

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Virginia



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June 2023

Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander
gc@vatemplars.org

Sir Knight Christopher R. Faraldi
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Knighly Greetings Sir Knights!

The Grand Commandery's Annual Drill School and Competition is scheduled for June 10, 2023. It will be held at the Kazim Shriner Center, 628 Campbell Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA 24016, from 10:00 am. – 4:00 pm.

The Grand Commandery of Virginia had another amazing year in Drill Team related activities and was pleased to introduce some new activities. As we have stated before, Drill Team activities support several of the Swords of Progress; primarily Membership Enhancement and Ritualistic Improvement. Both of which are addressed in the Grand Commandery Drill School and Competition. Since 2007, the Virginia Class 'E' Team consists of a Captain, four Marchers, and one optional supernumerary member who must stand for inspection. The team members do not have to belong to the same Commandery but must individually hold membership in a Virginia Commandery.

The anticipation coming out of last year's Grand Conclave was to host 4-5 teams this year, however due to scheduling conflicts we were unable to reach that number. We were however able to field 2 teams for instruction and competition, including some Sir Knights taking on new positions to help extend our coverage for the upcoming Triennial Conclave. The winning team for the third year in a row was New River Valley Commandery #32.

As the Grand Commandery Drill Competition winner, they are the recipients of the Fitz Allen Brown Memorial Drill Trophy and were named the Grand Commander's Honor Guard for this year's 201st Grand Stated Conclave. They presented an exhibition to the Sir Knights and guests at the 200th Grand Stated Conclave, demonstrated the presentation of colors at the Grand Commanders Award Banquet, lead the Bi-centennial parade in Williamsburg along with the team from Fredericksburg, and formed the lines entering into Bruton Parish for the Sir Knights and ladies to walk past during our Bicentennial Celebration.

Prior to this year, there were two Sir Knights have achieved temporary membership in the Drill Corps. They are Sir Knights K Jeremy B. Utt and Charles Barbee. At the Awards Banquet two additional Sir Knights were presented with their patch and certificate to be added to that list, Sir Knights Joe Givens and Cole David. There is a distinct possibility that we will add 2 more Sir Knights to the Corps next year as well. Your Drill Team Committee remains firmly convinced that the Virginia Commanderies and Districts that support drill related activities are helping to build as well as retain our Knight Templar Member

A special thanks goes out to Sir Knight Bill Reinhold, REPDC, for assisting us this year. He made an outstanding judge, and we look forward to working with him in the future.



Courteously,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Haas".

S. K. Dennis M. Haas, KCT
Grand Commander, 2023-2024