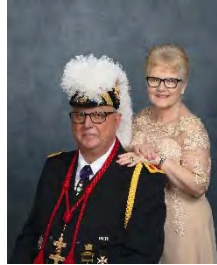


# GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO

State News for April, 2024

Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>

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Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies,

April showers bring May flowers? We shall see – but I am so ready for the onset of warmer, nicer weather!

March had lots of fun activities for us. Lady Debbie and I visited two Commanderies at their annual inspections. Great work, great time, visiting old and new friends in the Northeastern and Northwestern Division.

March was also the last two of the Lodge Inspection Visitations; as in previous years, the Presiding Officers of the Grand Bodies – Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery, Priory, and OES – have visited each other's Lodges for their inspection. This was a lot of fun. Somewhere in there also found the time to attend some 13 other stated meetings or conclaves and was honored to be able to present a couple certificates and pins to 25-, 50- and 60-year members.

We also traveled to the East Central Department Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This is always a great time, again visiting friends from neighboring states in our department. If you haven't attended – and it's not just for Grand Officers – you should try next year or beyond. The Ohio Delegation Dinner on Friday night was a wonderful time together. The leadership training seminars were not as well attended as we would have liked, not sure why? It was good to see some of our Ladies taking this training. It is NOT just for Commandery Officers. Information and registration are on the Grand Encampment website, on the home page. Several of the training sessions may be taken online.

Lady Debbie and I represented Ohio (along with our Grand Recorder) at the Tennessee Grand Commandery session in Nashville, Tennessee. The Tennessee Grand Lodge building is absolutely beautiful. The fellowship of the Sir Knights, Companions, and their Ladies were extraordinary. It is always most enjoyable to travel out of state to both see how things are done, but also to expand our fraternal friendships. As we have traveled, we find attending the sister jurisdictions is much like attending inspections within your own Divisions, you see several of the same travelers. So much fun. And, of course, sightseeing and visiting Honkey Tonks in Nashville!

Attending the Grand Sessions in Tennessee gave me pause. They do it right, in my opinion. One combined York Rite banquet, the night before any of the bodies meet. Where each body has their time for their presiding officer to take care of recognitions and banquet business; they presented all their awards pertaining to their bodies. Even the COT, KCT and KCTH. All done in the space of about 3 hours. So much more efficient, in terms of total time, and especially expense! In Ohio that is 4 banquets, likely total of 8-10 hours, at way higher [total] cost.

From Nashville we traveled to Alexandria, Virginia for the Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service. We had some excitement in this travel, as we were driving in rain most of the way. Driving in DC traffic is bad any day, but when it is raining? The Ohio contingent had a lot of fun taking a night tour of the monuments on the National Mall. Always a great time. The Korean Memorial is best seen at night. So moving and emotional.

Saturday, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a memory that will not be forgotten. Very emotional and moving. I had my youngest grandson, who is in Junior ROTC, as part of my contingent. I hope that he always remembers the experience – I'm sure it will give him something to talk about when he returns home to his unit and tells them about it. Also in the presentation party was my Lady Debbie, who has been by my side for over 50 years including my entire time on active duty in the USAF. She covered the home front while I was often deployed. I also had my Gand Warder, SK James Haugen accompany us; Jim has been serving with me through all the bodies and he, along with his Lady Joyce, have traveled extensively with us.

And, finally, the Sunrise Service. Unfortunately, it has been moved to the auditorium inside of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. In years past, marching up Shooters Hill and sitting on the steps, watching the sunrise over Alexandria during the service was so impressive. Wish we were still doing that. But it is still a great time traveling and sharing the experience with fellow Sir Knights and Ladies as we travel around.

March was busy! I guess the theme of this month's article is traveling. To us, that is a big part of the Templar Experience. You get to see so much and meet so many great people outside of your immediate circle.

Safe Travels!

Courteously,

*Richard L Ganion, KCT*

Right Eminent Grand Commander  
Knights Templar of Ohio