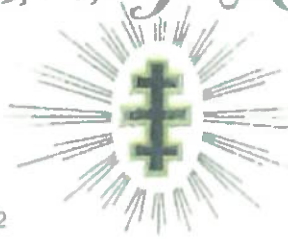


Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



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March 25, 2024

OFFICE OF
JAMES B. STEELE, KCT
RIGHT EMINENT DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Dear Sir Knights:

Enclosed please find the information for the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar to be held on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at the Hilton Arlington National Landing located at 2399 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Hotel reservation details, along with the registration form and schedule are also enclosed. The schedule includes lunch buffet and banquet information. Please note the different hotel and conference registration date deadlines.

Pursuant to Section 114(b) of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, every Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and Grand Recorder are required to attend the Conference. All Right Eminent Grand Commanders in the Mid-Atlantic Department are asked to assist in ensuring your Officers are fully apprised of the conference details and emphasize the necessity and importance of their attendance! If any of the above Officers are unable to attend the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference, he must directly request approval to be excused, with reasons therefore, from the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. This conference is open to all Sir Knights who desire to attend, so please feel free to advise your Sir Knights and extend them an invitation to attend and participate in the Conference.

The Officers of the Grand Encampment spend considerable time and effort in preparing the Department Conference Program to assist your Grand Commandery and your efforts as an elected Grand Officer. I believe that you will find the conference to be most beneficial as you prepare and execute your plans to promote and grow Templar Masonry during this triennium in your respective jurisdictions. Together, we will continue to make Templar Masonry the most prestigious appendant Masonic Body that one may petition for membership.

Each Grand Commander will be called upon to give a brief account of the activities planned or occurring in your Grand Commandery. Please give some thought to your presentations as each of us can learn from one another. Make it concise and insightful for your peers.

Courteously,


James B. Steele
Right Eminent Department Commander



Mid-Atlantic Department Conference Registration Information September 27-28, 2024

Hilton Arlington National Landing
2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington VA 22202

Hotel registration deadline is Thursday, August 29, 2024

Conference attendance check-in times for attendees will be Friday, September 27, 2024, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 6:30-8:00 a.m. The sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 28. Dress for all activities is coat and tie or business casual.

Room Rate = \$149.00 + tax per night, Single or Double Occupancy. A block of rooms has been reserved for September 26-28, 2024. The special room rate will be available until August 29th or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first. Self-parking is available at the special conference rate of \$20.00 per day underneath the hotel, based on availability. Please make room reservations directly with the hotel either online or by phone.

The booking website:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/MidAtlanticDeptConf24>

The telephone reservation number is: **1(800) 695-7551**

Direct phone number to hotel: **(703) 418-6800**

The Hilton Arlington National Landing Hotel is located near Reagan National Airport and within walking distance of the Metro Rail. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and Check-out time is 12:00 noon. Complimentary shuttle service is available daily to/from the airport, metro-station, nearby shops, restaurants, and businesses. Please check directly with the hotel for arrangements. They do not have shuttle service to/from Dulles Airport.

We will once again offer the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program (CTCP) to be held concurrently with the Department Conference. This is a training program for Prelates and Chaplains. Long thought of as simply officers who read a prayer, or pray for the sick, Chaplains and Prelates should be leading officers in all Masonic bodies, but more especially in Commandery. This program is designed to help members dedicated enough to serve the Craft and God to be more effective in their positions. While there is no fee for the Chaplain Program, everyone must register and pay the registration fee using the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference Registration Form. Registration insures availability of training materials.

Please remember that Grand Encampment Statutes specify that the Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and Grand Recorder are *REQUIRED* to attend. Attendance will be taken. A count of the participating members of the Grand Commanderies will also be taken.

All Grand Recorders should encourage all Officers in their respective jurisdictions to attend either the Conference or the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program. Please also note that this conference is open to any and all Sir Knights who desire to attend.



The Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program

In our efforts to improve the fraternity, the Grand Prelates and the elected line have developed a training program for Prelates and Chaplains. Long thought of as simply officers who read a prayer, or pray for the sick, Chaplains and Prelates should be leading officers in all Masonic bodies, but more especially in Commandery.

What is the foundation of our institution? For Templary, it is the Holy Bible. Ask yourself, who should be holding us all accountable in our Lodges or Asylums?

Our Chaplains and Prelates.

To help us all develop and actuate our faith in the world, Chaplains need to be secure in their own. After taking this training program, we hope that Sir Knights (and any other member of the fraternity, including our ladies and youth organizations who opt to take the course), will emerge as leaders who exemplify servant leadership and service.

Chaplaincy is a ministry of presence, and simply being there for people in real and meaningful ways at the difficult times in their lives is the core of what a Chaplain is supposed to do. This program is designed to help members dedicated enough to serve the Craft and God to be more effective in their positions.

Before presenting more about the program and what it is, we need to be sure to say what it is not. This is a commissioning, not an ordination. This does not make a person a trained evangelist nor qualify one to be a Board-Certified Chaplain: pretty much only Seminary and CPE courses can do that. This program will not shove a trinitarian view of Christianity down people's throats, but there is certainly grounding in what trinitarian Christianity really is.

The structure of the course is twelve units on the Grand Encampment's official Learning Management System, templared.org. Each self-paced unit requires readings, watching short videos made by our team of Chaplains, quizzes on the materials in the readings and lectures, and then short projects devised to immediately impact the lives of members of the organization. These projects are going to be archived and made available for other Lodges and Commanderies to use to help them as well. The units assume no prior training and even provide help with the mechanics of speech that so few of us are taught nowadays.

The York Rite Leadership Program – Course 202

Take what you learned in Personal Effectiveness and apply those skills to the group. Learn how to assess the characteristics of your members and combine those personalities into teams that execute efficiently and effectively.

In this class, you will learn how groups develop social identities that lead to better (or not better) outcomes. You will also learn the nuances of working with and motivating volunteer groups and how to be an effective leader of such groups, whether you are in charge or not.