

Grand Commandery Knights Templar South Pakota



February 2024 News

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Bruce A. Crisman Grand Commander

I wish all the South Dakota Sir Knights a Happy New Year. We have a lot of plans formulating and more events with other organizations, which competes with our time and attention. But, we move on doing our best.

December was very busy with Christmas Observance. I visited Sioux Falls York Rite for their annual table lodge. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration. Schrader Commandery had their annual Christmas Observance on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We had Pastor Michele Slott give her presentation "Footsteps of Jesus on the Knights Templar Holyland Pilgrimage." Refreshments were provided by Commandery Officers. My next visit was to Capital City Commandery in Pierre. Commander Gary Waack planned an excellent program with Sir Knight Tony Larsen leading the singing. They also had a pastor reliving her visit to the Holyland. Damascus Commandery in Aberdeen held their 134<sup>th</sup> Christmas Observance on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. How can anyone get lost in Aberdeen?! It was dark and I turned right instead of left. I arrived in time for the ending and in time for the oyster stew and Tiger meat treat. Rapid City York Rite started their degree work for the year with the Mark Master Degree on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We had 4 candidates interested in learning more about York Rite. The Grand Commander's membership goal is a gain of 15 new Sir Knights. Pasque du Prairie York Rite College (Sioux Falls) is leading the charge with a York Rite Festival on the weekend of February 23 & 24. This will be the Royal Arch Degrees and Royal/Select Master Degrees. March 2<sup>nd</sup> will conclude with the Chivalric Orders (Order of Red Cross, Order of Malta and Order of Temple). We would appreciate all the help we can get and would like a huge turnout.

South Dakota Grand Commandery is now 5 short of 100% Life Sponsor Knights Templar Eye Foundation. Damascus, Cyrene, Capital City, Dakota and Schrader Commanderies are 100%. I would like to personally thank everyone who generously donated to the Grand Commander's Haircut Project.

Valentine's Day is very close and remember the Ladies that help us to participate in all the events on our busy schedules.

We have thus far have had a very mild winter but I am waiting for the hammer to drop and hope it does not interfere with events already planned. Stay warm.

**REGC Bruce Crisman**, **KC7** Grand Commander Knights Templar of South Dakota



Christmas Observance for Schrader Commandery, Rapid City



Christmas Observance for Capital City, Pierre