



# Tennessee Knight Templar News



SIR KNIGHT ROBERT B. BEAM, KCT, RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

January A.D. 2024 / A.O. 906

Edited by: Jesse J. Harper, KYCH



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### **Pictured Above Left:**

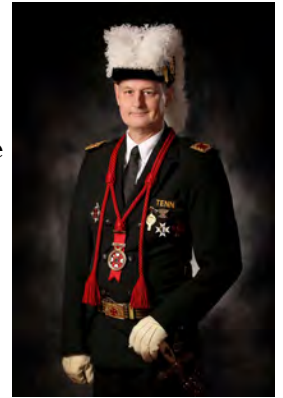
Eight Right Eminent Past Grand Commanders along with the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander attending the conferral of the 33° Degree in Nashville.  
 Front row: Robert Beam, Charles Thames, Terry Plemons, Roy Etherton, Dickie Johnson. Back row: John Simmons, Billy Young, Clarence Crump, Michael Weems.

### **Pictured Above Right:**

First Ladies of Templary attending the Scottish Rite 33° Degree Banquet: Peggy Etherton, Susan Thames, Barbara Crump, Sharon Beam, Christy Young, and Mary Ellen Weems.



**ROBERT B. BEAM**  
**RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER**  
**Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee**



**A Message from the Knight Templar News Editor**

December 27, 2023  
Knoxville, TN

Sir Knights,

In 1999 I was approached by Sir Knight Joe Warshawsky, who explained that the incoming Grand Commander, George Green, would be looking for a new editor for what was then known as the “Tennessee Supplement” to the *Knight Templar Magazine*, as the previous editor was retiring. After learning a bit about the position, I agreed, and on recommendation of outgoing Grand Commander Boyd Crowder, I was appointed. I did not know at that time just how much I would come to love this job.

The past twenty five years have been a blessing to me. I appreciate the support of the Knights of Tennessee and have enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the order. I have made many friends and learned many things, not only in researching for articles I have written, but about newsletters and publishing in general. I have received far more than I have given.

Although I have enjoyed my tenure, it is time for someone else to step forward and take this position. I am happy to announce that Sir Knight Jesse Harper, whom many of you already know, has agreed to serve as the Editor of the *Tennessee Knight Templar News*, effective January of 2024. Jesse and his wife Emily live in New Market, Tennessee. He is a Past Master and is the current Master of Mossy Creek Lodge #353, he is also active in Knoxville Scottish Rite and Zelmar Grotto. He is a KYCH and currently serves on the Grand Commandery Membership Committee. He has served as the assistant editor of the *KT News* since September, and has worked very hard to enhance the quality of the newsletter. I know he will do an outstanding job.

I know that you will support Jesse as you have supported me. I thank you all for allowing me this opportunity over the past two and half decades.

Courteously and sincerely,

Robert B. Beam, REGC  
**Editor, *Tennessee Knight Templar News***

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ROBERTBEAM.GCTN@GMAIL.COM

# **F**rom the Grand Generalissimo

**John L. Palmer, GCT**

## **Christian Chivalric Values**

### **Part 4**

In the October issue, we began a series of articles on the "**Christian Chivalric Values**" as set forth by Sir Knight Richard Van Dorn, the first of which is, "*A firm belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and His church.*" In November, we examined the second of these values, "*The courage to confront evil despite the odds of success.*" Last month we discussed "*A commitment to those less fortunate.*" The fourth value is "*A desire to do what is right and modestly disclaim personal aggrandizement.*"

Sometimes I worry about our organization when it comes to this value. I look around, and sometimes the class "A" uniforms I see around me (including and especially mine) look like something that would be worn by a general in a third world country. We seem to be obsessed by medals, ribbons, and shoulder cords. This is one of the reasons I have come to prefer the simple cap and mantle uniform, without all the medals.

What the Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery have discovered is that if they want the Sir Knights to do something, all they have to do is give a medal for it. We have medals for contributing to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage, and the Grand Encampment permanent fund; for signing petitions and attending Grand Encampment conclaves, not to mention for service to the order.

Do not get me wrong, I believe in rewarding those who serve our order, but it troubles me some that I get the feeling that sometimes, we only serve or donate in order to get the medal. Whatever happened to service "without the hope of fee or reward?"

