



Grand Commander



Scottie W. Cox

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We Need Your Help!

Please send event news from your local commanderies to us for inclusion in the State News!

- ✦ Submissions must be received by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming edition. Submissions may be altered to fit.
- ✦ Please send emails with subject line "KT State News" to the editor.

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Grand Commander's Message

Greetings Sir Knights,

It's hard to believe it is already May! With the coming of May, we as Christians will be celebrating Ascension Day, which commemorates our belief of the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven, where he is seated on the right hand of Our Father. Following the account of Acts 1:3 that the risen Jesus appeared for 40 days prior to his Ascension, Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the fortieth day of Easter, although some Christian denominations have moved the observance to the following Sunday, sometimes called Ascension Sunday.

Whether you will celebrate Ascension Day on May 9 or May 12, please take time for prayer and reflection on this Holy day. Easter weekend saw me in our Nation's Capital for the Grand Encampment's Easter Observance. Saturday night, Lady Jody and I attended the Banquet honoring the Grand Commanders in attendance and hosted by SK David J. Kussman, our Most Eminent Grand Master. I made a lot of new friends and had a wonderful time representing the great State of North Carolina. Early Easter morning it was off to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial for the Easter Service. The service was very moving and powerful as we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. I recommend that if you have not attended an Easter Service at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, to consider doing so in the near future.

On April 13, I was invited to take part in the Order of the Temple, which was conferred at a joint festival of the Lenior York Rite Bodies and the Wilkes York Rite Bodies in North Wilkesboro. I was honored to Knight my first three mem-

bers to the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple. I was also honored to be a part of the cast because it consisted of eight (8) current Grand Commandery officers and one (1) Past Grand Commander:

- ✦ Commander: SK Mark Alexander, Eminent Grand Senior Warden
- ✦ Generalissimo: SK Edward Allen, Eminent Grand Captain General
- ✦ Captain General: SK Scottie Cox, Right Eminent Grand Commander
- ✦ Senior Warden: SK Sam Henline, Eminent Grand Junior Warden
- ✦ Junior Warden: SK Kirby Matthews, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander
- ✦ Prelate: SK Matt Peeler, Eminent Grand Prelate
- ✦ Standard Bearer: SK Charles Talley, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
- ✦ Warder: SK Mike Pritchard, Eminent Grand Warder
- ✦ Sentinel: SK Steve Nixon, Eminent Grand Sentinel

Your Grand Officers held two district meetings in April. The first was the District 3 meeting, hosted by the Wilson York Rite Bodies on April 6. The second was the District 7 meeting, hosted by the Monroe York Rite Bodies on April 15. Many thanks go out to these Bodies for hosting and to all the Companions and Sir Knights who attended. Also, a big thank you to the Bodies for providing a meal and such warm welcome.

On May 27, we will be observing Memorial Day, a day set aside for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Please take a moment to remember all those who gave their all in the service of our great country.

Fraternally Yours,

Scottie W. Cox

Grand Commander

Grand York Rite District Meeting Changes

Denton – There have been a couple of changes to the schedule of district meetings. Please note the updated table below outlining the updated schedule for the remaining meetings:

Dist. No.	Date	District Meeting Location & Times
4	13-MAY	105 W. College St., Oxford , NC 27565 6:00 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting
8	04-JUN	602 Wilkesboro Blvd. NE, Lenoir , NC 28645 6:30 PM dinner, 7:30 PM meeting
5	12-JUN	230 NW Broad St., Southern Pines , NC 28387 No dinner, 7:00 PM meeting
6	17-JUN	4537 Country Club Rd., Winston-Salem , NC 27104 6:00 PM dinner , 7:00 PM meeting
2	12-AUG	1415 S 17th St., Wilmington , NC 28401 6:00 PM King Solomon’s Feast, 7:00 PM meeting
9	16-AUG	435 E Marshall St., Waynesville , NC 28786 (Rescheduled after GYR, times TBD)
1	21-OCT	1104 Charles St., Greenville , NC 27858 No dinner, 7:30 PM meeting

Knights Templar at the Monroe Christmas Parade: A Memoir by SK Galard Moore

Monroe – At our meeting of November 2023, the Senior Warden, Douglas Moore of Truth Lodge #749 asked the lodge to consider participating in the Monroe Christmas Parade. After much discussion, we agreed to participate and they would ask Terry Pritt, Master of Monroe Lodge #244, to assist them and invite the entire 29th Masonic District to assist us. The members met to plan what we would do in helping with the parade.



WB Jerry Page’s 1929 Buick, polished and ready to lead the parade.

