

## Grand Commandery of New Mexico State News for October 2022



**SK James Overfelt, REGC**

[www.nmyorkrite.org](http://www.nmyorkrite.org)

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Sir Knights,

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is the main charitable foundation for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation was incorporated in 1956 and back then providing eyeglasses to people in need was a big part of the charity. But in 2010 the mission statement was modernized to "to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care." The website, [www.ktef.org](http://www.ktef.org), has lots of information on the charity and is well organized. In particular there are videos that would make for a great presentation at a Commandery meeting. It is always good to have a presentation on the KTEF for new members and to remind the Sir Knights that we have an important and active charity. Check out the "Curing Childhood Blindness" and "All Children See Program" for good examples of how the KTEF is making a difference. Many of the videos are short, others are longer and could be shown at dinner. At Grand Encampment there was a short video of curing a young child of a genetic blindness through gene therapy that was nothing short of miraculous. There are also testimonies from the researchers receiving the grants which drive home the message that KTEF is trying to fund the discoveries that will impact cures for childhood blindness for millions in the future.

Besides being the Right Eminent Grand Commander, I am also the recorder for Albuquerque York Rite Bodies and, as such, now have a better appreciation of how the local bodies can support the KTEF. As part of the initiation fees, Albuquerque buys each new Sir Knight a lifetime membership in the KTEF. It is only thirty dollars for a lifetime membership. As recorder, I need to run the report against the Grand Encampment database to check that all the new Sir Knights have been added this year and to make sure that my local body stays at 100% lifetime membership.

I don't know if all the local York Rite bodies in New Mexico maintain 100% lifetime membership in the KTEF for their Sir Knights. I encourage all the Sir Knights to ask the local recorder to run the numbers and see what it would take to get up to that level in your Commandery and make it a goal to do so. It would be a source of pride for New Mexico Commandery to have a 100% lifetime membership for the whole state.

Upcoming visitations:

Baldwyn Commandery, Gallup, October 3rd  
Rio Hondo Commandery, Clovis, October 10th  
Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter, Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid, October 19th  
Southwest York Rite Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 27th-29th  
Santa Fe Commandery, Santa Fe, November 8th  
Order of the Amaranth Grand Court, Albuquerque Sheraton Uptown, November 10th  
Pilgrim Commandery, Albuquerque, November 21st  
Las Cruces Commandery, Las Cruces, December 12th  
Shiprock Commandery, Farmington, Christmas Observance, tentative

Other times and dates to make note of are the York Rite quarterly meetings for 2022:

<b>WHO CHAIRS THE MEETING</b>	<b>HEAD OF BODY</b>	<b>DATE/TIME/LOCATION</b>
MI Grand Master	Sky Olsen	Oct 22, 2022 9 am in GLNM Library
RE Grand Commander	James Overfelt	Jan 28, 2023 9 am in GLNM Library

The New Mexico York Rite quarterly meetings will be hybrid with the option to Zoom in.