The true Knight does what is right simply because it is the right thing to do. He takes the initiative to serve others without being asked. He is the guy who cleans the dining hall before the Commandery meeting and sets up the asylum for degrees the afternoon before. He is the Brother who volunteers to cook the meal or who repairs the paraphernalia or even the toilet, if need be.

I sometimes hear from our Knights who seldom attend that, "I am not a ritualist and can't memorize, so I can't contribute." Remember that our mission is to provide every Knight with a "quality chivalric experience." If the only experience we are providing our Knights is the initiatory experience, we are completely missing the boat. That experience should also include quality meals, enjoyable fellowship, educational opportunities, family events, moving religious experiences, and opportunities to serve others within and outside our officially

sponsored charities. None of these things involve memorization or ritual performance. What about storing, cleaning, and repairing our paraphernalia or setting things up for conferrals?

Sometimes these jobs don't seem as attractive as performing ritual, but each one is vital to the chivalric experience.

How about those who visit our widows or shut-in Knights? Even a phone call is almost always appreciated. If you don't attend Commandery, does anyone call you and encourage you to come? That somebody could be you. We have programs to present to the Blue Lodges but no one to present them. We have committees which do not function because no one will volunteer to serve on them.

Every one of us has something to offer toward the accomplishment of our mission, and every one of us can achieve great satisfaction in doing so "without the hope of fee or reward."

As Templars, we should all be seeking every opportunity to serve Christ, our community, our Commandery, and our Brother Knights, not for recognition or medals, but out of gratitude that we have been permitted to achieve the rank of "Knight" and the opportunity to serve.

I sometimes think that many of our members open their dues notice each year and ask themselves the question, "What am I getting for these dues I keep paying?" The answer is simple, "Absolutely nothing of value." You see, that was the wrong question. Our order does not exist for us to spoon feed each other pleasant experiences. It doesn't exist to provide a one-time entertainment experience by conferring the orders. It doesn't exist so that our members can brag that they are "Knights Templar."

It exists to give us the opportunity to unite together in service of Christianity, of our fellow creatures, of our society, and of each other. If you want something other than bragging rights out of your Templar experience, then you need to get engaged with your Commandery in the service of others.

I am providing a list of the membership chairmen in each of our Commanderies and their e-mail addresses. If you are not currently engaged in the activities of your Commandery and if you want something out of your affiliation with Templary other than bragging rights, I urge you to contact your membership chairman and ask him where you can plug in and fulfill a role that is useful to your Commandery. If he can't give you a satisfactory answer, then call me – I can. Once you get into that role and start working, I can guarantee a fulfilling chivalric experience.

Next month Sir Knight James Weir will write about the Christian Chivalric value of "A commitment to put on the whole armor of God and ride forth every day."

Stay tuned.

As always, If I can assist you in any way, I can be contacted at:  
john.pgm97@gmail.com or (615) 504-3355 Cell

# Commandery Membership Chairmen

## **Nashville 1**

Atmanand Jaikarran

[ajaikarran@gmail.com](mailto:ajaikarran@gmail.com)

## **Baldwin 7**

Hayden Bilyeu

## **Lebanon**

[hdbilyeu@gmail.com](mailto:hdbilyeu@gmail.com)

## **Clarksville 8**

Arthur Stull

[stulla52@yahoo.com](mailto:stulla52@yahoo.com)

## **Coeur De Lion 9**

Kevin Boles

## **Knoxville**

[rock724@yahoo.com](mailto:rock724@yahoo.com)

## **Murfreesboro 10**

Mike Grimes

[mg5010@aol.com](mailto:mg5010@aol.com)

## **DePayens 11**

Stephen Kimball

## **Franklin**

[stephen\\_kimball@hotmail.com](mailto:stephen_kimball@hotmail.com)

## **Jackson 13**

Billy Young

[Wildbill3830@gmail.com](mailto:Wildbill3830@gmail.com)

## **Lookout 14**

Wade Hinson

## **Chattanooga**

[wadehinson@gmail.com](mailto:wadehinson@gmail.com)

## **Paris 16**

John Etling

[john@k3jae.com](mailto:john@k3jae.com)

