

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS



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They're there to make the trains run on time, Republican trains, Democrat trains:
They all need to run on time.

Donna Sytek, Former Speaker, New Hampshire House of Representatives

Sir Knights,

A few days ago, while listening to my local Public Radio Station, the name of a dear friend and Frater caught my attention, that of Sir Knight Paul Clifford Smith, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire. Sir Knight Smith enjoys the distinction of serving as Clerk of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, a post which he has held for some eight years. In this position, he is tasked with ensuring that debates, amendments and votes on the hundreds of bills that pass through that four-hundred-member body proceed smoothly. Having to stand for election every two years, he has held the office under Republican and Democratic majorities. As an indication of the efficient and impartial manner in which he has performed his duties, in the most recent election, he was unopposed. He previously served four years as Assistant Clerk.



Sir Knight Smith in the Gallery of the House Chamber. The New Hampshire State House is the oldest in the country in continuous use.



Sir Knight Smith advising the Speaker of the House, Sherman Adam Packard, himself a Sir Knight and Eminent Past Commander of Trinity Commandery No. 1, Manchester.

The past couple years have required Sir Knight Smith to master, not only the intricacies of parliamentary and legislative procedure but the logistics for socially remote sessions in parking lots and gymnasias, all on account of the COVID 19 contagion. Sir Knight Smith enjoys an excellent reputation among his peers, having been elected President of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries from 2019 through 2021. He is **currently Vice Chair of the Mason's Manual**

Commission, updating the *Manual of Legislative Procedure for State Legislatures and Other Legislative Bodies* originally published by Paul Mason in 1937.

Sir Knight Smith is an Eagle Scout, having achieved the rank in 1998. Before assuming his legislative responsibilities, he served the Daniel Webster Council as a District Executive. He currently serves as Den Leader **for his son's Cub Scout Pack**. In January 2017, Sir Knight Smith received the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award of the National Eagle Scouts Association at the Daniel Webster Council's Annual Eagle Scout Recognition Ceremony, at which Your editor was pleased to be present.



Sir Knight Smith proudly holding his Outstanding Eagle Scout Certificate. The Council Executive is on the right.



Sir Knight Smith with your Editor following the presentation.

For those interested in hearing the full report as broadcast on New Hampshire Public Radio, follow this link: [NH House Clerk aims to maintain order amid historic partisan split | New Hampshire Public Radio \(nhpr.org\)](http://www.nhpr.org/news/2017/01/17/nh-house-clerk-aims-to-maintain-order-amid-historic-partisan-split)

Our Commanderies are diligently preparing for Inspections. The first will be the joint inspection of Trinity Commandery No. 1 and Saint George Commandery No. 8, Saturday, February 4, next, in Manchester. The Commandery will open at 1:00 p.m. for conferral of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross. Lunch will be served at Noon for all persons who make reservations with your editor by Wednesday, February 1, next. Before lunch, at 11:00 a.m., the Past Commanders Association will meet to welcome new Past Commanders since the last meeting of the Association.

The next two Inspections will be those of De Witt-Clinton Commandery No. 2 and Palestine Commandery No. 11 on the Order of Malta Saturday, March 11, next, and of Mount Horeb Commandery No. 3 and North Star-Saint Gerard Commandery No. 4 on the Order of the Temple Saturday, March 18, next. Additional details will follow from the office of the Right Eminent Grand Recorder.

Courteously,

Thomas X. Tsirimokos, K.G.C., P.G.C., P.D.C.

Assistant Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

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