge, who performed their own poll last year. Not surprisingly, the results were very similar.

There was a very small percentage of responses and mostly from members who are regular attendees. But what I received was very interesting.

I would like to share with you some of the findings. I realize this is something that you probably already know, but we do need to be reminded every so often. Some may or may not be similar to your York Rite bodies. But they are good food for thought.

Meetings need to be meaningful. Not just paying bills, reading minutes, and reading communications;

Members attend because of fellowship. They want to learn and share ideas with the other members;

Some new members expressed frustrations they had from attending a meeting and find that the dais officers did not show up, or not enough members were there to have a formal meeting. This causes them to be disillusioned, and not attending anymore;

Members look for further light in Masonry. A good education program at each meeting is something they are seeking;

Yes, Snacks before or after a meeting are good. This makes good fellowship;

There is a desire to have a family function every so often. Perhaps we could have speakers at these functions, such as one of the ministers we sent to the Holy Land, or someone speaking about the importance of charities, such as the Eye foundation.

These are thoughts and comments from my polling. I want our organization to be successful. One comment was not mentioned above but prayer is a very big influence. We are ONE, Brothers. By working and coming together our future is bright.

South Central Department REGC Remarks

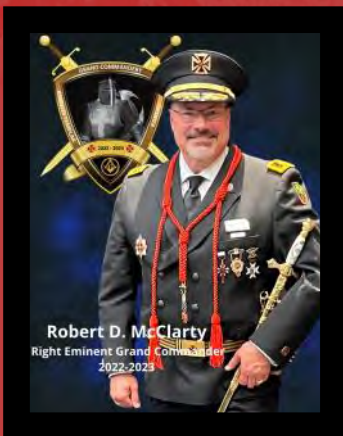
Good morning Sir Knights, I am Robert McClarty, Grand Commander of the Knights Templar in Kansas. It is a distinct honor to discuss and present to you what's happening in Kansas.

This year, we have had two statewide Festivals with the Commandery Orders:

18 Knights were Knighted, with 8 additional candidates are in waiting.

16 additional Knights have also been restored.

Thus, Kansas has 34, and potentially 40 additional Knights adding to our rolls.



Unfortunately, we have lost 12 Knights, who have passed these earthly bonds and entered into a life immortal. Three additional Knights were lost to demits, with the loss of these 15 Knights, it leaves us with 747 Knights: an overall gain of 19 Knights this year.

On an additional positive note, we have had two Commanderies in Kansas reigniting: Winfield Commandery #15 & Columbia Commandery #38, both finding new life and new Sir Knights.

This leaves Kansas with 18 Commanderies, 11 of them active in their areas, and we are vigorously working with the other seven to reignite them and/or merge them with other active Commanderies.

In addition, in July, we held the first ever Inaugural, Templars Feast: this event was held 650' underground, at Strataca Underground Museum. We had Knights present from Colorado, Oklahoma, DC, Texas, & Missouri, and Kansas, including our own Department Commander, SK Robert Loflin. We enjoyed the colors being posted by the newly developed Kansas Grand Commandery Honor Guard. There was Templar Light, Statewide Exemplary Templar Recognitions (Cross & Crown, the Commander's Swords, Commander's Cup & Templar Warriors) and we had Recognition of the SOOB, plus a successful Charity Auction for both the KTEF & the Holy Land Pilgrimage, great food, Knightly fellowship, and numerous Templar toasts, overall, this provided for a great evening!

Our 2023 Session will be held Thursday, May 4, 2023, at the Bluemont Hotel, Manhattan, KS, with the Session Banquet scheduled for Friday evening, May 5th.