## **St. Omer 19**

Charles Norton

## **Bristol**

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## **Chevalier 21**

Darryl Chapman

## **Oak Ridge**

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## **Cyprus 23**

Travis Russell

## **Maryville**

[hulk1262@yahoo.com](mailto:hulk1262@yahoo.com)

## **Watauga 25**

George Kraus

## **Johnson City**

[georgewk49@gmail.com](mailto:georgewk49@gmail.com)

## **Cumberland 26**

Brian McSpadden

## **Cookeville**

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**Union City 29**

Sean Haywood

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Bill Mullins

**Memphis**[Chef.william.mullins@gmail.com](mailto:Chef.william.mullins@gmail.com)**Kingsport 33**

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Michael Angelo-Nunez

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Bobby Blankenship

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Adam Larkey

**Elizabethton**[adamlarkey681@gmail.com](mailto:adamlarkey681@gmail.com)**Plateau 38**

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Brandon Wilson

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Bush Bernard

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Terry Johnson

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Jacob Conn

[jacob.j.a.conn@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.j.a.conn@gmail.com)**Campbell County 44**

Kenneth Wilson

[ccmasons@gmail.com](mailto:ccmasons@gmail.com)**Appalachia U.D**

Tron Valentine

**Fountain City(Knoxville)**[tron.valentine@gmail.com](mailto:tron.valentine@gmail.com)

# Commandery Inspection Grades

Rank	Name	#	Grade
1	Carter	37	94.09
2	Baldwin	7	93.52
3	Greenville	43	92.63
4	Nashville	1	92.35
5	Dickson	41	92.08
6	Paris	16	90.95
7	Murfreesboro	10	90.59
8	De Paynes	11	89.43
9	Kingsport	33	88.76
10	Coeur de Lion	9	87.52
11	Lookout	14	87.37
12	Manchester	40	87.31
13	St. Omer	19	86.92
14	Lexington	36	86.90
15	Jackson	13	84.26
16	Chevalier	21	83.09
17	Union City	29	82.36
18	Park Avenue	31	80.78
19	Clarksville	8	80.19
20	Cyprus	23	79.84
21	Cyrene	42	79.68
22	Cumberland	26	79.26
23	Watauga	25	78.20
24	Campbell County	44	77.19
25	Rosemark	39	74.18
26	Athens	34	66.53
27	Plateau	38	DNG

## Top Officers

Commander - Collier Hopson KT # 10

Generalissimo - Hayden Bilyeu KT # 7

Capt. General - Mitch Pritchett KT # 42

Sr. Warden - Wayne Elder KT # 1 and KT # 7

Jr. Warden - Chris Espitia KT # 13

Prelate - Dickie Johnson KT # 1

Warder - Burks Taylor KT # 1

## Winner of Sid C. Dorris Award:

Nashville Commandery # 1

# Upcoming Degrees and Orders

Thursday January 4<sup>th</sup>:  
Lebanon Chapter #25-  
106 N. College St., Lebanon, TN 37087  
Mark Master Mason and Past Master Degrees  
Eat at 6:00pm  
Degrees at 7:00pm  
Visiting candidates welcome



Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup>:  
Manchester Commandery #40-  
1313 Hillsboro Blvd., Manchester, TN 37355  
Order of the Temple  
Open at 5:00pm  
Eat at 5:30pm  
Order at 6:00pm



Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>:  
Knoxville Area York Rite Association Festival  
505 Locust St., Knoxville, TN 37902  
Chapter and Council Degrees  
Registration at 8:00am  
Opening Remarks at 9:00am  
Degrees begin at 9:10am



Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>:  
Knoxville Area York Rite Association  
505 Locust St., Knoxville, TN 37902  
Commandery Orders  
Registration at 8:00am  
Opening Remarks at 9:00am  
Orders begin at 9:10am





# History Made



On December 18, 2023, for the first time in Tennessee York Rite Masonry history, Sir Knights from the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee sat in a tiled meeting with Sir Knights from the Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Commandery.

This historic meeting happened at the December meeting of the new Appalachia Commandery, which was just granted dispensation last month.

