



John H. Austin
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Maryland

MARCH 2023 NEWS

Greetings Sir Knights. 1st of March and spring is beginning to show up early due to the very mild winter here in the Mid-Atlantic. Frankly I am happy to see it. As a Landscape professional though I always worry when an early spring hits with fear that plants will get started growing and then get hit with a hard freeze. This is a particular problem for our agricultural friends and fruit growers fear this above all things. For us in ornamental landscape, it's a drag to have trees and shrubs like deciduous magnolia and azalea begin to bloom and then get hit. Turns everything brown and not very attractive.

Sir Knights I have been informed of a change to the publication schedule of the Knight Templar magazine. Due to cost constraints, we are told that the magazine will no longer be published each month as has been the case. Starting with this issue (March 2023) the magazine will come out quarterly. Please make note of this. It will not come in the mail once/month any longer. However, this monthly message will be changing to bring you up to speed on current events in Maryland Templary. It will be the same magazine cover for 3 months at a time, but access the home page for the York Rite at yorkritemaryland.org and you will see the current magazine posted just like always but under the Current supplement, hit that section and a new monthly message will download.

The big event in February that we had planned years for was George Washington's Birthday Parade in Alexandria Virginia and the long awaited 100th anniversary of the laying of the Cornerstone at the GW Masonic National Memorial. What a great turnout. Pretty nice weather for February allowed for plenty of masons to show up and March in the parade and witness the Cornerstone re-enactment first hand. Thousands showed up. Estimates range from 3500-4000 Masons from around the world were on hand to take part.

Your Maryland Grand Commandery was well represented with members from several Commanderies across the State. Maryland Commandery #1 and Monumental Crusade Commandery # 3 brought out their Beauceants to lead the array of Knights Templar, followed by the Grand Lodge of Maryland with Grand Master Fred Spicer and Deputy Grand Master Randall Watson leading the way. Following them were Knights Templars from Virginia and Washington DC. What a great day for masonry with several large contingents from as far as Texas and California among others.

The Grand Encampment was represented by the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment David Kussman. Department Commander James Steele also joined us from North Carolina and a group of Templars from that State were also present. The event was live streamed to members of the craft by Masons from the Scottish Rite on their YouTube channel. You can see some interviews with leadership of the Memorial at [YouTube.com/ScottishRiteMasons](https://www.youtube.com/ScottishRiteMasons).

Next on our list of adventures this year is the upcoming 200th anniversary (Bi-centennial) of Virginia Grand Commandery taking place May 4,5,6 in Williamsburg Virginia. Stay tuned for more detailed information on this event. We will be posting this on the website yorkritemaryland.org and under the 'Events' section there will be information on the events in Williamsburg. I will be updating you here on these monthly messages as well. (see the above notice about changes to publication dates)

I have been travelling the State and visiting Commanderies all over. About halfway through now and at those meetings we are asking questions about how the Commanderies are faring and letting folks know about upcoming plans. I will begin official Grand Visitations with the Grand line in the month of June. These visitations will be published at the website under the Events section. Elections are coming up soon. Visit your Commandery and find out how you can help.

Grand Inspector General Randy Disney (REPGC) is also travelling to begin telling folks about his new inspection and Training regimen. His program outline can be viewed on the website under events. Drop to this area at the bottom of the page-

COMMANDERY INSPECTIONS 2022

[Inspector General requirements for commandery inspections](#)

REPGC Chuck Warns and his Knight Training team will be announcing dates for Knight Training soon. Look for this in June or July.

Have a great spring,
Yours in All Knightly Courtesy,
John H. Austin
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand commandery of Maryland

