

THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF OHIO
October 2023

The 181st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Ohio was held on October 5, 6 and 7, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North.

Sir Knight Dale A. Olson, our Right Eminent Grand Commander, presided. He and our Grand Officers entered between lines formed by Sir Knights from the Southwestern Division.

All sixty-three Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Commandery were represented. All of the Grand Officers were present. All of our living Past Grand Commanders were present except Sir Knights Richard L. Weaver, Richard M. Holcombe, S. Thomas Ramsay, Thomas H. Gault and Terry L. Wymer.

Attendance was reported as follows: Grand Officers 28; Past Grand Commanders 14; Commanders 48; Generalissimos 20; Captains General 19; Past Commanders 73 and 3 Proxies, giving us 205 voting delegates. We also had 25 non-voting members of Ohio Commanderies and 13 out of state guests.

We had many Distinguished guests from Ohio and out of state, plus the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, SK David J. Kussman, our own Past Grand Master from Ohio, SK William H. Koon II, and our own East Central Department Commander, SK Martin R. Trent. All of the distinguished guests were afforded the proper Templar honors, including our Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, SK Steven M. Grindle.

The Grand Recorder reported that the Annual Returns for the year ending May 31, 2023 showed 64 (now 63) Commanderies. He also reported that during the year we had the following gains and losses:

Membership as of June 1, 2022			5871
	This year	Last year	
Knightings	211	302	
Admitted on demit	55	190	(skewed by mergers)
Reinstated	28	27	
Total Additions	294	519	
Deaths	262	274	
Withdrawals	60	201	(skewed by mergers)
Suspensions - NPD	46	10	
Suspensions - N/A	88	78	
Corrections	2	0	
Total Losses	458	563	
Membership as of May 31, 2023			5707
Net Loss	164	44	

The trophy for the most knightings went to the West Central Division with 46 knightings.

Updated digital copies of our Statutes are available by requesting them from the Grand Recorder.

The Finance Committee presented a budget for the 2023-2024 Templar Year showing income and expenses of \$134,722.50.

During the weekend the College of Honors presented the following awards:

Knight Templar Cross of Honor

Ronald E. Cramblit, a Past Commander of Highland Commandery No. 31
Larry G. Moore, a Past Commander of Oriental Commandery No. 12

Knight Commander of the Temple

Larry A. Rentz, a Past Commander of DeMolay Commandery No. 9
D. Richard Heldman, a member of Cuyahoga Falls Commandery No. 83
Stephen E. Roth, a Past Commander of Findlay Commandery No. 49
Jeffery M. Gallaher, a Past Commander of Hope Commandery No. 26

Companion of the Temple

Four were approved and will be presented at Division functions.

The Divine Service was held on Thursday afternoon. The offering was \$787.00 and will go to the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. We are planning to send five ministers in February of 2024.

During this past year we were saddened to lose one of our Past Grand Commanders: SK Dennis L. Hughes.

The Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet were held on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Our Past Grand Commander SK Martin R. Trent had the privilege of installing SK Richard L. Ganon as our new Right Eminent Grand Commander, along with our corps of Grand Officers. SK Gerald G. Pugh served as the Installing Marshal and SK Franklin C. Boner served as Installing Prelate. SK Ronald L. Vickers presented our retiring REGC with his Past Grand Commander's jewel.

We were pleased to again have our Drill Competition and also our Ritual Competition.

Ritual Competition Results

5th Libation

Jay Kennedy	Cincinnati No. 3	1 st
Joshua Grove	Akron No. 25	2 nd

Ode to the Skull

Jay Kennedy	Cincinnati No. 3	1 st
David Gizzo	Columbus No. 69	2 nd

Flag Lecture

Tom Gartner	St. Luke's No. 34	1 st
Steve Roth	Findlay No. 49	2 nd

Junior Warden's address

Charles Thackery	Jerusalem No. 75	1 st
Wayne Seibert	Valley No. 80/Miami No. 22	2 nd

Prelate's Address

Jay Kennedy	Cincinnati No. 3	1 st
George Moore	Sidney No. 46	2 nd

Drill Results

C-15 Field

1st - West Central Division

D-7 Field

1st – Sidney 46 – Smith 938

2nd – Palestine 33 – Stewart 937

3rd – Eagle 29 – Johnson 924

4th – Jerusalem 75 – Smith 921

5th – Findlay 49 – Eakin 915

C-6 Asylum

1st – Valley 80 – Fair 873

2nd – Reed 6 – Keller 835

D-6 Asylum

1st – Bryan 74 – Crouch 915

2nd – Columbus 69 - Flanigan 884

3rd – East Central Div. - French 853

4th – Medina 84 – Gregory 851

5th – Defiance 30 – Cripps 834

Ned E. Dull Drill Captain's Award

Zac Stewart Palestine 33

Doug Smith Sidney 46/Jerusalem 75

Joseph J Fair Valley 80

Ken Crouch Bryan 74

Bruce Basil Drill Captain's Award

Mike Flanigan Columbus 69

Aaron French East Central Division

Wayne Cripps Defiance 30

The 182nd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Ohio will be held at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North, Worthington Ohio, on October 10, 11 and 12, 2024.

Fraternally submitted,
Al Johnson, Grand Recorder