Right Eminent Grand Commander Robert Beam said that he was proud to sit in a Commandery with these Sir Knights, and that he looked forward to attending their meeting soon. As a special way to honor these three visiting Sir Knights, the Captain General and Generalissimo recommended that Honorary Membership be extended.



Pictured to left:

Front row- Eugene Mitchell, PC; Jered Croome, Eminent Commander of Robert Yancey Garrett Commandery #11 PHA; Ron Cunningham; Robert Beam, Right Eminent Grand Commander.

Back row- George Webster, Eminent Grand Senior Warden and Kevin Boles, Eminent Grand Warden and Eminent Commander of Appalachia U.D.

## Southwest Tennessee Christmas Observance



Part of what we do as Knights Templar is to bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ by public observances of important celebrations of the Christian faith. On Thursday night, December 14, 2023, Park Avenue #31 and Rosemark #39, the Commanderies of the Southwest Tennessee battalion, had a joint Christmas Observance at the Blue Room restaurant in Memphis. The restaurant is part of the Kemmons Wilson Culinary Institute of the University of Memphis. Sir Knight and Chef Bill Mullins, who teaches at the Institute, made the arrangements. The Sir Knights gathered around a table shaped in the form of a cross and gave the traditional toasts and prayers. These included the Right Eminent Grand Prelate Terry Plemons' toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master, David Kussman; the Grand Master's response; toasts to the heads of the Tennessee Grand York Rite bodies; Right Eminent Grand Commander Robbie Beam, Most Illustrious Grand Master Quentin Bolden; Most Excellent Grand High Priest Ken DeLaet (in attendance with his wife Jennifer); Most Worshipful Grand Master Jim Arnhart; and toasts to all departed Sir Knights. After the toasts, a delicious dinner and good fellowship were enjoyed by all in attendance.



Ken and Jennifer DeLaet

# New Year Reminders

With the dawn of the new year and the election of new Commandery officers, it is only fitting that we remind ourselves and our new Knights of the Commandery basics. In the pages that follow you will find what offices comprise an Asylum of Knights Templar as well as the duties and locations of each respective office. While these duties are not currently part of our opening ritual, it is a good idea to know the duties of each officer. In the coming months we will delve deeper into each office to help as an educational tool for all of our Sir Knights.

Also included is a diagram showing the layout of an Asylum. The layout was included in last month's newsletter, but there were revisions that needed to be made. If you have already saved a copy of the layout from last month, then please update your records with this most recent version. As shown below, you will see the Sentinel is listed on both sides of the Asylum. This is done because it depends on the layout of the particular lodge room as to where the entry and exit door is located.

You will also see below the most up to date listing of the Commandery meeting schedule. The schedule includes associated meetings and meal times, if applicable. As meeting and meal times periodically change, please pass along your most recent schedule so that we can ensure that everyone has the most up-to-date information.

While this newsletter is intended to promote Templary in Tennessee, please inform us of any Chapter or Council degrees or Commandery Orders that your bodies are performing. This newsletter will be distributed on the first of every month, and with advanced notice, the conferral information will be included so that support can be given where it is needed statewide.

# Offices and Duties

**OFFICERS:** The officers within a Commandery consist of: Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate, Treasurer, Recorder, Standard Bearer, Sword Bearer, Warder, Sentinel, and Three Guards.

**Commander:** In the East or at the head of the Commandery.

To distribute alms to poor and weary Pilgrims traveling from afar, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted; to inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality and govern the Commandery with justice and moderation.

**Generalissimo:** On the right of the Commander.

To assist the Commander in the duties of his office and in his absence to preside.

**Captain General:** On the left of the Commander.

To see that due preparation is made for the conclaves of the Commandery, that the Asylum is in suitable array for the introduction of candidates and the dispatch of business, to execute the orders of the Commander, and in his absence and that of the Generalissimo, to preside.

**Senior Warden:** At the south-west angle of the triangle, on the right or in front of the First Division when separately formed, and on the right of the Commandery when in line.

To attend Pilgrim Warriors, comfort and support Pilgrim Penitents, and after due trial, introduce them into the Asylum.

**Junior Warden:** At the north-west angle of the triangle, on the right or in front of the Third Division when separately formed, and on the left of the Commandery when in line.

