

THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF OHIO

October 2025

The 183rd Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Ohio was held on October 9 and 10, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North.

Sir Knight Dale A. Exline, our Right Eminent Grand Commander, presided. He and our Grand Officers entered between lines formed by Sir Knights from the several Divisions.

All sixty-two 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, David M. Snyder, Richard M. Holcombe, S. Thomas Ramsay, and Terry L. Wymer.

Attendance was reported as follows: Grand Officers 40; Past Grand Commanders 12; Commanders 39; Generalissimos 12; Captains General 11 and Past Commanders 66, giving us 180 voting delegates. We also had 33 non-voting members of Ohio Commanderies and 23 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 East Central Department Commander, SK Jay P. Kennedy. All of the distinguished guests were afforded the proper Templar honors, including SK Franck T. Kakou the Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Ohio representing the Grand Master, SK William M. Carter III.

The Grand Recorder reported that the Annual Returns for the year ending May 31, 2025 showed 62 Commanderies. He also reported that during the year we had the following gains and losses:

Membership as of June 1, 2024		5560
	This year	Last year
Knightings	131	209
Admitted on demit	75	81
Reinstated	29	23
Total Additions	235	313
Deaths	214	214
Withdrawals	89	105
Suspensions - NPD	21	42
Suspensions - N/A	184	97
Corrections	2	2
Total Losses	510	460
Membership as of May 31, 2025		5285
Net Loss	275	164

The trophy for the most knightings went to the Southeastern Division with 36 knightings.

We had one Resolution approved by the voting delegates, establishing a Charitable Foundation. Updated digital copies of our Statutes are available by requesting them from the Grand Recorder.

The Finance Committee presented a budget for the 2025-2026 Templar Year showing income and expenses of \$130,105.00.

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

Knight Templar Cross of Honor

Michael A. Ash, a Past Commander of Chillicothe No. 8

Knight Commander of the Temple

Bruce M. Shinabery, a Past Commander of Ivanhoe Commandery No. 54

Richard J. Goddard, a Past Commander of Warren Commandery No. 39

David J. Kern, a Past Commander of Columbus Commandery No. 69

Steven M. Grindle, a Past Commander of Toledo Commandery No. 7

Companion of the Temple

Four were approved and will be presented at Division functions.

The Divine Service was held on Friday afternoon. The offering was \$822.00 and will go to the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. Plans are to send two groups of ministers this coming February.

During this past year we were saddened to lose our Past Grand Commander Burch E. Zehner who served as Grand Commander in 2008. We have been informed that Claudia Winrod, the widow of our Past Grand Commander F. Dean Winrod who served in 1987 has also passed.

The Installation of Officers and the Grand Commandery Banquet were held on Friday, October 10, 2025. Our Past Grand Commander SK George Edmiston III had the privilege of installing SK Ronald L. Ensell as our new Right Eminent Grand Commander, along with our corps of Grand Officers. SK Robert C. Hager served as the Installing Marshal, SK Franklin C. Boner served as Installing Recorder and SK Martin R. Trent served as Installing Chaplain. SKs Martin R. Trent, Gerald G. Pugh and R. Thomas Starr presented our retiring REGC his Past Grand Commander's jewel.

In July we had our Drill Competition and also our Ritual Competition.

Ritual Competition Results

Explanatory Lecture

Timothy Roth	Findlay No. 49	1 st
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Roger Bair	Mt. Vernon No. 1	2 nd
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Ode to the Skull

Roger Bair	Mt. Vernon No. 1	1 st
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Terry Hoover	Wooster No. 48	2 nd
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Scott Hensley	Cincinnati No. 3	3 rd
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Jeff Ellis	Calvary No. 13	4 th
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Chris Schick	Mansfield No. 21	5 th
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Charles Thackery	Middletown No. 71	
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Flag Lecture

Chris Schick	Mansfield No. 21	1 st
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Jeff Ellis	Calvary No. 13	2 nd
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Charles Thackery	Middletown No. 71	3 rd
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Junior Warden's address			
Chris F. Schick	Mansfield No. 21	1 st	
David Williams	Marrietta No. 50	2 nd	
Prelate's Address			
James M. Carlson	Raper No. 19	1 st	
Robert Hager	Coeur de Lion No. 64	2 nd	

Drill Results	Captain	Team	Captain
C-15 Field			
1 st - West Central Division	Zach Stewart	947	12
D-7 Field			
1 st – Palestine 33	Zach Stewart	958	12
2 nd - Findlay 49	Rick Eakin	957	20
3 rd - Marietta 50	Dave Miller	956	20
4 th - Warren 39	Rich Goddard	925	16
5 th - Canton 38	Larry Haines	919	44
6 th - Eagle 29	Tom Johnson	897	40
7 th - Middletown 71	Mike Stephenson	892	76
E-5			
1 st – Marietta 50	Dave Miller	940	40
2 nd – Findlay 49	Tim Roth	930	52
3 rd – Sidney 46	John Stiltner	925	41
4 th – Palestine 33	Clint Buffington	872	108
C-6 Asylum			
1 st – Valley 80	Joe Fair	948	5
D-6 Asylum			
1 st – Bryan 74	Steve Miller	974	5
2 nd – Columbus 69	Tim Adams	920	32
Ned E. Dull Drill Captain's Award			
C-15 and D-7	Zach Stewart	Palestine 33	
E-5	Dave Miller	Marietta 50	
C-Asylum	Joe Fair	Valley 80	
D-Asylum	Steve Miller	Bryan 74	
Bruce Basil Drill Captain's Award			
D-7	Mike Stephenson	Middletown 71	
E-5	Clint Buffington	Palestine 33	

This coming year the Drill Competition and Ritual Competition will be held on July 25, 2026 at the Dayton Masonic Center.

The 184th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Ohio will be held at the Wyndham Hotel (formerly the Doubletree), 175 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus, Ohio, on October 8 and 9, 2026.

Fraternally submitted,
Al Johnson, Grand Recorder