

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for November, 2021
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
SK George Edmiston III, KCT, REGC



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Greetings Sir Knights!

I am deeply humbled by the support of the Sir Knights of Ohio in electing and installing me as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the Grand Commandery of Ohio. Ohio is the largest (and greatest) Templar jurisdiction in the world, and it is my great pleasure to serve the Sir Knights and Ladies of this Valiant and Magnanimous Order. Thank you for your support and for the honor of serving you this Templar year!

First and foremost, I ask the Blessing of Almighty God and implore His aid in all our undertakings for the year ahead. Living my life as a just and upright Mason in the northeast corner of Ohio I cannot help but remember the charge to act and walk as such. Given the trials and vicissitudes incident to human life it is all too easy to lose faith and lose our way, all too easy to forget why we got so involved in the first place. Through patience and perseverance, courage and constancy, faith and humility, we shall find the harmony we need to ensure none go away dissatisfied. By working in harmony across the intimate connections of our various Masonic Bodies we gain strength and support to extend our cable-tow improving the experience for all. This coming year I am asking everyone to consider one main point. People will forget what we have said, they may even forget what we have done, but they will never forget how we made them feel.

I believe it is important that each of us remember what we were looking for when we were first brought from darkness to light. At some given point in time, we chose to start the journey that led us to where we are at this moment in time. Each of us, based on our own separate influences, have answered the call to become a Mason for one reason or another. Likewise, we each chose to join the York Rite and to become a Knights Templar. Each step along the way being influenced by men who we looked up to and respected. These were men who taught us to keep a tongue of good report, maintain secrecy and practice charity. They never hesitated to go out of their way to serve a worthy brother or remember you in their prayers and were always there to support a fallen brother.

The history of our Masonic fraternity is full of historic and legendary names of men who were known for being honorable men of integrity. These were men you could trust and depend on; men you knew you could count on to speak the truth. For me, it was one of those men that suggested I join each of the York Rite Bodies, which eventually led me to that moment where, we cannot be too often reminded that we are born to die. Sir Knights, I will never violate my Vow of Knighthood, nor will I ever forget the obligations I have taken upon myself along the way. As we work to improve ourselves, we must also be true to ourselves and trust in who we are and who we want to be.

As Masons we are called upon to look out for our brethren and their families. I call on each of you to join me in remembering and honoring our commitment to each other, not only for the work of the day but also in celebrating the solemn bond that unites us. We need to encourage and support each other. Remember to enjoy seeing old friends and getting better acquainted with new ones. Whisper good counsel into the ear of a less experienced Brother, Companion or Sir Knight and most importantly contribute to a positive experience for all we meet along our journey.

I therefore call on all Sir Knights of this valiant and magnanimous order to remember who we are and what we stand for, to remember our obligations and commitments, and to remember to enjoy our time together. I call on you to extend courtesy and hospitality while encouraging others, so all look forward to when we meet again. I call on you to support our Masonic Bodies but even more importantly to support each other. Sir Knights, I ask you now to "Answer the Call" to ensure a positive and memorable experience for all we meet. I ask you to travel with your friends and Ladies and be seen as Knights Templar by the Brethren of our Lodges and the Companions of our Chapters and Councils. Enjoy the Comradery of our fellowship so that others will truly observe how good it is to dwell together in unity and want to take part. I call on you to ensure others will have pleasant thoughts as they remember how you made them feel. Dear friends, I ask you to "Answer the Call".

At our Grand Conclave in October Sir Knight Michael B. Johnson, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, challenged the Sir Knights of Ohio to beat Texas in membership growth. In talking with Sir Knight Gary L. Paquet, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Michigan I learned of Michigan's goal to increase their membership by 10% this year. Maybe it is just my competitive nature Sir Knights, but I do not want to lose to Texas, nor do I want to lose to our rival to the north, Michigan. Therefore, I call on all Sir Knights in Ohio to rise to this challenge! Let us reach out to all who are worthy of joining our order so we can once again say we beat Texas. And we all know how badly we want to say we beat Michigan. If you know a man worthy of the honor of knighthood, meet him where he is on his journey in Masonry or if needed help him to start his journey to be knighted into our Christian Order.

In addition, we issued a challenge to Sir Knight Edward E. Fodrea, Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Indiana to bring Indiana drill teams to Ohio to compete in our annual drill competition. In a discussion after the conclave I extended that challenge in response to a conversation with Sir Knight Brian Kasson Dimatteo from Minnesota and I believe they may also bring a team to compete in the drill competition next year. Let me proudly say, I personally believe Ohio to be the best and invite all to come and compete to be the best of the best. Having a Drill Team demonstrates the proficiency and skill of the Sir Knights of a Commandery. It builds comradery and teamwork within the ranks of our members and helps us to improve in the knowledge of our tactics as well as our uniform specifications so we will always look impressive and function as a team. Drill Teams can be as small as 7 Sir Knights and is a great way for the Sir Knights to work together as well as compete against the other commanderies in the state. Having a drill team should be the goal of every commandery in Ohio.

I wish all a happy Thanksgiving this November. Let the holiday be a reminder to us to be thankful and appreciate what we have. Let us also please remember to take some time to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. My Fraters, let Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement and strengthen us. Let us thank God for all the good in our lives and prayer for guidance to help us make good men better.

Sir Knights, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Grand Commander in YOUR Grand Commandery. I am both honored and humbled to serve you as the Grand Commander of Ohio in the greatest and largest Knights Templar jurisdiction in the world. I sincerely look forward to working together with you in an effort to ensure a great Templar experience for all that we encounter. Remember, they may forget what we said, they may even forget what we did, but they will never forget the way we made them feel. I ask you to join me in a commitment to focus on courtesy, hospitality, and most importantly creating an experience that all can cherish and appreciate. Sir Knights, I ask you to "Answer the Call".

Sincerely and fraternally,

George Edmiston III, KCT, REGC