To attend poor and weary Pilgrims traveling from afar, accompany them on their journey, and in due time recommend them to the Commander.

**Prelate:** On the right of the Generalissimo.

To minister at the alter and offer up prayers to Deity.

**Treasurer:** On the right, and in front of the Generalissimo.

To receive in charge all funds and property of the Commandery, pay all orders drawn on the Treasury, and render a true account when required.

**Recorder:** On the left, and in front of the Captain General.

Faithfully to record the transactions of the Commandery, collect the revenue, and pay it over to the Treasurer.

**Standard Bearer:** In the West, and in the center of the Second Division.

To display, support, and protect the banner of our order.

Why stationed in the West?

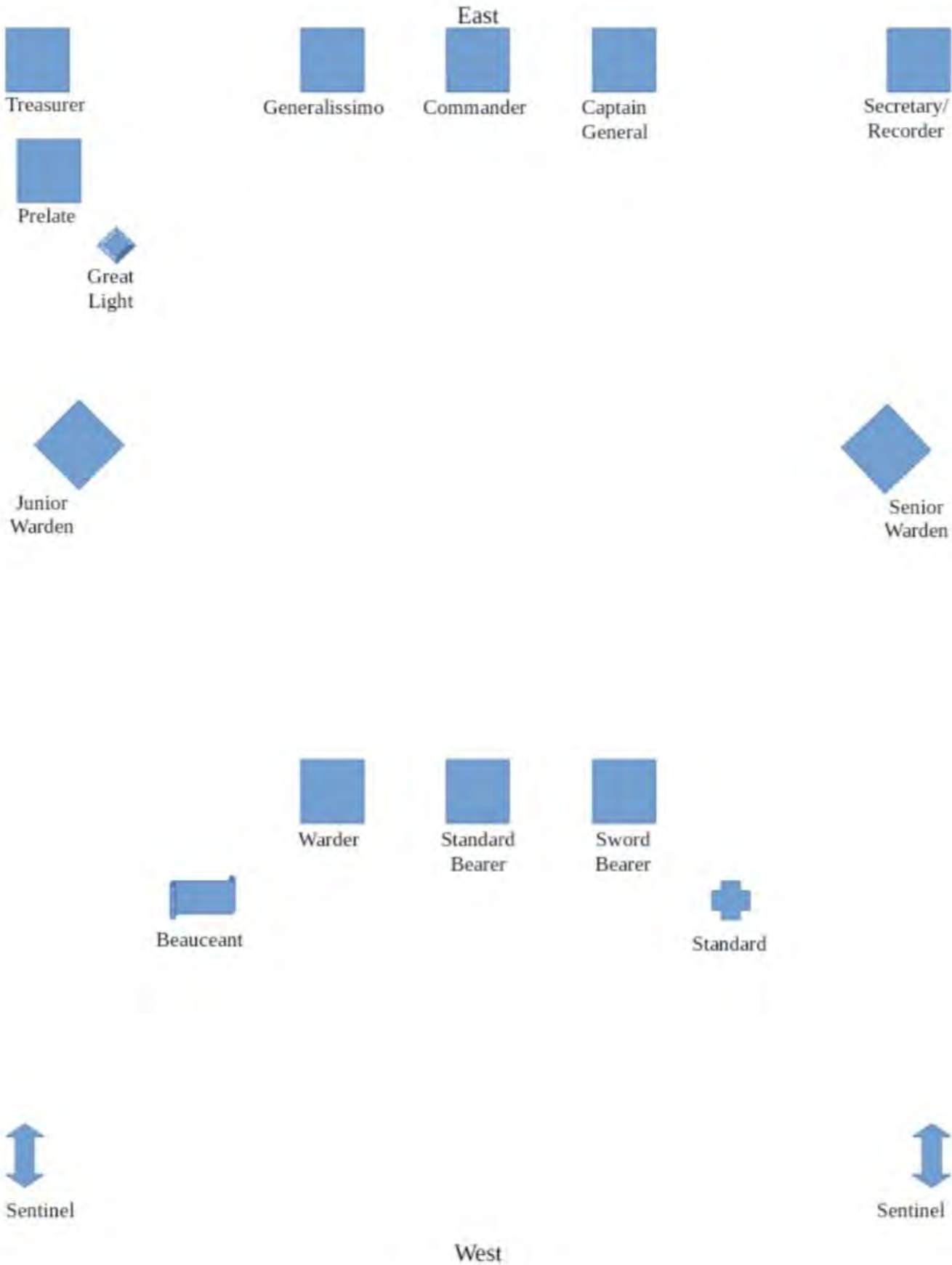
That the brilliant rays of the rising sun, shedding lustre upon the banner of our order, may animate and encourage all valiant and magnanimous Knights and dismay and confound their enemies.

