

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
State News for January, 2022
Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
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Greetings Sir Knights!

At the closure of 2021 I cannot help but reflect on how fitting it is that we celebrate the Birth of the Son, our Lord and Savior, on the last month of the calendar year. With Christmas Observances, advent, and the rededication of our faith before engaging upon the hope only a new year can bring. Christmas is not always a happy occasion for many who have suffered loss at this most solemn time of the year when regardless of which faith you belong or religious views you support, it is always a good time for reflection. For us, as Christians, this is certainly intended to be a meaningful and inspiring time of hope and joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ and all the promise that brings that we will endure, for He is with us. After a month of inspirational Christmas messages and the observance of Christmas traditions I find, by the power of prayer, my mind is now clear.

With the arrival of the new year, in 2022, it is time we rise in the wake of a new beginning. As Knights Templar, let us work together in the coming year to bring glory to His name, restrengthen our bonds and support each other for the hope only our faith can provide. I call on you to join me in remembering and honoring our commitment to each other, not only for the work of the day but also in celebrating the solemn bond that unites us. I remind you to take time to enjoy seeing old friends and getting better acquainted with new ones. Whisper good counsel into the ear of a less experienced Brother, Companion or Sir Knight and most importantly contribute to a positive experience for all we meet along our journey. I call on you to be a light in the dark for all worthy of the Templar experience. It may be that you know a Christian Brother or Companion who really should be a Knight Templar or perhaps he is a friend or colleague who should join Freemasonry so he can become a Knight Templar. Whichever the case may be, I call on you to focus on the Templar experience and remember, they may forget what you said, they may even forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

The new year brings us to the inspection season which is an important part of what we do for so many reasons. It is not only to ensure that our records, finances, and business operations are in good order and operating according to our constitution, statutes, and by-laws but also to ensure our ritualistic work and proper use of protocol keeps the high impressive standards of the order so that all who gain admission have a positive and memorable experience. In addition, inspection day is an opportunity for us to visit and renew friendships while extending courtesy and hospitality. It should be a celebration where we share the Templar experience with our new Sir Knight and his Lady and invite others to come to join in the festivities of the day. While there is much work that goes into inspection day the goal should be to create a positive and memorable experience that all will enjoy. As I have done for the past several years, for the months of January through April I plan to travel to an inspection every weekend except where my obligations may require me to

be somewhere else. I sincerely look forward to visiting the Sir Knights and Ladies throughout the state of Ohio. In addition to the inspections, you never know where we may visit a stated conclave to be with our Fraters and their Ladies.

I would like to thank Sir Knight Sean P. Carr, State Chairman of our DeMolay Cooperation Committee, as well as his committee for the outstanding representation of the Grand Commandery of Ohio at both the Ohio DeMolay Centennial Celebration as well as the Winter Conclave in Sandusky. Sir Knight Carr announced to the young men of Ohio DeMolay that each Commandery Division in Ohio has been requested to appoint a Division Committee that will work with the DeMolay Chapters from their areas of the state to support DeMolay including an initiative to sponsor a DeMolay prospect party in each Division. The Grand Commandery of Ohio has budgeted up to \$200 in matching funds per Division for this initiative in the hopes of a successful program. We call on all Sir Knights to promote the support of DeMolay and the success of these prospect parties which will be a fun event for young men between the ages of 12 and 21 by inviting their sons, grandsons, great grandsons, nephews, and all their friends to attend and have a good time.

As part of our membership program this year, in addition to the patch, cap and jacket program, we are asking all commanderies in Ohio to work with our membership committees to promote what the York Rite has to offer. Each Division has been asked to consider putting together a fun evening where they would present a program promoting the York Rite. This could be over dinner or other social gathering where they would invite Lodge Brothers to join them in a night out. In addition, I am asking each Division to work with the Membership Chairman of your Division, and the contacts you have with the Chapter Districts and Council Arches in your Divisions to organize a York Rite Festival sometime in April or May for each Division. This does not have to be all degrees and orders on the same day, but the end goal should be to knight a large class in each Division during the month of May.

I am also looking forward to Ohio participating in the nationwide Easter Observance of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia. We are planning to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at 1:15 PM on Saturday, April 16, 2022, located in Arlington Cemetery as well as the Easter Sunrise Service Sunday morning at George Washington Masonic Memorial. This year we will march from the parking lot instead of up Shooter's Hill to allow for anyone who would not be able to make it up the hill to be able to participate. Ohio has reserved a block of rooms at a very nice hotel in Old Town Alexandria for Easter weekend which is only a couple of minutes from the George Washington Masonic Memorial and just a couple of blocks from King Street. These hotels fill up very fast, so I recommend making room reservations as soon as possible. If you would like to stay in this really nice hotel with the Sir Knights from Ohio, please contact the Deputy Division Commander or Division Commander from your Division for details.

Lady Pam and I hope all had a Merry Christmas. We wish you all the very best in the new year ahead!

Sincerely and fraternally,

George Edmiston III, KCT, REGC

**Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors,
and let every new year find you a better man.**

[Benjamin Franklin](#)

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