We obtained a 1929 Buick vehicle belonging to WB Jerry C. Page to be driven in the parade. WB Bruce Reynolds, Past Master of Monroe Lodge furnished a beautiful red tractor and a 40-foot-long trailer. The flat-bed trailer was decorated by members of our Masonic Lodges, along with members of the DeMolay, Union

County Shrine Club, Charlotte Scottish Rite, Monroe York Rite, and Rainbow Girls local bodies and assemblies. Bales of straw were placed down the middle of the trailer with a tarp placed on top for people to sit on. We had more than 43 members on the trailer.



All aboard! The Brothers of our Union County Lodges and appendant bodies made quite a showing at the Monroe Christmas Parade

The parade route was approximately 2 miles long and we had people standing four deep on each side of the parade route. I was told that it was the longest parade in the history of Monroe parades with approximately 5,000 people attending. It took an hour and 45 minutes to walk the parade route. It was a great success and we thanked everyone that participated.

Four members, myself included, walked along beside the trailer and passed out small bags of candy to all the children along the parade route. We gave out more than 900 bags of candy. It was enjoyed by all that were present.



SK Galard Moore brightened up a young child’s day with holiday candy.

The child’s name in the picture is Ryleigh Clawson. She is 3 years old. Her father is Bro. Tyler Clawson and her mother is Casey Clawson. Her grandfather said she was fascinated with my Commandery hat. Unbeknownst to me, the person who took the picture was her proud grandfather, WB Dennis Clawson, Past Master of Wingate Lodge in Wingate. This was

the first time I had met Bro. Clawson.

SK Galard Moore and his daughter, Phyllis Garrison contributed this article, and Brothers / Sir Knights Douglas Moore, PM, Terry Pritt, PM, J. C. Page, PM, and Robert Mullis, PM and DDGM contributed these pictures.

Bethlehem #29 Celebrates Easter with Tiled Easter Observance

Greenville – On April 15, Bethlehem Commandery #29 opened using the Grand Encampment’s official Long Form for the first time in at least fifty years, if not longer. A check of the minutes will have to be done to see when this was last done, if ever, however the Commandery’s oldest member is not aware of a time when it’s been done and he is a 50+ year York Rite Mason. All attending were asked to wear a chapeau even if they did not have a uniform and the Commandery provided swords to all who did not own one. After the opening the Commandery conferred a tiled Easter Observance, closing it with the Lord’s Prayer. This Observance had been rescheduled from March due to scheduling conflicts. After the meeting was closed, light refreshments were served.

SK Matthew Walters reports, “Traditionally our Commandery uses the Intermediate Form. However, the officers decided we should start using this Long Form Work and at a minimum be familiar with its workings and movements. We hope other bodies will join us at future meetings, where we hope to use this and continue to learn and polish our Work.”

SK Walters wishes to extend an invitation all Sir Knights to attend their December 16, 2024 meeting where they will open using the Long Form and have a Tiled Christmas Observance. This is for York Rite members only and is not open to the public or family members. Attendees are requested to please bring a chapeau of some type and a sword. There are swords available that can be used for those not in possession of one. Uniforms as always, are welcome for those that have them. Officers will be in black tie for any not in uniform for this specific evening. Light refreshments to follow.

Grand Commandery Officers Join Lenoir and Wilkes Commanderies to Confer the Order of the Temple

N. Wilkesboro – On Saturday, April 13, REGC Scottie Cox and seven other Grand Commandery Officers joined the Sir Knights of Wilkes #40 and Lenoir #33 to confer the Order of the Temple onto three candidates. Also assisting in the conferral was REPGC Kirby Matthews of Salisbury #13.



Grand Commandery officers prepare to confer the Order of the Temple



Grand Commandery Officers and members of Wilkes and Lenoir Commanderies welcome our new Sir Knights

Important Reminders:

- May 13:** District 4 meeting at the Oxford Masonic Temple in Oxford, starting at 7:30PM. Dinner at 6:00PM.
- May 4:** York Rite Honors Day at the Monroe Masonic Temple in Monroe, starting at 8:00AM. Lunch at the Temple, cost is \$20 per person.
- June 4:** District 4 meeting at the Hibriten Masonic Lodge in Lenoir, starting at 7:30PM. Dinner at 6:30PM.
- June 14-15:** Southeastern York Rite Conference, at the [Knoxville Airport Hilton](#) in Alcoa, TN. For reservations, call (865) 970-4300 request the Grand York Rite Rate of \$145/night excl. tax. Reservations deadline is **May 14** for lodging, **May 31** for Conference registration. Conference Registration Fee of \$40 is required for each attendee including those registering for the Emerging Leadership Courses.