**Sword Bearer:** On the right of the Standard Bearer, and on the right of the Second Division when separately formed.

To assist in protecting the banner of our order.

**Warder:** On the left of the Standard Bearer and on the left of the Second Division when separately formed.

To sound the assembly, post the Sentinel, announce the approach and departure of the Commander, and see that the asylum is duly guarded.



# Stated Conclaves

<b>First Thursday:</b>		<b>Second Monday</b>	
Jackson #13	07:00 PM	Baldwin #7	07:00 PM
After Chapter and Council		Eat @ 6:00	
Eat @ 6:30		Coeur de Lion #9	07:00 PM
Cumberland #26	06:30 PM	Murfreesboro #10	07:00 PM
Eat @ 5:30		**Even Months and Nov**	
		Eat @ 6:00	
		DePayens #11	07:00 PM
		Eat @ 6:00	
		Campbell County #44	07:00 PM
		**Even Months**	
<b>First Saturday:</b>		<b>Second Tuesday:</b>	
Rosemark #39	09:00 AM	Union City #29	07:00 PM
**After CM #131**		Lexington #36	06:00 PM
		<b>Second Thursday:</b>	
		Athens #34	06:30 PM
<b>Third Monday:</b>		<b>Fourth Monday:</b>	
Nashville #1	08:00 PM	St Omer #19	07:00 PM
After Council @ 6:30		Eat @ 6:00	
Eat @ 6:00		Chevalier #21	07:00 PM
Clarksville #8	07:30 PM	**Except Mar, May, and Dec**	
Paris #16	07:00 PM	Eat @ 6:00	
**Jan, Feb, May, June**		Park Ave #31	07:00 PM
**Aug, Sept, Nov, Dec**		After Chapter or Council.	
Appalachia U.D	07:00 PM	Eat @ 6:00	
		Greeneville #43	07:00 PM
		Eat after meeting	
<b>Third Tuesday:</b>		<b>Fourth Tuesday:</b>	
Cyprus #23	07:00 PM	Kingsport #33	07:00 PM
**After RA or CM**		Eat after meeting	
Watauga #25	07:30 PM	Dickson #41	06:30 PM
Eat @ 6:00		**After CM #107**	
		Cyrene #42	08:30 PM
		**After CM #140**	
<b>Third Thursday:</b>			
Lookout #14	06:30 PM		
Eat @ 6:00			
Carter #37	07:00 PM	<b>Fourth Thursday:</b>	
Manchester #40	07:00 PM	Plateau #38	07:00 PM
**Even Months and Nov**		**4 <sup>th</sup> Fri in Nov**	
Eat @ 6:00			



Follow us online!



## **MISSION**

The mission of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee is to provide every Christian Freemason in Tennessee the opportunity and resources to develop, be engaged in, and exemplify a Christian chivalric lifestyle.

## **THE VISION OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF TENNESSEE**

The Knights of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee are a group of men who share the Christian faith, exemplary character, a dedication to excellence and the service of others, and a desire to share the chivalric experience with other Christian Freemasons. Our Knights are actively engaged with one another in accomplishing this goal and in maintaining this standard of lifestyle and behavior.

## **Request for Submissions!**

Sir Knights - We need submissions for the *Tennessee Knight Templar News*. Is your Commandery going to confer any of the orders soon? Did you have some sort of unusual or fun event? Send us an article to share with the other Tennessee Knights and include photos if you have them.

We would also like to have your thoughts and ideas about how we can make Tennessee Templary more fun and exciting. Send us an article! Please send news and events going on in your Commandery to:

**[KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com](mailto:KTNews.GCTN@yahoo.com)**