

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for January, 2025
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
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Sir Knights and Ladies

Welcome to 2025. I trust everyone had a great and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Well, 2024 has come and gone and I hope everyone is ready to Jump into 2025 at full speed with full enthusiasm for Commandery inspections. There are inspections scheduled every Saturday in the Great State of Ohio from January 04, 2025, until April 26 Except for East Central Department meeting on March 8 and Holy Week on April 19, 2025. Please make a special effort to attend inspections this year. Most commanderies need some help on inspection day. Most of all, be safe on all your journeys wherever your travels may take you.

Lady Judy and I have plans to attend the following inspections in January:

January 04	Mansfield #21
January 11	Cuyahoga Falls #83
January 18	Middletown 71, I will be Inspecting
January 25	Marietta #50

Hopefully good weather will prevail for traveling for all January Inspections. Sir Knights, if I have not already given you a small wooden cross, please ask me for one and I will explain the significance it contains. By asking for a cross, I can tell how many Sir Knights are reading this article.

March is approaching fast, please make plans to attend the East Central Department Conference on March 08, 2025, in Fort Wayne, Ind. I do not want the embarrassment of Michigan Grand Commandry beating us in numbers. Let's turn the other states in the department Green with envy with a huge showing of GREEN COATS! More information will be out to us soon.

As A reminder: If your commandery wishes to portray the Full Form Opening before the Order of the Temple with your Knight of Malta in the temple, you must notify your Deputy Division Commander of your plans during the Annual Review.

Looking through some of the old books I have accumulated over the years, I came across the following information. Grand Commandery K.T., OHIO Statutes and Regulations "1891", I found a couple of items worth mentioning:

From the Preface

The Grand Commandery of Ohio was organized on the 24th of October 1843, by subordinates, viz: Mt. Vernon Commandery, No 1, Lancaster Commandery, No. 2, Cincinnati Commandery, No. 3, Massillon Commandery, No. 4, and Clinton Commandery, No. 5.

The first is not only the oldest Commandery in Ohio, but the first establishment of Knights Templar west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was constituted by virtue of a Dispensation issued by Sir Thomas Smith Webb, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, on the 14th of March, 1818, to Sir John Snow, authorizing him to assemble and congregate, in the town of Worthington, a sufficient and legal number of Knight to open Council and Commandery in said town, and therein confer the Orders of Knighthood upon such tried and worthy Companions of the Royal Arch as may make application for the same. By virtue of this authority, Sir John Snow summoned all Sir Knights residing within the distance of 40 miles to assemble at Masonic Hall, in the Academy, in said town, on the 15th of March 1818.

Imagine how long it would take to travel 40 miles in 1818. We cannot get a Sir Knight to make a 20-minute trip by car to attend our meetings. Next month I will continue with Lancaster No. 2 Beginning History.

In the Statutes and Regulations

Section 12

Fees and Dues

- A. The Following Fees and Dues constitute the revenues of the Grand Commandery:

The fee for a Dispensation to form and open a new Commandery, and which must be paid in advance, shall be \$200.00

The fee for a Charter shall be \$5.00

The fee for every Knight Templar created during the fiscal year shall be \$2.00

Commanderies shall pay annually as Grand Dues for each of their members, except those created during the year \$0.50

- B. No Commandery shall confer the Orders of Knighthood for a less sum than **Forty Dollars**; and the fees or the Orders cannot be remitted directly or indirectly, nor by vote of money to the candidate.

So, over the period of 133 years our fees have not kept up with inflation. Imagine what wages were in 1891 versus the wages today. The above numbers were very expensive to become a Knight Templar,

Remember "Christ Gives us Direction."

Courteously,

Dale A. Exline, KCT

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Ohio